

Ward 15 Newsletter – May, 2006



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1.5% TAX INCREASE FOR FLAMBOROUGH

While no tax increase is a good increase a 1.5% average for our area is a lot better than what was initially projected when we first tackled the budget back in September of last year. Initial projections would have seen a 12% tax increase if approved. Now after seven months of budget deliberations with millions being shaved off from both staff and Council along with the injection of \$20 Million Dollars coming from the province to help with our social service costs and below average current value assessments Flamborough is for once dealing with respectable numbers. Many of my area residence assisted me in writing letters to the province petitioning for social service pooling in order to provide some financial equity against the unfair burden of having it paid solely off the property taxes. Our voices have been heard and we benefited this year to the tune of \$20 Million Dollars because of that work.

STATUS OF THE QUARRY APPLICATION

A heart felt thank you to all who attended the open house on April 6th regarding the status of the quarry application. Turn out for this meeting climbed towards the 500 mark, a good indication of how serious the community is taking this issue, and rightly so. While the meeting began at 6:30 in the evening it ended shortly before midnight with several key issues being addressed by City Staff, myself, FORCE and the applicant Lowndes Holdings. While the Lowndes application has been in the works for the past two years with several reports being submitted to the city for review, requirements for a

completed application have yet to follow. The most outstanding of which include:

1. A haul route study
2. A natural heritage study
3. A noise impact study
4. An economic study
5. A dust study
6. A blasting study
7. A revised hydro geotechnical study (Water study) because their first water study contradicted the applicant's claim that Carlisle water would not be affected. In other words when the applicant tried to tell us our water supply would not be affected, I did not buy it, you did not buy it, and their own hired gun did not buy it.

One would think after this amount of time and energy with those results presented we would be able to say go away and don't come back. The problem with doing just that however leaves us trailing in court against this application because we have not performed "due diligence" in all our examination of the application. We need to be able to defend the position we take based on a thorough examination of all the studies required. I have said before that I believe this application should be turned down at all levels, and I believe it can be turned down at all levels and along with the technical scrutiny currently undertaken and community involvement I believe it will be turned down at all levels. On a much smaller scale we have to look no further than the denial for a Water Taking Permit requested of Flamborough Springs for proof of what public participation can do. The work of FORCE has been profound and their work continues with their 3rd annual meeting coming up on May 17, 2006. This meeting will take place at Lawson Park located on the 11th Concession east of Centre Road from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. This organization has worked tirelessly on our behalf and I would encourage the community to show their support by attending.

See you there. Until then, best regards

Margaret McCarthy