



Quarry is not a partisan issue

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Regarding the article published on May 5 by Kevin Werner on the topic of the proposed Flamborough Quarry by St. Marys Cement, the decision by the Ontario government to declare a provincial interest in the matter is justified.

Three municipalities (City of Hamilton, Region of Halton and Town of Milton) all requested that the province declare a provincial interest. The requests came after seven years of fact-based opposition to the proposed quarry. The medical officers of health for Hamilton and Halton have both expressed concerns with the proposed quarry. The local conservation authority, school board, Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Natural Resources have all objected to the proposed quarry.

The reasons for these objections are many. Consider the impact on water as one example. The company's own technical documents indicate that the operation would pump approximately 90-million litres of water per day in order to "dewater" the quarry. The sole source of drinking water for over 3,000 citizens in our communities is that groundwater. The proposed quarry would have pumped over 20 times what the Carlisle municipal system is allowed to draw from the aquifer.

The declaration of provincial interest seeks to protect the safety of our communities' drinking water and to protect all the taxpayers of Hamilton from the costs of developing an alternate source of drinking water should something go wrong.

This is not a partisan issue. All political parties, as represented by Ancaster-Dundas-Flamborough-Westdale MPP Ted McMeekin (Liberal), Halton MPP Ted Chudleigh (Conservative) and Hamilton Centre MPP Andrea Horwath, the NDP leader, have consistently opposed the proposed development, as has the newly re-elected MP David Sweet (Conservative).

The declaration of provincial interest in the proposed Flamborough Quarry matter isn't inappropriate politics, it is good public policy. It supports the health and well-being of the people in our communities.

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