

## FORCE AGM rescheduled due to meeting mix-up

Melanie Cummings, Special to the Review

Published on Jun 13, 2008

Friends of Rural Communities Everywhere (FORCE) is rescheduling its annual general meeting to the fall, to accommodate a public information meeting hosted by quarry proponents St. Marys Cement.

FORCE chair Graham Flint though, is disappointed the aggregate company was not as considerate.

Discussions to avoid a clash of schedules began last month between Glen Schnarr, a planning consultant with St. Marys, and Flint.

"Despite doing our best to avoid this conflict St Marys has chosen a date that was clearly identified as a conflict six weeks in advance," said Flint.

Typically FORCE holds its annual meeting in June and uses it as a time to kick off its fundraising for the year, he added.

Instead, the group's members are now being encouraged to attend the fourth and final public discussion tackling transportation routes to haul stone to and from the proposed quarry site in Carlisle on June 23.

"FORCE and its team of volunteers have spent scarce resources preparing flyers and organizing a whole range of tasks to support a meeting that now will have to be re-planned," said Flint.

Schnarr said that the scheduling conflict was "unfortunate but certainly not intentional."

While there was some difficulty nailing down a venue for an expected large crowd - one location cancelled and another needed to get the green light by the fire department for capacity allowances - FORCE was

advised three weeks ago of St. Marys' plans to hold its meeting in the last week in June, said Schnarr.

"I'm surprised FORCE decided to have its AGM at the same time given our conversation," said Schnarr.

The haul route public information centre hosted by St. Marys will be held at Carlisle Arena on June 23 from 3 to 9 p.m. with a presentation at 7:30 p.m.



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