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City of Hamilton to hold meeting about quarry

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The City of Hamilton will hold a meeting April 6 to provide information and gain public input about the application for the proposed Flamborough quarry by Lowndes Holdings Corp.

The meeting, to take place at the Our Lady of Mount Carmel School in Hamilton, will also cover the City of Hamilton's next steps in the application process, said Stan Holiday, senior planner for the City of Hamilton.

"The purpose of the open house and information meeting is to update the public on the City of Hamilton's review of the development applications, to receive public input, and to indicate the future steps in the review of the development proposal (for the quarry)," stated Holiday.

"The next steps will include consideration of the various aspects of the proposal including transportation, hydrogeology, natural environment, noise and other issues as they're identified through the public consultation and review process."

The proposed quarry would cover a 380-acre parcel of land on the 11th Concession in Flamborough near Milton.

Opponents of the proposal, like Graham Flint, chairman of Friends of Rural Communities and the Environment (FORCE), believe the quarry would have a significant impact on the environment, the water supply and the traffic in the area.

Flint said he believes the meeting is an excellent opportunity for residents to show their concerns.

He added that since the quarry application was filed in September 2004, this is the first public meeting organized by the City of Hamilton to provide information to the public about the handling of the application and to solicit public opinion.

"After the City received the independent third-party peer review report, there are a lot of items that raised questions," said Flint.

"The residents have a right to ask and receive answers for those direct and challenging questions. It's the perfect opportunity for residents to have their voices heard."

In addition to the City of Hamilton, FORCE and Lowndes Holdings Corp., the proponent, are scheduled to make presentations at the meeting.

Flint said a large turnout is expected and the venue can accommodate several hundred people. He added that a representative from Environmental Defence Canada (EDC) -- an organization that FORCE has built a relationship with and that has a strong interest in the proposed quarry case -- will attend the meeting.

"They've chosen to get involved with this case because of its precedent-setting aspects. They believe that the handling of this case, with respect to the Green Belt legislation, will determine how similar future applications are handled."

Another benefit of having the EDC's support is that they will be able to provide tax receipts for donations made to help support FORCE's fight against Lowndes Holdings Corp.'s application, Flint said.

The open house will begin at 6:30 p.m. with the formal presentations at 7:15 p.m.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel School is located at 1624 Centre Rd. (main intersection of Centre Road and 10th Concession).

For more information, visit the City of Hamilton's Web site at www.myhamilton.ca in the Planning and Economic Development section or on the FORCE Web site at www.stopthequarry.ca.



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