



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

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<b>Date:</b>	Monday February 11, 2013 – 7pm-9pm	
<b>Location:</b>	Acton Quarry Office, 12791 Churchill Road, Acton	
<b>Chair:</b>	Joanne Kearney	Smithcom Limited
<b>Participants:</b>	Norm Elliot	Local Neighbour
	Norm Young	Local Neighbour
	Paul Vanhanen	Bruce Trail Conservancy
	Ron Heller	Acton East Housing Corp.
	Rob McDougall	Dufferin Aggregates
	Enzo Bertucci	Dufferin Aggregates
<b>Presenter:</b>	John Bayliss	Holcim Canada
<b>Absent:</b>	Monica Gunn	Vision Advisory Committee (VAC) and local neighbor
<b>Facilitation and minutes:</b>	Joanne Kearney and Courtney Somers – Smithcom Limited	

### Minutes

Joanne Kearney began the meeting by having CAP members review the December 10<sup>th</sup> minutes. CAP approved minutes.

### Operations Update

Rob McDougall gave an operational update of the Acton Quarry

- This year will see 1.2 million tonnes extracted, a significant decline compared to previous years due to low reserves
- The tonnage reserves are affected because the Acton extension license is taking much longer than anticipated to get approval.

Ron Heller asked if the material will be trucked to different areas

- Rob explained that most of the material will be used in, or close to, Acton and the surrounding area

Norm Young asked why there are so many trucks around right now

- Rob explained that stripping is taking place at the operations and therefore the trucks are needed to remove the material from the site



Norm Elliot asked how high the tonnage has been in the past

- Rob explained that the most the operation has produced in one calendar year is about 3.3 million tonnes. He noted that the operation license allows for 4 million tonnes per year

Paul Vanhanen asked how customers will be affected by the reduction in tonnage

- Rob explained that the operations will prioritize product offerings to ensure that customers are not affected

Norm Elliot asked if there would be any layoffs given the tonnage reduction. How many layoffs of local employees?

- Rob McDougall explained that any workers affected will be offered employment at other Dufferin Aggregate operations close by. Rob indicated that about 22 Halton Hills residents work at the Acton Quarry

Norm Elliot asked if the JART review is causing the delay in receiving approval for the extension license

- Enzo confirmed that the JART review is a factor in the license approval process delay

Enzo explained Dufferin Aggregates has been meeting with the appropriate agencies over the last year and that many deadlines have been extended. Currently, there is no Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) determination and the JART report has not yet been released. The final JART report was expected in October 2012.

Norm Elliot asked about the current political environment and its impact on extension application

Enzo explained there will likely be acclimatization period around aggregate extraction as an industry. Enzo explained that it is the role of MNR staff to move applications forward and that the Minister only gets involved at the very end of the approval process.

Norm Elliot explained that a POWER fundraiser at The Legion was cancelled because an employee of Dufferin Aggregates Acton told The Legion that POWER is in protest of the Acton Quarry. Norm indicated the Legion protocol states they will not host events considered to be a protest and therefore the fundraiser was cancelled.

Norm Elliot expressed concern that the Acton operations are being greatly affected by the bureaucratic process associated with the extension

- Enzo explained that the wait time on the approval is quite normal for this kind of application
- Enzo explained that residents in the area have indicated on many occasions that this extension is something they would like to see happen and that hopefully their support will help move the process forward

Enzo explained the goal is to see the Region come forward with a Directions Report in the Spring to allow the extension to move forward. Enzo indicated a goal to see approval of the Acton extension by the end of 2013.

