



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 30, 2008

### **“RAIN, RAIN, GO AWAY” – ST MARYS TOLD TO TEST ANOTHER DAY**

#### **MOE SAYS JULY 2008 TEST DATA IS UNACCEPTABLE DUE TO RAIN**

Today, Friends of Rural Communities and the Environment (FORCE) learned that the Ontario Ministry of the Environment (MOE) has taken decisive action with respect to St Marys CBM proposed Flamborough quarry. MOE informed St Marys that its Phase 1 pump test conducted during July 2008 generated unacceptable data results. The unacceptable data resulted from excessive rainfall before, during, and after the pumping test. Significant rainfall compromised the results of surface and groundwater monitoring and made interpretation challenging. MOE has told St Marys that the Phase 1 pump test must be repeated before the company will be authorized to move forward with any further testing.

“It was clear to our community from the start, given the weather conditions, that the test data would be unreliable,” said Graham Flint, FORCE Chair and Spokesperson. “Yet once again, St Marys sang its familiar tune of “Don’t Worry, Be Happy” claiming the rain had no impact and the data from its test was good. We commend MOE for taking decisive action to ensure sound science.”

FORCE released a Review of St Marys Phase 1 Pumping Test Report by expert hydrogeologist, Dr. Ken Raven, PEng, PGeo, of INTERA Engineering Ltd. on October 3, 2008 (see attached release and report). St Marys conducted a Phase 1 pumping test authorized under a Permit to Take Water (PTTW) issued by MOE between July 21 – 29, 2008. The Phase 1 test was designed to provide a baseline to represent the anticipated full quarry drawdown against which the effects of mitigation could be assessed in later phases. It was also designed to provide data to help better understand the aquifer under conditions of normal rainfall and recharge – repeating a November 2004 test. Dr. Raven challenged St Marys test results. Dr. Raven documented that the rainfall in July 2008 during this test was some 50% greater than rainfall during a November 2004 test where MOE questioned the reliability of data and its interpretation due to excessive rainfall. Dr. Raven noted then that MOE should be consistent with its position on the 2004 test.

**StopTheQuarry.ca**



FORCE also learned, following a recent Combined Aggregate Resource Team (CART) meeting, that St Marys had requested a change to its proposed test of a pilot groundwater recharge system (GRS) mitigation system to manage the acknowledged unacceptable impacts of quarry dewatering from its proposed Flamborough quarry. MOE's decision today explicitly refers to a change request for the pilot GRS test from company representative, Jennifer Tuck, dated September 24, 2008. This change request comes after MOE approved a PTTW authorizing tests in July 2008 based on a fall 2006 application and months of agency review and public consultation. MOE has not yet shared the details of this change request with interested stakeholders so it can be evaluated and debated publicly. The ministry's decision does indicate that if St Marys wishes to proceed with the change, MOE may seek public and agency feedback. The ministry has also asked whether the proposed changes can be completed within the time limit of the current permit. FORCE had challenged the PTTW before the Environmental Review Tribunal (ERT) but the ERT found that it did not have jurisdiction as the permit was issued for less than one year's duration (by approximately one week).

"St Marys really doesn't seem to know what it is doing at this site and now wants to change the permit rules mid-course," noted Flint. "Our community continues to object to being lab rats for St Marys' theoretical and unproven experiments. We call on the government to stand up for its Clean Water and Greenbelt laws and to stop the quarry."

-30-

For further information contact:

Graham Flint  
Chair, FORCE  
905-659-5417 (office)  
[grahamflint@stopthequarry.ca](mailto:grahamflint@stopthequarry.ca)

Visit our website: [www.StopTheQuarry.ca](http://www.StopTheQuarry.ca)