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## FORCE meets May 9

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As FORCE (Friends of Rural Communities and the Environment) gears up for its third annual meeting next month, the group remains as opposed to the Mountsberg Quarry as ever. Describing the May 9 meeting as "a rallying point" for area residents, FORCE chair Graham Flint said the group plans to send a firm message to St. Mary's Cement that "we're not taking our eye off the ball...and our resolve (to fight the quarry application) has not changed."

The group launched a vigorous protest against the proposal shortly after news of the planned 67-hectare (168-acre) quarry surfaced in May 2004. Since then, it has remained vigilant of the application process calling for a quarry at the corner on the 11th Concession East.

Flint said the meeting will give FORCE an opportunity to present feedback to the community "in the form of a report card" for St. Mary's CBM, proponents of the quarry application. Flint charged that St. Mary's, which bought the quarry property last June from Lowndes Holding Corp, has failed to clarify key components of the application, such as haul route, groundwater and environmental concerns. To bring residents up to date about the application, FORCE has launched a series of open houses at Carlisle United Church, the first of which was held March 25. Issue specific displays, focusing on such topics as transportation and groundwater, have been set up for the sessions, with the next one planned from 1 to 4 p.m., July 29. Information booths on various topics will be set up at the annual meeting.

FORCE recently completed its 2006 annual report for presentation at the meeting, which will also serve as the kick-off for the group's 2007 fundraising campaign, aimed at raising \$100,000 to pay for expert legal and technical consultants hired by the group to help fight the proposal.

The annual report will be mailed to all area households that have made a financial commitment to the campaign in the past. It is also posted on line at [www.StopTheQuarry.ca](http://www.StopTheQuarry.ca)

The annual meeting will be held at 7 p.m., Wednesday, May 9, in the Lawson Park Resort Recreation Hall at 322 11 Concession Road East.

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