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## Dufferin Aggregates Acton Quarry Community Advisory Panel (CAP) Meeting Minutes

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**Date:** Monday December 10, 2012 – 7pm-9pm

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**Location:** Acton Quarry Office, 12791 Churchill Road, Acton

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**Chair:** Joanne Kearney Smithcom Limited

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**Participants:**

Norm Elliot	Local Neighbour
Norm Young	Local Neighbour
Monica Gunn	Vision Advisory Committee (VAC) and local neighbor
Rob McDougall	Dufferin Aggregates
Enzo Bertucci	Dufferin Aggregates

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**Absent:**

Ron Heller	Action East Housing Corp.
Paul Vanhanen	Bruce Trail Conservancy

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**Facilitation and minutes:** Joanne Kearney and Courtney Somers – Smithcom Limited

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### Minutes

Joanne Kearney began the meeting by having CAP members review and approve the June 11<sup>th</sup> and October 2<sup>nd</sup> minutes. CAP approved both sets of minutes. They will be posted to the website.

### Update on Operations

Rob McDougall explained the operations are currently shutdown and beginning January the plant will go through regular maintenance. Production will begin again in March, however, unsure about how much will be produced in the coming year as they are still working on estimates.

### Discussion

Norm Elliott mentioned that if the operation is not going to be producing as much as previous years, Dufferin Aggregates should inform the public that the extension will not result in increased shipping/extraction.

Monica Gunn asked if the 4 million tonnes in production is the cap.



- Enzo responded yes, it is the cap and operations will not extract above that amount. Enzo explained the Milton Quarry has unlimited production and shipping in a year because it is closer to the highway, therefore there is little affect on truck routes. The license is also older.
- Rob McDougall explained that at the Acton Operations, the company had to accept the tonnage limit when it was purchased.

Norm Elliott explained that on 22<sup>nd</sup> Side Road there is a prohibited truck sign and that there was indeed a truck on the road. Norm Elliot asked if that truck can gain access to the operations from the other entrance.

- Enzo and Rob explained trucks can come in from 4<sup>th</sup> Line but there is no advantage to it and he may have just been lost.

Norm Young asked if Dufferin Aggregates is sure the material from the Acton operation is going to local construction areas.

- Enzo explained sometimes the operation is unsure of where it is going. Enzo explained any material coming from the Acton or Milton Quarry is generally for customers within the GTA, if not more often in the Halton Hills.

Norm Elliott mentioned there is a site application at Crewsom Corner (east of Acton, boundary of Wellington County and Halton), for 750,000 tonnes a year out of this new quarry.

Norm Elliott explained the Mega Quarry was fought by a large amount of people because the Mega Quarry was going to be operating and extracting from farmland.

Enzo and Rob explained that Phase 4 of the Acton extension will be extracting from farmland but extracting from farmland is better then removing forested areas.

### **Private Wells**

Enzo explained numerous members of the public and the CAP have brought up the topic of private wells. Enzo also explained John Baylis, a co-worker at Holcim Canada, will attend a meeting in the New Year to do a presentation on biodiversity.

Enzo showed the CAP the different formations around the Acton Quarry. These formations include: Amabel, Cabot Head Shale, Manitoulin Dolostone, Whilepool Sandstone, and Queenstone Shale.

Enzo explained the wells change as the formations change. Enzo explained the majority of the complaints for water concerns are coming from neighbours on the 4<sup>th</sup> Line who have wells dug into Queenstone Shale.

Norm Young asked where his property is in the formations.

- Enzo responded that his well in the Amabel area

Enzo outlined where the various water supply zones are around the Acton Quarry and that four classifications have been provided by Conestoga-Rovers.



- Bedrock Valle Overburden
  - Fine sands can block wells
- Transitional
  - Well maintenance is a common is
- Queenstone
  - Issues with quality and quantity
  - Well maintenance is very important
- Amabel
  - Well is protected

Norm Elliott asked if the wells on the map are all dug wells.

- Enzo explained most of the wells on the 4<sup>th</sup> Line are dug wells and may have been drilled later for maintenance

Monica Gunn asked if the wells on the 4<sup>th</sup> Line contain more silt and could be affecting the well operations.

- Enzo explained science is telling us certain things but that there are other aspects of the wells and that we have to make conclusions on our own. Many studies have been done on the 4<sup>th</sup> Line wells by third party agencies and found that most wells (9 out of 10) were not impacted by the Quarry.

Monica Gunn asked if the neighbours and agencies will go to other quarry locations and see if they are comparable.

- Enzo explained that the agencies will look at the issue and see if the affect on the well is because of the material the well is drilled in or if it is related to the Quarry.

Enzo explained Dufferin Aggregates has noted where private wells have seemed to be adversely impacted by the soils in which they are dug into. Data collected from the Ministry of the Environment well records show that (Slide 6):

- Green wells had a pump rate of greater than 13.8L/min, considered to be adequate for normal demands
- Yellow wells have a pump rate between 4.6- 13.7L/min, may need a water storage tank and pumping system
- Red wells have a pump rate below 4.5L/m

Enzo explained this study shows that wells close to Quarry are operating Green/Yellow and have normal operation and are not affected by the Quarry. Enzo explained that if there was an affect on the wells near the Quarry, there would likely be a red ring around the Quarry boundary.

Enzo explained the Private Wells Study conducted by a third party (Jagger Hims) and chosen by 4<sup>th</sup> Line neighbours, demonstrated no negative impact to all the wells in the area. Enzo noted where there was an issue, the pump was lowered and the issue was resolved.

