

# Quarry proposal threatens supply of Carlisle water

## Northeast Flamborough development subject of meeting to be held April 6

By Eric McGuinness  
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A city-hired consultant confirms fears that the quality and quantity of Carlisle's municipal well water are both threatened by a huge, proposed stone quarry in northeast Flamborough.

Councillor Margaret McCarthy cites those fears in a newsletter urging constituents to attend the city's first public information meeting on quarry development applications submitted by Lowndes Holdings almost two years ago.

The meeting will be held April 6 at 6:30 p.m. in Our Lady of Carmel Public School, 1624 Centre Rd., south of 10th Concession E.

McCarthy warns the 154-hectare quarry on Milborough Line and the 11th Concession would use as much water a day as 51,304 people.

"That is like putting the Town of Milton in your back yard. It is unfathomable! In addition to which we would see over 1,000 trucks travelling every day on our roads going to and from the quarry."

The councillor said she is also worried about the combined effect on Carlisle of a pending application by Flamboro Springs to haul 11 tank trucks of water a day to its bottling plant, up from the present 1.7 loads.

Jager Hims Ltd. of Newmarket, hired by the city to review geological and groundwater studies submitted by Lowndes, reports that "without mitigation, the proposed quarry will likely have a detrimental effect on adjacent water resources such as streams, wetlands and residential wells."

It also says, "The operation of the proposed quarry without mitigation will affect the capture zone (underground sources) of the Carlisle municipal wells." Jager Hims called for further study of the zone's vulnerability to current and future contamination sources.

It remains to be seen if Lowndes can come up with an acceptable plan to counter the effects of digging down below the water table and pumping out millions of litres to keep the quarry dry.

David Lowndes of Lowndes Holdings was unavailable for comment yesterday.

Graham Flint of FORCE (Friends of Rural Communities and the Environment) said, "Groundwater is going to be the big issue, the clearest single reason why the proposal should not be approved."

That view is shared by Toronto-based Environmental Defence, formerly the Canadian Environmental Defence Fund, which sees the Lowndes proposal as a threat to groundwater and Ontario's new Greenbelt.

Executive director Rick Smith said: "Our organization is leading the charge on establishment of the Greenbelt and getting Ontario's new Clean Water Act adopted, and this application involves both issues -- source water protection and green space protection.

"That is not a place we should allow a quarry to be built. We believe it is a precedent-setting case and we will do what we do best -- raising its public profile in and outside Hamilton. We will enlist our members across the province and the more than 75 members of the Greenbelt Alliance to ring the alarm bells."

City planner Stan Holiday said the April 6 meeting is being held "to tell the public where the application is. It is not a public hearing after which a decision will be made. It's the first of many meetings. It's a start."

Further information is available from FORCE at [www.stopthequarry.ca](http://www.stopthequarry.ca) or under development planning on the city website at [www.hamilton.ca](http://www.hamilton.ca).

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