

Zoning freeze orders by Province relatively rare, says MPP

A15 • Thursday, April 15, 2010 MILTON CHAMPION • www.miltoncanadianchampion.com

• from PROVINCE on page A1
 medical officers of health from both municipalities for taking an active role by appealing to the government to stop the quarry, largely because of health concerns related to possible groundwater impact.

Milton town council also approved a motion calling on the Province to deny SMC's aggregate licence application.

McMeekin also commended Friends of Rural Communities and the Environment (FORCE) for their strong community-based opposition to the proposal and Flamborough Councillor Margaret McCarthy for her "passionate voice" against the quarry, proposed for lands near the Hamilton/Milton border near 11th Concession Road East and Millborough Line.

McCarthy and FORCE chair Graham Flint were among onlookers at McMeekin's media conference. Hamilton Mayor Fred Eisenberger, who's out of the country, was represented by rural Flamborough Councillor Robert Pasuta, who's deputy mayor in Eisenberger's absence.

Ontario's Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Jim Bradley, issued the Ministerial Zoning Order (MZO) to freeze the zoning of the subject lands as agricultural and conservation management in perpetuity.

Uses of the land will be restricted to those that comply with its current zoning.

McMeekin told news media that MZOs are relatively rare and he could recall only four previous occasions when the Liberal government chose to issue them, including

one to protect the Oak Ridges Moraine from urban sprawl.

He said information about the decision had been posted on the government's Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR) website and St. Marys has 30 days to appeal the decision. The Province then has 30 days to declare a provincial interest with the final adjudication being made by the Ontario Cabinet.

"Today is a watershed day for our community," McMeekin said.

He later told the media the concerted community effort figured prominently in the government's decision, as did the Greenbelt Act and the Clean Water Act.

"It's about protecting our community and environment for our children," he said.

While elated with the news, FORCE's Flint, still unsure about what action SMC will take, cautioned, "Let's not pop the cork on this yet."

However, he allowed that the government's action makes the prospect of a quarry locating on the Flamborough property "very slight."

Flint credited community residents and area municipalities, including the City of Hamilton, Halton Region, The Town of Milton and the City of Burlington, for keeping opposition to the quarry in the limelight and making their concerns known to the provincial government.

He thanked the government for listening, McMeekin for his "loyal and tenacious" support and McCarthy for her "never-ending passion" in opposing the quarry and bring-

ing residents' concerns to Hamilton's city council.

Fighting to keep her composure and alluding to her impending retirement from municipal politics, McCarthy said: "It's nice to come this far and have it end like this before I leave."

A tireless opponent to the quarry proposal, she said many people "worked shoulder-to-shoulder" with her to defeat the proposal.

Pasuta lauded the Province for protecting the environmentally-significant lands on the quarry site and the many residents who worked with FORCE and their elected officials to fight the proposal.

In a question period at the close of the media conference, Flamborough resident

Karen Gourlay asked, "Is it safe to take down our signs?"

She was referring to the 'Stop the Quarry' signs that dot many lawns in northeast Flamborough and the Campbellville area.

