

DRAFT BALACLAVA SCHOOL MESSAGES

(Karen Gourlay)

- Karen Gourlay, Secretary for Balaclava School Council – speaking on behalf of our school and parent community – family has lived on the 11th Concession East for over 30 years
- Balaclava is the public elementary school located on the 10th Concession East (adjacent to the school and child care facility we are using tonight) – it is fitting that this meeting is being held in a school
- Represent over 485 students, 32 staff (teachers, educational assistants, admin assistants, custodians, and administrators), countless parent and community volunteers – not dissimilar in size/scope from this school
- Our schools are also community facilities and are used for after school/evening sports activities and other specialized classes
- Very concerned about a proposed quarry development – just one concession north of our school:
 - Drinking water quantity and quality
 - Bus safety
 - Health
 - Student Performance
- Must have a potable water supply for our school, as a public community facility, to remain open
 - Balaclava’s drinking water is accessed via drilled well from the same aquifer that the quarry would impact
 - We have a successful rural school and do not want our children bussed to schools within the City of Hamilton
 - We do not want to invest already scarce school and school board resources in cisterns and trucked in water supply
 - Groundwater quality and supply are already significant issues in this area that the City must address for the short and long term
- Ensure safety of our students on buses
 - Roads proposed for haul routes mirror the bus routes for our school and others in the area such as Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Waterdown High, Brookville, Milton High, Hillfield Strathallen, Hitherfield, Calvin Christian, and the EC Drury School for the Deaf, among others

- Existing signage emphasizes the number of vulnerable children, including deaf/blind, as well as pedestrian walking
 - Also have to remember other schools within the Hamilton and Halton public and catholic boards, as well as private schools, that access the routes for field trips to centers like Mountsberg, Crawford Lake and area farms
 - The roads are narrow with no shoulders, change grade frequently and have poor sight lines
 - School buses must start and stop frequently and students wait for the buses at road side
 - Trucks hauling aggregates are out to maximize their loads and minimize their time
 - The volume of more than 1,000 truck trips daily with the speed involved and wide turns
 - This is a significant safety risk
- Puts student, staff and volunteer health at risk
 - Diesel emissions and dust from the proposed development and its trucks will pollute the air
 - Particulates from these sources can affect the fine and large airways in the lungs
 - There is a direct cause & effect between air pollution and respiratory symptoms
 - Personally involved with research at McMaster regarding urban and rural air quality – our property was used for the rural mice in the study; researcher has advised that if the quarry were to be approved, our property would no longer be part of the study given the operation and vehicular impacts on the air quality
 - Children are especially vulnerable
 - Increased risk of asthma development and/or exacerbating asthma as well as effects on lung development and capacity
 - The air intake vents at Balaclava are located on the north side of the school
 - We regularly use our school grounds for Nutrition Break recesses as well as a variety of athletic and community activities – like the Terry Fox Run, track and field, the school Fun Fair – which would expose our community to these pollutants on a daily basis
 - Outdoor activity will only increase as the schools move to implement the Ministry of Education mandated 20 minutes per day of physical activity
- Hurts student performance – whether academic, athletic or other
 - Blasting, heavy equipment and hauling trucks will be disruptive to students and staff

- Pleased that our School Board has formally objected to the development proposal, supporting our school
- Pleased that Board staff are represented and participating actively on the Combined Aggregate Review Team
- Call on the City to take our concerns into account and reject the application at decision time