

## FORCE meeting focuses on water, haul routes

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More than 100 community residents turned out for the FORCE (Friends of Rural Communities and the Environment) annual general meeting this week at Lawson Park, where the anti-quarry group stressed the importance of speaking up for the kind of community that residents want. Following a series of pump tests carried out at the proposed St. Marys quarry site this summer, the organization's chair took the opportunity to go over the results.

### Displays

Graham Flint used an array of graphs and charts to display the findings of the pump tests conducted at the 11th Concession Road East site in July. He used the groundwater recirculation system test results "so you can see what's really going on versus what's being told," he said, claiming that St. Marys Cement is manipulating the media and not following through on the details outlined in the initial application for a Permit To Take Water (PTTW).

The diagram on display Monday evening showed that St. Marys Cement intended to drill three wells where the pumping would take place. "The point was to simulate an open quarry face...they would pump like heck to get the water out so it would drop down to the approximate depth of the quarry," explained Flint.

According to FORCE, approximately 114 litres of water per second, resulting in 12.7 million litres per day, would need to be pumped to appropriately simulate the daily activities of the quarry and gain a better understanding of the potential impact on the aquifer, which the Carlisle community relies on for drinking water.



FORCE Chair Graham Flint (centre) listens to concerns.



Guest speaker Eleanor McMahon discusses a point with an audience member during a break in Monday's meeting.

Flint told community residents that the water pumped out of one well – not three as initially proposed – was being expelled at a rate of 10 litres per second.

“There is the flow,” he said as he presented a photo of the water flow from the pump test. “It’s a garden hose as far as I am concerned.”

FORCE charges that the amount of water pumped out of the site, measured at approximately 800,000 litres per day, to monitor the groundwater was “woefully small” compared to the impact the grassroots citizens group believes the open-faced pit will have on the community.

## Roads

In addition to the potential threat to the water supply, FORCE is also concerned about the impact of adding more than 1,000 gravel trucks to Flamborough’s northeast rural roads daily. To drive home the message of potential dangers associated with operating a fleet of dump trucks in a densely populated area, Eleanor McMahon was invited to the annual meeting.

A communications and public relations specialist, McMahon has turned a life tragedy into action, following the death of her husband, Ontario Provincial Police officer Greg Stobbart.

On June 6, 2006, a five-ton truck on Tremaine Road in Milton killed Stobbart while he was riding his bicycle. His death, explained his widow, was a preventable tragedy. Since the tragic event, McMahon has shifted all the right gears to make legislative changes targeting serial traffic offenders and making Ontario roads safer for cyclists.

During the course of approximately two years, McMahon has been empowered to make these changes happen and, at the Monday evening gathering, she was pleased to see that the local community had rallied to have its voice heard.

“I was appalled and stunned that anyone would think of putting large trucks...on these beautiful roads,” she said. “I have to salute you for what you are doing. It is a beautiful area of cycling and that would be virtually ruined if this would be allowed to happen.”

Following her presentation about her organization, Share the Road Cycling Coalition, McMahon encouraged residents to continue to speak up about the type of community in which they want to live.

As the evening came to a close, Flint reminded guests of their continued financial support, detailing the

organization's financial affairs. He encouraged attendees to attend FORCE'S third annual gala evening, which is slated for October 18.

Further information on the proposed 11th Concession Road East quarry or special events hosted by FORCE are available on the group's website, [www.stopthequarry.ca](http://www.stopthequarry.ca) .



<http://www.flamboroughreview.com/news/article/206198>



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