

The Halton Compass

St. Marys Routes Lead Through Town

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By: Don Redmond

Miltonians will have to wait a bit longer before St. Marys Cement (SMC) reveals its gravel haul-route through the Town. But at this point, should the quarry be approved, it looks like Campbellville residents can expect up to 80 percent of its trucks to drive on their roads.

SMC's first of four Information Centres was held at Burlington's Royal Botanical Gardens on June 21. The second meeting, which hasn't yet been set, will present several alternate haul routes along with an evaluation of each.

Robert McBride, president of the transportation consulting firm BA Group, told the Compass there is no such thing as a "perfect" route. McBride noted the proposed quarry site on the Flamborough-Campbellville border on 11th Concession Road East and Milborough Townline lies between Lawson Park and the Mountsberg Wildlife Centre. He said transporting the aggregate could require driving past schools and residential areas.

"What we need to do is come up with a way of evaluating the trade-offs," McBride said. "We're not at that point yet, but that's where we're headed."

He said most of the mined aggregate will be transported to western GTA areas including the Halton and Peel regions.

"There will be other markets in Guelph, Cambridge, Newmarket and Burlington, but predominantly about 70 to 80 percent of the material will be headed (east) towards Highway 401," McBride said. While no definite haul routes were on display at the RBG, McBride noted a route would likely run through Campbellville because "Milton is between the (quarry) site and the market."

SMC vice-president John Moroz said traffic and water were the biggest concerns raised prior to the RBG information session.

"I think the primary thing people were telling us is that Carlisle already has trouble with water," Moroz said. "We need to prove to the community that we're not going to impact their water."

Moroz said the RBG was the chosen location for the first information session due to being an example of a rehabilitated quarry, despite being more than 20 km from the proposed site. He said the RBG was also decided on as it lies within the SMC study area between Highway 401 and 403, and between Hwy 6 and Guelph Line.

SMC showed two large portions of the study area where the haul routes would not be. The first area excludes routes within Hwy. 401 and Campbellville Rd., between First Line Nassagaweya and Hwy. 6.

The second area excludes routes south of Derry Rd. and 10th Concession Road East and north of Hwy 403 between Guelph Line and Hwy. 6. While the areas between those roads are excluded, most of those roads are not. Campbellville Rd., Guelph Line, Dundas St. and Highway 401, 403 and 407 are all existing truck routes.

When David Lowndes was the first applicant for the quarry site, his proposed haul-route followed Campbellville Rd., north onto Twiss Rd., east onto Reid Sideroad to the Hwy. 401 entrance on Guelph Line.

While Moroz said nothing was carved in stone, Twiss Rd. resident Jake Postma remains concerned that his street could become frequented by gravel trucks. Postma lives near the CP rail tracks north of Campbellville Rd. and says current gridlock on his street is already a problem.

“I can be held up for 20 minutes no problem. How are these trucks going to go through?” Postma told the Compass. “We’re talking 1,200 to 1,400 trucks a day. That’s huge.”

Moroz wouldn’t speculate on the number of trucks that would use the route daily, but said the number of vehicles using it would be “substantial.”

Not impressed with the meeting or its placard-format was Graham Flint, chair of the anti-quarry group FORCE (Friends of the Rural Community and Environment). “I was under the impression it was a meeting with a presentation but that wasn’t the case. The problem is with a format like this is simply you only learn what you stumble upon with your questions. A forum like this is like a series of private meetings. You really need that presentation format and people ask questions and you get to hear their answers.”

Still, despite the unusual location – RBG is 20 kilometres away from the quarry site – Flint was impressed with the turn-out. “Kudos to the community who made it down there with little notice of the meeting and a poor location. The downside is most residents walked away saying they got no new information.

“St. Marys seems content to simply push their “don’t worry, be happy” philosophy on us.” – With files from Don Redmond