

Milton Pushes MNR to Dump St. Marys Application

BY DON REDMOND

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While most of Milton's councillors have at one time or another expressed concerns over the St Marys' quarry application, those issues were hit hard and put on paper for the first time at the April 27 council meeting.

While the council meeting happened after the Compass had gone to press, there remained little doubt that a report drafted by the Town's Director of Planning and Development, Mel Iovio, asked that the Ministry of Natural Resources turn down the application would be unanimously approved.

"Oh, I'm confident it will be supported unanimously tonight," said Ward 3 Councillor Cindy Lunau.

While she has always been opposed to the quarry application, Lunau said, "this report gives me and the others the chance to openly stand against the quarry without worrying about appearing to prejudice the application process."

"Every concern in this report has been our concerns all along," she added, "and now those concerns have been legitimized by our staff."

Leading Iovio's concerns was the potential haul route for the quarry, located on the Flamborough-Campbellville border at 10th Concession East and Milborough Townline.

St Marys has indicated that their trucks would be hauling aggregate east on Campbellville Road, north on Twiss Road and then east on Reid Sideroad to reach the Highway 401 access at Guelph Line.

Looking at the Haul Route Study provided by the applicant, Iovio noted that St Marys "had not provided justification for this preference. In addition, the impacts of an environmental, social and financial nature were essentially absent in the report or largely, in (Milton) staff's opinion, that the report contained inaccuracies."

He further noted the study "has not provided any assessment for the haul routes" and that Hamilton's traffic issue peer reviewer, Valcoustics, indicated that within the study, "some detail is missing... particularly no mention of dust and its impacts."

Iovio continued that while Milton staff could not provide 'any expertise' in terms of St Marys' hydrogeological studies, he noted that the Terms of Reference "have not be finalized and that the Ministry (of the Environment) is on record as not accepting of the results of the phase two testing due to unusual amounts of rain (during the testing in July 2008)."

However, he pointed out that even St Marys' environmental impact peer review consultants, Dougan and Associates, had some questions about the application's impact on the local water supply.

“The report does not properly deal with surface and groundwater impacts, including the fact that there remains a lot of questions about the groundwater recharges system,” said Iovio.

Milton’s willingness to vocally jump aboard the bandwagon was happy news to Flamborough Councillor Margaret McCarthy, who told the Compass, “Milton has always been great in this fight, particularly Jan Mowbray and Cindy Lunau. But now, if the issue coming to their council and their opposition (hopefully) being passed, it feels like there’s others in the corner with me. That (the opposition) is not singularly-driven anymore.”

“We want as many residents and councillors in the Halton Region onboard as we can get. The opposition has always been wellknown on our side of the border. Every single motion against the quarry at Hamilton Council has seen unanimous support. It’s great that it’s also the case in Halton.”

Last month, Halton Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Bob Nosal, also joined the fray, asking both the MNR and MOE to turn down the quarry application until numerous concerns were specifically addressed by St. Marys.