



Maine Drilling & Blasting Celebrates 50th Anniversary

By: Michael Jamison, Communications Director

Founded in 1966 by Ted Purington Sr. and his wife Judy, Maine Drilling and Blasting (MD&B) has earned a reputation as one of the safest, most experienced rock blasting and drilling companies in the Northeast. From starting the company on a \$2,000 loan 50 years ago, MD&B has excelled in a niche field with offices in New York, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and Connecticut. The company has successfully completed more than 2 million controlled blasts for highways, site development, quarries, house lots, utilities and marine work.



While Maine Drilling & Blasting has expanded exponentially since its start, including having to weather a number of severe recessions which hit the construction industry hard, Bill Purington,

Chairman/CEO of MD&B said, "Our goal was never to be the biggest drilling and blasting company in Northeast. Rather, our actions are part of our long-term family business plan to be the premier and most respected blasting contractor in the industry." In fact, the company's "family minded" approach was the driving catalyst behind the company's 2004 decision to establish an Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP), which gives employees a meaningful stake in the company at no cost to them. MD&B believes this business model will help enhance standards on individual accountability and service and has allowed employees to own more than 30% of the company as recently as 2010.

In 2004, MD&B became the first contractor in the country to construct and operate its own bulk explosives blending and loading plant. Today, Maine

Drilling & Blasting employs approximately 400 people with an emphasis on helping to cultivate the next generation and connecting on a local level to attract potential future employees into the industry. To do this, Maine Drilling & Blasting has started a scholarship in honor of their 50th anniversary. The scholarship provides \$25,000 (\$1,000 per year for five years) to students majoring in civil engineering or construction management at five regional universities and colleges.

Blasting has greatly evolved since 1627 when gunpowder was first used in place of mechanical tools in the Hungarian town of Banska Stiavnica. The potential of blasting was fully realized upon the patenting of dynamite in 1867 along with the

subsequent development of powered drills. Today, what was once considered an art has become much more of a science. Maine Drilling & Blasting has worked hard to evolve with the industry and is on the cutting edge of technologies such as: electronic detonators, emulsions, computer-aided blast design, boretrack Systems, and laser profiling. The development of blasting has allowed the world to connect through tunnels and by accessing locations once thought impossible.

With a company culture that is grounded in the core values of honesty, respect, fairness and responsibility, Maine Drilling & Blasting is committed to "Making it Happen" with safety, quality and productivity. On behalf of everyone at AGC NYS we would like to congratulate Maine Drilling & Blasting on their 50th anniversary and thank them for their important and significant contributions to our industry.

