

Councillor tries final appeal to McGuinty

BY DON REDMOND

Flamborough Councillor Margaret McCarthy has now sent a third letter to Premier Dalton McGuinty, asking for his support against the St Marys' quarry application.

Her June 11 appeal to the Premier dealt not only with the many municipal groups that are opposed to the quarry - Halton included, as

well as the Ministry of the Environment itself - but she also expressed grave concerns over "the ambiguous language used by the Ministry of Natural Resources in reporting on license decisions."

"As I previously stated to you the Ministry of Natural Resources own records point to them virtually approving all aggregate license applications in their care," she said.

"Now my recent findings have led me to believe that there are two troubling problems with the Ministry of Natural Resources."

"One being that an evaluation needs to take place at the Provincial level to inject some fairness and integrity into what clearly is a one sided battle with all the ammunition decidedly in favour of the applicant," she continued.

"And secondly the need to impose a more open and complete evaluation history on licenses that are posted on the Environmental Bill of Rights, and thus more in the spirit implied by the Environmental Bill of Rights."

McCarthy told the Compass that "in a fair fight, we would win. We have all the arguments on our side. All of the available data supports us. But that's in a fair fight and this is not a fair fight."

"We need provincial legislation that has a balanced approach towards aggregate and the environment. Right now, aggregate carries more weight."

McCarthy told McGuinty: "What you may not be aware of is that Hamilton, Milton, Halton Region, and Burlington Councils along with both Hamilton and Halton health departments have all advised the Ministry of Natural Resources that they object to the Aggregate Resource Act license."

"The Ministry of Environment has also indicated that they object to the license application, along with several other boards and agencies. In fact it is my understanding that of the approximately 1,000 submissions made, no one who has reviewed and evaluated the application has been in support of the proposed quarry or aggregate license," she continued.

She noted in her letter that after the application was posted on the Environmental Bill of Rights site and "many residents provided their objection to the St. Marys Cement application through that posting, it has now come to my attention that upon following postings on the Environmental Bill of Rights site, there is a lack of clarity for residents to understand how applications are handled by the applicable Provincial ministry."

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