



# Quarry opts for door-to-door campaign

BY DON REDMOND

Despite repeated requests from Flamborough Councillor Margaret McCarthy, St. Mary's Cement won't be attending a scheduled September 19 public meeting on the Mountsberg quarry application.

The industry giant has opted instead to wage a low-key door-to-door campaign, talking to Mountsberg, north Carlisle and Campbellville residents one-on-one about their track record in the industry and how they plan to proceed with the application for a quarry on the 158-hectare on the northwest corner of Milborough Townline and 11th Concession East, directly across the street from Campbellville.

In his response to McCarthy's request, St. Mary's vice-president John Moroz told her that the company was "actively engaging the community in a variety of other ways that are conducive to a calm and rational exchange of views and information."

The door-to-door campaign is cause for concern to Graham Flint, head of FORCE (Friends of the Rural Community and Environment) who believes St. Mary is "taking the divide and conquer approach" with this campaign.

"It's tough when a guy shows up at your doorstep at dinnertime with the veneer of 'oh, we're good people and we care about the environment' simply because most people don't have the facts at their fingertips when they answer their front door," he noted.

Flint called the St. Mary's approach "greenwashing", whereby a "business tries to emphasize how much they care about the environment."

"In the end, no matter how much they greenwash this, they are still dynamiting rocks, they are still crushing rocks, they are still loading trucks full of gravel and driving them down roads that can't handle that weight, creating dust along these road."

Regardless of St. Mary's declining the invitation, McCarthy will still continue with the meeting at Balaclava Public School (10th Concession East and Centre Road) on September 19 at 7 p.m. and Flint is urging area residents to attend.

"FORCE will be at Margaret's (McCarthy) meeting and we hope to see the community out there, as well. It's important to bring the neighbourhood up to speed on where this application stands and even more importantly, the questions to be asking St. Mary's official should they show up at their front door."

When they first purchased the land from previous applicant David Lowndes, Moroz

told McCarthy that his company needed time to study the application and previously-submitted documents before consenting to a public meeting. However, McCarthy stepped up the pressure, noting that by the September meeting, St. Mary's would have owned the site for three months, which she felt was plenty of time for an industry giant to familiarize itself with the application. She added that beyond that, she expected a company such as St. Mary's "would have reviewed the situation and had plans prepared before purchasing the project."

Moroz responded that, "it is our practice to meet or exceed all statutory requirements. We anticipate that the city will call an official public meeting related to the subject property in due course."

That didn't impress Flint, who noted, "well, if he won't come to this meeting, he'll have to show at some point."