

Free Flamborough Committee

for de-amalgamation from Hamilton

PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT

Formal launch of the 'Free Flamborough' campaign for the de-amalgamation of Flamborough from the super City of Hamilton.

The Free Flamborough Committee will release a Strategy and initiate activities to raise the issue of amalgamation to 'front and centre' as an issue in the upcoming provincial elections and to plans to undertake whatever activities are necessary to bring about de-amalgamation.

Flamborough cannot afford to be a part of Hamilton which has significant financial issues which cannot be resolved through continued increases of municipal taxes imposed on the residents of this municipality by the City of Hamilton.

- **Flamborough residents make up 7% of the population and will pay 42% of this years municipal tax increase.**
- **Flamborough residents voted 96% against amalgamation and but were forcibly annexed to Hamilton by the Conservative government of Premier Mike Harris.**
- **Prior to annexation with Hamilton, Flamborough municipal taxes declined for six consecutive years through good management.**
- **Flamborough municipal taxes have increased by 30% since the amalgamation/annexation in 2001 and are expected to increase by at least another 20% over the next two years.**
- **Flamborough municipal tax increase for 2003 is 9.6% while inner City of Hamilton will have an increase 1.4%.**
- **City of Hamilton urban infrastructure projects are expected to result in a net tax-supported debt rise of 145% over 2001 levels to \$372.9 million by 2006.**

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Date: Friday May 16, 2003
11:00 AM

Location: Flamborough Municipal Offices -front lawn
163 Dundas Street East
Waterdown, Ontario

North of Hamilton/Hwy 403
2 miles east of Clappisons Corners (#6 Hwy)
on Hwy #5 north side.

Contact: 'Free Flamborough Committee'
Peter Cooper - Chairperson
peterc.cooper@sympatico.ca

CC. Hamilton Spectator
Toronto Star
Cambridge Reporter
The Record
Globe and Mail
CHML Radio
CKCO-CTV Waterloo
CHCH TV Hamilton
Flamborough Review
Flamborough Post

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MISSION STATEMENT

To have the Legislative Assembly of Ontario rescind the forced amalgamation order and return our local municipal government to the local citizens and their democratically elected officials in Flamborough, where each community within Flamborough will democratically choose their community affiliation, if any.

REASONS:

- The citizens of Flamborough had no direct say in the creation of the new City of Hamilton
- The government by regulation and legislation forced the recent amalgamation, against the will of the obvious majority of the people
- The government has not delivered the promised streamlined, more efficient and accountable local government, nor the provision of better services at reduced costs
- The promise of tax decreases has not been met
- The expected transition costs to area taxpayers of this forced amalgamation have already exceeded the promised amount

BELIEFS:

The Committee to Free Flamborough is independent of political party affiliation.

It will use its lobbying power and influence on the Provincial Government as well as that of the newly created Super City to achieve the above objective.

It believes that the communities of Flamborough and its citizens have a democratic right to evaluate and decide on their future direction in terms of services & local government structure.