

Do You Really Want a Pig Slaughterhouse in Your Neighborhood?

Find out how this affects you and your family

October 2005

What is Maple Leaf Proposing?

Maple Leaf wants to build a multi-million dollar slaughterhouse and pork processing plant, on the east mountain, just south of Rymal Road, on the corners of Nebo and Twenty Road. Pigs would be transported in open trucks along the 403, the LINC, the Red Hill Expressway and Rymal Road, to Nebo. Other truck traffic along these routes includes rendering plant trucks, refrigeration trucks and trucks of other pig by-products including blood.

Maple Leaf claims this "state of the art" facility would create no noxious smell in the nearby and downwind residential communities of Upper Stoney Creek, the lower Mount Albion area, the east mountain and east Glanbrook. They also claim there will be no contamination of ground water, air or soil. They claim this poses no threat to our health, the environment, nor our quality of life.

Why Do We Oppose this Slaughterhouse?

A slaughterhouse has no place in a residential area. Pigs stink. Odours travel. This plant could affect over 200,000 residents living in the east mountain, lower east Hamilton, and upper and lower Stoney Creek. These residents may no longer be able to enjoy their backyards or keep their windows open.

Furthermore, local "weather inversions" can result in a swamp of stale air getting stuck over Hamilton. During weather inversions, the stink would not dissipate for days.

The potential for airborne pathogens and ammonia spreads over a huge area, as far away as Henderson Hospital and many area seniors complexes. There are also concerns about contamination of ground water, which would affect local wells, the Red Hill Creek watershed, and eventually Lake Ontario.

The proposed site in the Glanbrook Industrial Park is currently zoned "light Industry" which specifically excludes a slaughterhouse. The City of Hamilton is breaking a promise made to local residents by intending to enable this project to go through. The City has chosen to ignore its own rules and principles in its long term planning documents, which were based upon the award winning 2020 Vision Plan for sustainable development.

Huge costs will be incurred by the City to create the infrastructure for this project. These include water and sewers. This cost is estimated at well over \$50 million. Based on a similar operation in Burlington, this pork plant is likely to generate less than \$800,000 in tax revenues per year. According to a recent study comparing municipalities, we already pay the highest residential taxes in the country.

Huge quantities of fresh water are used daily by a slaughterhouse. Can our aging water and sewer system handle this?

Hamilton is trying to improve its image of a dirty industrial city. A slaughterhouse in the bedroom community of east Hamilton will do nothing to improve that image.

Businesses already situated near the proposed plant site have written that they do not wish to do business next to a slaughterhouse. As the Mayor has publicly said that the Maple Leaf plant will attract new industry to Hamilton, we wonder what kind?

Despite these serious drawbacks, the Mayor and some City Council members are seriously considering approving this pig plant. The time for citizen input is prior to any decisions being made, not afterward. Citizens are urged to get informed and tell our city councillors their opinions.

Get informed!

What Are the Numbers?

Number of pigs per week:
45,000

Number of pig trucks on the LINC per
week:
225

Cost to the City of Hamilton to
created needed infrastructure (water
and sewers) to support this project:
\$50,000,000

Potential tax revenues to the city per
year:
\$700,000 to \$800,000

Number of years for the City to
recoup the cost of the infrastructure:
67

Number of existing jobs transferred
from Burlington:
1200

Number of new jobs that would be
created:
0

Number of months the Mayor and
some officials met with Maple Leaf
before it was leaked to the public:
9

Number of City Council members
needed to vote down this proposal:
8

**⇒Come To a Public
Meeting:**

⇒**October 25: Phil Bruckler**
Ward meeting with a presentation by
Maple Leaf. 7:00, Old City Hall in
Stoney Creek, on Barton St.

⇒**November 15: C.A.P.S.** Public
meeting, with invited expert guest
speakers. 7:00 at Michaelangelo's,
on Upper Ottawa.

Voice your opinion!

**Who Can You
Contact to Make Your
Opinion Heard?**

E-mail your letters to the editor to
the Hamilton Spectator at:
letters@thespec.com

Speak with your elected officials

- Mayor Larry Dilanni 905-546-4200
City Councillors (by ward)
- 1 Brian McHattie 905-546-2416
 - 2 Bob Bratina 905-546-2711
 - 3 Bernie Morelli 905-546-2702
 - 4 Sam Merulla 905-546-4512
 - 5 Chad Collins 905-546-2716
 - 6 Tom Jackson 905-546-2707
 - 7 Bill Kelly 905-546-2706
 - 8 Terry Whitehead 905-546-2712
 - 9 Phil Bruckler 905-546-2703
 - 10 Maria Pearson 905-546-2701
 - 11 Dave Mitchell 905-546-4513
 - 12 Murray Ferguson 905-546-2704
 - 13 Art Samson 905-546-2714
 - 14 Dave Braden 905-546-2705
 - 15 Margaret McCarthy 905-546-2713
- MPPs
- Marie Bountrogianni 905-388-9734
 - Andrea Horvath 905-544-9644
 - Ted McMeekin 905-690-6562
 - Judy Marsales 905-529-1277
 - Jennifer Mossap 905-664-4200
- MPs
- Russ Powers 613-996-4984
 - David Christopherson 613-995-1757
 - Tony Valeri 905-992-6535
 - Beth Phinney 613-995-9389
 - Dean Allison 613-995-2772

E-mail your elected official using
this link:
<http://www.myhamilton.ca/myhamilton/CityandGovernment/YourElectedOfficials>

Get involved!

**How Can You Get
More Information?**

- ⇒Contact C.A.P.S.
(Citizens Against Pig
Slaughterhouse)
Eleanor Giacomazza
905-388-6428
- Dennis Fioraso (after noon)
905-679-1112
- Bob Smith 905-692-3101

**Dr. Bill Patton,
Professor at the
University of
Manitoba (on the
Maple Leaf Plant,
Brandon, Manitoba):**

"...the plant was having a
significant impact on
groundwater in the region.
There is only one house
situated quite close to the plant
and in the drainage system
towards the Assiniboine River.
The house has been occupied
for years by two brothers. The
company [Maple Leaf] had
committed to regular
monitoring of their wells but
had not complied and tried to
say there was no impact. We
were given permission by the
owners to test their wells and
confirmed that these had
become polluted with E. coli
and nitrates. I had also carried
out river impact research and
whereas the company had
indicated that they would add 1
ton of phosphate a week to the
Assiniboine our measurements
indicated that at close to full 1
shift activity it was over 7 tons
a week. There was also
problems with hot water, salt,
nitrates and occasionally
nitrites and faecal coliforms."