

Stepping Stones



THE DUNTRON QUARRY EXPANSION NEWSLETTER

Winter 2012

Message from Walker Aggregates' Vice-President

As the New Year begins, I sincerely wish all of our friends a happy, healthy and prosperous 2012, and hope everyone enjoyed a pleasant holiday with their families.

Here at Walker Aggregates, we are awaiting word on whether the Consolidated Hearings Board approves our application to expand the Duntroon Quarry. As a result of the hearing taking much longer than expected and the decision still pending, I'm sorry to report that we had to lay off most of our quarry workers.

Eleven Duntroon quarry staff – including two property maintenance personnel – were laid off in November and December. A few of our quarry workers are seasonal and are normally laid off during the winter months, but this year more workers than usual were laid off and they left earlier in the season. The remaining Walker Aggregates employees in Duntroon include a few office staff and quarry workers involved in loading, shipping, repair and maintenance. We are still shipping aggregate and will be taking down the office at some point this year to mine the remaining rock underneath.

We're hoping to soon hear that our quarry expansion will be approved, so we can hire back most – if not all – of our laid-off employees. They've been a tremendous asset to our company over the years.

Five truck drivers were also laid off – with one indicating that he will retire – from J. Priest, the company we purchased last fall and which is now renamed as Walker Aggregates' Anten Mills pit.

Trucking is not a part of our core business and we have decided to focus on aggregates. We are committed to helping the laid off workers find new jobs within the Walker family of companies or elsewhere.

Work to refine the Adaptive Management Plan for the proposed quarry expansion has been a priority for us these past months, in response to comments raised during the hearing.

The MAQ hearing, for the proposed Highland Quarry, across County Road 31 from our property, was finished in mid November, after four months of evidence. That hearing began in early August and a decision on whether to approve that application is also pending.

In other news, we were delighted to share some good cheer with our friends and neighbours during the annual PLC holiday wine and cheese reception on November 24.

As always, I welcome comments from our neighbours about any questions or concerns they may have about our existing or proposed expanded quarry. Please contact me at 705-445-2300 ext. 224. More information is also available on our website at <http://walkerind.com/walker-aggregates/duntroon-expansion.html>.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken Lucyshyn".

Ken Lucyshyn



Holiday Reception

Photo at left: Clearview mayor Ken Ferguson and Collingwood mayor Sandra Cooper pose for a photo with Walker Aggregates' vice-president Ken Lucyshyn.

Right photo: Duntroon Quarry neighbours Bill and Marg Beam share some holiday cheer with MaryLou Brown.

CHB Refuses to Reopen Hearing

In a decision that came down just before Christmas, the Consolidated Hearings Board dismissed a motion initiated by the Clearview Community Coalition (CCC) to reopen the hearing into the Duntroon Quarry expansion. The CCC requested the hearing be reopened as a result of an accident involving a gravel truck that overturned on County Road 91 back in September.

In its written decision issued on December 19, 2011, the board noted "that the high threshold established by the courts and through Ontario Municipal Board procedures for the reopening of a hearing for the consideration of new evidence has not been met."

The board indicated that detailed reasons for this ruling would be provided in its upcoming decision on the quarry expansion.

New Organization Formed to Promote Recycled Aggregates

Walker Aggregates is a member of a new Ontario organization established to promote recycling concrete and asphalt removed from demolition sites and road reconstruction projects.



In mid December, the organization – named Aggregate Recycling Ontario (ARO) – launched a campaign to encourage the use of more recycled aggregate in infrastructure projects.

"There is an immediate crisis in the GTA surrounding recycled aggregate," said Adrian Van Niekerk, chair of ARO. "Recycling yards are filling up to capacity with broken concrete and asphalt, yet not nearly enough is leaving the site to be used again in new construction," he said. "Some facilities have had to close their yards to new deliveries, because there is just no more room," he added.

Nearly three million tonnes of recyclable concrete, asphalt and aggregate that have been recovered from GTA construction sites now sit in piles to be processed. Although the Ontario government, through the Ministry of Transportation, and some municipalities have been leaders in using recycled aggregates for years, many municipalities' specifications do not allow recycled aggregates to be used in construction projects. Processed properly, these aggregates meet all performance requirements and provide a suitable alternative to primary aggregates which come directly from pits and quarries.

"We hope to find out why most municipalities do not use recycled aggregate and to rectify any issues they may have with these materials, said Mr. Van Niekerk.

"Industry has been very progressive in separating

broken concrete and asphalt from construction projects and bringing them to recycling yards to be re-processed, instead of going to landfills," he said. "We are going through similar growing pains as the paper and plastics recycling industries, when they first got started, but need to close the loop to manage our non-renewable aggregate resources more sustainably," he added.

Although ARO was formed to bring attention and find a solution to the growing aggregate piles, its mandate goes well beyond that issue. Organized by the Ontario Stone, Sand & Gravel Association, and the Toronto and Area Road Builders Association, ARO brings together 17 companies and seven associations that produce and use recycled aggregates.

Member companies would like to expand opportunities for recycling aggregates by permitting more recycling facilities, especially in pits and quarries where companies can better use mined primary aggregates by mixing them with re-processed material. As well, ARO plans to engage in research and trial projects to develop new applications for recycled aggregates. For more information visit www.aggregate recyclingontario.ca.

Stepping Stones is published quarterly. We welcome your questions and comments. Please contact Rosemary Ackermann at Walker Aggregates at 705-445-2300, ext. 223. The Duntroon Quarry is operated by Walker Aggregates Inc., a division of Walker Industries.

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