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### St. Marys Holding Truck Route Meeting

St. Marys is holding their first-ever public meeting on their quarry proposal but decided on what most observers consider an unusual setting.

The meeting on their proposed truck routes from the quarry will be held at the Royal Botanical Gardens in south-west Burlington on June 21 from 5 to 8 pm.

Since the RBG is more than 20 kilometres away from the proposed quarry application on 11<sup>th</sup> Concession Road East at Milborough Townline, the announcement had more than a few local residents and representatives scratching their heads.

Since the truck route is destined to come through Campbellville (the quarry is on the Campbellville-Flamborough border), the local faction is paying extra attention to transportation issues arising from the proposal.

“My guess is they wanted a warm, green setting for their meeting,” said Milton Ward 3 Councillor Cindy Lunau. “I mean, it’s lovely down there – they must have thought that would soften people up.”

Jan Mowbray, also a Ward 3 councillor, concurred. “I didn’t think about it much when I saw the meeting announcement because I would be there no matter where the meeting but yes, that is odd. Since this aspect has the most effect on our residents (throughout Campbellville), why not hold it here? We’re talking about 1,142 gravel trucks on our roads daily if this goes through. Our roads aren’t in good enough shape to handle those loads.”

Regional Ward 1-3 Councillor Barry Lee wasn’t as concerned about the ‘where’ of the meeting as he was to the ‘why’ of the meeting.

“I mean, yes, that’s (RBG) pretty remote from up here but my wonderment is why they’re holding a haul route meeting this early into the process,” he said. “I don’t know exactly how far along this application is but haul route meetings at this point would seem premature.”

Since most roads out of the proposed quarry would lead through Campbellville, he added both the Region and the Town should be concerned. “These are Class-B roads,” he said, meaning mostly two-lane country roads. “They aren’t designed for this kind of weight.”

Also curious was Graham Flint, chair of FORCE (Friends of the Rural Community and Environment), who called St. Marys vice-president John Moroz to quiz him about the meeting location. (A call to Moroz by the Compass wasn’t returned as the paper went to press.)

“The first thing (Moroz) said was, “Graham, the RBG was a quarry and I was thinking what decade?” Flint told the Compass.

As it turns out, it was quite a few decades ago as the RBG was, in fact, a quarry in the late 1800s and perhaps just into the early-1900s, according to the RBG archivist Marie Minicker.

“In fact, the RBG’s rock garden was first created back in 1929 in the old abandoned quarry,” she said. While most quarries are in rural areas now, Minicker said it wasn’t unusual for quarries to be near the lakes back before the turn of the last century. “I’m guessing a little here but I think the quarries had to be accessible by boat because the roads were little more than dirt paths at the time so that likely is why this quarry was here at the lake.” (Quarry material was used primarily in house construction 100 years ago rather than roadwork, the aggregate’s primary use these days.)

For Flint, though, the meeting at a far-off locale was indicative of St. Marys approach thus far since taking over the proposal from first applicant David Lowndes last summer.

“This is not convenient for the people up here and when they (took over the application) last summer, they made overtures about being great neighbours – overtures that we haven’t seen yet,” he said.

He attended a recent meeting of the Nassagaweya Community Consultation Committee and he noted a police sergeant was expressing concerns over the truck traffic from existing quarries in north Milton.

“That’s the thing – transportation issues are the hardest things to fight because (once a quarry is established) they have a right to use the roads, too.”

The ad issued by St. Mary’s regarding the meeting was cause for some confusion, as well, said Flint.

“If you follow the map they’ve provided in the ad,” he chuckled, “you would either end up headed west towards Brantford on the 403 or Port Dover on Hwy 6 south. It’s really not very clear.”

But a senior planner in Hamilton City Hall, who sent an internal email to staff and councillors, had serious concerns about St. Marys ad, including a spot in the ad where the proposal is referred to as “Flamborough Quarry.” He noted it could cause confusion since there is an existing Flamboro Quarry on Brock Road in west Flamborough. (The announcement at the top of the ad did refer to it as the St. Marys Flamborough Quarry.)

As well, St. Marys had not made Hamilton aware of the meeting, something they are mandated to do. City staff was made aware of the meeting by Flamborough Councillor Margaret McCarthy. He further noted that the company had included no particulars about the proposed quarry site, including the location, size and type of quarry.