


THE HALTON COMPASS



REGIONAL NEWS, NOTES AND NEIGHBOURS

Lowndes quarry threatens Campbellville's water - claims opposition group

BY DON REDMOND

A contentious quarry application in Flamborough will have far-reaching negative affects on Campbellville, warns the leader of the community group fighting the proposal.

Graham Flint, the chair of FORCE (Friends of Rural Communities and the Environment) says the truck traffic would increased significantly on many of the side roads in Campbellville should the quarry application go through.

To that end, Hamilton will be holding an Open

House meeting at Our Lady of Carmel elementary school (1624 Centre Road) on April 6 at 6:30 pm so that Hamilton planner Stan Holiday can explain to concerned residents where the application is in the planning stage.

On a closer scale, some Campbellville residents would see their water supply diminish as the quarry is proposed for the northwest corner of 11th Concession Road East and Milborough Line, the boundary between

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Flamborough and Campbellville.

In the end, water issues are key in the battle against the 154-hectare quarry application, submitted to Hamilton planners by Lowndes Holding nearly two years, said Flint.

"Groundwater is going to be the biggest issue surrounding this battle," Flint told the Compass. "But where Campbellville residents should be concerned, as well, is the increased truck traffic they could expect on their roads. Right now, the routes submitted lead up to Hwy 401 through Campbellville but I can guarantee you, you'll end up seeing gravel trucks on Derry (Road) and Guelph Line."

Flint doubted that Campbellville road are designed to withstand an increase of 1,000 trucks per day should the application go through.

His words were echoed by Kevin Brackley, the president of the Milton Ratepayers Association, as well as a Ward One candidate in Milton's municipal elections this November.

"I have huge concerns about the proposal," said Brackley, "because I basically live across the street from it."

Brackley, a resident on Milborough near the 10th Concession East, said he and his neighbours always suffer from water problems in the summer and the estimated one million litres being pumped out of the proposed quarry only adds to that problem.

"Everybody here is on wells and septic and right now, our wells get low every summer," he noted. "The main source of our (underground) water supply flows under the 11th Concession and that's the water Lowndes will be pumping out."

"My next door neighbour runs a greenhouse. His business is done if this quarry goes through."

As for the road, Brackley said Flint was on the money in his assessment. "Milborough Line (where trucks would travel daily) is a pitch-and-stone road. It's not meant to support trucks. They'll tear it up."

He maintained that the bucolic country setting would be ruined if the Lowndes application is successful.

"Right now, we can feed deer in our backyard," he said. "That'll stop if this goes through. We bought in the country for this reason and now, our homes are threatened."

Both Brackley and Flint will have their opportunities to speak at the April 6 meeting but they will have some good news from the city's peer review team.

Flint was thrilled when a city-hired consultant confirmed FORCE's water fears, releasing a report that stated the quarry could have an adverse effect on Carlisle's water supply. The hamlet is nestled just two kilometres south of the proposed quarry and most residents presently get their water from a tower fed from four wells. But the neighbourhood has a long history of water woes in the summer months and the city has been placing watering bans on the households through the summer every year since 2001.

The city consultant, Jager Hims Ltd of Newmarket, said, while studying the water situation that "without mitigation", the quarry will affect the underwater sources for all of Carlisle.

"That is, in essence, what our water consultant reported as well," said Flint, "but it was a happy day for our group to hear that fear confirmed by the city's consultant, too."

Flamborough Councillor Margaret McCarthy worked diligently for over a year to secure the best peer review team for the quarry application on behalf of the city, going as far as having council lock in funding for what she called the "dream team."

In a newsletter to constituents, McCarthy warned that the quarry would use as much water as 51,304 people, adding, "that is like putting the Town of Milton in your backyard."