

**Summary Notes and Comments
Acton Quarry Extension
Public Information Session
May 5, 2009
The Cafeteria at the Acton High School**

Note: The following is not an official transcript of the session, but rather the highlights of key themes identified and/or discussed at the public information session. Responses were provided by representatives from Dufferin Aggregates or Dufferin's consultants, as appropriate.

The May 5, 2009 Public Information Session comprised 3 main components:

- Presentation regarding the proposed extension of the Acton Quarry
- Public Q&A
- Display panels and informal individual small group discussions

HIGHLIGHTS OF PRESENTATION:

(The presentation on the proposed extension is available online at <http://www.dufferinactonquarry.com>)

- Dufferin has officially submitted its application to extend the Acton Quarry.
- Dufferin's land holdings in the area of the Acton Quarry total approximately 615 ha, of which 265 ha are the existing quarry and processing area. The extension's proposed licence area is 124.4 ha, which is about 1/3 of Dufferin's remaining land holdings in the area, the remaining 2/3 (225 ha) of Dufferin's lands will remain undisturbed.
- This configuration is made based on the input from the community at Dufferin's earlier consultations and work of its technical experts. Dufferin concluded that extension of the Acton Quarry needed to achieve a balance among the environment, community and commercial interest. Dufferin made a corporate decision not to apply for a licence on the remaining 2/3 of its lands, notwithstanding the fact that there is a good deposit of rocks in the area.
- The application reflects Dufferin's vision for the land and its philosophy to achieve balance among economic, environmental and social considerations.
- Dufferin recognizes the significant demand for aggregates in the Greater Toronto Area and the proposed extension ensures the supply of high-quality, locally-sourced and therefore more efficiently priced aggregate for public infrastructure projects. The demand is not only for growth-related construction, but also for refurbishing aging public infrastructure. Close-to-market supply of aggregates reduces transportation costs and helps the environment by minimizing the use of fossil fuels and greenhouse gas emissions.

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- Dufferin’s vision includes creating a legacy for the Town of Halton Hills and the Region of Halton by enhancing the natural environment features in the Region. Dufferin is prepared at this point to declare its willingness to donate the lands at the Acton Quarry into public ownership for long-term recreation, conservation and water management needs
- Dufferin’s application addresses nine (9) applicable technical areas, including: land use planning, geology and water resources, natural environment, traffic, blasting, noise, air quality, Performance-Based Adaptive Management Plan (AMP), and cultural heritage. An overview of each of these reports is provided in the Citizen’s Guide and on public displays at the meeting tonight. The full reports are available via Acton Quarry’s website and as “counter copies” at the Town of Halton Hills Planning Department, Niagara Escarpment Commission, Conservation Halton, the Credit Valley Conservation Authorities, and the public libraries in Georgetown and Acton.
- Dufferin recognizes that there are sensitive surface and ground water features that need to be addressed. Dufferin believes that the technical reports have come up with a good characterization of the site and that it can design a program to ensure a balance between the water features and aggregate extraction.
- The characterization work conducted in the geology and water study has concluded that the proposed extension will have minimal direct impact on significant water features in the area. It does not mean that there will be no impact, but Dufferin is making every effort to ensure that the most significant features will be protected.
- The proposed extension will stay within the current annual extraction limit of 4 million tonnes under which Acton Quarry is operating. The traffic modeling in the technical report is conducted at the maximum tonnage limit and has concluded that the proposed extension will operate within excellent-to-acceptable traffic levels with the exception of a couple of locations. These locations were traffic-challenged for a variety of reasons and plans are underway to address the challenges and make improves with all government authorities.
- The proposed extension will meet Ministry of the Environment guidelines for air, dust and blasting and Dufferin will continue to work with the community to address any “nuisance” concerns.
- Dufferin encourages the community to follow this process – a complex, structured consultation, review and approval process for the application – by asking questions and addressing its concerns. Dufferin is committed to ensuring that the community concerns are addressed throughout this process.

HIGHLIGHTS OF COMMENTS RAISED DURING THE INFORMATION SESSION:

THEME	HIGHLIGHTS OF COMMENTS	GENERAL RESPONSE FROM DUFFERIN AGGREGATES (DFA)
WATER	How will Dufferin compensate residents for expenses they have to spend to resolve low water pressure issue?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on comprehensive technical studies, it has been concluded that the Quarry is not the cause of the water issue • DFA will continue to look into the individual situations and follow up with the resident who expressed concerns
	Will there be perpetual pumping?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pumping is required at the current Quarry and proposed extension site • The proposed extension will allow for increased pumping flexibility because its water management solution will also include a gravity-fed system than just an “engineered solution”
	Are there ongoing commitments for Dufferin to implementing the water management plan?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dufferin is prepared to enter into water management agreement with the required approval agencies to help ensure ongoing water management is secured • The proposed water features (lakes, reservoirs) for the extension provide an opportunity for excess quantity of water. This could be available to supplement the natural water system or for public use, subject to approvals • The JART members, municipalities and the Region of Halton will be actively engaged to make sure that the community is protected around the environment and water, should the proposal receive approval

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	<p>Does the quarry operation affect water quality for public uses?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarrying is a very “clean” industry; there are not chemicals used in the process • The geology and water report covers water assessments both from a quantity and quality perspective
<p>NOISE & BLASTING</p>	<p>When was the last time government guidelines were updated? With the complaints you are getting don't you think the standards should be updated?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is Dufferin’s understanding that the government guidelines have not been updated recently • The Acton Quarry operation is in strict compliance with all of the Ministry of the Environment’s standards • It’s up to the Ministry to determine if and when the guidelines should be changed
	<p>My house was built on vein of rocks and had been damaged during blasting in the past when the Quarry was operated by another owner. Now that the proposed extension site is closer to my house, I am concerned.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blasting at the Acton Quarry is in strict compliance with all of the Ministry of the Environment’s standards • The technical study indicates that the proposed extension will meet the Ministry of the Environment’s guideline • Dufferin will investigate the “nuisance” impact area residents may feel and report back to the community
	<p>Is blasting the only way to extract rocks? Can you stagger the blasts or blasting patterns?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blasting is the only way to extract rocks at this Quarry • DFA has used various blasting patterns and is open to try other known blasting patterns, if possible • Dufferin will report back

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	<p>Is there a chance that our septic systems will crack or break because of blasting?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dufferin will look into the question and get back to the resident
	<p>Will Dufferin compensate the area residents whose well was damaged due to the blasting?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dufferin’s corporate policy is to complete a full investigation if the damage is caused by the Quarry, and Dufferin will compensate the resident • Based on investigation previously conducted by technical experts, the Quarry has not been the cause of the damage • DFA will investigate the issue further as required and report back
<p>REHABILITATION</p>	<p>Where do we stand with the rehabilitation of the current Quarry?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A lot of rehabilitation is being undertaken in phase I (island forming/sloping work) and phase II (land configuration along escarpment brow) of the existing Quarry • Approximately 200,000 m³ (200-250,000 truck loads) of materials have been moved to date; an estimated 500,000 m³ to be moved by the end of the season • Dufferin has granted access for a full extension of Bruce Trail through its property. Also, agreement in principle has been reached for additional access to be granted and approved by required authorities