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McCarthy protests quarry meeting's preregistration

Eric McGuinness

The Hamilton Spectator

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Ward 15 Councillor Margaret McCarthy is unhappy that St. Marys Cement asked people to preregister for this week's public information meeting on truck routes for the company's proposed limestone quarry on 11th Concession East at Milborough Line.

The meeting, the third in a series on haul routes, takes place Wednesday from 7 to 9:30 p.m. at the Carlisle Community Centre, 1496 Carlisle Rd.

St. Marys Cement's announcement described the session as an interactive workshop and asked that anyone interested register by Jan. 4 by calling 1-866-602-0080 or e-mailing communityinfo@stmaryscbm.com.

McCarthy, who opposes plans for the huge quarry, is urging constituents to turn out in force to voice their opinions even if they haven't registered.

She wrote in an e-mail: "It is critical that we stay engaged so that we can expose how unjust and inappropriate this site is for a quarry. This will be achieved through active, local opposition."

McCarthy contacted The Spectator to say she and city planners don't believe an applicant can require pre-registration. She also said she tried to convince St. Marys to hold the meeting in a larger, wheelchair-accessible location.

St. Marys vice-president John Moroz said preregistration is necessary because the session will be a workshop, in which participants sit around tables to evaluate and comment on a set of criteria for route selection.

"To make it effective, people have to be there from start to finish. We made the date known well in advance and want to make sure we have enough seating capacity, enough workbooks and enough people to facilitate the session."

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