

McGregor and Amherstburg Quarries Update

Stripping and removal of overburden in the McGregor Quarry expansion area, north of the existing quarry, has resumed this spring, with extraction scheduled to begin in the expansion area this year.

Meanwhile, production started in the existing quarry in early April with production slated to begin in the Amherstburg Quarry in May.

The area manager of the two quarries, Ryan Wall, says Walker Aggregates has leased part of its property – at the intersection of Howard Avenue and North Side Road – to the County of Essex, to create a new Public Works yard. This will be a west end depot for the county for the storage of equipment, road sand and salt, and other materials used by the Public Works Department.

As part of the arrangement, a traffic light will be installed at the entrance to the quarry as a safety measure for vehicular traffic on Howard Avenue.

Two new cone crushers have been purchased for the McGregor Quarry. One will be fixed and wired into the main processing plant, while the other will be a portable crusher.

Having the two new crushers will allow for more material to be produced, and provide better crushing capability and stone quality. The former fixed cone crusher was approaching the end of its lifespan and was no longer operating efficiently.

Photos at top right: Two new cone crushers have been purchased for the McGregor Quarry, one which will be attached to the fixed processing plant (above), as well as a portable crusher (below).



A \$50,000 Gift to Windsor-Essex

The Walker family and Walker Industries Holdings Limited have committed to a donation of \$50,000 in 2016 to help provide families in Windsor-Essex with safe, decent and affordable homes.

The gift is part of a \$200,000 donation over this year and next to four affiliates of Habitat for Humanity in Ontario – in Windsor-Essex, Niagara, South Georgian Bay and Halton. These are among the regions in Ontario where Walker's operations are located. The company operates two stone quarries in Amherstburg.

"The Walker family, the company and its employees are committed to making a difference in the communities where we do business," says Sheila (Walker) Bonapace, one of the Walker Industries' shareholders. "We continually look to find ways to improve the social and environmental conditions in these communities, and are so pleased to support Habitat for Humanity in helping families in need to purchase their own homes."

Habitat homes are built with contributions of building materials, goods and volunteer labour from businesses, along with financial donations from individuals, groups and corporations. The Habitat for Humanity model ensures that low-income families own their homes and no longer rely on social housing subsidies.

CUSTOMER PROFILE

Melvin Orr Trucking – Specializing in Landscape Supplies



Terry Orr with his nine-foot inukshuk in front of the Tecumseh Arena.

Trucking is a family affair for Terry Orr, who took over his dad's Melvin Orr Trucking company in 1999. Melvin had assumed the trucking business of his own father in 1954. Terry's grandfather, Clayton Orr, had made a living hauling gravel and vegetables in his single-axle truck starting in the late 1930s.

Terry's own four children have also been involved in the family business. Dillon, Wesley, Erin and Melanie have all spent summers working in the company's yard and office, with the elder three using their incomes to help pay for their current university educations. Wesley has an interest in being the fourth generation owner of the company when Terry retires.

Terry has been working in the family business since he was 12 years old – at first piling, sorting and cleaning foundry sand. He says it was an easy decision to make a career in the business.

"I like the job and the people I work with," he says. "It's fun and I don't know if I could work for anyone else."

Based in Tecumseh, Melvin Orr Trucking has seven trucks, seven full-time

employees and up to five part-time drivers and yard workers during busy periods. The company hauls stone, rocks, sand, mulch and landscape materials for contractors and homeowners. While some of the material is delivered to job sites by the truck load, individual homeowners can come to the company's yard to purchase as little as a single rock or bag of screenings for a landscape project.

Much of the aggregate sold by Melvin Orr Trucking comes from the McGregor or Amherstburg quarries. The company has a special interest in providing its customers with landscape materials – such as paving stones, decorative rocks, flag stones and rocks for retaining walls. Terry himself has a diploma in landscape horticulture from St. Clair College.

He constructed a nine-foot inukshuk – made from rocks from the McGregor Quarry – in front of the Tecumseh Town Hall prior to the start of the Vancouver Olympics, to celebrate the torch relay through the town on December 24, 2009. The inukshuk was later moved, and is now located in front of the Tecumseh Arena.



Kris McGuire

A New Sales Person for Essex

A new person has been hired to assist general manager Ryan Wall with the sale of products from the McGregor and Amherstburg quarries. He is Kris McGuire, who is from the Comber area, and who formerly worked in sales for Frito-Lay.

Kris admits there's a steep learning curve when it comes to making the transition from salty snacks to rocks and stones. "Everything is coming at me all at once," he says. "I really like it."

Kris heard about the sales job opening at Walker Aggregates from a friend, and decided to apply, anticipating opportunities within the company for career advancement.

"I heard a lot of good things about Walker, so it was an easy decision to make the job change." Over the coming weeks, Kris will be learning more about the company's products and visiting its customers in the Windsor-Essex area.

SAVE THE DATE!

The annual BBQ for friends and neighbours of the McGregor and Amherstburg quarries takes place this year on **Thursday, August 20, 2015** at 3 p.m.

It happens at the McGregor Quarry, 6781 North Side Road at Howard Avenue.

We hope to see you there!

EMPLOYEE PROFILE

Frank Penner started his career as a welder fabricator when he was just 15 years old. He followed in the footsteps of his father, who was a welder and machinist in Manitoba.

As was normal in the case of large families – there were seven children – Frank left home early, and began to embark on his career in Alberta.

He came to Ontario “for love” he says and married his wife Anna, who became a stay-at-home mom to their two sons and two daughters. The couple now have seven grandchildren with another on the way.

