

feature50years.



**Maine Drilling  
& Blasting**



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## Maine Drilling & Blasting Celebrates 50th Anniversary

By Charlie Martin

From its founding at a kitchen table in 1966, Maine Drilling and Blasting has grown to become one of Maine's premier companies with more than 350 employees working throughout the northeast and as far south as Maryland and the Virginias.

In 1966 Ted Purington, Sr. and his wife, Judy, borrowed \$2,000 with three co-signers to form the company. From the kitchen table the business grew into the barn and then into a secondary building at the family homestead in Gardiner. Today the company has ten operating divisions with offices in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York and Pennsylvania.

Ted's sons represent the second generation of Puringtons managing the company. William D. Purington is President and CEO, and Ted Purington, Jr., is Executive Vice President. Will Purington II, son of President Bill Purington, is the third generation. He is the Eastern Division Manager and Foundation Services Business Manager.

Maine Drilling & Blasting joined AGC Maine the year after its founding. Since joining AGC in 1967 the company has been a very active member.

Bill Purington served as President in 1995 and was also a winner of the annual Major Achievements in Construction (MAC) Award in

2007.

Will Purington II has been active in AGC since his days at the University of Maine Black Bear Chapter of AGC. He is currently a member of AGC's Government Relations Committee and the Energy and Industrial Committee. Bill Scott, P.E., Chief Engineer, is a member of the Government Relations Committee.

The company website ([www.mdandb.com](http://www.mdandb.com)) has a quote from President Bill Purington describing the philosophy of the company. He says: "Our goal has been not to be the biggest drilling and blasting company in New England. Rather, our actions were part of our long term family business plan to be the premier and most respected blasting contractor in the Northeast industry."

Will Purington, II adds, "What has made us so successful and unique are the core values of our people. Our employees live by the principles on which my grandfather started the business: honesty, hard work and quality of service. These core values continue to be reinforced and exist today all these years later."

Recognized as an industry leader in drilling and rock blasting services for the construction and quarry markets in the Northeastern United States, Maine Drilling & Blasting has become one of the largest companies in its field in the United States. The company has

also earned a reputation as one of the safest, most experienced rock blasting and drilling companies in the Northeast. During the past 50 years, MD&B has performed over two million controlled blasts for highways, site development, quarries, house lots, utilities and marine work.

The company has drilled some of the most aesthetic presplit faces, helped plan and develop over 170 quarries, installed rock anchors over water, under stadium seating and 50 feet above highways, and mechanically broken hundreds of thousands of cubic yards of rock with our hoe rams. MD&B has extensive experience in projects from wind farms to ski-slope development.

In addition to drilling and blasting services, the MD&B offers a number of specialty services including foundation services (rock anchors, micropiles, etc.), hoe ramming, engineering, public relations, pre-blast surveys, packaged and bulk explosive distribution, and quarry planning along with the quarry blasting operations.

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**Back L to R:** Ted Purington, Jr., Executive Vice President; Bill Purington, President & CEO;  
**Front L to R:** Mitchell Green, Senior Vice President; Dan Werner, Senior Vice President;  
John Capasso, MD President; Tim Maynard, CFO; Todd Barrett, Regional Vice President

Will Purington noted that “the company covers a lot of territory, but we’re set up to be local to all our markets.” For example MD&B performs work from local distribution centers and offices throughout the Northeast and Mid Atlantic regions, supported by local employees, local equipment, and local resources for supply.

In 2004 the company set up an Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP) giving employees a meaningful stake in the company at no cost to them, while enhancing standards on individual accountability and service. Quoting again from their website President Bill Purington said, “Our employees are the ones primarily responsible for the success of Maine Drilling & Blasting, and they should benefit from its growth.”

Chief Engineer Bill Scott said, “It’s a great thing to let all employees

share in the success of the company as well as sharing in financial rewards based on the financial success of the company.” He added “it’s a significant accomplishment to reach 50 years because of the value and hard work of our employees. We have a reputation in the industry of fairness to our customers, and that is a testament to the guys in the field who do the hard work.”

In honor of MD&B’s 50th Anniversary, the Company has established recurring scholarships at five educational institutions, which include the University of Maine, Central Connecticut State University, the Pennsylvania College of Technology, University of Massachusetts – Lowell, and Vermont Technical College. \$1,000 will be awarded per year for five years at each institution to provide financial assistance to students who are enrolled full-time and majoring in civil engineering technology or construction

management. The scholarships have both academic and need-based criteria. First awards of the committed \$25,000 total will generally be made in the fall of 2016. However, the institutions will promote the scholarships in the spring of 2016, coinciding with Maine Drilling & Blasting’s start-up in March 50 years ago.

The company has also developed a commemorative video that was shown to employees at their company-wide annual Safety Training session, and plans are underway for a major employee celebration this summer.

Congratulations to Maine Drilling & Blasting on its 50th year in business. **bp**

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**Photo:** Ted Purington, Sr. and his crew at a safe distance in the early days, late 1960s.



**Photo:** Drilling for rock removal on access roads and for wind turbine pads on Maine's Bingham Wind Farm.



**Photo:** MD&B drilling at Stetson Wind Turbine Project, Danforth, ME, which consisted of 38 wind towers accessed with 9 miles of road. In the background is Mount Katahdin, the highest mountain in Maine at 5268 feet.

