



The Halton Compass

Read by 150,000 people each week

THE HALTON COMPASS, YOUR REGIONAL NEWSPAPER

SEPTEMBER 6, 2007 PAGE 5

FORCE pedals up fundraiser

BY DON REDMOND

It wouldn't seem that 10-speeds and quarry applications have all that much in common but on September 9, the local anti-quarry group will be hosting their now-annual Tour de Force.

The bike-a-thon, hosted by FORCE (Friends of the Rural Community and Environment), is one of two major fundraisers for the group opposing the St. Mary's quarry application at 11th Concession East and Milborough Townline.

The event will see two separate courses, measuring either 50 kilometres or 100-kilometres, and organizers are hoping for a large Halton contingent.

"One of the things that make this event unique is the support we get from the surrounding communities," said FORCE special events committee member Gwen Todd. "It's not just the Campbellville and Milton residents, either. We're also hearing from dedicated bikers from Brampton."

Todd said the bike rally actually does connect to concerns over the quarry application. Should the application be approved, the group believes it will see 1,100 aggregate trucks on the local roads daily "or a truck every 30 seconds."

These trucks increase risks for cyclists since the roadways through north Flamborough and Campbellville (where the trucks will travel) are mostly "narrow (with) non-existing road shoulders, numerous grade changes and limited site lines. Gravel on the road surface, exhaust fumes and dust will change the landscape that we all enjoy (for residents and bikers alike)." The rally, which costs \$25 to enter, is looking to boost the numbers from 2006, its inaugural year.

"We got 200 people last year and we're on track to surpass that by a fair margin," she said.

Todd said the participation of Milton businesses, such as Spokes n' Slopes, in the event has helped awareness of its cross regional borders. To register online or for more information, go to: www.stopthequarry.ca/CommunitySpirit/TourdeFORCE.php