

McCarthy goes to the top over St Marys PTTW

BY DON REDMOND

A published report indicating the Ministry of the Environment might be amenable to St Marys' Permit To Take Water (PTTW) application has seen Flamborough Councillor Margaret McCarthy going straight to the top.

McCarthy appealed to Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty, asking him to intervene on the PTTW, citing some 100-pages of past infractions and clean-up orders collected by the MOE and given to McCarthy upon her request.

However, the councillor says the infractions, spanning from 1987 to 1998 and including the illegal dumping of barrels filled with PCBs, never entered into the public records for the application.

In her letter to McGuinty on June 6, McCarthy asked for his "personal intervention" on the application, saying that, "If this PTTW is allowed to go forward by the Ministry of Environment, it will be issued without this critical site contamination file ever reaching the people who are responsible for commenting on this application."

McCarthy added, "I have only recently discovered that my Hamilton city staff were working off of a file that categorically denied the existence of any Hazardous Waste material at the property in question," referring to a 500-page environment assessment drafted for the original applicant David Lowndes. Indeed, once McCarthy met with Hamilton staffers from the Health, Planning and Water/Wastewater on May 30, she discovered they had been working from the Lowndes' EA and had no knowledge of the past infractions.

Once they investigated the new information, McCarthy said her staff water specialist, Abdul Khan, raised concerns that long-buried contaminants could not only resurface during the PTTW process but could also infiltrate the groundwater supply, if unearthed.

McCarthy said to McGuinty that if he couldn't stop the PTTW out-

right, could he at least delay it until all commenting agencies had a chance to research the new information?

"In actual fact, the Hamilton office of the MOE was expected to hand down a decision on the PTTW back in December 2006 and the matter is still on hold," she wrote to McGuinty. "In light of this new information now being known about the hazardous contamination issue, I can't expect that another month or two of delay would matter in the end and at least would provide us with an opportunity to look at this file."

"This file was never uncovered until recently when I did a title search myself of the previous owners only to discover the MOE had the file but that it never made it into any records for the City or other departments' review process," she added. "In fact, not only did it not form a part of the 'Records of Site Condition', the ones that were filed categorically denied the existence of any hazardous waste material."

As the Hamilton member on the Halton-Hamilton Source Water Protection Committee, McCarthy told the Compass the group wouldn't be in a position to comment on the PTTW application as they are still months away from creating their own Terms of Reference and establishing what level of influence they will hold in future water matters.

The PTTW application has caused grave concerns within the Carlisle and Campbellville communities. St Marys has asked for a 21-day test period, whereby they would draw one million litres of water daily from the local supply to test their groundwater recirculation equipment. Area residents, all familiar with water problems, especially in the summer months, are worried that their often-unreliable supply of water would only worsen with the PTTW tests.

However, in one published report, an MOE official stated that the Ministry was confident in the testing, noting that any previous contamination would have flowed through the groundwater years ago and added if there was a problem, it would have surfaced back at that time.

FORCE upset with PIC meeting date

BY DON REDMOND

The chair of FORCE (Friends of the Rural Community and the Environment) is miffed that St. Marys has chosen June 23 as their date for the next Public Information Centre (PIC) meeting at Carlisle Arena.

Graham Flint told the Compass that St. Marys had long been aware that FORCE was planning on holding their Annual General Meeting on the same date.

When Flint contacted St Marys' planner Glen Schar in mid-May to inform him of the conflict, he was told that St Marys was eager to

get their meeting held before the end of June as they were having trouble securing a location.

"If you think about the two meetings that would be the biggest collision (of opposing sides), it would have to be FORCE and St. Marys," Flint said. "And it's a shame that from our perspective, they just go ahead blindly and do what they want."

"If this were a bank account situation, I would say that they are overdrawn with the community (in terms of goodwill)," he added.

Flint said aside from wasted money on flyers that FORCE has printed up for their AGM, which will now be rescheduled, "St.

Marys had any number of dates within June they could have chosen."

FORCE had a committee meeting on June 9 where they will decide on a new AGM meeting but Flint ruled out any plans on holding it on June 24th, the day after the St Marys PIC. June 23 and 24 were each slated as a tentative date for their AGM but Flint is concerned that 24 hours wouldn't give FORCE members enough time to digest the information provided by the aggregate giant at the meeting.

"It simply does not make sense to try and compete with the St Marys' transportation

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The Great One highlights new Flex's unveiling...

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in the city, 8.4 km per litre driving on the highway and has a cap-free refuelling system. It even has a compressor-driven refrigerated console that can cool up to seven pop cans 40 per cent faster than a home refrigerator.

