

Arts Centre Expansion – Construction Update November 29, 2019

Dalhousie is building a three-storey addition to the Seymour Street side of the Dalhousie Arts Centre, with an anticipated completion of fall 2021. This work will involve construction noise throughout the project. The main activity between now and March 2020 will be preparing the foundation. This will involve rock-breaking and instances of localized blasting.

BLASTING EXPECTED TO BEGIN THIS WEEK:

Excavation, intermittent rock breaking and removal of soils and rock will continue this week. The rock breaking is being scheduled around critical activities/classes/exams for FSPA and Cohn practices & performances.

We have completed all the Pre-Blast Surveys of the local buildings and residences blasting could begin as early as Dec 4, 2019. Contractors will first be drilling holes to place the explosives then they will cover the blasting zone with heavy rubber blankets to contain rock fragments. Just prior to detonation, if the blasting zone is adjacent to Seymour St., they will have traffic control in place to hold pedestrian and vehicular traffic for the short duration (5 to 10 minutes) while the explosives are detonated. The Blasting Contractor will give advance notice that they are about to detonate with 3 long horn blasts. The blast will be a very short bang with vibrations in the local vicinity of the site. One more horn blast will indicate the event is complete.

The Contractor is planning to prepare and blast 2 to 3 times a day but not every day.

There will be no blasting within 30' of the Arts Centre, Environmental, Health & Safety Office and the Utilities under Seymour Street.

Blasting is expected to be complete by Jan 17, 2020 depending on the configuration of the rock formations as well as the hardness of the rock.

The Fountain School of Performing Arts, located in the current Arts Centre, is hosting a dynamic webpage with content updated daily. Please visit that website for the most current information: <https://www.dal.ca/faculty/arts/school-of-performing-arts/about/facilities/constructionupdates.html>

For an overview on the project and high-level updates please visit dal.ca/artsexpansion For any questions that may arise over the course of this work please contact communityrelations@dal.ca.