

McGregor and Amherstburg Quarries Update

A new super stacker, installed at the McGregor Quarry last December, began operating as stone production got underway for the season in April. "This telescoping conveyor helps us stockpile more material, as well as improve the quality and segregation of the product," says Ryan Wall, area manager of the quarries.

The stacker moves stone into piles in a right to left motion, evenly blending stone of various sizes. Previously, stone was manually stockpiled with loaders, resulting in more carbon emissions, more manpower required, and more wear and tear on loading equipment. Furthermore, manually piling the stone caused finer stone to slide to the bottom of the piles, resulting in inconsistent stone quality from load to load.

The expansion part of the quarry is proceeding well, with about three-quarters



A new super stacker has been installed at the McGregor Quarry

of the physical berm construction complete along the north and west sides of the extraction area. Weather permitting, Ryan says seeding of grass on the berm is expected to happen this fall.

The southern part of the McGregor Quarry is almost ready to start receiving soil, as part of the quarry's progressive rehabilitation. The quarry will eventually be turned into a lake.

At the Amherstburg Quarry, the old secondary crushing plant that had been on the ground level since the 1960s has been decommissioned. It, and the primary plant, have been replaced with a portable crushing plant on the quarry floor. Sales and operations are also now on the quarry floor. "This will help reduce noise and dust for the quarry neighbours," Ryan says.

At both quarries, new signage has been installed, to reflect the fact that they are now part of the Walker Industries family of companies.



A new portable crusher plant has been set up on the floor of the Amherstburg Quarry.

An Invitation

Neighbours and friends of the McGregor and Amherstburg quarries are invited to a community barbecue. **It's happening Wednesday, August 20, 2014, at 3:30 p.m. at the McGregor Quarry, located at 6781 North Side Road at Howard Avenue.**

This is an opportunity for neighbours and their families to meet quarry staff and learn about the operations of Walker's two Essex area quarries. We hope to see you there!

CUSTOMER PROFILE



Among the employees of Tilbury's Rene Blain Trucking are mechanic Brandon Glasier, driver Ron Mazerolle, co-owner Dave Blain, and office employees Nikki Simpson, Tammy Jones and Tammy Nussey.

Reliability is Key for Rene Blain Trucking

The history of Tilbury's Rene Blain Trucking is closely linked with the history of the McGregor and Amherstburg quarries. Both started as family businesses more than 55 years ago, and the relationship between them has been mutually beneficial ever since.

Darryl Blain is the co-owner of the trucking company, established by his grandfather Rene in 1947 and later owned by Darryl's father, Dave. The company owns and operates a fleet of more than 25 different types of trucks and 43 trailers, and employs 28 people.

It purchases aggregates from quarries and delivers it to customers across southwestern Ontario. Those customers include municipalities, wind power companies, builders, private contractors, landscapers, farmers and individual homeowners.

Darryl says the success and longevity of his business can be attributed to reliability. "We're flexible, and all of our drivers can operate all of our different types of trucks and trailers," he says. "The stone gets delivered when we say it will be there." He explains that the last thing

he wants is "to be a bottleneck in the process" of moving forward on a job, with construction workers standing around waiting for stone to be delivered.

Rene Blain Trucking is one of the largest customers of Walker Aggregates' McGregor and Amherstburg quarries. Just last year, the company purchased more than 400,000 tonnes of stone from the quarries.

"They are a strong supporter of our business," says Ryan Wall, the area manager for the quarries. "They are good to work with and we have a mutually beneficial relationship," he adds, noting that the quarries are not only a supplier of the trucking company but also a customer, since the Walker operations contract trucking services from Rene Blain.

For his part, Darryl says the quality and variety of the products offered by the quarries are two reasons he remains a steady customer. But he also points to his excellent working relationship with Ryan. "I don't know how one guy gets so much done."

Still in his thirties, Darryl has many years of work left in the company before it might pass on to the next generation. In the meantime, he's focused on remaining competitive in the marketplace and continuing to be more efficient than anyone else.

In Memoriam – Willy Holden

Walker Aggregates extends its sincere condolences to the family and friends of Willy Holden, a long-time employee of the company's McGregor Quarry, who passed away on May 26, 2014, at the age of 58 after a six-year battle with cancer. Willy held various jobs at both the Amherstburg Quarry and the McGregor Quarry over more than 20 years, most recently as a loader operator. He leaves behind his wife Liz, children Sue, William, and Chris, as well as grandchildren Billy, Timmy and Mitchell.



