REGIONAL NEWS, NOTES AND NEIGHBOURS

Chudleigh sides with residents over Lowndes

By Don Redmond

The fight against the Lowndes quarry proposal on the border of Flamborough and Campbellville got some Provincial support when Halton MPP Ted Chudleigh said on May 26, he would fight on the side of the citizens opposing it.

"I think this application should be turned down cold," he told the Compass. "There's just too many question marks around it."

Chudleigh said he has heard from a number of Campbellvile residents, citing their anxiety over issues such as "truck traffic on their road, water supply concerns, environmental concerns, its wetlands protection, it goes on and on. If it was just one of these issues, then

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maybe we could do something but throw them all together and that stops this cold, as far as I'm concerned."

The 68-hectare quarry application is presently being reviewed the Planning Department at Hamilton but Chudleigh said, given its location on the south-east corner of 11th Concession East and Milborough Town Line, directly across the street from Halton, it was becoming a growing issue for him, as

However, Chudleigh was well-aware that the City has thrown a good number of reports, such as hydro-geological back at Lowndes, saying they were incomplete or inconclusive.

"It's like this guy is applying for a quarry

on the fly," he marvelled. "Let me tell you something. During the recent Dufferin expansion in Milton, these guys did their homework. They addressed every concern brought up by the residents, they did tons of research which was very convincing and logically thought through, they dealt with all the problems and in the end, (most) everyone was satisfied. That's not happening here with this application. At this point, he hasn't even offered proof that this won't have a serious negative impact on the area water.

Chudleigh cited the well-head protection issue coming out of the Walkerton Inquiry as perhaps the most serious concern with the proposed 68 hectare quarry. Part of the quarry infringes on the well-head protection zone for residents of Carlisle.

As well, he noted, "we have enough quarries here - we have Dufferin in Milton, the Acton quarry, Nelson in Burlington. We don't need another."

Even though he had not met with them personally, Chudleigh was also impressed with the work done by FORCE (Friends of Rural Communities and the Environment), the Flamborough group opposing the application.

"Local residents have raised more than \$200,000 to fight this proposal and that speaks volumes to their commitment and understanding of the gravity and precedent setting nature of the proposed quarry."