

Say "No" to the Uranium Mine



Information from the Little Glamor Lake Cottage Association
May 2008

WHAT WE ARE ASKING....

- 1 No Prospecting or Mining in Haliburton County or Eastern Ontario.
- 2 A halt to further work on the proposed Monmouth Mine Site.
- 3 Changes to the Ontario Mining Act to safeguard citizen's properties.

"Haliburton is my home. I did not come here to get involved [with local issues]. I'm retired, I've done my public service. But I'll be damned if I sit here and let something happen down the road that will have a negative impact on all of us. Open pit mines are an environmental disaster. Mining itself is boom and bust. It is long term pain for short term gain."

Roger Young, former Special Assistant to Federal Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, MP for Niagara, and currently Vice President of the LGLCA -
The Echo, March 2008

What is Happening?

The Haliburton and Bancroft areas are actively being staked and claimed for potential uranium and mining exploration. Uranium exploration is threatening many communities in Eastern Ontario. About 10,000 acres, 20% of the Monmouth Township, has currently been staked. Bancroft Uranium is proceeding with plans for an open pit mine between Gooderham and Tory Hill. The Little Glamor Lake Cottage Association Executive has joined the effort to oppose mining in Haliburton. The Municipalities and County of Haliburton have all supported a moratorium. Now the decision is up to the Provincial Government. The Executive believes you need to know how this affects you and we need your help.

How This Will Affect You?

There are many consequences of an open pit mine in our community. This form of mining;

Threatens Health and Safety - Uranium has numerous adverse health consequences. The U.S. Surgeon General has said that radon gas released by mining is the second leading cause of cancer after smoking. Studies like those in British Columbia and India have reported an increase in congenital deformities, increased levels of cancer, sterility and reduced life expectancy.

Leads to Environmental Degradation - Clear cutting the trees, blasting for the open pit mine and other mining activities can severely destroy the ecosystem. Mine tailings will have to be managed for years, posing an ongoing liability and health risk. Containment procedures have failed leading to disastrous environmental consequences.

Undermines Water Stewardship - Canada seems to have lots of water, but in reality it is a precious resource in short supply. Water security is major global issue. Haliburton is the hydrological centre of southern Ontario. There are many who want to take more water

Please see *How This Affects You* on page 3

Where Are Our Elected Representatives?

Under the Mining Act your land could be staked! *In Ontario, most property owners hold only the surface rights and not the mineral rights to their land. This means a prospector (anyone who applies and pays the \$25 licence fee) could come on to your land without being required to notify you and claim the mineral rights. The mineral rights holder can then start exploring (this could include drilling, digging, stripping, building roads, etc.) on your land. They need only to provide 24 hours advance notice to the landowner before commencing exploration activities. Under the Ontario Mining Act, there is nothing the surface rights owner can do to stop this. But we can try!*

From Fight Uranium Mining and Exploration (FUME)

The Canadian Mining sector is experienced in well resourced public relations campaigns to overwhelm any opposition. They often hire former politicians to represent their special interests. They cultivate close relationships with public officials and engage the best public relations firms to "spin" their message to a skeptical public. They make all sorts of promises, assurances, and claims often without independent verifiable research, to secure a mine. Often these promises and assurances are left unfulfilled, the company is gone or sold and the community has to live with the consequences. Elected officials for their part are often seduced to represent the interests of the mining companies to the public, rather than safeguarding the public interest and the well-being of their citizens.

The McGuinty government had promised to make changes to the Province of Ontario's Mining Act (1990) to protect the interests of property owners and stakeholders. The Liberals have since reversed this decision. As well, the March Provincial Budget announced \$20 million for geological mapping and \$7 million to implement the Ontario Mineral Strategy. With the Liberal's announcement to refurbish and replace nuclear facilities, the government may have driven up the price of uranium, making new uranium mines more feasible.

LGLCA Vice President Roger Young has been working with like minded coalitions on this issue. A Community meeting was held with Bancroft President Les Hammond in March 2008. Approximately 125 people were present and 80% were overwhelmingly opposed to the proposal. Together during recent weeks each of the municipal councils and the County Council has adopted resolutions calling for a ban on mining in cottage country. The issue will now be before the Provincial government.

CONTACTING ELECTED PROVINCIAL LEADERS

You can write, Fax or email Premier Dalton McGuinty at;
 Dalton McGuinty, Premier
 Legislative Building - Queen's Park
 Toronto ON M7A 1A1
 Fax: (416) 325-3745
 Email: <http://www.premier.gov.on.ca/feedback/default.asp>

You can write a letter or email to your local MPP. To Find Your Local MPP go to;
http://www.ontla.on.ca/web/go2.jsp?Page=/members/members_main&menuitem=mpps_header&locale=en

What is Left Behind?



