



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 28, 2005

FORCE Applauds Restrictions on Greenfield Aggregate Development **Greenbelt Tightens Around Carlisle Quarry Proposal**

The Province of Ontario released its final Permanent Greenbelt Plan today and tightened its “Greenbelt” around the Carlisle Quarry proposal by ensuring it is covered by the Plan (Ontario Regulation 59/05) and placing it under new tougher aggregate development rules.

Friends of Rural Communities and the Environment (FORCE), applauds the restrictions placed on greenfield¹ aggregate development in the Natural Heritage System of the Greenbelt. **No new aggregate development is to be permitted in key natural heritage features or key hydrologic features.** Examples of key Natural Heritage features include provincially significant wetlands, significant woodlands, and significant habitat of endangered and threatened species. Key hydrologic features include both surface and groundwater streams and flows as well as other wetlands.

New aggregate development may be permitted near natural and hydrologic features only where the application demonstrates how it will meet new additional restrictions. These include: protection for water resources, no impact on linkages between surrounding natural heritage and hydrologic features, and no loss of habitat. In addition there are new extra rehabilitation requirements and the requirement for providing additional greenbelt lands offsetting the lands consumed by the proposed development.

“The Province has painted the Greenbelt landscape green – the rules are clear. With so many key natural and water features embargoed for development and the approvals bar raised so high, the Plan is effectively squeezing the Lowndes Holdings quarry proposal out of the Greenbelt,” said Graham Flint, Chair of FORCE. “Add the Province’s upcoming Source Water Protection legislation designed to protect drinking water sources, and the restrictions around the proposed quarry will tighten even more.”

“The Province has spoken,” noted Mr. Flint. “Now it is time for the City of Hamilton to decide if the Lowndes Quarry application meets these new Greenbelt standards. We will be asking Mayor Larry Di Ianni and Councillor Margaret McCarthy to ask their colleagues to immediately reject the application.”

¹ greenfield = new aggregate development as opposed to an expansion of an existing quarry



“FORCE wishes to thank MPP Ted McMeekin who has worked tirelessly on behalf of his constituents”, said Mr. Flint. “MPP McMeekin understood the importance of this issue to both the Province and the Local Community. His support has been steadfast from day one.”

Friends of Rural Communities and the Environment (FORCE) is a federally registered not for profit corporation. It is a citizen-based advocacy group with hundreds of supporters in Campbellville, Kilbride, Mountsberg, Freelon, and Carlisle. FORCE was formed in June 2004 to protect our natural and built environments in the face of a proposed large-scale, below the established groundwater table, aggregate development.

-30-

For further information contact:

Graham Flint
Chair, FORCE
905-659-5417 (office)
grahamflint@stopthequarry.ca

Visit our website: www.StopTheQuarry.ca



MEDIA BACKGROUNDER

TRANSITION

There is an outstanding Official Plan Amendment application by Lowndes Holdings for mineral aggregate development (OPA-04-17), submitted to the City of Hamilton in September 2004. Today's Greenbelt announcement provides that it will be covered by the Greenbelt transition regulation (O. Reg 59/05) even though it was submitted before December 16, 2004, the effective date of the *Greenbelt Act*.

RESTRICTIONS ON GREENFIELD AGGREGATE PROPOSALS IN THE NATURAL HERITAGE SYSTEM OF THE GREENBELT

There are a large number of key & significant natural and hydrologic features within and contiguous to the proposed aggregate development that have strong functional linkages. Development on these features is now prohibited or restricted.

Municipal or Provincial Program	Natural Area Designations that currently apply to lands within Lowndes Holdings Site
City of Hamilton Ecologically Sensitive Areas program (Dwyer 2003)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mountsberg East Wetlands (Hamilton ESA Flam-36) • Carlisle North Forests (Hamilton ESA Flam-38)
City of Hamilton Official Plan (Hamilton 2003)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural Heritage System • Linkage and Restoration Areas
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources wetland evaluation manual for Southern Ontario	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower Mountsberg Creek Provincially Significant Wetland Complex
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources Big Picture Project (OMNR Big Picture 2002)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core Natural Area and Linkage Area
Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing final Greenbelt Plan (MMAH 2005)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protected Countryside and Natural Heritage System

Five creeks are also present on site and form good ecological linkages with wetland and terrestrial features both on and off the site. These include the headwaters of three tributaries to Mountsberg Creek, which is part of the Bronte Creek watershed. A fourth creek is also a tributary of Mountsberg Creek and flows in a southwest direction through a wetland located in the northern portion of



the site. The fifth creek is a coldwater tributary of Flamborough Creek flowing in a southerly direction as it passes through a wetland located on the west side of the property.

