

Water results on tap

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Dear Editor,

Our family lives across from the proposed St. Marys Cement (SMC) Flamborough quarry and we feel that our first line of defence has fallen under the boot.

The Ministry of the Environment (MOE) has permitted a water test that proves nothing except that the MOE cannot say "no."

The water test was completed almost five weeks ago, and now it is up to the spin doctors to weave their statistics and make their pronouncements. The MOE may have been trying to be helpful by limiting and restricting the water test, but what has actually happened is that the test has proven nothing of consequence and the question remains: where do we go from here?

I believe the MOE has painted itself into a corner and we are the "lab rats" awaiting another decision, powerless to intervene.

We have a bulging bureaucracy that calls itself the Ministry of the Environment and is mandated to protect the province's water supply and whose very website publishes the fact that the local community is the most potent of voices. Nonsense!

The MOE may not have been able to refuse SMC its original permit, but the MOE did not have to allow the second and third tests. All the MOE has succeeded in doing is procrastinating for two years and permitting SMC to go forward with ridiculous haul route meetings.

Do we need another Walkerton? As a rhetorical question, that

sounds ridiculous. And yet, we are proceeding on a slippery slope towards that end, and this time it will not be a few inept townies to blame or Mike Harris. This time it will be because a huge number of consultants, civil servants, engineers, hydrogeologists have made it so.

And let us not forget our Premier, who stands for greenbelt, clean water and maybe even apple pie.

Paula Harcourt, North Flamborough



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