



ST MARYS

St Marys

Flamborough Quarry

Community Newsletter

Issue #6

Fall 2007

Welcome to the sixth edition of the St Marys Flamborough Quarry Community Newsletter.

We hope that previous editions of our newsletter have helped answer some of your questions about the proposed St Marys Flamborough Quarry. Over the past year and a half we had the opportunity to meet many of you and listen to your concerns. Many of the issues you have raised via our public information meeting, open houses, community input line or in face-to-face meetings are important and we thank you for providing us with such valuable feedback.

We recognize that new developments have an impact on the community and we are working hard to ensure that our proposed quarry operation is designed and planned to minimize impacts. We take your feedback seriously and value open communication with our neighbors, the surrounding community and the City of Hamilton.

Something we've heard from the community over and over again is, "just tell us the truth." Citizens recognize the proposed quarry is bound to have some local impacts, and they just want an honest and realistic assessment.

Unfortunately, a great deal of misinformation, from a number of sources, has been circulated about our application and our proposed operations. This edition of our newsletter is devoted to clarifying some of the most persistent myths surrounding our application and clarifying key facts.

We hope that this information will help you better understand our application. If you require further clarification on any of this information or have questions that remain unanswered, I encourage you to contact us through our community info line at 1-866-602-0080 (toll-free) or email us at communityinfo@stmaryscbm.com.

We are planning to host our second Public Information Centre (PIC) later this Fall. The second PIC will provide an opportunity for St Marys to present the draft set of alternative haul routes, and the approach to be used to evaluate the routes. We thank those members of the community that provided suggestions for the location of the next PIC. We will ensure the community is notified well in advance once a date and location have been confirmed.

Sincerely,

John Moroz, MSc., P.Eng., MBA
Vice-President, St Marys CBM

Myth: The proposed Flamborough quarry will be the 8th largest quarry in Canada.

Fact: While the proposed footprint of the quarry is still to be determined, the extraction area is approximately 67 hectares. St Marys intends to apply for a license under the Aggregate Resources Act, with a maximum tonnage condition of 3 million tonnes.

By size: In Ontario, there are more than 100 existing licensed pit and quarry sites that are over 200 hectares.

By tonnage limit: There are 176 licenses in Ontario with an *unlimited* tonnage condition.

Myth: St Marys should not propose a quarry close to where people live.

Fact: St Marys' decision to invest in this site came after considerable research of publicly available resource plans, and zoning classifications. The Provincial Greenbelt plan allows for new mineral aggregate operations outside of Settlement Areas.

Government policies support mineral aggregate extraction in rural areas that are in close proximity to regions experiencing growth. People who live in rural areas of southern Ontario often live close to quarries.

In addition, the Government of Ontario recognizes mineral aggregate resources as a legitimate temporary use of rural land, and as a resource essential to Ontario's future and growth. While applications for developments and construction may often occur in areas where people live, these applications are consistent with the applicable zoning by-laws and city plans. The Town of Flamborough's Official Plan has designated portions of the proposed Flamborough Quarry as Mineral Resource Lands since 1988. Since 1980, the Region of Hamilton-Wentworth's Official Plan has designated the area as a Mineral Aggregate Area.

According to the 2006 Rural Hamilton Official Plan, the proposed Flamborough Quarry is outside a Settlement Area; will protect overlapping natural heritage features and wetlands; and has been identified as an important mineral resource area.

Myth: St Marys drilled boreholes without the City's approval and was unwillingly forced to pay \$30,000 to fix them.

Fact: On January 2, 3 and 4, 2007 a preliminary roadway investigation was conducted at multiple locations surrounding the proposed quarry site.

The drilling of boreholes six inches in diameter, five feet deep and 500 metres apart is a standard investigative technique used by geotechnical engineers to determine the structural capacity of roadways to carry heavy vehicles. Such investigations were specified as a *requirement* of the truck route study.

Unfortunately these tests occurred before the necessary street cut permits were received from the City of Hamilton. The cause was an apparent miscommunication between the City of Hamilton, the Town of Milton and our consulting engineering firm, Shaheen & Peaker Limited, who conducted the work. Shaheen & Peaker has accepted full responsibility for proceeding without a permit and has apologized.

