

Stepping Stones



THE DUNTRON QUARRY EXPANSION NEWSLETTER

Winter 2009

Message from Walker Aggregates' Vice-President

Preliminary comments are starting to come to us from agencies reviewing our Duntroon Quarry expansion proposal. In addition to the Ministry of Agriculture, which had earlier informed us that they have no concerns with our proposal, we have now received preliminary comments from the Nottawasaga and Grey-Sauble Conservation Authorities and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.

The comments have been constructive and demonstrate that these agencies want to ensure natural features around the proposed quarry are protected.

We have been attending plenty of meetings with representatives of the commenting agencies, addressing such issues as buffer widths, wetlands, tree planting and the proposed Adaptive Management Plan.

These agencies have been unable to provide us with complete comments because the final reports from the peer review teams on hydrogeologic modeling and karst features have not been completed.

Meanwhile, the peer review scientists hired by the Niagara Escarpment Commission have reviewed our studies and prepared preliminary comments and a list of questions. Walker Aggregates' consultants have completed a comprehensive response to those questions, which is now under review by the peer review consultants.

We expect the peer review reports will be favourable to the expansion proposal, based on the preliminary feedback. Once it has been completed, we would be pleased to share the details of the final report with members of the public.

The process of obtaining an approval to proceed with our quarry expansion has been long – more than six years so far.

We expect it will be another two years before we are granted approval for a license. This is in part because we expect that, by the end of 2009, we will be required to participate in a hearing before the Consolidated

Hearings Board (CHB) which is a panel of members from the Environmental Review Tribunal and the Ontario Municipal Board. It has always been our goal to avoid a such a hearing. We have been transparent in sharing our information and have engaged in extensive outreach and community consultation.



Ken Lucyshyn

When a problem has arisen, we have worked to find a solution, and much detailed information about our proposal is available at our offices and on our web site.

An CHB hearing is time consuming and expensive for our company, Simcoe County, Clearview Township, the Niagara Escarpment Commission and the Ministry of Natural Resources. Considering the due diligence and in-depth scientific study that we have undertaken for our quarry proposal, we're optimistic that the CHB will approve our applications.

The estimated cost to Walker for a hearing is in the order of \$.5 million. I would rather use that money to make a donation to a community centre, create further wetlands or purchase land to donate to a conservation authority.

Walker's philosophy is to use the economic benefits of our operations to support social and environmental sustainability.

As always, we are available to answer any questions or concerns about our proposed Duntroon Quarry expansion.

For more information please call me at 705-445-2300, ext. 224, or in Niagara at 905-227-4142, or visit our website at www.walkerind.com/GeoAggExpansion/index.html

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large 'K' and 'L' intertwined.

Ken Lucyshyn

Protecting the Hart's-tongue Fern

The area around our quarry is populated with American Hart's-tongue fern. This plant is primarily found in Ontario and mostly along the Niagara Escarpment.

The Committee on the Status of Species at Risk in Ontario ranks the fern as a vulnerable species.

Walker Aggregates is funding a study to be carried out by qualified scientists to determine



The American Hart's-tongue Fern

whether and how the Hart's-tongue fern can be relocated.

The study members include scientists and ecologists working for corporations as well as a retired greenhouse manager from the University of Guelph's Botany Department, and a botanist and associate professor in Environmental and Resource Studies from the University of Waterloo.

A fact sheet with more information about the study is available on Walker Aggregates' web site at http://walkerind.com/DuntroonExpansion/documents/Duntroon_HartsTongueFactSheet_final.pdf

Clearview Township Public Meeting on January 27

As part of its official planning process, Clearview Township is hosting a public meeting to hear comments on the proposed Duntroon Quarry expansion. An open house takes place at the Stayner Community Centre on Tuesday, January 27, 2009 at 4 p.m., followed by the formal public meeting at 7 p.m. The snow date for the event is February 10.

The meeting will be held before the township's Planning Committee which will then make a recommendation to council.

The open house will feature Walker Aggregates' staff and consultants, who will answer questions about the proposal and present informational displays.

Duntroon Quarry First to Test Hybrid Equipment

Walker Aggregates' Duntroon Quarry will be the first location in Ontario to test hybrid heavy construction equipment.

Walker vice-president Ken Lucyshyn spotted a prototype hybrid loader at a trade show for the heavy equipment construction industry in Las Vegas last spring. He offered the Duntroon site as a place to test the loader, made by Volvo Construction Equipment. A representative of Volvo Canada accepted the offer.

The hybrid loader is designed to be more fuel efficient and environmentally friendly.

When it is being driven around the quarry site it will operate on battery-fueled electricity, and while digging into a pile or carrying a load it will run on regular diesel fuel.

"The technology fits in with our philosophy of being as environmentally sensitive as possible, according to Walker's EARTH 1st philosophy," Ken says.

The testing of the Volvo Hybrid Wheel Loader will likely take place next year.

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.

www.walkerind.com