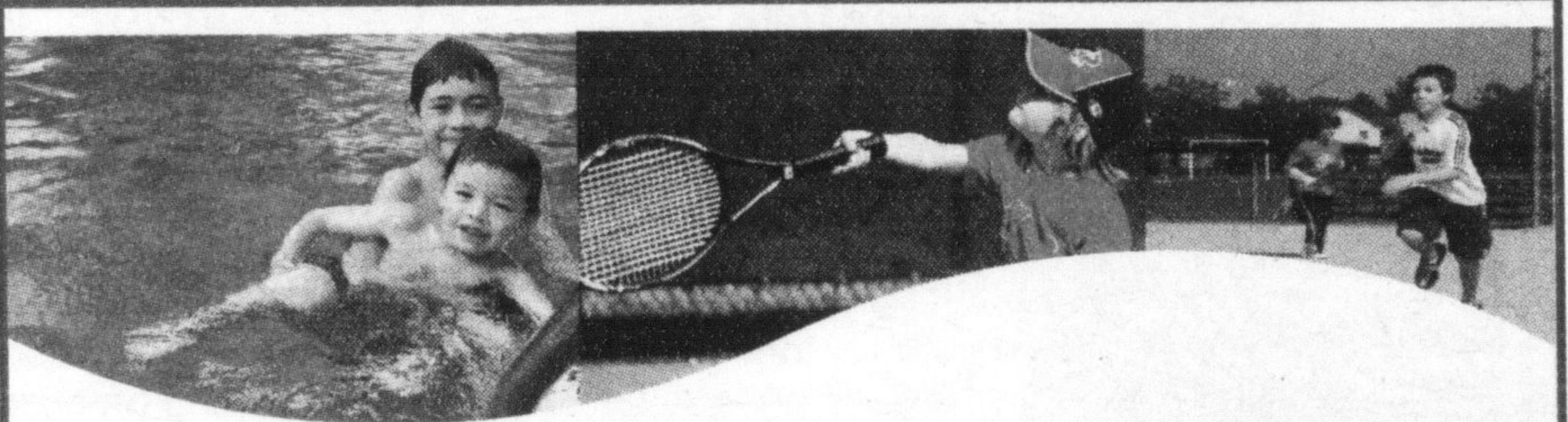
Flint replied that while "a little celebrating" was in order, it would be prudent to wait and see how St. Marys Cement responds to the government's decision.

McMeekin pledged to be vigilant on the issue as it goes forward.

Gourlay said the quarry has been a worrisome issue for her entire family. Even her six-year-old son, Graham, has been affected. He often asks at bedtime, "Are we going to stop the quarry?" She said he put "stop the quarry" on his Christmas wish list.

 **The Corporation of the Town of Milton**
 905-878-7252 TTY: 905-878-1657
 1-800-418-5494 • Rockwood/Guelph
 www.milton.ca

Camp Information Day



Join us for a sneak peek at our 2010 summer camp programs!

Saturday, April 24, 2010
 10:30 am - 1:30 pm
 Milton Leisure Centre (Gymnasium)
 1100 Main Street East

- 2010 summer camps:**
- Kidz Kamp
 - Splash Camp
 - Arts & Crafts Camp
 - Sports & Adventure Camp
 - Theatre Camp
 - Teen Action Camp
 - Special Needs Activity Program - S.N.A.P.

- Activities for parents:**
- Meet camp staff
 - Ask questions
 - Register onsite
- Activities for children:**
- Arts and crafts
 - Face painting
 - Games and activities

For detailed information, see your Spring & Summer Community Services Guide or visit www.milton.ca.

www.milton.ca recreation@milton.ca 905-878-7252, ext. 2189

Escape to paradise
 It's in your nature

  **ROYAL BOTANICAL GARDENS**
www.rbg.ca

RBG GARDEN SHOW
April 23 to 25; RBG Centre
 Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Royal Botanical Gardens' first Garden Show

- Hot topics: **Making a Meadow, Incredible Edibles, Evolution of Trees**
- Great speakers: **Rob Howard, Kathy Renwald, Sonia Day, Paul Zammit**
- Hands-on demonstrations: caring for orchids, pruning a rose
- Feature gardens and new plant introductions
- Gardening advice from Master Gardeners and specialist societies
- **And plants, loads of plants!**

Includes admission to the outdoor gardens OPEN FOR THE SEASON
RBG Centre, 680 Plains Road West Burlington 905-527-1158

 Celebrating the International Year of Biodiversity

 bullfrogpowered



BUY or RENEW NOW and SAVE 14% or more
 Buy or renew a membership before May 1, 2010 and enjoy 2009 pricing plus save the HST — order online at www.rbg.ca

DAILY ADMISSION — Adult: \$12.50; Senior/Student: \$9.50; Child (age 5 to 12): \$7.25; Family: \$32.25; Child under age 5 and RBG members: FREE

DESIGN • BIODIVERSITY • HANDS-ON GARDENING

Youth Week Transit Discount
25% off Student Monthly Pass for May

In celebration of Youth Week, Milton Transit is offering a 25% discount off the cost of student monthly passes for May. Visit the following ticket agents to take advantage of this exciting offer: Town Hall, Milton Leisure Centre, Sports Centre, Seniors' Activity Centre.

 **Purchase by: May 10**



Information:
transit@milton.ca www.milton.ca 905-864-4141