St Marys took the incident very seriously and proactively volunteered to provide funds to the City to compensate for any costs incurred in refilling the boreholes. No one was “unwillingly forced” to pay for restoration.

Myth: The illegal dump-site near the proposed quarry will leach toxins into our drinking water if the quarry is allowed to proceed.

Fact: During the 1960’s, waste petroleum products were dumped and buried on a Campbellville Road property 2.7 kilometres northwest of the proposed quarry site. The Ministry of the Environment (MOE) monitored the groundwater and concluded that the sources of the contamination on the property were removed and that residual contamination has been reduced to levels below drinking water quality specifications and do not pose a risk to residents. The Ministry also conducted surveys in 1982 and 2002 to confirm all tanks placed at the site were removed. A “Record of Site Condition” is filed with the MOE for the St Marys property and indicates that there is no contamination on our property.

We appreciate the concerns related to contamination of drinking water. Some people have suggested that the toxins will resurface if and when the quarry is granted permission to conduct our water pumping tests; however, the MOE indicated that the Campbellville Road property in question is located outside of the capture zones of the Carlisle wells. Furthermore, the MOE has noted that the site in question was given a clean bill of health many years ago and is far removed from the St Marys property.

Nonetheless, St Marys is following this matter very closely and will work with the MOE should any new information arise, but the bottom line is this: if the quality or quantity of drinking water is compromised in any way during our tests, we will stop tests immediately and take any necessary steps to ensure the community’s water is protected.

Myth: If any impact occurs as a result of the Permit to take Water (PTTW), the MOE will require the municipality to be responsible for the damages and St Marys will not be liable.

Fact: In a correspondence to St Marys, the MOE stated that if any impact occurs from the Ground Water Recirculation System (GRS) testing, should the testing be approved, it is the full responsibility of St Marys.

In the event that a replacement supply of water is needed during testing, water would be provided by St Marys. In addition, St Marys staff and consultants will be available throughout testing to respond to any concerns of local residents.

Myth: The water-recirculation method St Marys is proposing is new, untested and unproven and has not been used before on fractured bedrock.

Fact: St Marys is proposing a proven water-recirculation method and will take additional steps to make certain that it will work at this location. Our consultants have advised that GRS technology, similar to what we have proposed at Flamborough, was successfully employed with provincial approval at the Kirkfield Quarry (also a fractured bedrock environment) in the 1990s and functioned as designed without any unanticipated impacts.

Each site where GRS technology has been employed has unique geological and groundwater conditions requiring that testing be conducted to demonstrate that the technology is applicable for the purpose for which it is intended. As such, the application of this technology at this quarry also needs to be demonstrated.

St Marys has applied for a Permit to take Water (PTTW) so that we can undertake thorough testing, and prove that our Ground Water Recirculation System (GRS) will work in Flamborough. St Marys is committed to successfully demonstrating our GRS method here in Flamborough, before this system is implemented or added as a component to our final application.

Myth: The aggregate industry polices itself and needs to be better regulated.

Fact: The aggregate industry does not solely police itself. In Ontario, the aggregate industry is regulated by a number of federal, provincial, and municipal laws and regulations. Examples of these are the: Conservation Authorities Act, Municipal Act, Planning Act, Ontario Water Resources Act, and Environmental Protection Act.

Prior to 1990 the industry was regulated by the Pits and Quarries Control Act. Since 1990, the approvals, operations, and rehabilitations of aggregate resources have mainly been regulated by the Aggregate Resources Act, under the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Recently, there have been large improvements in industry regulation under the Aggregate Resources Act in terms of increased convictions and fines for bad operators, higher enforcement from the provincial aggregates program, and increased rates of rehabilitation. The Environmental Commissioner of Ontario has monitored the aggregate industry very closely during his term and, over the years, has been very critical of the industry and of MNR. In his most recent report he outlined a number of positive actions that the industry and MNR have taken.