Enzo provided an update on one of the neighbour's well on the 4<sup>th</sup> Line, whom indicated that there was sand coming through the pipes. The operations immediately had the home hooked up to an external water



tank while Dufferin Aggregates investigated the issue. After about a month of letting the water settle in the well, it resulted in a better quality and quantity of water. Enzo explained that this well showed us that the Quarry did not affect the well but the company recommended to the homeowner to install a cistern in the basement and install a UV light to kill the small amount bacteria that was found in the water.

Enzo explained Rob presented the solution to the neighbour and that the work will be done in the next few weeks, weather dependent. Enzo also explained that the affect on the water is likely due to a larger amount of water usage in the house and therefore resulted in sand/silt being brought into the pipes.

Enzo summarized the water studies in the area:

- No science-based study has concluded there is an impact from Quarry operations
- 4<sup>th</sup> Line issues are the same as others in the sand rock formations
- Only one private well has been found to have a potential issue
  - Dufferin Aggregates has assisted the owner in the past and continues dialogue about water conservations and offers further upgrades to the water systems
- The proposed Quarry footprint and mitigation measures are protected against any water supply impacts as required by the Adaptive Management Plan
- In the event that there is an issue on a private well, Dufferin Aggregates will undertake steps to restore or replace the water supply

Monica Gunn asked what is the well boundary line where Dufferin Aggregates will help with water issues.

- Rob explained that based on the current map, Dufferin Aggregates does not measure impact on the ground water outside 200 metres around the quarry boundary. They will take calls beyond that to determine any impact and work with the neighbour to address concerns

Enzo explained the Acton Quarry has been in operation for 11 years and the majority of the well issues have come from the 4<sup>th</sup> Line homes and there is no expected increase in well issues.

Norm Elliott mentioned the organization CONE, has brought up objections to the extension.

- Enzo explained that he will be meeting with a representative from CONE and will try to address some of the issues that they have brought up and determine what the groups issues are with the extension.

Enzo explained the region and other agencies that have done research on the wells in the area have said that residences on the 4<sup>th</sup> Line should have cisterns. Enzo explained that the company has been trying to get the region and the agencies to provide a presentation or 'work shop' on maintaining your well and educate the public on the information Dufferin Aggregates and the various agencies have..

Norm Elliott explained he has spoken to some residence in the area who are finding issues with their wells and cracks in their foundations and concludes that these wells and foundations are affected by time and age of the wells/foundations, not due to impacts from the Quarry.



Enzo explained the company is always working to help residents in the area that are having issues with their wells and water quality and quantity. He outlined many issues with foundation are due to water leakage causing shifts and cracks within the foundation.

Enzo explained the blasting maximum limit in the area is 50 millimeters per second, while the Acton Quarry is operating at 12 millimeters per second or lower.

Norm Elliott asked if there was ever an inventory done when Dufferin Aggregates bought the property and recorded any issues with the houses near the operations. He explained the public is repeating concerns that existed over 10 years ago and many homeowners in the area bought homes when they knew a quarry was present. He believes those complaining should show proof that cracks in foundation happened due to recent Acton Quarry operations. He explained it is likely the cracks occurred well before Dufferin Aggregates came into the town.

Enzo explained part of the problem is that water is the leading contributor to cracks in concrete basement walls and floors.

Monica Gunn asked if people who are having cracks in their foundation are also having water issues.

- Enzo explained that the correlation has not been brought up. He explains that most homeowners seem to believe it is blasting that is affecting the foundation of their homes.

Norm Elliott expressed a concern that those living in the new development in Acton (Churchill Road) are now living the closest to the proposed extension area and they may complain about the blasting and cracks in their foundations.

Enzo explained some residences in those areas have already expressed concern and objection over the extensions.

Norm Elliott explained his concern over the extension is that the objections to the extension are 'fear of the unknown' based on emotions and not on scientific data.

Enzo explained anyone who brings up concerns about the blasting being too much can be equipped with a measuring device in their home to measure the blast.

Norm Elliott expressed concern many letters to the editor in the newspaper have no scientific merit and the proposed extension may end up providing more habitat to more animals in the area such as the Jefferson Salamander.

Enzo explained the Jefferson Salamander is a good indicator species for the area. They are important to protect and they tell us as humans what we are doing right and wrong ecologically.

**Ontario Groundwater Association (OGWA)**

[www.ogwa.ca](http://www.ogwa.ca)



Monica Gunn discussed the Ontario Groundwater Association that is made up of volunteers and works to help people who are having issues with their groundwater quality and quantity. Monica explained that the OGWA facilitates conferences and seminars to help educate its members and interested parties. The OGWA has interest in the ongoing protection of groundwater. Goals:

- Continually serve as recognized stewards of ground water in Ontario
- Promote the understanding of scientific, technical, legal and public policy aspects of ground water
- Provide a forum for exchange of information among ground water professionals, governmental representatives and other interested parties on all aspects of ground water resources
- Disseminate information to governments, schools, and civic professional organizations, and educate the general public regarding ground water resources
- Promote professional awareness and technical skills among ground water professionals
- Be a clearinghouse for complaints
- Be self governing allowing OGWA an opportunity to guide members and ground water professionals in proper construction and utilization of ground water
- Develop strong partnerships to further these goals

Monica Gunn explained she thinks Dufferin Aggregates should become a member of the OGWA.

Enzo expressed all Dufferin Aggregates operations should be involved in OGWA. Monica Gunn will send Enzo more information on the Association.

Courtney Somers provided an update on the POWER drop in session on November 25<sup>th</sup>

Joanne Kearney brought the meeting to close and asked CAP members to think about topics for the next meeting.

Topics for next meeting:

- Biodiversity (endangered species and rehabilitation)
- Fieldtrip to Millcreek (Spring)
- Cornerstone Council (SERA)

Next Meeting: February 2013 – 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> (biodiversity)  
Adjournment