Norm Young asked about the process for cutting down the trees on the operations



- Enzo explained that a tree-cutting permit is required from the Region that governs re-planting on the property. Enzo explained that the operations is removing approximately 5.5 hectares of trees and will be replanting and reforestation of over 35 hectares of trees within the area
- Enzo explained that the Ecological Enhancement Plan has been made available and captures all hectares of planting, forest management, etc. Enzo will get a copy for CAP members
- Enzo explained that John Bayliss' presentation will briefly touch on one aspect of the rehabilitation (pond) that has made the operations suitable for Jefferson Salamander breeding. This is something the operation has elected to do as part of the Ecological Enhancement Plan at the operations

Paul Vanhanen asked how the MNR has reacted to the pond

- Enzo explained they have not had the opportunity to show the MNR the pond and its benefits but that the MNR will likely see its benefit to the Jefferson Salamander

### **Holcim Canada's Biodiversity Initiatives**

John Bayliss, Manager, Environmental Approvals & Policy at Holcim Canada began a presentation on Hoclim's biodiversity initiatives.

John explained that Holcim has partnered with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and through this global partnership an independent expert panel developed a biodiversity management system (BMS). The main objective of a BMS is to provide the tools to ensure that biodiversity issues are systematically identified and appropriately managed across all stages of the extraction sites.

John noted four sensitive operations of Dufferin Aggregates have been identified, which include Acton, Carden, Cayuga and Milton. The operations are deemed sensitive because they are located in sensitive areas (Niagara Escarpment) and/or have sensitive species on site.

Holcim Canada partnered with Bird Studies Canada and Couchiching Conservancy to monitor the biodiversity and develop Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs) at Holcim Canada's 4 sensitive sites.

John explained that through the BAP, Holcim Canada aims to:

- Build stakeholder relations
- Demonstrate that rehabilitation can achieve positive environmental contributions
- Implement best management rehabilitation practices

John explained that in May 2012, Holcim Canada began implementing the biodiversity monitoring program with Bird Studies Canada and Couchiching Conservancy at the four sensitive sites. Bird and amphibian monitoring has been completed at Acton, Cayuga and Milton. John explained that all the species identified are ranked (high significance/risk to low significance/risk) and the operations will work to ensure that these species are not affected by operational activities.



### **Phase 1 Rehabilitated Area: Acton Quarry**

John explained that in Phase 1 approximately 61 different species of birds were identified including Bank Swallow, Barn Swallow, Osprey, Wood Thrush and Mute Swan (invasive). John explained that the operations might build nesting platforms for the Osprey so that they stay in the area. The amphibians identified included American Toad, Gray Tree Frog, Green Frog, and Northern Leopard Frog.

An invasive species such as Phragmites was also identified on the rehabilitated side-slope and the island. John explained that Phragmites are very prevalent in Southern Ontario.

### **Phase 2 Rehabilitated Area: Acton Quarry**

John explained that 73 different species of birds were identified including Bank Swallow, Bobolink, Vesper Sparrow, and Virginia Rail. Amphibians including the Gray Tree Frog and the Green Frog's were identified in the area.

Norm Elliot asked how the Phragmites spread

- John explained that Phragmites have very large seed bases that travel and their root system is very large making them difficult to remove permanently

John showed the before and after of the demonstration amphibian pond (Slide 7) at the Acton quarry.

Enzo explained the area was originally a large clearing and the pond was planned and designed to suit local conditions and intended for amphibian breeding.

Paul Vanhan asked what kind of trees were planted around the pond

- Enzo answered that Sugar Maples were planted around the pond

Norm Elliot asked what about this pond contributes to increased salamander population that cannot be created in a forest, naturally. He asked if there is something broader than the pond creation that contributes to the increase in population.

- John explained that salamanders live in a forest but breeding is done in a pond
- Enzo explained that many breeding ponds are located near dense forests and that the ponds must have certain characteristics to foster salamander habitat
- Enzo pointed out on the operations map where the pond is located and where it is believed there is a large amount of salamanders

Norm Elliot explained he thinks the Jefferson Salamander issue is very small compared to all other issues associated with the application

- Enzo explained that if the MNR determines a impact on endangered species, that is an added consideration to the application

Enzo explained that Jefferson Salamanders are good indicator species and it means that the eco system and landscape is thriving.



John Bayliss went on in his presentation to explain that every year during Earth Week, Dufferin Aggregates partners with Scouts Canada to plant trees. In 2012, the site also partnered with the Bruce Trail Association to help clean up the trail and plant 500 trees.

