



Gold Book Ultimate Phone Directory
www.701.com

MORE THAN JUST A PHONE BOOK * Party Planning Guide * Menu Guides * Local Web Guides * City Maps * Postal Codes * Reader's Choice Guide

FLAMBOROUGH
REVIEW
.com

<http://www.flamboroughreview.com/news/article/59469>

Ward campaign heats up at CFF debate

Dianne Cornish

Published on Oct 27, 2006

As election day looms, the positions of the mayoral and ward candidates on key issues are becoming more distinct.

In the first local debate a couple of weeks ago, there appeared to be little to differentiate between Ward 15 incumbent Margaret McCarthy and candidate Judi Partridge. They both pledged to support a binding referendum on Flamborough's de-amalgamation from Hamilton, to oppose the St. Mary's Cement application for a quarry in northeast Flamborough, to support retention of area-rating in Flamborough and to keep revenues from Flamboro Slots in Flamborough, to support local infrastructure and other local projects.

But Monday night, it appeared that the two have come to a parting of minds. They clashed as both clearly stated their stances on some of the biggest issues facing Flamborough.

The de-amalgamation question was the biggest separator. Speaking to a partisan crowd of about 160 area residents at the meeting hosted by the Committee to Free Flamborough (CFF), Partridge said she doesn't support de-amalgamation because "we would go bankrupt." Reminding the crowd that Flamborough hasn't been self-governing for over 25 years, she said infrastructure costs are too high for Flamborough to shoulder.

"The reality is, we are with Hamilton," she stated, adding that until the province decides otherwise, that's not likely to change.

McCarthy disputed Partridge's contention that Flamborough cannot afford to stand on its own. Saying that she is "on record as supporting de-amalgamation," McCarthy stressed Flamborough "did just fine" before being absorbed into regional government and can do so again. Not only will the casino money help sustain the community, but an evaluation "puts us in a good financial situation," she said.

The two ward candidates had a free field during the early part of this week's debate as the mayoral candidates didn't arrive at the Carlisle meeting until half an hour after it began.

While talking about infrastructure needs, Partridge said Jim Harnum, senior director of Hamilton's water and wastewater division, has said it will cost well over \$60 million for infrastructure in Carlisle alone. McCarthy disagreed, calling Partridge's assertion "not true."

"I know the figures," McCarthy insisted.

Another brief skirmish arose when Partridge talked of a need to bring Hamilton councillors on a bus tour through Flamborough. "We've done that," McCarthy interjected, causing Partridge to observe, "I know how you like to interrupt." Partridge then criticized both of Flamborough's sitting councillors, McCarthy and retiring councillor Dave Braden, for "very seldom" promoting Flamborough when given the opportunity at the close of city council meetings.

"We need to do a better job at that," Partridge said.

Both candidates gained the crowd's approval when they came out strongly against the St. Mary's proposal for a quarry in the Mountsberg area. McCarthy said she believes the application can be successfully thwarted particularly with arguments about its hydrogeological impacts. Partridge, a Carlisle resident who lived on 11th

Concession East for 16 years, said she's also opposed to the quarry.

Suggesting that enough isn't being done to bring the issue to the attention of MNR (Ministry of Natural Resources) officials, who will ultimately decide whether the quarry is approved, Partridge said it's important that ministry officials be lobbied in an effort to stop the project.

"I'm glad Judi feels that way because I've already done that," McCarthy countered.

Flamborough resident Jennifer Trott later asked mayoral candidates where they stand on the quarry application issue.

All three frontrunners in the race, including Mayor Larry Di Ianni, Fred Eisenberger and Diane Elms, said they have serious misgivings about the proposal. Di Ianni also noted his concerns about hydrogeology and traffic.

Eisenberger said water, traffic, road maintenance and dust are his chief concerns. Noting that the end of a quarry's life cycle sometimes results in it being transformed into a landfill site, he said, "We need to stop it."

Elms agreed. "We're all in agreement; it's not a good thing." She stressed the need to fight the proposal.

Trott challenged mayoral candidate Gino Speziale near the close of the meeting on comments he made at a previous Flamborough debate where he suggested that being close-minded about the quarry application would mean a loss of revenue for the city.

Speziale refused to recant, saying he has read of quarries in the United States that have been converted, at the end of their lifespans, to recreation centres that have generated millions of dollars in revenue.

"Where do you get your drinking water," a disgruntled audience member shouted out, alluding to the dependence of rural residents on safe groundwater for their wells.

"I drink bottled water," responded the mayoral candidate, who lives in Hamilton.

Speziale was heckled by the crowd when he tried to justify his stance during his closing comments. One man accused him of talking down to the crowd as though they were Kindergarten children.

Ward candidates McCarthy and Partridge took the opportunity in their closing remarks to state their commitment to the residents of Ward 15.

"I am committed to treating everyone with respect, to serve everyone equally," Partridge said.

Adding that it's critical that the area's quality of water be protected, she pledged that, if elected, she will work with FORCE, the city and councillors to achieve that goal.

McCarthy said the city doesn't need another quarry or the four cents per tonne of extracted aggregate it will get if a quarry locates in the Mountsberg area. "I have a vested interest in protecting you because I'm one of you," she said.

The final all-candidates' meeting hosted by the CFF will be held next Monday (October 30) when Ward 14 hopefuls Grant Maloney and Rob Pasuta debate the issues at the Lynden Legion Hall at 7:30 p.m. Mayoral candidates will also participate.



<http://www.flamboroughreview.com/news/article/59469>



© Copyright 2007 Metroland Media Group Ltd. All rights reserved. The reproduction, modification, distribution, transmission or republication of any material from www.niagarathisweek.com is strictly prohibited without the prior written permission of Metroland Media Group Ltd.



