

## **Interview with Dan Valentini – May 12, 2008 – transcribed by Jeff Parkinson**

Dan Valentini: I'm Dan Valentini. I own property in Hagersville called McNeil Subdivisions. In 2007 on May the 23<sup>rd</sup> we were stopped by a Native protest which we didn't authorize, we didn't authorize the Natives to stop us or the OPP to help the Natives to put up barricades to stop our development, and right now because of that widely publicized event, it was on the news it was in the papers and so on, our funding was pulled, our financing was all pulled.

Lots that we had sold to a builder have fallen apart because they don't want to be involved in the deal because of these Native protests and the work stoppages and so on. We met with the Natives after that, probably about a week later, and we were promised that if we started up again we'd be visited again and we'd be stopped again, so we're at an impasse.

It's almost been a year now. Can't find any financing, at this point in time nobody wants to touch the property, and we're stuck. We had all our capitol invested in this large development and we can't move it forward. Our Canadian law doesn't back us, nobody backs us, so we're just blowing in the wind right now. That's all I can say.

Gary McHale: A couple of quick questions. Are you allowing us to use this video in court?

Dan Valentini: Yes definitely.

Gary McHale: To lay criminal charges against the Natives and OPP?

Dan Valentini: Yes.

Gary McHale: Did the Natives demand money from you?

Dan Valentini: Not at that point in time they didn't demand anything, but now with the formation of this HDI, they're demanding application fee's and they're demanding title to the land basically, that's what they want.

Gary McHale: Did they actually personally say this to you?

Dan Valentini: Yes they did.

Gary McHale: Do you remember which Natives said that?

Dan Valentini: There was a group of people involved there at the HDI, there's Hazel Hill, Aaron Detlor, Brian Doolittle, Mike Bombary, and a few others.

Gary McHale: Do you remember roughly when this meeting took place?

Dan Valentini: I've had several meetings within the last, since last August when the HDI was formed basically.

Gary McHale: Do you remember how much they asked for?

Dan Valentini: Well there was no specific amounts because they haven't decided what was the best way to come up with perpetual revenue sources on our property.

Gary McHale: Did they tell you when you finally do they pay these fee's that it would help you do your development?

Dan Valentini: They couldn't guarantee that either. They couldn't guarantee that further protests would not occur, so no. We pay a fee, we're not sure if we're going to get protested, and we pay the fee and we have to transfer title of our property so what's the purpose of paying a fee when we can't move forward anyway because no one's gonna buy the property, but the houses and so on if underlying title does not exist within the name of the home owner.

Jeff Parkinson: I have a quick question. The crown and the Justice suggested when I was in court that they felt the OPP were acting in your best interests to ensure your safety by helping the Natives build a barricade.

Dan Valentini: No I don't agree with that. They were helping their own best interests so they wouldn't have to confront the Natives. That's what I believe, so they would have to do nothing, and that's what they've been doing, and that's the only interest they're helping.

Jeff Parkinson: But they didn't have your permission to help..

Dan Valentini: No they didn't have my permission.