

## Haul route plans meet with resistance

### More than 25 residents speak up at Carlisle quarry meeting

Melanie Cummings, Special to the Review

Published on Dec 07, 2007

St. Marys Cement is putting the cart before the horse in pitching several preferred truck routes to residents before even getting approval to create a quarry, says Graham Flint, chair of Friends of Rural Communities and the Environment (FORCE).

But even before Flint could say this at a public information meeting hosted by the company, the grass roots activist received a standing ovation from the 250 people who packed the Carlisle Golf & Country Club last Thursday (November 29). The meeting was the second of four that are intended to update the public about proposed haulage routes and garner feedback.

"The discussion of transportation matters seems out of sequence when there are so many critical issues around groundwater impact still outstanding," said Flint of the company's application to excavate 40 metres deep into a 158-acre site at 11th Concession Road East and Milborough Line.

"There is no need to consider transportation since current regulations lead to the inevitable conclusion that this quarry should never be allowed to proceed," added Flint.

Pointing at vice-president and general manager of St. Marys CBM Aggregates, John Moroz, Flint said "We're not going to help you ruin our community by helping you find an appropriate haul route."

Flamborough councillor (Ward 15) Margaret McCarthy concurred.

"Do you seriously expect us to give you suggestions on how to mitigate your impacts on the community, to our residents, schools and neighbourhoods?" she asked.

Aggregate excavated from the proposed quarry in east Flamborough is expected to fill 1,140 trucks per day and be hauled to construction projects primarily in York, Peel, Brampton, Toronto and Etobicoke.

In addition to Flint and McCarthy, more than 25 members of the community also approached the microphone to express their dislike of the five routes explained by a traffic consultant hired by St. Marys.

Speaker after speaker repeated the message that there is no way to handle the traffic without causing a significant negative impact on the natural environment and lifestyles and properties of existing residents.

Despite assurances that the company's plans will improve local roads, widen routes for cyclists and pedestrians and impose strict penalties to truck drivers who veer off the haul routes, residents expressed further discontent.

Moroz responded that the company is simply trying to listen to the community and promised to share with residents its completed studies as they are sent to the Ministry of Environment (MOE) during the lengthy approval process.

In September 2004, Lowndes Holding Group, which originally owned the land, filed a land use planning application with the City of Hamilton. St. Marys Cement bought the property in June 2006. The company operates 12 pits and quarries across the province.

The non-profit citizen advocacy group FORCE was formed the same year the application for the proposed quarry was filed.

St. Marys is hosting a third public information meeting focusing on alternate haul routes, slated for January 9 from 7-9:30 p.m. at Carlisle Arena and the final session is expected in early 2008.

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