Myth: There is no need for new quarries in Ontario.

Fact: Ontario consumes an average of 170 million tonnes of aggregate annually and the projected consumption for the next 25 years is 4 billion tonnes of aggregate. The Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe anticipates an additional 3.7 million people by 2031.

Based on this expected demand, existing licensed reserves will be exhausted within the next decade.

As the population grows, more demand is put on the aggregate industry, for new schools, roads and other infrastructure. The aggregate industry will need to work harder to meet the demand of our growing communities.

Myth: St Marys is going to remove 8,800LT/min from our aquifer permanently.

Fact: St Marys is not proposing to remove water; but rather recirculate it. **At no time will the water be removed from the site.**

The Ground Water Recirculation System (GRS) testing will involve the release of the extracted water into a trench cut into the top of the bedrock, which is located about 35 metres from the test wells. Much of the water released will be drawn towards the pumping wells and will again be extracted. This recirculation of water results in a much higher pumping rate than would be needed just to draw the water level down to 30 m. The pumping rate specified in the Permit to Take Water (PTTW) application is the combined rate needed to draw the water level to about 30 m and to manage/recirculate the water that is released to the trench.

In order to apply for a PTTW it is necessary to provide an expected 'maximum' pumping rate. This rate is generally estimated using information from earlier testing or by simulation employing a computer model. This is a very conservative approach to estimating a pumping rate and will result in a higher pumping rate than what will actually be achievable. Recent short-term tests conducted using the test wells to determine the size of the pumps to be employed have confirmed that the estimated rate in the PTTW application is conservatively high.

Myth: Aggregate extraction is not allowed in the Greenbelt.

Fact: Aggregate extraction is an approved land use according to the Greenbelt Plan. Pits and quarries are compatible with the Greenbelt's goals and objectives and create sustainable assets for future generations through rehabilitation.

Extraction at the proposed Flamborough Quarry will not occur in areas of provincially significant wetlands, areas affecting provincially significant plant species, or significant woodlands and important wildlife habitat. In addition, the guiding principle of our rehabilitation plans is to achieve a net environmental gain at this site through mitigation and enhancement techniques that are geared to increasing biodiversity. We have hired professionals who are highly respected in the fields of ecology and biology to help us design our rehabilitation and property stewardship plans.

Myth: No safeguards are in place to legally oblige St Marys to protect my health and the local environment.

Fact: The Aggregate Resources Act ensures the consideration and protection of local environments and personal health. The Act includes dust control requirements for all new quarry applications to ensure off-site impacts are minimized and prevented. The aggregate industry is also required to monitor, calculate, and report particulate matter annually to the Ministry of the Environment.

In addition, aggregate is processed without the use of chemicals added to the products, or to the water. According to the Ministry of Natural Resources, studies from Canada, United States and Europe revealed no negative impact on source water quality or quantity as a result of aggregate extraction. Impacts on local groundwater levels are generally restricted to an area within 500 - 1000 metres of the extraction and quarry dewatering is strictly regulated by the MOE.

St Marys is committed to environmental stewardship. Ensuring close-to-market aggregates is a goal well aligned with this commitment. According to the Ontario Stone, Sand, and Gravel Association, every extra kilometre of roadway added to the average GTA haul increases annual greenhouse gases by 3,500 tonnes and consumes an additional 2 million litres of fossil fuel. By making aggregate available close to growing markets in Ontario, it will help reduce the harmful emissions.

About St Marys Cement

St Marys Cement Group is a leading manufacturer of cement and related construction products in Canada and the United States. For more than 90 years, we have contributed to the growth and prosperity of Ontario through countless engineering, civic and residential building projects. St Marys operates two cement plants in Ontario, including one in St. Marys and one in Bowmanville. We also operate more than 40 ready-mix concrete plants and 22 aggregate pits and quarries across the province.

We want to hear from you...

If you have any questions about St Marys Cement Group or about the proposed quarry project, please get in touch with us. If someone you know did not receive this newsletter and would like to, please let us know and we will add them to our distribution list.

Telephone: 1-866-602-0080 (toll-free)

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