



THE CITY OF
HAMILTON
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

FILE COPY

February 28, 2008

Reference No. **CL08-005-8.11**

The Honourable Dalton McGuinty
Premier of Ontario
Room 281
Main Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1A4

Dear Mr. Premier:

City Council, at its meeting held on Wednesday, February 27, 2008, approved the following motion respecting "Impacts on the Carlisle Groundwater-based Municipal Drinking Water System":

Whereas the Carlisle groundwater-based municipal system has a well documented history of both quantity and quality problems, in staff and consultants' reports,

And Whereas there is a Permit to Take Water (PTTW) application for a pilot test of the proposed mitigation system for a proposed Flamborough quarry before the Ontario Ministry of the Environment

And Whereas the proposed quarry development sits within the recharge area and the two year Time of Travel (TOT) for the Carlisle municipal system's Wellhead Protection Area

And Whereas the final land use disposition for the proposed quarry development is to flood the quarry and to make a lake with potential for surface-to-groundwater-issues

And Whereas the *Ontario Clean Water Act* is premised on the precautionary principle and the recharge areas and wellhead protection areas in municipal systems are the first priority for protection and implementation

And Whereas in November 2004, the Ontario Minister of the Environment's Technical Experts' Committee identified quarries as a land use activity that threatens drinking water sources and are sufficiently serious to be of provincial concern that the Committee recommended they and their final land use be assessed according to new municipal well standards and/or restricted within the 5 year Time of Travel to a municipal wellhead protection area

And Whereas Justice O'Connor, in his inquiry into the Walkerton tragedy, wrote a report which recommended that the Provincial Government establish multi-barrier systems to protect drinking water, including local source protection planning, and whereas the Halton/Hamilton Source Protection Committee is just beginning its work

And Whereas Hamilton Public Health Services notified the Ontario Ministry of the Environment in October 2007 regarding concerns of a reasonable and probable risk of a public health concern in the form of adverse groundwater quantity and/or quality impacts and whereas these concerns will only be considered satisfied when the details have been included and implemented in a revised Hydrogeological Work Plan for pump tests (and a PTTW) to assess a proposed Groundwater Circulation System (GRS) for the proposed Flamborough quarry site .

And Whereas the Environment Commissioner of Ontario cited this proposed development in his 2006/2007 Annual Report in December 2007 and called on the Province to reconcile its conflicting priorities between aggregate extraction and environmental protection and to screen out proposals with identified natural heritage or source water protection values

And Whereas the Carlisle area falls within the Greenbelt Plan and said Greenbelt Plan specifically prohibits new and extensions to existing lake-based water systems

And Whereas City of Hamilton residents in the communities of Carlisle, Freelon, and Mountsberg, along with our neighbours in Milton, through Friends of Rural Communities and the Environment (FORCE) and Environmental Defence, have started a provincial advocacy campaign regarding their concerns about potential risks to their drinking water,