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Subject: Thanks to MPP Andrea Horwath - Quarry Foes Take Battle to Queen's Park

On behalf of Milton Councillor Jan Mowbray, community participants and myself, we would like to formally thank MPP Andrea Horwath for the work she did in presenting the St. Marys issue at Queen's Park yesterday.

The day went extremely well and has provided a new forum on a broader scale for a community who has fought this battle on it's own. We now have the attention of the Province, with the media coverage that goes along with that. It was indeed a very historic moment for my community to get a voice at the Provincial Cabinet level on this issue.

Below is a news article on this event from today's Spectator website.

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Emma Reilly

Hamilton Centre MPP Andrea Horwath brought the debate about a proposed quarry to Queen's Park yesterday — and she brought backup.

About 40 Hamilton, Burlington, and Milton residents attended question period as Horwath asked Environment Minister John Gerretsen to stop the development of a limestone quarry in the Flamborough area.

"The government needs to deal with the fact that this quarry needs to be denied," Horwath said. "We want them to take a stand."

"We're living with the spectre of this proposed industrial development in the middle of our community," said Graham Flint, spokesperson for the environmental group FORCE and one of the area residents who traveled to Queen's Park. "It was nice to see this issue put into play at the ultimate decision makers."

But both Horwath and Flint said they were disappointed with the minister's response.

"We got told, "It's a process," said Flint. "That's the point we're trying to raise. How do you really ever get to a "no" decision?"

Carl Slater, a manager in the ministry's Hamilton office, said the Ministry of the Environment doesn't have the authority to stop the quarry development. Their role, Slater said, is to authorize permits for water testing.

"The focus is on us right now because we've issued this testing," he said.

That authority rests mostly with the City of Hamilton and the Ministry of Natural Resources, Slater says, though the MOE is a "supporting and commenting" party.

St. Mary's Concrete is currently performing water tests near 10th Concession East at Milborough Line, the site of the proposed quarry. They must complete this testing before June 30, 2009.

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