John Bayliss summarized the biodiversity monitoring and it resulted in the identification of more than 153 different bird species and 93 of those at Dufferin Aggregates Acton.

John Bayliss outlined how Holcim Canada is working with ENGOs and other groups/agencies to develop biodiversity objectives to support the BAPs. Dufferin Aggregates has identified key objectives and areas of discussion so far:

- Rehabilitation and habitat creation
  - Establishing and maintain grassland habitat
  - Bird boxes, bird feeders, nesting areas
  - Great vegetation diversity
- Land management
  - Reduce the amount of manicured landscaping within the site
  - Modify agricultural practices (hay cutting, increased buffers around wetlands)
- Invasive species
  - Implement controls to prevent the spread of invasive species
  - Research soil management and rehabilitation techniques to reduce the potential for invasive species to become established
- Monitoring
  - Expand the scope of the program to other areas and site to address data gaps and track progress

John explained the Bank Swallow project led by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Canada. John outlined that Bank Swallows nest in active sand faces and in stockpiles within aggregate operations and that Dufferin Aggregates Blair, Mosport and Simcoe were selected for the project.

Norm Elliot asked if Bank Swallows are endangered

- John Bayliss explained that Bank Swallows are protected federally but are not classified as endangered. However, they are being reviewed by the MNR and will likely be listed as 'special concern' and the habitat will continue be protected under federal law.

John explained that at the Simcoe pit a 'U' shaped sand face was created which had 300 active nests observed and 166 Bank Swallows were observed by Bird Studies Canada at Dufferin Aggregates Acton.

John explained that Holcim Canada partnered with Earth Rangers to support a migratory songbird project. Earth Rangers, Nature Conservancy Canada (NCC) and Holcim Canada launched the "Bring Back the Wild" program for the Wood Thrush. Holcim Canada has helped the NCC purchase 25 acres of mature deciduous forest in Quebec to protect Wood Thrush and purchase 60 geolocators to be placed on the Wood Thrush to study and track their migration and learn about their breeding and wintering areas.



Norm Elliott explained that the public is not gaining any insight on what Dufferin Aggregates is doing to ensure the preservation of birds in the area and that this is the kind of the information that the public needs to understand.

Enzo explained that Holcim Canada is doing their best to get the message out in the public and will continue to try to communicate this kind of information to the community.

Joanne Kearney suggested having a CAP meeting focused on brainstorming ways that Dufferin Aggregates Acton can disseminate the positive messages around the Acton Quarry to the greater community.

Enzo proposed to have a representative from the communications department at Holcim Canada give a presentation on the how to disseminate information to the public (Twitter, Facebook, etc.). The CAP agrees that this would be an interesting meeting topic.

Enzo explained that John Bayliss and Rob McDougall recently submitted an Environmental Excellence Award to the National Stone Sand and Gravel Association. The application contained all of the environmental initiatives completed at Dufferin Aggregates Acton in 2012. The site won a gold award and will be issuing a press release locally.

### **General Discussion and Questions**

Paul Vanhanen brought about Bruce Trail concerns over the use of 3<sup>rd</sup> Line by 4X4 vehicles to enter their private property. Paul wondered if Dufferin Aggregates would work with Bruce Trail to close off 3<sup>rd</sup> Line to prevent this point of access onto the Bruce Trail.

Rob McDougall indicated Bruce Trail would first have to go to the Town to develop a plan and gain approval to close the road. Once plans are in place, Dufferin Aggregates would certainly consider partnering with Bruce Trail to close the road by donating materials.

Norm Young asked why trees along the back of his property are wrapped with orange and red tape and inquired if that is part of the Dufferin Aggregate extension

- Enzo explained that the trees were likely marked to determine the property line and set parameters for the operation setback.
- Enzo will check with CRA and MNR to determine if they were marking the trees

### **Next meeting topic:**

- Communication tools and tactics

### **Next date:**

April 15<sup>th</sup> at 7pm

Joanne Kearney brought the meeting to a close.