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VOCO. ROCK and CFF, the sponsors of the Conference for Ontario Local Democracy, to be held in Rockton on May 15, 2004, have been informed that Mississauga Mayor, Hazel McCallion will be unable to attend as the keynote speaker due to “pressures” of Municipal business. We regret that she will not be available to update the attendees on developments in Mississauga.

The objective of this conference is to create a Province-wide De-amalgamation Network that will persuade the provincial government to allow de-amalgamations wherever they are warranted. The morning session is for networking, the development of action plans and the identification of barriers. The official presentation will begin at 12.30 PM with the following list of speakers: Andrew Sancton, Professor of Political Science at the University of Western Ontario; Joseph Cooper, East York Mirror “The Watchdog”; Margaret McCarthy, Flamborough Councillor; Dave Braden, Flamborough Councillor; Michael Prue MPP NDP; Ken Bosveld, former newspaper publisher; and Faye McGee, Councillor from Kawartha Lakes, Toby Barrett, PC, MPP. Following the presentations there will be a question and answer period. The Ontario De-amalgamation Network Committee, formed at this conference, will conclude the proceedings with a news release summarizing the resolutions of the conference identifying the next steps and outlining future action plans.

The Committee to Free Flamborough (CFF) is patiently waiting for the response to the 11,000 petitions presented to the Liberal Government by our sponsor, Ted McMeekin MPP in early December. We will be following up with Mr. McMeekin to determine if the response will be issued within the mandated time frame. We feel that the issue of de-amalgamation will be given consideration by this Liberal Government in light of their 11% decline in popularity. The 1.6 million voters, affected by the amalgamation issue, require a satisfactory resolution to this festering problem if the Liberals hope to regain their popularity. To continue to ignore the de-amalgamation issue will result in further declines in Liberal popularity and the risk of them being removed from power in the next Provincial election.

This conference will combine the forces of all of voters affected by amalgamation and will enable us to vote as a block against any party that ignores this issue.

Submitted by  
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