Ford unveiled the car at the end of the Oakville assembly line before more than 1,000 Ford employees, politicians and reporters. The loud press conference ended with a quick cameo from the Great One, Wayne Gretzky, who stepped out of a Flex rolling out on stage to give a favourable testimonial of the ride.

The ironic timing of Ford's June 3 press conference fell moments after CAW (Canadian Auto Workers) president Buzz Hargrove addressed a decision by General Motors to shut down its truck plant in Oshawa at the Royal York Hotel in Toronto.

"We recognize that the overall market for GM's larger vehicles, including pickups, is enduring a painful adjustment," Hargrove said. "But that does not give this company the right to violate its recent collective agreement and turn its back on Canada entirely."

Hargrove's absence was noted by his assistant, Bob Chernecki.

"He'd rather be here, believe me," he said at the Oakville Assembly

Complex. "Given the circumstances we found ourselves in that was impossible."

Federal Minister of Industry Jim Prentice also alluded to the layoffs.

"It has been a particularly tough year for the industry," Prentice said. "The slowdown in the United States market, the high Canadian dollar and consumer tastes, of course, responding to high oil prices at the pumps. So we've also seen plant closures and layoffs in some places."

But the Flex offered some solace on a tough day for the Canadian auto industry.

Chernecki said he hopes to see Canadian-built vehicles in international dealerships.

"I'd love to see this product (the Flex) in a Chinese show room," he said. "We can't do that today."

"The commitment by the federal, provincial government and our union is a partnership that we have to have," Chernecki added. "We also have to have one more ingredient: we have to have a free market where we don't have the barrier that keeps our good products off those showrooms all around this great world."

Halton Happenings

June 12 - 14

•**Century Church Theatre**, Hillsburgh. SUNSHINE AND SHADOWS. AN EVENING WITH STEPHEN LEACOCK. The new one-man show created by and starring James B. Douglas. See it here before it moves downtown! Evenings at 8:00 pm. Saturday matinee at 2:30 pm. All seats reserved. Box Office 519.855.4586 www.centurychurchtheatre.com

June 14

•**Second Annual multi-family garage sale in Brookville** Estates 8am- noon, with proceeds going toward the Weekend to End Breast Cancer. The sale will take place in the circle on Amos Drive.

•**St. David's will be hosting its 3rd annual community breakfast** from 8:30-10:30 am. Breakfast runs from 8:30-10 and Christian Author and Entertainer Scott Graham will present a children's program from 9:30-10:30. Scott's theme is designed around team building and anti-bullying strategies. Scott is a renowned children's entertainer and it will be a great time for children of all ages. There is no set price for either the breakfast (pancakes and sausages) or Scott's program... instead there will be a free will offering. Mark this on your calendars and let's make it a day of fun and fellowship for young and young at heart.

June 16

•**The Milton and District Horticultural Society** will be holding their general meeting from 7:30 to 9:00 at the Milton Bible Church (200 Main St E). The topic will be "Working Towards an Urban Water Balance". Chris Denich will share ideas on a low impact development approach to wise water use. New members are always welcome. More information on the website Halinet.on.ca/miltonhort.

June 17

•**The Milton Toastmasters** will meet at the Royal Canadian Legion Hall, 21 Charles Street, Upper Hall, Milton, 7:30 pm www.miltontoastmasters.org - All are welcome!

June 18

•**The Georgetown Horticultural Society** is holding a General Meeting. Location: St George's Church, Guelph St. Time: 7:30 pm Speaker: Marion Jarvie. Topic: Starting a new garden, renovating an old garden and adding some wow factor! Additional Items: Raffle Table & Refreshments.

June 18 and 25th

•**For Seniors' Month in June**, Milton Transit is offering free rides every Wednesday this month to seniors who are 65 years of age or older. For more information, please call 905-815-2020 or visit www.milton.ca.

June 21

•**Downtown Georgetown** will again celebrate summer by welcoming the farmers and vendors at the weekly Farmers Market from 8 am to 12:30 pm. Beginning on June 21 and continuing each Saturday until October 11 the Farmers Market will attract the whole community to Main Street! The Market opens each Saturday at 8 a.m. and closes at 12:30 p.m. Main Street is closed to vehicular traffic during that time. For more information www.downtowngeorgetown.com or 905-873-4970.

•**The Milton and District Horticultural Society** Summer Flower Show will be part of the Strawberry Fair (Milton Fairgrounds). This is a judged event and we welcome all gardeners to participate. Exhibitors may bring their flowers from 8:45 to 10:45 am on June 21. If you are planning to attend the Strawberry Fair, be sure to visit the Theatre Room to see the floral exhibits. For more information phone 905 854 0275 or go to the website Halinet.on.ca/miltonhort.

To place a Halton Happening
please email The Halton Compass
at editor@haltoncompass.com