

How would you manage the noise from blasting and industrial machinery?

All blasting activity and the operation of industrial machinery at the proposed quarry will comply with provincial government standards regarding ground vibration and air concussion. Ontario's standards are among the most stringent in North America.

A number of measures will be used to mitigate noise and vibration. These could include noise barriers such as tree screens, earthen embankments known as berms, acoustic fences, noise buffers at the source, or a combination of these barriers.

Many quarries typically schedule blasting at the same time of day - a time coordinated through consultation with the community.

How would you protect home foundations from the effects of blasting?

All blasting activity at the proposed quarry will comply with provincial government standards regarding ground vibration - standards that are among the strictest in North America.

Instead of one large blast, it is standard in the aggregate industry to use a series of small blasts separated by milliseconds. This ensures that the vibrations pose no threat to home foundations.

How would you protect the market value of our homes and farms?

In our many years of experience in Ontario, we have not seen any negative impacts on property values around quarry sites. Property values fluctuate based on a number of macro-economic factors that are independent of local conditions.

The land use that we are proposing is one that is currently designated in the Official Plan and expected in a rural area. The proposed quarry will be designed and operated in a way that ensures that the use and enjoyment of the surrounding properties is protected.



About St Marys Cement

St Marys Cement Group is a leading manufacturer of cement and related construction products in Canada and the United States. For more than 90 years, we have contributed to the growth and prosperity of Ontario through countless engineering, civic and residential building projects. St Marys operates two cement plants in Ontario, including one in St. Marys and one in Bowmanville. We also operate more than 40 ready-mix concrete plants and 12 aggregate pits and quarries across the province.



We want to hear from you...

If you have any questions about St Marys Cement Group or about the proposed quarry project, please get in touch with us. If someone you know did not receive this newsletter and would like to, please let us know and we will add them to our distribution list.

Telephone: 1-866-602-0080 (toll-free)

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Richard Olsen, President, St Marys CBM, speaks with members of the community at a recent open house

St Marys Flamborough Quarry Community Newsletter

Issue #3

September 2006

Message from the president...

Welcome to the third edition of the St Marys Flamborough Quarry Community Newsletter. Over the past few months, we conducted a series of door-to-door visits and community open houses which gave us the opportunity to meet with many of our neighbours. We thank those of you that took the time to ask questions and provide input. Working with you to outline our development plans and listen to your feedback is a priority for St Marys.

This edition of our newsletter provides answers to some of the most frequently asked questions we received during our community outreach. We hope that you will find this information helpful and that you will continue to provide us with your feedback.

Sincerely,

Richard Olsen

President, St Marys CBM

How specifically would you plan to manage the safety of our water supply, both the quantity and the quality, when drilling and blasting will take place below the water table, and millions of gallons of water will be impacted daily by the proposed operation?

Throughout our 90-year history in Ontario, none of our operations have ever depleted or contaminated a public water supply. The fact that our current aggregate operations pose no threat to drinking water has been recently confirmed by the Ministry of the Environment.

St Marys Cement is one of only a few companies that has implemented an ISO 14000 compliant Environmental Management System (EMS) for all of our Canadian operations.

We intend that any future operations will meet the same standard.

In preparing our site plan for the Flamborough Quarry, we will conduct hydrogeological studies to determine the best ways to avoid impacting water quality and

supply. Once the plan has been approved by the Ministry of Natural Resources and we are in operation, we will follow strict groundwater monitoring procedures to ensure there is no impact.

How would you prevent industrial waste and accidental spills of oil and gasoline from leaking into our aquifer?

Industrial waste is not used or stored at our sites.

We handle and store petroleum products that are necessary for our power equipment with strict care to ensure that none are released to the environment, in accordance with the province's regulations.

In addition, the Environmental Management System that St Marys Cement has adopted for all our operations will further ensure that we use industry best practices to avoid spills at the proposed Flamborough Quarry.

How specifically would you prevent damage to a designated natural heritage site and environmentally sensitive area?

This is a 380 acre site and only 42% is extractable. The extraction area is focussed on the open fields, not in the ecologically sensitive areas. There will be no extraction into important natural heritage areas, such as provincially significant wetlands.

St Marys has an excellent track record for operating in an environmentally responsible manner. Our quarry operations in particular have been praised for their environmental practices and for their innovative site rehabilitation programs.

Specifically:

- We follow best management practices to reduce any noise and vibrations created by aggregate extraction, particularly from blasting and the operation of industrial machinery.
- We minimize dust through regular watering and sweeping of roads on the site, and tree screens around the site.
- We have strict regulations for handling and storing fuel to ensure that none is released into the environment.
- We follow the "3 Rs" principle (reduce, reuse, recycle) in the handling of solid waste.
- We retain qualified professionals to carry out groundwater and surface water studies, and ongoing monitoring programs, in many of our locations where water resources are sensitive.

How would you maintain current ecological corridors and wetlands?

This project is subject to the policies of the Greenbelt Plan, which ensures that no development will occur in provincially significant wetlands or habitats of threatened and endangered species.

Ecological Corridors:

Our experts have studied ecological corridors on the site and in the vicinity. We will ensure that important wooded and wetland corridors are maintained (not extracted) and that progressive rehabilitation will see the creation of complementary ecological features and functions. When the site is eventually decommissioned, we will rehabilitate it in a way that will be advantageous to wildlife and natural habitat.

Wetlands:

The wetlands will remain wet. A proposed mitigation approach involves ground water recharge in the vicinity of the wetlands to maintain water levels. That mitigation strategy is undergoing testing this fall.

How would you protect the community's health and farmers' crops from rock dust?

We have strict guidelines and procedures to reduce dust and any emissions from mechanical equipment at aggregate extraction sites. These include regular watering and sweeping of roads and the use of tree screens around the quarry site. These techniques are proven to be effective in controlling dust at quarry sites. The controls for this particular site will be detailed in our site plan that will be submitted for comment and approval to the Ministry of Natural Resources and the City of Hamilton.

How would you mitigate the effects of noise along the haul routes from transport trucks?

We have a strict trucking policy that governs both our trucks and any contractors. It includes rules regarding local speed limits, routes, not arriving before operational hours, obeying all road signage and keeping vehicles in good operating condition. We have strict penalties, including the right to refuse to load that truck at our operation if it violates our policy. We have found this to be effective at other sites.

