

Ward 15 Newsletter – August 2006



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When In Doubt ... Read The Map!

That is what most of us do when we need to know the physical characteristics of an area. Imagine for a moment discovering that the map on which you so desperately depend for that essential information is so old in nature that it no longer reflects the physical characteristic of the area. That is the case with our Aggregate mapping which has not been updated since at least 1984 and possibly longer. This mapping used to be provided by the Ministry of Natural Resources, but after 1986, their responsibilities no longer included this function. Naturally a lot of land use changes have taken place since that date which is not reflected on those vintage maps. Maps that in fact have been used by the aggregate industry to justify quarrying potential specifically on the 11th Concession. The outdated mapping has been described by Graham Flint, head of FORCE, as being misleading to all stakeholders and in need of updating in order to provide certainty for both the aggregate industry and individual land owners. Confirmed by City of Hamilton staff as being inadequate in terms of presenting the new realities that have taken place over the last two decades I set out to gain Council support for both the resources and financing in order to update the maps. My Council colleagues unanimously supported my motion on July 28th which set a framework and financing in place for the new updated mapping.

“Now the conflicting land uses that currently exist will be identified, making what was once a potentially viable extraction site exposed as being incompatible” says Graham Flint.

The work is expected to take over two years and one million dollars in order to complete all components for the updates.

Those of you who have been following the whole quarry issue will know that St. Mary's Cement Group has bought Lowndes Holding Corp. which plans on establishing a huge quarry at the Milborough Line and 11th Concession. Fierce opposition is in place both from myself and FORCE to fight what will inevitably be a long, protracted battle - a battle that I am committed to winning. Realizing from the beginning how this type of operation would negatively impact my community, in an area which is surrounded by incompatible land uses, my opposition remains firm.

I am proceeding with a public meeting in order to provide the community with information updates since the land takeover by St. Mary's. In correspondence to John Moroz, Vice President and General Manager of St. Mary's, I have requested his presence at my meeting in order to make information available to the community through this public forum. Mr. Moroz indicated that he did not prefer this forum and felt that the timing was premature. I disagree and therefore am moving forward respectfully requesting St. Mary's presence. If for what ever reason there is no representation from St. Mary's, **rest assured the meeting and information will be presented in their absence**, for I feel it essential to provide the community with timely and informative updates on this important issue. **Graham Flint head of FORCE and I will be there, and we look forward to seeing you .**

The meeting is scheduled for
September 19th
From 7:00 pm to 10:00pm
At Balaclava School
280 10th Concession East
Flamborough

Until then all the best, and take care.

Sincerely,
Margaret McCarthy