Loading Trucks and Building Cabinets

After 28 years of working at the McGregor Quarry, Brian Beaudoin likes his job more than ever. The plant chair of Unifor 1959 says his work as a loader operator is “a lot of fun,” and is enjoying working for the Walker Industries family business. “We were all worried,” he says of the ownership change of the quarry two years ago. “But it’s a good thing. The management listens and tries to make us happy.”

Brian says the employees also enjoy the social part of being a part of the Walker team, including community barbecues, golf tournaments and other activities. Personally, he appreciates that his loader was installed with a CB radio a few weeks ago, so he can chat with the drivers that come to the quarry, while he’s loading their trucks.

Brian works from 6:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. every weekday and a half day on Saturdays. On an average day he loads up to 150 trucks, with each 42-tonne trailer taking three buckets full of stone. He lives near the quarry, a couple of kilometres away on the 6th Concession, and rides his



Brian Beaudoin in his woodworking shop.

bike back and forth to work during good weather.

In his spare time, Brian builds cabinets in his garage. He began this woodworking hobby 32 years ago, when he built his own house, and has been doing custom projects for friends ever since – everything from kitchens to bookcases, bars and fireplace surrounds. He credits his wife Laura, for contributing to much of the

household upkeep, which allows him to spend time in his shop. “I’m very fortunate,” he says. “I couldn’t do my job and my woodworking without her.”

Brian plans to retire from the quarry in just over four years, when he turns 60. But he won’t stop working. He plans on becoming an entrepreneur and turning his woodworking hobby into a real business.



**Where the
Rock Goes**

Windsor Fire Station Construction

Approximately 2,000 tonnes of aggregate, clear stone and various sizes of granular from the McGregor Quarry are being used for the construction of the foundation and road works at the Windsor Fire Hall #2 on Milloy Street at Chandler Road.

The site work is being performed by Mark G Contracting, a long-time customer of the McGregor Quarry. This essential public works project will help ensure the continued safety of area residents.



Walker Aggregates Wins Industry Awards

Several of Walker Aggregates' pits and quarries received prestigious awards from the Ontario Stone, Sand & Gravel Association (OSSGA) at the association's annual meeting in Ottawa in February.

The Severn Quarry in Severn Township was recognized with an Environmental Achievement Award for its work to reduce carbon emissions and dust. The Severn Quarry also received a Community Relations Award, as did Walker's Duntroon Quarry in Duntroon, Ontario; Vineland Quarries in Vineland; and Walker Brothers Quarries in Niagara Falls.

The Community Relations Award recognizes good neighbourly activities, community involvement, media relations, education and awareness.

"We pride ourselves on being a good neighbour and environmentally responsible," says Frank Kielbowich, operations manager for Walker Aggregates. "This award is a display of the outstanding teamwork by our workforce, who are proud of what they do and how they can make it better all around."

The judging panel for the Community Relations Award included representatives from the Coalition on the Niagara Escarpment, Ducks Unlimited, the Cornerstone Standards Council, associate members of the OSSGA representing professional consulting firms and the mayor of the Township of Puslinch.

Walker's Anten Mills Pit in Minesing, Ontario, and its Edgar Pit in Oro-Medonte Township received awards for Progressive Rehabilitation. In Anten Mills the site is gradually being returned to a natural stage with native seed planting to support numerous



Walker Aggregates' operations manager Frank Kielbowich (left) accepts a Community Relations Award from James Gordon, secretary of the OSSGA and chair of the Awards Committee.

animal habitats. At the Edgar Pit, work is ongoing to ultimately create a central pond, surrounded by wetland vegetation.

"We're extremely gratified to be recognized by our industry for best practices at our pits and quarries," says Walker Aggregates executive vice-president Ken Lucyshyn. "Next year we will be submitting applications for awards for our McGregor and Amherstburg quarries as well."



A Proud Moment for Shirley!

Walker Aggregates congratulates Kevin Rempel, son of Vineland Quarries scalehouse operator Shirley Rempel, on winning a bronze medal as a member of the Canadian Sledge Hockey team at the 2014 Sochi Winter Paralympics.

Shirley (far right) proudly poses with Kevin, her mother G.G. Spiece and daughter Rebecca, who all travelled to Sochi to cheer Kevin on.



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