

UPDATE – PTTW Application



Margaret McCarthy
Ward 15 Councillor
Flamborough
905-546-2713
mmccarth@hamilton.ca

I have recently received a letter sent to St. Marys by the Ministry of the Environment regarding the much talked about Permit to Take Water application for the proposed quarry on the 11th Concession.

In that letter sent to St. Marys by the Supervisor of Water Resources Mr. Paul Odom states why approval has not been granted to date. The letter by the Ministry of Environment to Mr. Bill Marquardt Project Manager for St. Marys reads as follows: “Please be advised that the review of the application before us involves technologies which have not previously been applied in such a scenario. Consequently, we are proceeding with caution on this application to ensure that, should we allow it to proceed, the approach used will protect local water resources and have negligible impacts on local water users. We view the test currently under consideration as no more than a preliminary step and well removed from a full scale operation”.

This paragraph is critical to us for several reasons. It clearly acknowledges that the application for recirculation of water is “untested and conceptual.” These were the exact words used by Ian Macdonald the Hydrogeologist that I hired to evaluate the application. Again even St. Marys cannot point to one example of where there is a use of this system in fractured limestone, and there is no data to indicate whether or not it will be successful. I can hear many of you already saying how can any level of government or agency contemplate allowing Flamborough to be used as a guinea pig for the testing ground of unsupported theories? It is unfathomable!!! When did we become the laboratory mice for testing, so on and so on?

Well we have said that to the tune of 650 letters with exemplary professionalism and clarity sent to the Ministry of Environment. Our collective documentation is still being evaluated by the MOE after what was going to be decided last November.

But what perhaps is the most significant aspect of that paragraph is the last sentence that states that “the Ministry views the test currently under consideration as no more than a preliminary step and well removed from the full scale operation”. The very fact that St. Marys has not satisfied the Ministry’s concerns to date for one preliminary test confirm what we have been saying all along. Our local wells and communal well system would be in jeopardy. And to top that off when the ministry further clarifies that even if this test is granted and supported by findings it is still light years away from making any headway in terms of support for a full scale quarrying operation. Keeping in mind the St. Marys quarry application would draw the equivalent water consumption of **51,304 people per day**.

That is like putting the Town of Milton in your backyard

Our successes will be won one step at a time, but they will be won. I believe that this proposed quarry **should** be turned down at all levels. I believe it **can** be turned down at all levels. And the work that we are doing together will provide the necessary argument to ensure that it **will** be turned down at all levels.

Thanks to all who have worked with me.

Sincerely

Councillor Margaret McCarthy