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Councillor slams St Marys' pitch as 'bribery'

BY DON REDMOND

When St Marys made a special appeal to Hamilton City Council on April 15, the day of a council vote on them, Flamborough Councillor Margaret McCarthy slammed them, calling their tactics "little better than thinly-veiled bribery."

St Marys vice president John Moroz had sent councillors an email, saying that "in a time of economic uncertainty, St Marys is continuing its substantial investment in a development that will bring jobs, economic benefits and opportunity to the City of Hamilton."

He went on to say the proposed quarry would bring "110 permanent full-time jobs, with the majority of jobs expected to be filled by local residents, \$80,000 per year in taxation revenue, \$135,000 annual revenue through the aggregate licence fee (\$4 million over the life of the quarry) and \$3 million per year spent locally on operating supplies and services."

That had McCarthy fuming, saying using a weak economy as a rationale to approve their application "was something they obviously thought might be advantageous."

McCarthy's motion that the quarry be turned down was based on what she called "incomplete water tests" as well as grave concerns given by both Hamilton and Halton's Chief Medical Officers.

However, she cited nearly two dozen more concerns within her motion.

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Dufferin commits to donate over 1,300 acres to community

Pictured on the land surrounding Dufferin Aggregates' Acton Quarry is Bill Galloway, Senior Vice-President for Ontario & Western Canada of the parent company Holcim. Dufferin is seeking to extend the life of the Acton facility which has only 6 years left in its present format. If permitted the extension would take the facility out to 20 years, assuring employment for the 45 workers at the facility. As part of its application, Dufferin has committed to donate the whole of the Acton lands it owns for the benefit of the community. Ownership of the 1,344 acres will be staggered as the reclamation is completed.

PHOTO BY STEPHEN BAKER



Liberal Leader shares ideas in Burlington to jolt economy

BY STUART SERVICE

Fairness, independence and responsibility will guide Canada on its course to economic recovery, said Michael Ignatieff in his Halton debut as Liberal Leader in Burlington.

On fairness, Ignatieff told a crowd of more than 750 at the Burlington Convention Centre that streamlining Canada's Employment Insurance system is a good place to start.

"We need to move toward a national standard for EI eligibility," he said, adding that southern Ontario has six different regional standards. "Fairness is making EI accessible to those who need it, when they need it, no matter what part of the country they live in."

Setting precedents, rather than waiting for

them to be set by other countries, would allow Canada to "write the story of our own recovery," Ignatieff said.

"Here at home independence means not waiting for the Americans to come up with a solution, but coming up with Canadian solutions for a greener, more competitive auto sector," he said. "It means developing an energy strategy that unites Canadians, not divides them."

Ignatieff said that responsibility was required when debt accumulating during the Progressive Conservative government of Brian Mulroney was "cleaned up" in the 1990s.

"Done it once, and it looks like we're going to have to do it again with a Harper deficit of more than \$80 billion," Ignatieff said. "As revenues recover, as growth recovers, we can get this deficit

washed down. It will take discipline, it will take responsibility, it will take tough decisions and I am prepared to make them."

While in Burlington speaking to the Oakville Chamber of Commerce on April 15, Ignatieff alluded to fine-tooth combing Canada's ledger account as the way out of debt. But later that day when he spoke to reporters in Cambridge, the Liberal leader said that a tax increase might be necessary.

With the Liberals polling at 37 per cent support nationwide to the Conservatives' 30 per cent, Ignatieff was asked whether an election was on his mind.

"Of course I look at polls, but that's not the key thing. The key thing is listening to Canadian people," Ignatieff told the Compass. "I've never heard

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Liberal Leader shares ideas in Burlington...

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a Canadian saying 'Michael, give me an election tomorrow morning, that's what I'm really pinning for.' The Liberal leader said he plans to make parliament work "as long as I can" and acknowledged that the Conservative budget "had some important stimulus."

"Now our job is to make sure that money gets out the door - make sure that they don't keep announcing this stuff and don't deliver," he said. "We've already showed in the House of Commons that they had \$4 billion of stimulus booked last year which they didn't spend last year."

"So we have very good reason to have questions as to whether they're going to get the money out the door and get stimulus into the economy during the current construction season."

