



## Truck haul route study continues to draw scrutiny

Dianne Cornish, Special to the Champion

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Critics have lined up to blast St. Marys CBM for the company's handling of a public information meeting last month about the truck haul route for a proposed quarry in northeast Flamborough.

The large cement company has been accused of disregarding common public consultation rules, presenting incorrect and misleading information at the June meeting, and holding the session too far from the proposed quarry site.

The criticisms are outlined in a seven-page letter featuring comments from members of the Combined Aggregate Review Team (CART), a technical working group that the City of Hamilton set up to review the application for the St. Mary's Flamborough Quarry.

The letter can be viewed on the City's website.

Criticism has also been leveled by Graham Flint, chair of the anti-quarry citizens' group known as FORCE (Friends of Rural Communities and the Environment), and Flamborough Councillor Margaret McCarthy.

One of the biggest complaints was that the first Public Information Centre (PIC) was held at the Royal Botanical Gardens (RBG), more than 20 km from the proposed quarry site at the corner of 11th Concession Road East and Milborough Line. Flint argued that the meeting should be held closer to the site to afford area residents a better opportunity to attend and state their concerns.

John Moroz, vice-president and general manager of St. Marys CBM Aggregates, while not apologizing for the decision to hold the first of four PICs at the RBG, said future haul route meetings will be held nearer the site. Moroz and members of the transportation consulting firm, hired by St. Marys to conduct the haul route study, said they were pleased with the turnout of about 125 area residents at the June meeting.

But Flint believes a closer site will draw even more participation. He and members of the FORCE steering committee have suggested that no PICs be held during the summer months, as St. Marys had planned, and that the company consider holding the next information session September 12, 19 or 26. The group also recommends that, given the large number of GTA commuters in the area, that the heart of the meeting not start until 7 p.m. and that it run until 9 p.m. In addition, it recommends that the meeting be held in one of the two Carlisle area schools, either Balaclava Public School or Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Elementary School.

In a July 19 e-mail to Councillor McCarthy, Moroz said he would try to contact both the councillor and Flint, "prior to media notification," when the date for the second PIC has been set. "We have received a tremendous amount of feedback and will certainly take it all into account in preparation for the next three PICs. I am not at liberty to commit at this time to dates or locations as I am not sure they have been set," Moroz wrote.

McCarthy told the Champion that when she receives notice of the next meeting, she will sponsor an ad in local newspapers to make sure area residents are aware of it. She added that she expects St. Marys "to address inconsistencies and deficiencies" that are outlined in the CART letter at the next PIC.

"I find it astounding for an organization of that magnitude to make so many errors, whether through willful intent or stupidity," she said last week.

She expressed regret that the cement company's display boards at the June PIC neglected to note that while both Milborough Line and Derry Road are designated truck routes, both have truck restrictions.

Since the CART letter went out to St. Marys, consultants representing the cement company have met with CART members to discuss concerns. "We had a very productive meeting," planning consultant Glen Schnarr said.

"For the most part, we agree with CART's comments and see them as constructive. We have embarked on mutual discussions to ensure that subsequent PICs are able to deal with matters CART has raised," he added.

The consultant said that they are targeting the last week of September for the second PIC.



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