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Province says no to Carlisle quarry

St. Mary's Cement loses escarpment bid

April 13, 2010

RACHEL DE LAZZER AND ERIC MCGUINNESS

The provincial government has slammed the door on a plan to dig a massive quarry in Flamborough, northeast of Carlisle.

Liberal MPP Ted McMeekin announced the decision at an 11 a.m. press conference Thursday.

Ted McMeekin, MPP for Ancaster-Dundas-Flamborough-Westdale, commended the anti-quarry group FORCE for "articulating the case against this quarry."

The announcement was greeted by applause from a small crowd gathered in the sunshine outside McMeekin's office in Waterdown.

Graham Flint, chair of FORCE, said the MPP is "tenacious about working on issues he believes in."

Flint also praised Ward 15 Councillor Margaret McCarthy, saying "her passion was neverending, never exhausted, always there."

Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Jim Bradley issued a minister's order preventing St. Mary's Cement from opening a 13-storey deep quarry on the land off Concession 11. The Ministerial Zoning Order under Section 47 of the Planning Act freezes the zoning of 154 hectares of land. It will remain as rural and conservation land.

McMeekin said this is only the fourth time in recent history that a ministerial zoning order has been used, and the first involving the aggregate industry. He added that the Liberal provincial government may also review its aggregate extraction policy to better define where quarrying should occur.

St. Mary's has been trying for years to get permission to open the quarry. Local politicians and citizens groups have been battling the application.



Spectator file photo

Graham Flint and other activists won their years-long battle ...

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