

# Anti-quarry group gives St. Mary's a failing grade

BY DON REDMOND

When the anti-quarry group FORCE (Friends of Rural Communities and the Environment) was drafting its third annual report, they decided their views on the St. Mary's application were academic.

More much so, that they included a report card.

"We decided to have a little fun and create a report card on the nine basic things (listed in an elementary school report card.) We look at things like 'communication' and 'plays well with other'," FORCE chair Graham Flint chuckled.

Not to tip anyone off too soon - after all, the annual general meeting is slated for May 9 - but the 'teachers' handed out A's to the local community at large, including Campbellville, for 'Initiative' and 'Use of Information' while

St. Mary's got a failing F for 'Homework Completion.'

But while the report card is meant to be a light touch, Flint noted, the message was a serious one.

"This player (St. Mary's) came onto the scene last June (buying the land from original proponent David Lowndes) but we don't think things have progressed at all since then."

As for the 'F', Flint noted he believed it was well-deserved, referring to a water-taking permit applied for by St. Mary's to test their water recirculation plan. While the Ministry of the Environment was originally meant to have an answer by December, that got pushed to January and then March. At this point, there's still no word.

"As far as I know, from my last conversation with the MoE, there's still too questions needed to be answered by St. Mary's that

haven't been over this permit," said Flint.

The St. Mary's application would see 68 hectares quarried on a 154-hectare site at the corner of 11th Concession Road East and Milborough Townline, directly across the street from Campbellville. The company would be removing 60 million tons of limestone and could run as long as 60 years.

The application brought instant opposition from the local community when it became public in early 2004 and FORCE was created at the first community meeting, held at Lawson Park less than two weeks later.

That's where everyone will return for the Third Annual General Meeting is held on May 9 at 7 pm. Lawson's is located at 322 11th Concession Road East.

"New this year we have issue specific displays prepared and will set time aside to answers questions and explain the key ele-

ments of our opposition in detail," said Flint. "We encourage all members of the Community to come out get the latest information on this critical issue."

The group, which has raised over a quarter-million thus far for their battle reserves, is looking to raise another \$100,000 in 2007. Their two main fund-raisers are a bicycle road rally in the summer and a Gala Dinner in the early fall.

"We encourage each household to think about their financial commitment to this fight as a kind of insurance policy on their current quality of life," said Flint.

