

THE HALTON COMPASS

FEBRUARY 14, 2008 • VOLUME 10 • ISSUE 37

PAGE 8 FEBRUARY 14, 2008

THE HALTON COMPASS, YOUR REGIONAL NEWSPAPER

FORCE begins postcard campaign

BY DON REDMOND

Premier Dalton McGuinty can expect his Queen's Park mailbox to be filled with postcards shortly and they won't be of the tropical island "wish you were here" variety.

Friends of Rural Communities and the Environment (FORCE) and Environmental Defence recently have launched a Postcard Campaign aimed directly at the Premier as part of their "next wave" against the St. Mary's quarry application, FORCE chair Graham Flint told the Compass.

"We've been working with a number of the Province's departments over the past few years, getting information (about quarry application) and

decided that while we have their attention, we're not getting their action."

Flint said if the Province is seriously committed to protecting source groundwater, "it's time they stopped simply talking about it and started acting on it."

"The best way they could do that is to stop this application now. The community has spent a lot of money on this (application), the City of Hamilton has spent a lot of money on this and the Province will end up spending a lot of money on this," he continued.

Knowing that Hamilton and Halton are opposed to the application adds weight to the fight, he noted, "but this is something that will be decided at the provincial level by the Province

itself. That's who we have to deal with now so we've been ratcheting up the volume on our campaign.

To that end, FORCE mailed out some 3,000 stamped postcards addressed to McGuinty to homes in Carlisle, Freelon and Campbellville. Beyond that, the group has begun an aggressive electronic postcard campaign through their website - www.stopthequarry.ca.

The site is being monitored for activity by the group and at this point, Flint said, "we've had hundreds of electronic postcards go directly to the Premier's office, many from Milton and Burlington (areas considered a little further outside the cone of influence) but also from other areas,

Continued on page 9

FORCE begins postcard campaign...

Continued from page 8

aware of our fight, such as Cambridge and the downtown GTA."

Flint noted that "decisions about St Mary's application for a Permit to Take Water (PTTW) for a pilot test on the theoretical and unproven groundwater recirculation pumping system must be made by the government."

The PTTW has caused an uproar in the community as it would draw one million litres of water daily from the local aquifer for recirculation testing over a three week period. However, the decision on the PTTW is more than a year overdue from the Hamilton office of the Ministry of the Environment.

"We're hoping that (our ongoing campaign and the postcards) will wake the government up and help them realize this is not an issue they can ignore," said Flint.