

THE HALTON COMPASS

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Hamilton asks Province to protect water near St. Mary's application

A motion by Flamborough Councillor Margaret McCarthy asking the Province to protect the water near the proposed St. Mary's quarry received unanimous support from her fellow councillors at the February 27 council meeting.

Citing the Province's Clean Water Act, created after the Walkerton poisoned water tragedy some years ago, McCarthy asked the Province to "require a formal review by the Halton/Hamilton Source Protection Authority, as part of the local source protection process" before issuing any permits to St. Mary's.

McCarthy's motion focused on concerns about the potential adverse impacts on the groundwater-based municipal drinking water system serving Carlisle's 3,000 residents and called on the McGuinty Provincial Government for action. Graham Flint, Chair for Friends of Rural Communities and the Environment (FORCE), the citizens' group fighting the quarry applauded the passed motion, calling it the "first substantive item concerning the St. Mary's proposed Flamborough quarry."

"The City of Hamilton (as a group) is speaking out for the first time on the significant issue of drinking water," said Flint. "This sends an important signal to the Province at a key decision point."

Flint was referring to the Ministry of the Environment's (MOE) current review of an October 2006 application by St. Mary's for a temporary Permit to Take Water (PTTW) to allow the company to test its "unproven and theoretical groundwater recirculation pumping system for the proposed quarry."

Residents in Carlisle, Freelon, Mountsberg and Campbellville are up in arms over the potential testing as the proposal calls for St. Mary's to draw one million litres a day for a three-week period to test its recirculation equipment.

Flint said the recirculation system, being proposed by St. Mary's, would have "unacceptable impact" on area groundwa-

ter resources from the proposed development, based on the company's own technical reports.

FORCE has kept active in recent months, flooding Premier Dalton McGuinty's office with over 1,000 written postcards, asking him to stop the quarry application, as well as 600 e-cards sent through their website.

Aside from transportation and other issues, Flint maintains the opposition to the application is based first and foremost on water concerns.

"Our community identified drinking water as the key concern when the quarry development was first proposed in May 2004," noted Flint. "We thank Councillor McCarthy for being a tireless champion for our community. The Carlisle Water Motion, and the

motion on security deposits for quarry rehabilitation, are both positive for our community. We also thank the City of Hamilton for its recognition of our community initiative."



Graham Flint