



# The Buzz

E-Newsletter

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Take a well-deserved break and watch our 3-minute video

Enjoy our latest video while learning more about our patented sonic drilling technology. Plus, when you're ready, there's 10 more videos after this one! Watch how our customers use their sonic rigs around the world.

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## Sonic Technology Nominated Again



Ray Roussy's sonic drilling technology nominated for a fourth award

The Northern Ontario Institute of Technology (NOIT) has nominated Ray Roussy, president of the Sonic Drill Corporation and Sonic Drilling Ltd., for an Ontario Premier's award.

Roussy is an alumni of the institute where he was first introduced to mechanical engineering before continuing onto Lakehead University where he graduated with a Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering degree in 1974.

"College was a critical stepping stone in my career," says Roussy. "I knew I wouldn't have a future without education so I'm grateful I had the opportunity to start where I did." After completing his diploma, Roussy worked for one of his NOIT professors, who owned an engineering business in Kirkland Lake, Ontario. That's where Roussy first began working on industrial drilling equipment. The same professor also suggested that Roussy continue in school and earn his degree.

"Coming from a small town, the idea of going to university was daunting. I was young and I didn't have the confidence, so I opted to go to college instead. From my time at Northern, I gained knowledge, skills and the confidence to take the next step to get a university degree."

Today, 40 years later, Roussy holds dozens of patents involving sonic drilling technology and is solely responsible for the successful commercialization of it when others failed to make it work.

If Roussy wins the Ontario Premier's award, it will be the fourth award since 2008 for his technology. Previous awards include:

- 2012 - Technology Award from the National Ground Water Association (USA)
- 2010 - Manning Innovation Award
- 2008 - Best New Drilling Technology award from the Canadian GeoExchange Coalition

## Piling Case Study



Condo pilings drilled using sonic technology

While ideal for pilings, sonic drilling technology is less known in that application. Most drilling companies use it for geothermal installations, environmental investigations and mining exploration. However, on the *Dominion*, a new condo complex in New Westminster, BC., Sonic Drilling Ltd. was called in to drill the pile holes for the building which was constructed on a slope in the Lower Mainland area.

Located on the north bank of the Fraser River, the city of New Westminster was once the original capital of British Columbia (the capital is now Victoria). Named by Queen Victoria herself, New Westminster was often referred to as the "Royal City." Fittingly, the new *Dominion* condos, by developer Ledingham McAllister, sit regally on Royal Avenue.

"Because of the slope of the site, this condo project required a number of holes at different depths," says Bill Fitzgerald, operations manager for Sonic Drilling Ltd. "At the top of the hill, we used a truck-mounted sonic rig and at the bottom we used a track-mounted sonic rig to come up the sides of the slope."

As the track-mounted SDC-450 sonic rig climbed up the hill, excavators created a flat platform for the rig to move to at every stage. While the weather and terrain wasn't a challenge, the desire to keep all of the trees on the property forced the crews to work around them. "A few had to be dug up but they were replanted," notes Fitzgerald.

Over a period of 10 days, a total of 2,400 feet was drilled by two sonic rigs, each with a crew of three. Hired by Power Civil Contractors Ltd., a contracting and shoring company with extensive expertise on projects throughout the Lower Mainland, the sonic drills bored 80 six-inch holes which were used to then install 4.5" steel pipe. Grouting was completed by Power Civil Contractors.

Fitzgerald says that one of the biggest reasons to use a sonic rig for piling is its "speed advantage." Drilling 3-5x faster through mixed soils, using no drilling mud (less mess to clean up) and operating more quietly, sonic drilling technology is a great option for project managers who want a solution that keeps the neighbours happy and makes good business sense.

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