“One of the greatest responsibilities you and I share is to ensure that future generations enjoy our natural environment.”

*Premier Dalton McGuinty
From CCAMU Web Site*

This wall of radioactive sand, 10 metres high, holds back a veritable lake of similar material left over from the defunct Stanrock uranium mining operation. There are 130 million tonnes of this stuff in the Elliot Lake area; it will remain dangerously radioactive for hundreds of thousands of years. The mining companies are seeking permission from the Canadian government to flood the tailings and then to abandon them.

Photo by Robert Del Tredici from his book [At Work in the Fields of the Bomb](#) (Harper and Row 1987)

How This Affects You from page 1

from Haliburton for recreational (Trent-Severn Waterway), industrial (Gravel and Asphalt) or personal use. This project poses yet another threat in potentially contaminating drinking water and being good stewards of the water entrusted to our care. The Irondale River connects with the Burnt River system, the Kawarthas, and the Trent-Severn waterway so any failure has widespread implications for southern Ontario. Lakes and streams around these sites are often contaminated.

Divides the Highland East Community - Anecdotally there are reports that properties adjacent to an open pit mine had declined in value by 30%. Who would want to buy a property that has been staked or adjacent to a mine? As property values decline, the municipality could be involved in a costly massive tax reassessment program. Any decline would affect the ability of municipalities to deliver municipal services, social programs, and education. Given that 80% of residents are seasonal who benefit from very few of these services, this burden would disproportionately affect permanent residents and in the longer term, may increase taxes on all our properties.

A False Economy - Mining Companies come to town often promising jobs. But will they hire local people? Often not. More importantly for Haliburton, what will be the impact on local businesses if tourism is adversely affected? Haliburton County has worked hard to cultivate its reputation as a tourist destination. Once that reputation is compromised, it could take years, if ever, to restore. Many full and part-time jobs in local businesses that result from tourism could disappear? And what happens to the mining jobs after the mine closes?

Where Can I Learn More?

There are many organizations that offer helpful information. These are some that address the situation.

Fight Uranium Mining and Exploration(FUME)
<http://www.fighturanium.com/>

The Community Coalition Against Uranium Mining (CCAMU) <http://www.ccamu.ca/>

Mining Watch Canada
<http://www.miningwatch.ca/>

What Can I Do?

- **Attend** the Little Glamor Lake Cottage Association **Annual Meeting on July 5th** at the Gooderham Community Centre. A Panel Discussion on the Monmouth Mine Proposal will be part of the meeting;
- **Write to Premier Dalton McGuinty;** Information is provided on Page 2.
- Send a copy of your letter to the Premier to **your local MPP** and ask for their support and response;
- **Register to Vote in Highlands East.** Owners of seasonal properties can register to vote in municipal elections both at home and in Highlands East;
- **Sign the On-Line Petition** to express your support for Highlands East and Council's Action;
- Send **your email address** to the Little Glamor Lake Cottage Association to receive regular updates from the Executive

A Sample Letter to Premier and MPPs

Dear Mr. McGuinty

I am writing to you to express my opposition to the expansion of prospecting and mining in Haliburton County and in eastern Ontario and to call on your government to ban this activity. I have become very alarmed that the Haliburton and Bancroft areas are being actively staked and claimed, often unbeknown to the residents, for potential uranium mines.

I believe that this activity will threaten the health and safety of the people and communities of the area, and potentially further across the province. I believe it offers a false economy for the region potentially threatening our image as a tourist destination. Haliburton County is an important ecological treasure and a hydrological centre for much of Ontario. We have an important responsibility to protect this region.

I am writing to call on your government to impose a ban on prospecting and mining in this ecologically important and sensitive area. I also call upon you government to make changes to the Ontario Mining Act to safeguard to interests and well-being of citizens and communities in the Province.

I agree with you when you said, "*One of the greatest responsibilities you and I share is to ensure that future generations enjoy our natural environment.*" I believe now is the time your government can offer national leadership by taking decisive action to safeguard the important heritage of the Highlands for generations yet come. Will your government make sure that these measures are put in place? Will you move to make changes to the Mining Act? And if not, why not?

Respectfully yours,

(Your Name)

c.c. Mr John Tory
 Mr. Howard Hampton