



CART not impressed with first St. Mary's meeting

BY DON REDMOND

If St. Mary's thought they'd fared poorly when FORCE created a mock report card littered with IFs for them at their annual meeting two months back, they didn't score a much higher grade with a Hamilton planner after their first Public Information Centre at the Royal Botanical Garden last month.

Stan Holiday, the senior Hamilton planner handling the St. Mary's application, sent the company a letter littered with complaints about the company's first ever public meeting on June 21.

While Holiday was the letter-writer, he was expressing concerns on behalf of the Combined

Aggregate Review Team (CART) on the meeting which was meant to be the first of four discussing potential haul routes.

First and foremost was the location of the meeting at the RBC, some 20 kilometres away from the quarry proposal site at 11th Concession Road East and Milborough Townline. While the quarry is slated for north Flamborough in Hamilton, the meeting was held in another region entirely - south Burlington in Halton.

St. Mary's vice-president earlier defended the RBC location to the Compass, noting at the turn of the century, it, too, was a quarry - now fully rehabilitated.

Holiday also indicated that anti-quarry group FORCE (Friends of Rural Communities and the Environment) had lodged a complain that St. Mary's did not identify members of the meeting working on their behalf, "potentially creating confusion as to who was a team member and who was an interested member of the public."

Another common complaint was that the information printed on the placards around the perimeter of the road was in such small print that many people simply couldn't read it. As well, the display boards were only provided to Hamilton two days prior to the meeting, meaning many CART members didn't have an opportunity to preview them.

There were Halton-specific complaints arriving from the meeting, as well. Milborough Townline was shown as a Hamilton arterial and a "major" Milton road. It is neither - in fact, Milton has no such classification for roads.

Both Campbellville Road and Kilbride Street are described as regional roads - neither is. As well, Campbellville Road was designated as a truck route on one display board when in fact, there is a year-round load restriction on the street.

A different board stated that St Marys "has agreed to a binding agreement with Hamilton" over their truck route policy.

Holiday said no such agreement was in place at this point. As well, there is no mention on any route agreements with Puslinch, Milton, Halton or Burlington.

CART also asked St.Marys for joint co-operation on the "mutual agreement on the timing, notification and format of (future) consultation events."

While St Marys was said to be considering holding its second PIC in August, FORCE and Flamborough Councillor Margaret McCarthy are pushing for a September meeting instead, held from 7 to 9 pm (to accommodate commuters), in one of two locations used numerous times for quarry meetings - Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Elementary School or Balaclava Public School - both located on Centre Road a few kilometers away from the quarry proposal site.

As well, FORCE will be holding a Community Drop-In Session on the quarry proposal at Carlisle United Church (1435 Centre Road) on July 29 from 2 to 4 pm.