

FORCE Outlines Quarry-Proofing Game Plan to 400

BY STUART SERVICE

Hundreds of galvanized residents crammed into the gymnasium of Our Lady of Mount Carmel school just outside Campbellville on April 15 to find out what the next steps are in their fight against a proposed quarry.

The site of the 164-acre property being sought after by St Marys Cement is located at 11th Concession and Milbrough Line. The company filed its application to the Ministry of Natural Resources on April 3.

This initiated a 45-day countdown, meaning anyone looking to formally voice an objection to the proposed quarry's license application has until May 21st to do so.

To make the process easier, Friends of Rural Communities and the Environment (FORCE) provided each person in attendance with two copies of a template objection letter.

Just about everyone in attendance put their name, address and postal code on a pair letters, which FORCE will be mailing to St Marys Cement and the Ministry of Natural Resources.

The double-sided template in fine print was able to fit about 1,400 words, highlighting a potential quarry's negative impacts on the surrounding environment and groundwater supplies.

The letter also raises the issue of more than 1,100 truck trips per day that would be hauling loads of extracted limestone on narrow roads shared with community traffic.

"The process of creating that letter was a challenge," Graham Flint, chair of FORCE, told the Compass. "Our outrage over this application has many facets and many parts to it. What we wanted to do is try to put something together that, logistically, was manageable. So what we really tried to do is to capture the major themes of our objections in that letter."

While Flint was thrilled with the turnout at the meeting on April 16, which was primarily a rundown of Ontario's Aggregate Resources Act and its timeline, a meeting to be held on April 27 in Waterdown will hold a greater amount of legal weight.

"There are specific public meetings that have regulatory significance, and this meeting on April 27th with St Marys is one of those meetings," he said.

"One of the disclosures that they (St Marys) will be making is how many people attended that meeting," Flint continued. "We'd like for them to have to reflect the large level of public concern about the project by having a large number show up to that meeting."

The meeting to be hosted by St Marys will take place on Monday, April 27th from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Waterdown Legion Hall on 79 Hamilton Street North, Waterdown.