

Sept. 18/03

Visitors to the Ogden Point Quarry operated by the St. Lawrence Cement Company had a rare opportunity last Saturday to explore the workings of a modern industrial corporation. For the second time in three years the company opened its doors to the public. General Manager Patrick Franchomme noted that the company had learned from its first open house, offering more displays. There to take home were glossy handouts explaining its operations.



Ogden Point Quarry Superintendent Barry Fenton answers questions.

He, and other top level staff and consultants were available to answer any questions and to explain all facets of the company's operation. Inside the quarry office, Colborne Quarry Superintendent Barry Fenton ran a powerpoint presentation that took guests from raw material to finished product.

The open house is part of the company's plan to make the quarry ISO 14001 standard by 2004. That's an international standard of excellence for environmental management systems. It's plant in Mississauga has already achieved the rating. Mr. Franchomme explained that a company must continue to set objectives to reach higher levels.

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# Quarry open house

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Once the new levels of excellence are achieved new goals must be set. As part of attaining the ISO 14000 status St. Lawrence Cement must 'be transparent with its neighbours and undergo audits every six months.

One of the most sought-after executives at the open house was actually not a St. Lawrence employee.

Cam Thomas of TEC, a consulting firm used for its blasting expertise, had an ongoing conversation with area residents wanting reassurance and explanations about the effects of the drilling and blasting process.

St. Lawrence generally blasts every other day, usually around 2 p.m. Each blast loosens about 20,000 tonnes of rock. Mr. Franchomme explained that the company tries to be consistent so that the community knows the source of any vibrations they feel.

The company's blasting falls below the limits set for environmental pressure and vibration. But they're still careful to avoid overcast days as much as possible. It's not ground vibration that is potentially the most harmful; air pressure changes are a greater concern and that's why they try to avoid cloudy days.

Every blast is monitored and recorded to ensure that ground vibration and air pressure are within the limits.

It's difficult to imagine the immensity of the quarry operation. To help give a better sense of the size, the company offered short rides on one of its massive trucks.

The trucks which cart the blasted rock to the crusher, carry 90 tonnes and require a ladder to each the cab.

The crusher breaks down 1500 tonnes an hour into pieces about 20 cm in diameter. It is then moved off on a conveyor to the James Norris. One of the 19 Ogden Point Quarry staffers loads the 18,000 tonne ship in 8-10 hours. It then heads off on its 36-

hour return trip to Mississauga.

The process is repeated four or five times a week from April until December when the ice on Lake Ontario closes shipping down. By that time there is a stockpile built up in Mississauga to last until the shipping lanes re-open.

In the course of a year two million tonnes of rock are removed from the 674 acre site.

The quarry has five layers of limestone and each has its own chemical makeup.

The company has just begun blasting in the third level which is about 45 metres below ground level. Each load sent to the plant in Mississauga has a blend from the different levels.

Based on current usage they feel they have enough rock to last another 100 years. At that time the lake will gradually be allowed to enter the quarry, forming a huge, 78-metre deep harbour. It will be part of a recreation complex that the company has committed to build when it is finished extraction.

The limestone formation at Ogden Point is actually 152 metres deep, but the company has permission to go little more than half that depth.

Safety is an important part of the company's plan. They are almost finished installing a high perimeter fence around the property at a cost of \$200,000, replacing an old farm fence. It is scheduled for completion next year.

St. Lawrence Cement is proud of its community involvement. It recently gave a significant donation to assist in the construction of the Keeler Centre and it loans the St. Lawrence Soccer Fields to the CCH Soccer Club. The fields are amongst the best fields from Trenton to Oshawa. The company attempts to buy as much as possible from local businesses.

Judging from the reactions on the faces of guests munching hot dogs as they perused the literature and queried company officials, the St. Lawrence Cement Company Open House was a big hit.

## 415 ANNIVERSARIES

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65th  
Wedding  
Anniversary



The children of Leo & Violet Peebles invite friends & family to join them for an afternoon tea on Saturday, September 27th between 2-4pm at the St. Andrews Presbyterian Church Hall in Colborne to celebrate the 65th Wedding Anniversary of their parents. Best wishes only.

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