Municipal or Provincial Program	Natural Area Designations that currently apply to lands <u>adjacent to or contiguous to</u> the Lowndes Holdings Site
City of Hamilton Ecologically Sensitive Areas program (Dwyer 2003)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mountsberg East Wetlands (Hamilton ESA Flam-36) • Carlisle North Forests (Hamilton ESA Flam-38) • Mountsberg Wildlife Area (Flam-29) • Freelton Esker Wetland Complex (Flam-30) • Progreston North Swamp (Flam-40)
City of Hamilton Official Plan (Hamilton 2003)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural Heritage System • Linkage and Restoration Areas
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources wetland evaluation manual for Southern Ontario	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower Mountsberg Creek Provincially Significant Wetland Complex • Crawford Lake and Calcium Pits Provincially Significant Wetland Complex • Mountsberg Reservoir Marsh • Kilbride Swamp • North Carlisle Swamp
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources Big Picture Project (OMNR Big Picture 2002)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core Natural Area and Linkage Area
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources ANSI (Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest) program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calcium Pits Meltwater Channel Earth Science ANSI • Calcium Pits Life Science ANSI • Freelton Esker Earth Science ANSI • Kilbride Swamp Life Science ANSI • Mountsberg Wildlife Area Life Science ANSI
Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing Greenbelt plan (MMAH 2005)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protected Countryside and Natural Heritage System

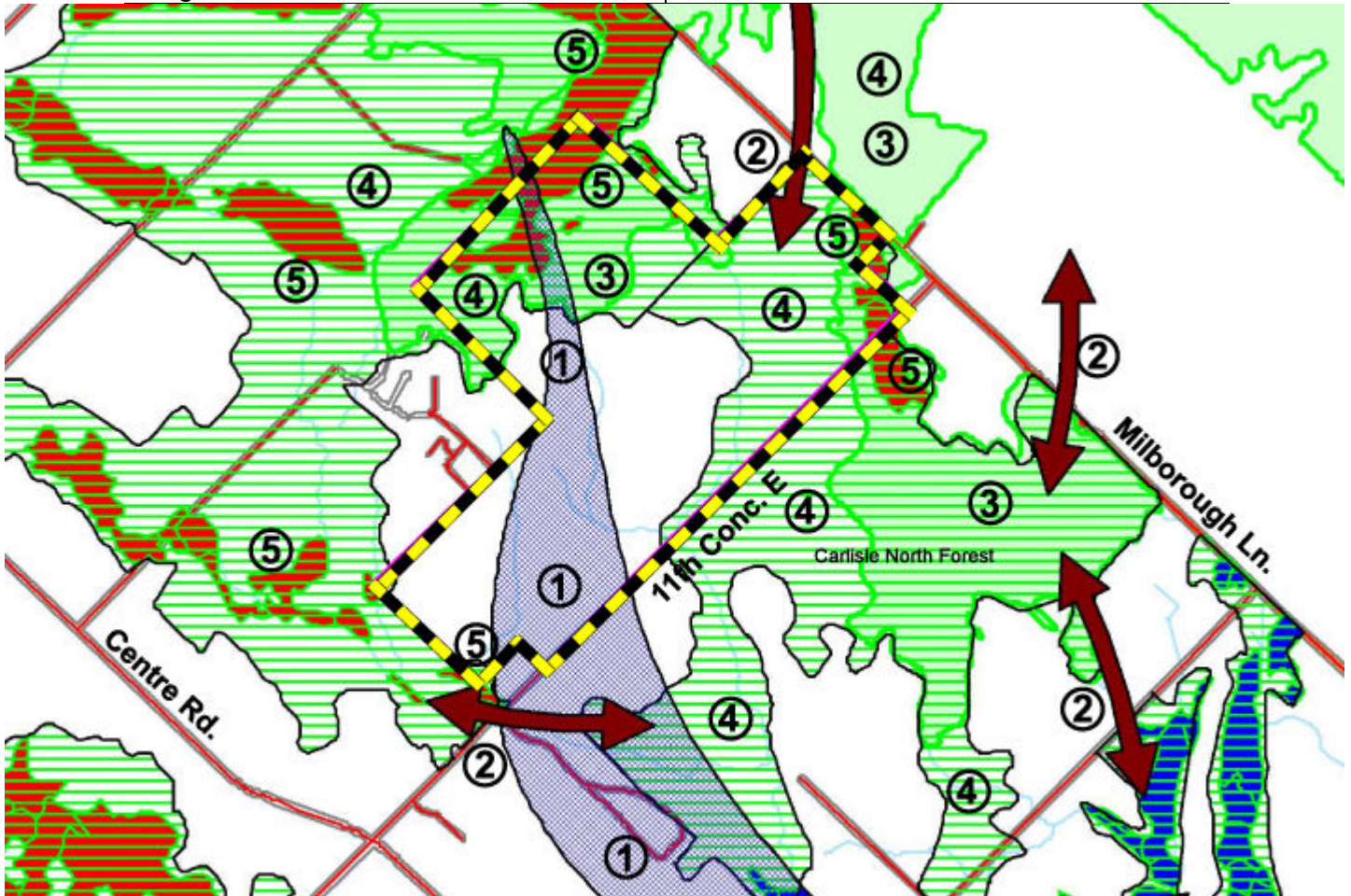


F O R C E

Friends of Rural Communities
and the Environment

Region of Halton Natural Areas

• Twiss Natural Area



- Lowdnes Holdings Property Boundary
- Significant Ecological Link
- Environmentally Significant Woodlot
- Carlisle Wellhead Protection Zone
- Deer Wintering Yard
- Provincially Significant Wetland