



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 27, 2008

# **FORCE APPLAUDS CITY MOTION TO PROTECT CARLISLE DRINKING WATER**

## **City and FORCE united to get action from Province**

The City of Hamilton voted for the first time on a substantive item concerning the St Marys proposed Flamborough quarry and it did so unanimously. The motion moved by Councillor Margaret McCarthy focused on concerns about the potential adverse impacts on the groundwater-based municipal drinking water system serving Carlisle's 3,000 residents and called on the McGuinty Provincial Government for action. Adverse impacts could also be experienced by the community managed well at Stonebrook Estates, the many hundreds of nearby residential wells, and other groundwater users.

"The City of Hamilton is speaking out for the first time on the significant issue of drinking water," said Graham Flint, Chair and Spokesperson for Friends of Rural Communities and the Environment (FORCE). "This sends an important signal to the Province at a key decision point."

The Ontario Ministry of the Environment (MOE) is currently reviewing an October 2006 application by St Marys CBM for a temporary Permit to Take Water (PTTW) to allow the company to test its unproven and theoretical groundwater recirculation pumping system for the proposed quarry. The system is proposed by St Marys CBM to address what their own technical reports describe as "unacceptable impact" on area groundwater resources from the proposed development.

City of Hamilton departmental staff and Hamilton Public Health Services are members of the Combined Aggregate Resource Team (CART). CART is reviewing the St Marys CBM proposed quarry application for Official Plan and Zoning By-law amendments in order to establish the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest limestone quarry in Ontario at 3 million tonnes per year (based on estimated annual production tonnages). Hamilton Public Health Services issued a rare public health notification to MOE under the authority of section 11 of the *Health Protection and Promotion Act*. The motion is also an acknowledgement by Council of City staff's thorough work on this complex file.

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St Marys CBM purchased 380 acres of land in 2006 from Lowndes Holdings Corp. to develop the massive below the water table quarry. The company owns an adjacent parcel of 154 acres with the stated intention to expand. The lands are completely within the Natural Heritage System of Ontario's Greenbelt and are found within the 2 year Time of Travel (TOT) Wellhead Protection and recharge areas for the Carlisle municipal drinking water system.

FORCE and Environmental Defence launched an advocacy campaign on behalf of the community regarding the PTTW application in December 2007 with the release of the Hamilton Public Health Services letter. This was followed in January 2008 with full page paid advertisements in regional daily and weekly newspapers. A community print and electronic postcard initiative is now underway. Over 1000 print cards and almost 600 e-cards have been sent to Premier McGuinty, to date.

"Our community identified drinking water as the key concern when the quarry development was first proposed in May 2004," noted Mr. Flint. "We thank Councillor McCarthy for being a tireless champion for our community. The Carlisle Water Motion, and the motion on security deposits for quarry rehabilitation, are both positive for our community. We also thank the City of Hamilton for its recognition of our community initiative."

-30-

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