

# Balaclava School Council



*Working Together  
School - Parents - Community*

March 4, 2009

Chris Bell  
City of Hamilton  
Planning and Economic Development Department  
Planning Division – Legislative Approvals  
77 James Street North, Suite 400  
HAMILTON, ON  
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By e-mail: [chris.bell@hamilton.ca](mailto:chris.bell@hamilton.ca)

Dear Mr. Bell,

Re: File No. OPA-08-014 and ZAC-08-067

On behalf of the school and parent community, Balaclava School Council would like to officially register concerns with the City of Hamilton regarding the recent application by St Marys Cement Inc. (formerly Lowndes Holdings Corp.) for an Official Plan and Zoning By-law amendment for 1869 Milborough Line. We have attached a copy of a June 2004 resolution, passed by Council that documents in detail the original concerns registered, regarding a proposed quarry one concession north of our public elementary school. This resolution is on the public record pertaining to the original Official Plan and Zoning By-law amendment application OPA-04-17 and ZAC—04-89. These concerns still hold.

Our Council remains concerned about potential impacts on student/staff health and safety, water quantity and quality, school bus safety, and on our community at large.

With respect to recent developments, we note:

1. Our school now also offers a before and after care program on-site.
2. There is no assurance that the drilled well servicing our school will not be impacted by the proposed development.

The Ministry of the Environment rejected the company's 2008 pump test data, and prior 2004 pump test data, as unacceptable in October 2008. MOE ordered the company to redo the test to better understand the aquifer and to establish baseline data. The baseline data would have allowed comparison and evaluation of a proposed Groundwater Recirculation System (GRS). The theoretical and unproven GRS was proposed by St Marys Cement to mitigate the unacceptable impacts of quarry dewatering. In January 2009, the company refused to redo its pump test and, therefore, could not proceed to test the GRS. No mitigation system of any kind has been tested on-site.

Hamilton Public Health Services is on the public record with concerns about the proposed quarry operation. Hamilton Public Health Services exercised a rarely used notification section of the *Health Promotion and Protection Act* in October 2007 to register its concerns with MOE about the risk of significant public health concerns pertaining to groundwater quality and quantity impacts of the proposed quarry and to request conditions on tests then being considered by that ministry. The Medical Officer of Health has written to the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) in February 2009 reiterating those concerns and questioning the completeness of hydro-geological reports, supporting an aggregate license application, in light of MOE's rejection of the data underlying the reports.

The Greenbelt Plan, 2005, prohibits new or extensions of lake-based water systems. MOE does not support long term trucking of water into communities. This means that there is no Plan B for the City of Hamilton, or this community, if its groundwater-based drinking water system is adversely impacted in terms of quantity and/or quality.

3. Any of the proposed haul routes, singly or in combination, create the potential for safety risks for students waiting for, riding, or exiting school buses, given the proposed operation envisages some 1100 truck trips per day. Truck volume, speed, braking time, convoys, and morning queuing are all of concern. We are aware that the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board shared data with the City of Hamilton regarding school bus travel routes and pupil pick-up locations. There would have to be considerable structural work done to address the roads, sight lines, width, turning lanes, and more. There would also be traffic light deficiencies at key intersections, such as Hwy 6 and Concession 11, Hwy 6 and Campbellville Road, and Milborough Line and Campbellville Road.

Transportation safety is a significant issue for our school because the vast majority of students are bussed; indeed, the definition of a rural school includes that more than 80% of students are bussed.

The Combined Aggregate Resource Team (CART) Transportation Study has not been completed by the company. We understand that the City of Hamilton, the Town of Milton and the Region of Halton expressed concerns with St Marys Cement report and public information boards prepared for a public information session in June 2008. Resolutions from Milton and Halton asked for the transportation study to be halted, pending other work on the application, and both jurisdictions agreed to peer review the proponent's transportation work to date. Conservation Halton also recorded its concerns and lack of consultation on route impacts. We are not aware of any further reports shared with the municipalities involved or rescheduling of the final public information session.

We ask that our School Council be kept informed of the City's review of these joined applications and that it be notified of the City's consideration to approve or refuse the applications.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Yours sincerely,

Originals signed by:

Graham Millman  
Chair  
Balaclava School Council

Karen Gourlay  
Co-Secretary

CC: Karen Turkstra, Ward 14/15 HWDSB Trustee  
John Gris, Principal, Balaclava  
John Laverty, Superintendent, HWDSB  
Our Lady of Mount Carmel School Council and Administration  
Margaret McCarthy, Councillor  
Hon. Ted McMeekin, MPP