

Stepping Stones



THE DUNTRON QUARRY EXPANSION NEWSLETTER

Spring 2010

Message from Walker Aggregates' Vice-President

After working on our application to expand the Duntroon Quarry since 2002, Walker Aggregates finally appeared before the Consolidated Hearings Board on April 12 and 13 to begin the review of the quarry expansion application. The hearing was delayed to May 3 after the board members considered a request by the lawyers for the Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC) and from property owner Emelia Franks for a delay. The board was also asked by the lawyers for the Clearview Community Coalition (CCC) to add additional witnesses, and to allow for site visits to the proposed quarry by experts hired by the CCC and Ms. Franks. They also argued that they needed more time to review Walker's Adaptive Management Plan, hydrogeology report and site plan, and to have their experts visit the proposed quarry site.

One of our lawyers, Mary Bull, argued that interested parties have had an opportunity to learn about the project since work on it became public in 2003, and that a delay and the addition of witnesses was unfair to Walker at this late date. She also noted that we were especially concerned that the hearing not break during the summer months and resume in the fall, noting the considerable costs if this decision were to be made.

In a verbal ruling, the board agreed to the delay and stipulated that the hearing still be scheduled to last 10 weeks.

The board also allowed the CCC to include three additional witnesses: acoustical engineer John Coulter to address noise impacts on the haul route, Anton Reznicek to speak to the protection of the American Hart's Tongue Fern and Ontario Environmental Commissioner Gord Miller.

The board agreed to site visits by some of the experts, subject to conditions that our lawyer had requested, primarily for safety and security reasons. Consolidated Hearings Board chair Chris Conti stipulated that no new evidence could come from the site visits, and that the visits were to verify information that has already come forward through testimony from witnesses hired by the involved parties.

The site visits took place on April 20 and 28.

I appreciate that there are members of our community who are supportive of our quarry application but concerned about the closing of a portion of County Road 91 from County Road 31 to the outside border of our property. We appreciate and understand the concerns of some residents in Clearview and Grey Highlands. Walker has been negotiating the haul route and road agreements with Simcoe and Grey Counties for more than two years. We agreed to purchase the road after both counties and Clearview Township made this suggestion in response to concerns neighbours had expressed at two public meetings about traffic, noise and safety issues along County Road 91.

As for using 26/27 Side Road as an alternate, we appreciate that this change will take some getting used to. We also want to stress that the road will not be the same road it is now. It will be redesigned and upgraded to a rural road standard. Walker will work with Clearview Township to ensure it is properly maintained year round, and we will discuss with the Township further upgrades to the road in the years ahead, if traffic volumes warrant and residents along this road are in agreement. We've worked with our neighbours, the broader community and affected municipalities on all issues of our quarry expansion and we will do the same when it comes to the road issue. We are now in meetings with Grey Highlands and Clearview Township representatives on how we can engage the two communities in a discussion around issues relating to the road changes.

As always, I am available to speak with any member of the community with any questions or concerns they may have.

For more information about Walker Aggregates' proposed Duntroon Quarry expansion please call me at 705-445-2300, extension 224, or in Niagara at 905-227-4142, or visit our website at <http://www.walkerind.com/walker-aggregates/duntroon-expansion.html>.

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

Ken Lucyshyn

2010 to be a Good Year for Georgian

This construction season is promising to be a very good one for Georgian Paving and Construction, a division of Walker Aggregates. Georgian has a number of major projects to undertake once the season kicks off this spring, among them the Collingwood Downtown Revitalization Project, work at the Lake Simcoe Regional Airport, and paving contracts for Clearview Township and Simcoe County. In total, these projects will use more than 200 tonnes of aggregate, much of it from the Duntroon Quarry.

The Collingwood Downtown Revitalization project includes reconstructing roads, planting 94 new trees and more than 600 shrubs, installing new street lights and laying new interlocking paving stone. This project affects Hurontario Street from First to Hume, and Second and Third Streets from Pine to St. Marie. Begun last October, the work will be completed by Canada Day – three weeks ahead of schedule as a result of mild spring weather.

Georgian's portion of work on a major airport expansion involves rehabilitating existing runways and building new ones.

Paving contracts include work on about 10 roads for Clearview Township and five different projects for Simcoe County.

"This is shaping up to be the busiest year in quite some time, largely as a result of federal and provincial funding being made available for infrastructure projects," says Georgian's general manager Terry Willms.



Accepting the 2009 Paver of the Year finalist award last February from Ontario Minister of Transportation Kathleen Wynne were Georgian project manager Doug Bell, superintendent John Chipchase, quality control supervisor Mike Scott and general manager Terry Willms.

Georgian Paving and Construction employs approximately 50 workers and in February was honoured as a finalist for the Ontario Ministry of Transportation's prestigious Paver of the Year Award for 2009. The company was recognized for its work on the rehabilitation of Highway 400 southbound from Forbes Road to Highway #11, a project that consumed 100 tonnes of aggregate.



Beekeeper Grant Parsons

A Swarm of Activity at the Quarry

In addition to the dozens of employees working at the Duntroon Quarry are about a million other workers. They are the bees that quarry operator and apiarist Grant Parsons is introducing along the western edge of the quarry environment this spring.

This is the third year that Grant set up his hive boxes. "They'll work themselves to death, and I don't have to pay unemployment insurance or other benefits," he jokes.

Last year's cold and rainy summer lead to a very poor crop of honey, and Grant is hoping for a much better yield this year. "The quarry environment is perfect," he says. "There are a lot of wildflowers around and there's lots of water nearby in the quarry. A hive will go through about a litre of water a day."

With spring coming early this year, Grant is hoping to collect honey from the end of May until the end of August.

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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