

Frequently Asked Questions

About St Marys

Who is St Marys Cement Group?

St. Marys Cement Group is a leading manufacturer of cement and related construction products in Canada and the United States. For more than 90 years, we have been contributing to the growth and prosperity of Ontario and the Great Lakes Region through countless engineering, civic and residential building projects. Our materials are found in the province's schools, hospitals, roads and highways, public transit, sewers and water mains, treatment plants and power generation stations – the essential infrastructure of our society. St Marys Cement is wholly owned by Group Votorantim -- a diversified Brazilian conglomerate that is also one of the largest cement producers in the world, Votorantim Cimentos.

What other operations do you have in Ontario?

St. Marys operates two cement plants in Ontario, including one in St. Marys, where the company was founded in 1912, and one in Bowmanville. We also operate over 40 ready-mix concrete plants and 12 aggregate pits and quarries across the province.

Why did you choose to buy this proposed quarry site? Were there other alternatives?

There hasn't been a new quarry developed in the GTA and immediate vicinity in 34 years. Our local supplies are being run down, forcing us to put more and more trucks on the road to go longer and longer distances to meet the GTA's and the province's burgeoning demand.

As well, this site has high quality amabel limestone -- exactly the type needed today to meet the criteria for high strength and durability that the province and other customers demand in their new roads and to meet the higher standards that municipalities are setting on major construction projects.

Now that you own the site, what is the approval process before you begin developing it?

We are now in the process of developing a site plan that includes such details as hours of operation, noise and dust controls, tree screens, traffic, depth of extraction, phasing of the quarry, rehabilitation requirements and monitoring requirements. We will also conduct hydrogeological studies to determine the best ways to avoid impacting water quality and supply. Once completed, the site plan will be submitted to the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources for approval.

Will you be consulting with local residents and communities as this project moves forward?

As our plans take shape, we will consult regularly with the community to keep local residents up-to-date and discuss any issues they may have.

Site Operations

How large will the quarry be?

The size of the quarry will be determined in our site plan.

What hours of operation are planned for the site?

This has not yet been determined. The proposed hours of operation will be included in a site plan that we will submit to provincial licencing authorities for review and approval.

Will the quarry operate on the weekend?

While the hours of operation for this site have not yet been determined, our quarries do not normally operate on weekends.

What security measures will you put in place to ensure that, for example, no children wander onto the site?

All sites are fenced and there is an annual compliance program regulated by the Ministry of Natural Resources to ensure the fence is maintained. Gates will be closed and locked during non-operating hours.

I live near the proposed site and I'm concerned about blasting, dust and noise from the site. What are you going to do about it?

All blasting activity at the proposed quarry will comply with provincial government standards regarding ground vibration and air concussion. A number of measures will be used to mitigate noise and vibration. These could include noise barriers created by a combination of berms and acoustic fences.

Instead of one large blast, it is standard in the aggregate industry to use a series of small blasts separated by milliseconds. In addition, many quarries typically schedule blasting at the same time of day, a time coordinated through consultation with the community.

With regard to minimizing dust, we utilize several techniques, including the regular watering and sweeping of roads and the use of tree screens around our sites. We also have guidelines to control noise from our operations, including prohibitions against trucks arriving at the site before its hours of operation.

St Marys is committed to being a good neighbour. We've earned the respect of local residents at other sites through open communication and consultation, and by acting immediately on any issues that arise.

What will the truck haul route be?

We won't know this until our site plan is completed. However, we will consult closely with municipal authorities and residents in order to minimize the impact on the community.

How are your truck drivers monitored? How do you ensure that drivers will stay on the designated the haul routes and will obey local traffic regulations?

We have a strict trucking policy that governs both our trucks and any contractors that we use. It includes rules regarding local speed limits, routes, not arriving before operational hours, obeying all road signage and keeping vehicles in good operating condition. We have strict penalties, including the right to refuse to load that truck at our operation if it violates our policy.

Who will be responsible for any upgrades to the roads on the truck haul route and to repairing any potential damage to them?

Any required road improvements will be indicated in our site plan and will be worked out in conjunction with municipal authorities. St Marys will pay our appropriate share of improvements and will be responsible for any maintenance or repair that result from our operations.

How long will this quarry be in operation and what will happen to the site afterwards?

Quarries generally last about 25 years before they are exhausted. The licence application includes a rehabilitation program that in fact will unfold throughout the lifecycle of the quarry, as we rehabilitate sections of the property on an ongoing basis. St Marys consults closely with the local community to rehabilitate the site in a manner that enhances the natural habitat and is beneficial to wildlife.

The Environment

What are you going to do to protect local habitat and wildlife from quarry operations?

St Marys has an excellent track record a well-deserved reputation for operating in an environmentally responsible manner. Our quarry operations in particular have been praised for their environmental practices and for their innovative site rehabilitation programs. Specifically:

- We follow best management practices to reduce any noise and vibrations created by aggregate extraction, particularly from blasting and the operation of industrial machinery.
- We minimize dust through regular watering and sweeping of roads on the site, and tree screens around the site.

- We have strict regulations for handling and storing fuels to ensure that none is released into the environment.
- When the site is eventually decommissioned, we will rehabilitate it in a way that will be advantageous to wildlife and natural habitat.

Doesn't the Greenbelt Plan protect this land from quarry development?

Aggregate extraction is permitted within the Greenbelt. The Greenbelt Plan recognizes aggregates provide significant building materials for our communities and infrastructure and that the availability of close-to-market aggregate is important for both economic and environmental reasons.

What are the main sources of air pollution that will come from this quarry?

The main issue with quarries is dust. There are also emissions from trucks to haul the aggregate and from industrial equipment used on site. We have strict procedures to control dust, such as the regular watering and sweeping of roads, and policies regarding truck and industrial equipment maintenance to ensure emission standards are being met.

Community Issues

What are the economic benefits to the community from this quarry?

An analysis of the potential benefits is being conducted by Clayton Research Associates Limited, a leading urban and real estate economics consulting firm. The report will soon be finalized and tabled with the City of Hamilton. To this point, the study has concluded that the proposed quarry will generate more than \$11 million in economic benefits each year once the facility is operational. These include:

- Full-time jobs: 50 - 100, most of which are expected to be filled by local residents.
- Wages: \$5,400,000 each year in payment to employees.
- Economic activity: \$3,000,000 each year in the purchase of operating supplies and services, most of which is expected to be spent locally within the City of Hamilton.
- Income and sales taxes, and license fees for the Province of Ontario: \$2,545,000 each year that can be used to fund government programs and services.
- Property taxes and license fees for the City of Hamilton: \$215,000 each year that can be used to fund local government programs and services.
- Education property taxes: \$40,000 each year generated to the Province of Ontario and then allocated to local boards of education.

What impact will this quarry have on tourism to the region which depends heavily on cyclists?

We will work closely with the community to find ways to reduce or eliminate any impact on tourism.