“I’ve always loved being a welder,” Frank says. He designs and builds a lot of things at the McGregor Quarry, including such equipment as conveyors and screen frames for the crushing plant. He also installs the equipment that he builds in the quarry shop.

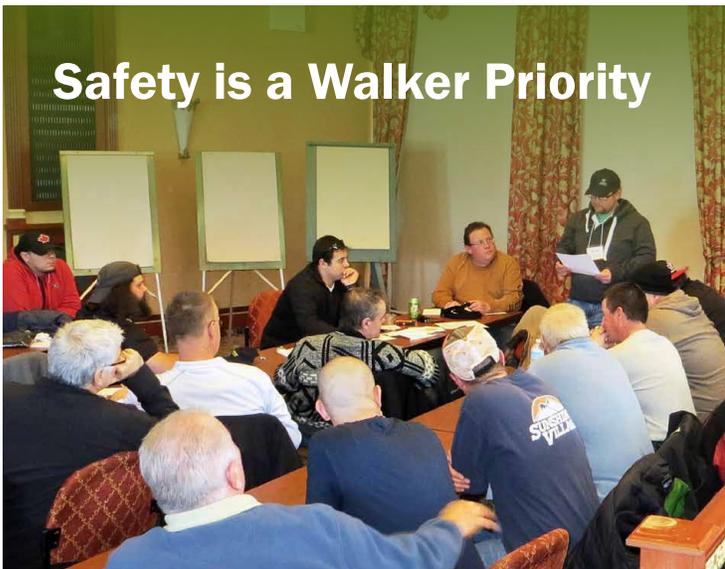
In his spare time, Frank enjoys fishing and golf, and sightseeing road trips with Anna. He also builds and flies remote control airplanes. He has five in total, which he flies near his home in Leamington.

A Flair for Design and Build – at Work and at Home



Frank Penner at home with his remote control airplanes.

Safety is a Walker Priority



The approximately 200 employees of Walker Aggregates came together in Orillia in February for two days of lectures and workshops focusing on safety. The featured guest speaker was Paul Kells, founder of Safe Communities Canada, whose 19-year-old son died in a workplace accident in 1994.

Atlas Tube Centre in Lakeshore

Where the Rock Goes



More than 10,000 tonnes of stone from the McGregor Quarry was used in the site servicing, foundation, roadways and parking lot of Phase I of the new Atlas Tube Centre.

An Industry Achievement Award

The McGregor Quarry has won a Community Relations Award from the Ontario Stone, Sand & Gravel Association (OSSGA). The award recognizes good neighbourly activities, community involvement, media relations, education and industry awareness.

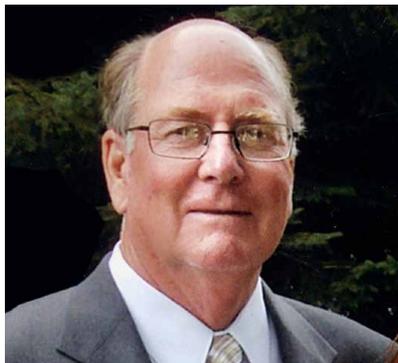
The McGregor Quarry was recognized for community relations – such as hosting picnics, tours and educational initiatives – support for local organizations, efforts to reduce noise and dust, and regular communications through the BorderStones newsletter.

The awards review panel was comprised of judges including representatives of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, Ducks Unlimited, associate members of the OSSGA and Mayor Dennis Lever of Puslinch Township.



McGregor Quarry area manager Ryan Wall (left) receives the OSSGA Community Relations Award from association president James Gordon.

In Memory of Long-time Employees Ron Plewman and Gene Fortin



Ron Plewman

It is with great sadness that the employees of Walker Aggregates learned of the passing of Ron Plewman in November 2014 at the age of 68.

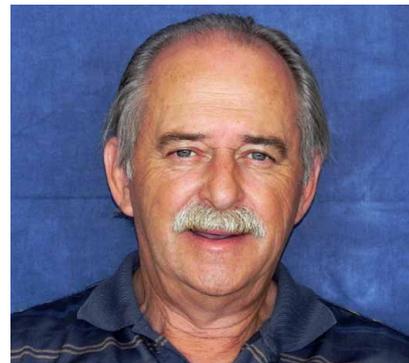
Ron was a long-time employee of Walker Industries, having served as production supervisor, operations manager, and then vice-president of all of Walker's operations from 1976 to 1999.

A former resident of St. Catharines, he moved to Meaford, Ontario, after his retirement. Ron continued to work for Walker Aggregates as a consultant on special projects and overseeing the operations of the Clarksburg Pit, near Collingwood.

"He was a leader and an inspiration," notes Aggregates executive vice-president Ken Lucyshyn, who says Ron was a personal mentor to him.

"He was a very gentle man, with a lot of integrity, who had a great deal of respect within the industry. He was a tremendous influence on the people he worked with here at Walker, and we will miss him deeply."

Ron leaves behind his devoted wife Connie, and daughters Dayna and Sharlene and their families.



Gene Fortin

A 35-year employee of Walker Industries, Gene Fortin, passed away suddenly in March 2015. Gene Fortin began his career at Norjohn Contracting and Paving as a heavy equipment mechanic.

He held his most recent position as equipment manager for the Walker Aggregates and Construction Group for more than 20 years.

"For those of us who knew Gene, we know he was a committed family man who was always ready with a laugh, extremely fun-loving and so lovable," says Walker vice-president Ken Lucyshyn.

"He was also like family to many employees at Walker Industries. He will be sorely missed for so many reasons, especially the loyalty and dedication he showed to our company."

Gene was based at Walker's head office in Thorold and lived in Niagara Falls.

He leaves behind his loving wife Larisa, daughter Ashton and step-son Timour.



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