



COPE News

Recent COPE Activities:

Our website is updated daily and now includes links to recent news coverage. We encourage you to take a look at www.cope-nomph.org. See the MTO site at www.midpeninsulahighway.on.ca for the 'official' version.

COPE testified at the Niagara Escarpment Commission hearings on the MPH on September 19th. See 'in the news' on the website.

COPE was highly visible at the latest round of PIC Meetings – our members grilled MTO/URS on multiple aspects of the process thus far and our membership committee signed up hundreds of new members and raised additional funds for mailings etc. This round of meetings produced the first tacit admissions from MTO that the highway will be **a toll road like the 407**.

COPE made a presentation to Hamilton City Council on September 25th. Hamilton has not formally taken a position on the highway as yet. COPE's presentation aimed to inform council as to negative environmental, economic, and human health consequences potentially associated with the MPH.

COPE presented a press conference with respected artist and naturalist Robert Bateman on September 28th. The event received widespread media coverage. Mr. Bateman expressed his strong opposition to the MPH in no uncertain terms! He was also gracious enough to accept appointment as the Honourary Chairman of COPE. See the website for details.

Letter-Writing Campaign:

We need your help to fight construction of this highway

It is vitally important that we kick our letter-writing campaign into high gear! It is time to shift our focus away from MTO and toward their political masters: Premier Eves, Transport Minister Sterling, and other MPPs. Please take the time to write, fax or email them your thoughts on the construction of the MPH. Once the Provincial Representatives have been contacted, consider also contacting Federal MPs and local Councillors and Representatives – they do not have direct power over MTO but may help in the fight nonetheless. Samples of letters to politicians and address information may be found at www.cope-nomph.org

Upcoming Events:

MTO Workshops on the MPH are scheduled for October. They are not open to the public, but stakeholder groups may apply to attend. COPE will be represented. A report on the Workshops will be posted to the COPE website.

The next round of Public Information Meetings are scheduled for November. Dates, times, and locations are yet to be announced. These meetings represent a chance for you to gather information and to tell the MTO exactly what you think about the highway.

Citizens Opposed to Paving the Escarpment (COPE) is a group of people who have come together to fight further unnecessary development of the Niagara Escarpment. The Provincial Government's Mid-Peninsula Highway, if constructed on the route currently favoured by the Ontario Ministry of Transportation, will slash a path through our lands from Fort Erie to Burlington, altering our landscape and doing irreversible damage to our environment. The Niagara Escarpment has been designated as a World Biosphere Reserve by the United Nations. We believe that it should be cared for in a manner befitting this honour.

We encourage you to visit our wonderful, "new & improved" website, at : www.cope-nomph.org/ graciously provided to us, courtesy of :

CAMEX
Virtual
Image
virtualimage.ca

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