Councillor slams St Marys' pitch as 'bribery'...

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It wasn't enough for the aggregate giant as Hamilton voted unanimously against the proposal. This is now the fourth or fifth vote that St Marys has seen denied unanimously by Hamilton Council since the process began in May 2004.

"There have been more unanimous votes against that quarry proposal than any other single issue that's come before it or since," said McCarthy. McCarthy asked Hamilton Senior Planner Michelle Sergi to double-check St. Mary's figures.

Sergi confirmed that, "Based on their annual tonnage, they are required to pay a fee of 11.5 cents per metric tonne. Out of this, 11.5 cents per tonne, 7.5 cents goes to the municipality, and is normally used by the municipality for road improvements/repairs. The remaining four cents goes to the Ontario Aggregate Resources Trust. St. Marys is proposing to extract a maximum of three million tonnes per year. However, this amount is depended upon market and St. Mary's has estimated that they will be removing 1.8 million tonnes per year. Therefore, the amount paid to the City annually could range between \$135,000 to \$225,000."

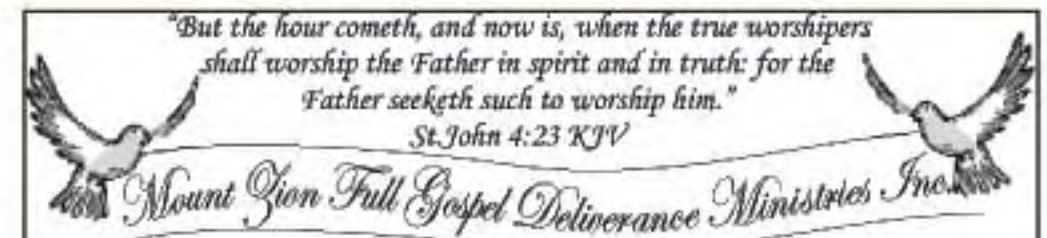
However, she was quick to add that "Halton has indicated that they would (also) be looking for monetary compensation from St. Mary's and/or the City if the haul route is through Halton to provide them with annual funds to address road maintenance and improvements over the life of the quarry."

In actual fact, Milton Councillor Jan Mowbray will be taking McCarthy's motion - word-for-word, tailoring the end to suit Halton, Burlington and Milton - and asking Milton Council to endorse it on April 27.

McCarthy said the continued refusal of the quarry application will "now be used as a benchmark for every environmental concern that comes before Hamilton Council from this point on."

Federal Liberal Party leader Michael Ignatieff speaks to the Oakville Chamber of Commerce at the Burlington Convention Centre on April 15. The recently-selected leader offered up his ideas on how to kickstart the economy.

PHOTO BY ANN KORNUJA



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NOTIFICATION OF PROJECT

BUS GARAGE FACILITY TOWN OF HALTON HILLS

Project No. 077114

GO Transit, the Province of Ontario's interregional public transit service for the Greater Toronto and Hamilton areas, has initiated a Bus Garage Facility, in accordance with GO Transit's Class Environmental Assessment (EA) process. The project is of a scope where there are normally no environmental effects and public concerns, and is classified as a Group A undertaking in accordance with the Class EA. Group A undertakings are deemed to be approved under the *Ontario Environmental Assessment Act*, and are not subject to the full requirements of the GO Transit Class EA process.

The proposed facility is on 5 acres of land at 19 Mansewood Crescent, Halton Hills and will include indoor parking for 40 buses, a bus driver layover and an administrative section.

Although no formal documentation for public review will be prepared for the project, it will be subject to a monitoring and evaluation program, the result of which will be kept on file at GO Transit.

For further information about this project or related background studies, please contact:

Mr. Anthony Louie
Senior Project Engineer
GO Transit
20 Bay Street, Suite 600
Toronto, ON M5J 2W3
Tel.: 416-869-3600, ext. 5404
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Pursuant to Section 39(2) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, you are hereby notified that any personal information collected is for the sole purpose of meeting the requirements of the *Environmental Assessment Act*. The legal authority for this collection is the *GO Transit Act, 2001, c23, Schedule A, s.9(1)*.

Pour plus de renseignements, veuillez composer le (416) 869-3200 ou le 1 888 GET ON GO (438-6646).



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