

Friends of Lanark Highlands

**presentation to the Committee of the Whole,
Township of Lanark Highlands**

November 28th, 2023

Friends of Lanark Highlands

- Ontario non-profit citizens' group incorporated April 3, 2023
- formed in response to proposed Highland Line Pit development
- the group has submitted comments to the ARA/MNRF, and coordinated public responses to the ERO and government officials

The Barbers Lake Pluton

a distinct body of igneous rock underlying the area

- unusually rich in uranium
- this uranium is constantly breaking down, sending a chain of dangerous elements into the aggregate above it

Dr. R. M. Easton

Senior Geoscientist with the Ontario Geological Survey

- regarding the Barbers Lake and associated plutons of Eastern Ontario, he has done extensive field exploration and has published more data than any other geologist
- he claims that the Barbers Lake Pluton is unique; it contains 23 times more uranium and up to 14 times more thorium than is typical
- he recommends that the material covering the bedrock must be analyzed for uranium and thorium content
- he suggests that a health and safety hazard may already exist for workers in the McKinnon Pit

Dr. Kevin Morin

Canadian geoscientist specializing in drainage from industrial sites

- washing the aggregate will produce harmful fine sediment that cannot be captured without a water treatment plant
- water leaving the site would ultimately choke all life from the adjacent wetlands, Long Sault Creek and Barbers Lake
- removing material below the water table will introduce oxygen, hastening the decay of the underlying uranium
- water from the man made ponds, leaving the site, will have been warmed by the sun and will cause a deadly rise in temperature for nearby aquatic life

Eric Dugdale

former area resident and geologist

- conducted site studies of the Barbers Lake granite for his Bachelor's thesis
- believes that uranium decaying from the bedrock is now contained by clay like materials
- excavation will cause this material to erode rapidly, releasing uranium into the water table
- predicts that fine sediment and elevated water temperatures will kill all life in Barbers Lake

Mark Heaton

Ecologist, hired by Friends of Lanark Highlands

- requirements of the province's Natural Heritage Reference Manual were not met; Ecological Land Classification is incomplete
- unevaluated wetlands contain features and habitat requiring evaluation
- threatened species are known to travel onto Cavanagh's site; no amphibian call count done
- several wetlands on the Cavanagh site were omitted from wetland constraint mapping, and should be Class 2 with lands connecting them Class 3

Aggregate Resource Inventory Paper 189

Inventory for Lanark County, Ontario Geological Survey 2013

- this document maps 810 hectares of “primary resource” aggregate
- the document states that less than 35%, 281 hectares, could be used
- 65% of the “primary resource” identified must be ruled out for “physical, environmental, cultural constraints” (ARIP 189 Abstract)