



**ACTON QUARRY – PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE  
MAY 5, 2009 – ACTON HIGH SCHOOL**

**Questions that came out of Q & A**

Karen Scott - 12846 Highway 25

- Water issued related to well. Low water in recent years and went dry in March, had to spend \$13K to install a new well water system. She was told that it was years of blasting that caused the rock to shift and eventually disable her well. Wants to know what DFA is going to do about possible compensation for her expense.

DFA Response

- *DFA representatives visited the Scott residence in order to get more details on the well issues. We have contracted a well specialist to inspect the well in order to evaluate what exactly was the cause of the low water. Findings will be reviewed with the Scott's in order to determine cause of well failure.*

Marijan Djurinec - 12494 Highway 25

- Complained about years of bad blasting from Quarry going back 19 years ago. However blasting issues have once again become a problem with notice of cracks in basement concrete. Wants to know why Dufferin doesn't blast well below accepted limits, like 50% of allowable.

DFA Response

- *DFA representatives have visited the Djurinec residence a number of times to discuss complaints about blasting. Research has demonstrated that vibration intensities in excess of four times the Ministry of Environment (MOE) guidelines are necessary in order to cause cracking with even the weakest building materials (ie. plaster). There are many "natural" causes for cracks to occur in houses and an assessment of the age, type and condition of the cracks that may occur, would provide a clearer picture as to what may be causing the cracks. Blasting at 50% of the acceptable limits could still result in one's perception of the blasting being louder than if it was blasted at or just below the acceptable limit. Our findings have shown us that environmental conditions play a large role on an individual's perception of how large a blast is based on sound and feel.*

Georgina Franklin - 12864 Highway 25

- Indicated that that back half of her home was built on stone. Blasting in Phase 1 caused damage to her home such as broken windows and cracks. Once extraction activities moved onto Phases 2 & 3 issues related to blasting subsided with regards to her property. Her concern is with the extension lands in Phase 4 being very close to her property (as was the case in Phase 1) that her home will experience further damage.
- Question was posed if we know the impacts of the poured in concrete septic systems. Any concerns for cracks and leakages.

DFA Response

- *A house will actually be less vulnerable to damage if it is founded directly on bedrock rather than in the overburden (soil) above it. Bedrock tends to retain the higher frequency component of ground vibrations over greater distances from the blast, which are less potentially damaging than lower frequency vibrations of the same magnitude.*
- *Concrete septic system will have the same characteristics as concrete basement walls/floor and will not be adversely affected by any blast within MOE limits. Natural causes such as pooling water can have greater negative impacts on concrete than blasting will.*

Jason Breau - 12860 Highway 25

- Questioned when was the last time the Ministry guidelines were updated with regards to acceptable noise levels for blasting. Asked if the guidelines should be updated due to the amount of complaints by area residents.

DFA Response

- *Ministry Guidelines with respect to noise were last updated in 1978. Ontario limits (mines and quarries) for both air and ground vibrations are some of the strictest in all of North America by comparison.*

Phyllis Lee - 5th Line

- Part of the Vision Advisory Committee and curious as to what the status of this is as well as plans for rehabilitation. She also raised a concern related to water quality issues and contaminates in the water.

DFA Response

- *We continue to work with our Agency partners in order to finalize the vision of the Acton Quarry rehabilitation. Rehabilitation work is ongoing in all three phases of the existing quarry and will continue as we work through the extension lands. Water is constantly monitored through our extensive monitoring program in order to ensure quantity and quality levels are maintained to acceptable Ministry standards.*

Michael Miehme - 12662 Fourth Line

- Questioned if there were alternatives to blasting in order to extract stone. If not were there other ways to blast in order to minimize impacts on area residents.

DFA Response

- *There are no viable alternatives to extract limestone from a quarry other than blasting. We continue to look at alternatives within our blasting activities in order to minimize the impacts on local residents and businesses.*