

► Geotechnical work at 255 West St. S.

Q: What is a borehole?

A: A borehole is a hole drilled into the ground. At 255 West St. S., the borehole will be drilled by a drill rig using augers. The diameter of the borehole will range from 100 mm to 200 mm.

Q: Why is drilling boreholes necessary for the recreation facility project to move forward?

A: Information about the soil type, texture, and strength as well as the groundwater level at the site is required to determine the type of foundation needed to support the building and ensure there will be no settlement of the structure. The easiest and most cost effective way to obtain this information is by drilling boreholes and sampling the soil at different depths.

Q: Who is conducting the geotechnical work on site?

A: Cambium Inc., a geotechnical and environmental engineering and consulting firm with offices in Peterborough, Barrie, and Oshawa. Cambium employs over 65 professionals in various areas, such as geotechnical, environmental, construction testing and inspections, and planning. Cambium's geotechnical team has completed work for small and large scale projects throughout central and eastern Ontario.

Q: Where exactly are the boreholes being drilled?

A: Initially, the boreholes will be drilled within the footprint of the proposed building. Following that work, additional boreholes will be drilled in other areas of the site designated for site naturalization.

Q: How is this work being completed?

A: A drill rig equipped with augers will drill a hole into the ground. Soil samples are collected from these holes at specific depths. These samples are reviewed by Cambium technicians on site, as well as by Cambium engineers in the lab to determine the soil properties. While drilling, Cambium is able to determine the strength of the soil at different depths using the soil sampling equipment. Using this information, Cambium's geotechnical engineers will be able to develop recommendations for the design and construction of the building foundations and parking areas.

Q: Is this geotechnical work a form of environmental testing?

A: No. The geotechnical drilling provides soil and groundwater level information to allow the geotechnical engineer to make design and construction recommendations for the building foundation, areas for site naturalization, as well as the parking areas. The geotechnical investigation is permitted under the Site's Certificate of Property Use.

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Q: Does drilling boreholes cause any risk to the public?

A: There is no risk to the general public when drilling boreholes. The site itself is fenced with a locked gate and all drilling will take place within the fenced area. Cambium has cleared the area for underground utilities. All of Cambium's work is completed in accordance with federal and provincial regulations. Cambium staff are trained in first aid and health and safety and are vigilant in keeping the safety of the public and the environment paramount.

Q: What is done with the soil excavated from the borehole?

A: The soil samples taken at specific depths in each borehole will be bagged and taken to Cambium's Peterborough office for use by the geotechnical engineer. All remaining soils from the boreholes will remain on site at this time. The boreholes will be backfilled with clean material in accordance with Provincial regulations.

Q: How long will this work take?

A: Drilling is expected to start on Wednesday July 22, 2015. There will be two drill rigs operating on site for two weeks, supervised by trained Cambium technicians. After two weeks, one drill rig will continue to operate on site, under Cambium supervision, to complete the remaining boreholes. All drilling will take place between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m., Monday to Friday. The work is anticipated to take four weeks to complete, depending on weather.

