

Province intervenes to prevent quarry development, Responds to community concern for groundwater conservation

April 13, 2010 -- Today the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing issued a Ministerial Zoning Order (MZO) under Section 47 of the Planning Act to freeze the zoning of 154 hectares of land in the former Town of Flamborough. As a result, St. Mary's Cement Inc. is prohibited from using these lands for a proposed major quarry development.

The MZO comes after concerns about the potential impact on groundwater raised by Hamilton City Council, the Halton Regional Council, local Medical officers of Health and countless citizens potentially impacted by the development.

"Today is a watershed day for our community and a fitting tribute to the enormous community-based leadership that articulated the case against the proposed St. Mary's Quarry so very well," said MPP Ted McMeekin.

With the MZO, the zoning on the land shall remain 'Rural and Conservation Management' in perpetuity and ONLY those uses consistent with this designated zoning will be permitted. This ensures the long-term protection of groundwater resources in this sensitive area.

"Our community came together and stood shoulder to shoulder in the fight to stop the quarry," said McMeekin. "In so doing we have not only protected the water resource we hold sacred but also the environmental heritage of this area."

The community-based opposition to the quarry was led by FORCE, Friends of the Rural Community and the Environment.

"This is a joyous day for our communities," said Graham Flint, Chair and Spokesperson for Friends of Rural Communities and the Environment (FORCE). "We thank Ted for his tireless efforts to champion our cause at the provincial level and applaud the McGuinty government for hearing and responding to the very real concerns of our local municipalities and citizens about this massive open pit mine proposal. Now our drinking water, the air we breathe, the fragile natural features in this area, our way of life and the roads we use to work, live and play will be protected."

"It's clear that at every stage of the fight to protect our community, FORCE has been a force to be reckoned with. FORCE was able to combine sound research with the ability to articulate the justness of their cause in a compelling manner. I am very proud of FORCE, its leader Graham Flint, and our entire community for the responsible way the battle on this critical issue has been waged," added McMeekin.

For further information contact

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