

Stepping Stones



THE DUNTROON QUARRY EXPANSION NEWSLETTER

Fall 2012

Message from Walker Aggregates' Vice-President

Just when we thought we could finally move forward with our Duntroon Quarry expansion, we were very disappointed to learn that the Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC) commissioners decided to ask for a Judicial Review of the decision to proceed with the expansion by the Consolidated Hearings Board.

In August, the commissioners voted nine to three in favour of asking for the review, after hearing deputations the previous month from the lawyer for Environmental Defence and the Clearview Community Coalition (CCC), David Donnelly, and from quarry expansion opponent Ruth Grier. Walker was provided with about five minutes to present our position.

The frustration for Walker is that the expansion process has already lasted nearly a decade – with extensive studies undertaken as well as a 13-month hearing. In its majority decision in June, the Consolidated Hearings Board did place numerous conditions on the expansion, in response to issues raised by the NEC and the CCC.

Simcoe County, Clearview Township, the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Ministry of the Environment and most of the neighbours of the proposed Duntroon Quarry expansion support it. Yet the NEC has now decided to ask for a Judicial Review of the board's decision, simply because two people stood before the commission and asked for it. Even the NEC's own staff did not provide a report recommending a Judicial Review.

When Walker pointed out errors in fact and process, and when the Duntroon Quarry employees demonstrated at the NEC offices in September, the commissioners decided to hold another vote. This time the vote was six to six, with the chair breaking the tie in favour of the review.

Regrettably, we've now had to inform our employees that they will likely be laid off when our existing quarry runs out of stone later this year. They've been active in protesting the NEC's decision and are asking friends and neighbours for their support (see story on page 2) in expressing their concerns to Premier Dalton McGuinty.

Meanwhile, the Walker team is continuing with our plans for the expansion, including addressing the Consolidated Hearings Board's recommendations and conditions, as well as our own commitments. We are also undertaking work to present our case during the Judicial Review. The review itself could delay the expansion process a year or more.

We are hopeful that the process for the quarry expansion can be sped up and we will keep our neighbours informed about any new developments.

On the good news front, **I look forward to seeing our friends and neighbours on Thursday, November 29 at the Public Liaison Committee's Annual holiday Wine and Cheese Reception. It takes place from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m. at Mylar and Loretta's Restaurant in Singhampton.**

As always, our neighbours and other members of the community are welcome to contact me with any questions or concerns about the existing or proposed expanded quarry. I can be reached at 705-445-2300 ext. 224. More information is also available on our website at <http://walkerind.com/walker-aggregates/duntroon-expansion.html>

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

Ken Lucyshyn



Duntroon Quarry Employees Protest NEC Decision

Employees of Walker Aggregates' Duntroon Quarry and their families demonstrated at the Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC) offices in Georgetown on September 20, 2012. The employees accused the NEC of "losing its focus" as a result of its decision to seek a Judicial Review of the Consolidated Hearings Board ruling to allow the Duntroon Quarry expansion to proceed.

Employee layoffs are imminent once the existing quarry runs out of stone - expected later this year.

"We want people to know that our Ontario tax dollars are about to pay for yet another round of legal bills that are unnecessary and unjustifiable," says employee spokesman and Duntroon Quarry traffic supervisor Mike Saunders. He notes that the Consolidated Hearings Board hearing lasted 13 months, with plenty of time devoted to evidence presented by the NEC. "The NEC presented its position to the board, and now they are appealing the board's decision because it allows the quarry expansion to proceed."



"The Duntroon Quarry employees are frustrated and angry with this whole, ridiculous process," Saunders says. "This is an absolute waste of taxpayer dollars that just keeps on going."



In a flyer distributed at the demonstration, the employees note that Clearview Township, Simcoe County, the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ministry of the Environment and most of the quarry's neighbours support the Duntroon Quarry expansion.

"We are through with sitting in silence while others throw their propaganda out there," the flyer notes.

In addition to the loss of 31 quarry jobs, the closure of the Duntroon Quarry will result in a loss of trucking jobs, the loss of income to suppliers and community businesses, the loss of a tax base to the township and county, and an increased cost for local construction projects since stone will need to be shipped longer distances.

As a result of the demonstration and new information presented to the NEC by Walker, the commissioners reconsidered the decision to ask for the Judicial Review. The vote was tied at six in favour and six opposed, with the chair casting the deciding vote to go ahead with the review. The original decision was nine in favour and three opposed.

The employees are encouraging their supporters in the community to write to Premier Dalton McGuinty to express their opposition to the NEC's actions.

Walker Buys Two Windsor Area Quarries

Walker Industries has purchased Amherst Quarries in Amherstburg, Ontario.

"This acquisition gives Walker a footprint in the aggregates business in southwestern Ontario," says Ken Lucyshyn, the company's vice-president responsible for aggregates and construction. "We are looking to grow our aggregates division by acquiring new businesses and expanding our existing ones. We're interested in pursuing opportunities which allow us to both expand geographically and replace depleting aggregate resources."

Amherst Quarries is a family business, and has been owned by three generations of the Smith family. Established in 1959, the

company has two large quarries – one south of Windsor and another in the town of Amherstburg. These quarries supply stone products to customers in Essex County and southwestern Ontario. Approximately 25 employees work for the company.

While Walker will take over ownership of the company, it will remain operating as Amherst Quarries.

Like Amherst Quarries, Walker Industries is a family business. Established in 1887, the company has been owned by five generations of the Walker family. The Walker group of companies includes aggregates, construction, emulsions, environmental project management, waste management, renewable energy projects and green building.

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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