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## **St Mary's permit on hold until March**

BY DON REDMOND

**T**he contentious water-taking permit being applied for by St. Mary's is on hold until at least mid-March.

St. Mary's applied to the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) for a permit to draw 12.7 million litres of water per day for a 20-day period to prove to the ministry and local residents that their water recirculation program was effective.

The application drew concerns from Campbellville residents, directly across the street from the proposed quarry at 11th Concession and Milborough Town Line, as well as Flamborough Councillor Margaret McCarthy and the anti-quarry group, FORCE (Friends of Rural Communities and the Environment.)

When McCarthy met in December with MOE officials Paul Odom and Cora Sheppard, who will be reviewing the application, she believed they could have their decision rendered by the end of January.

However, since that time, the MOE has asked St. Mary's to pass along their initial field preparatory work results to them by the end of February. At that point, the ministry will need at least a couple more weeks to study that data.

McCarthy believes that after the MOE consulted with Hamilton's hired hydrogeologist, David Kerr, the ministry has concerns over "the installation of monitors, geophysical borehole logging and collating of the information."

According to a release from McCarthy's office, St. Mary's will be providing technical documentation to Hamilton as it becomes available for review.

"They have also agreed to our request that (Hamilton) be involved in reviewing and developing details of the monitoring program for the proposed pump test," she said. "As well, (Hamilton) will also be involved in observing the fieldwork as it is being undertaken."

"In addition, (Hamilton) will continue to have peer review performed at various stages of the project by outside consultants."