

Please Join Us for Our

## HOLIDAY PLC WINE AND CHEESE RECEPTION

Tuesday, November 17, 2015

6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Stone Gate Inn  
437 Lacie Street  
Orillia

**RSVP** before November 12  
to Rosemary Ackermann  
705-445-2300 ext. 4223  
rackermann@walkerind.com

## Quarry and Pits Update

It's been a busy season for the Severn Quarry with much of the stone being shipped for infrastructure projects in Simcoe and the GTA. According to superintendent Roger McGillvray, the longer winter this year meant that the construction season began much later, and activity was more intense once things got underway. He also notes that now that the current phase of the Highway 407 extension has been completed, more trucks have been available to move stone from the quarry. The Severn Quarry production plant is scheduled to shut down for the season on December 11, 2015.

Both the Anten Mills and Edgar pits have been steady with production and shipping this season.

Edgar sand and stone have primarily been used in precast concrete, while at Anten Mills, municipalities have been ordering sand to stockpile for road maintenance for the coming winter season.

Also at Anten Mills, the whip-poor-will habitat project is progressing well. Nearly half of the five hectares of habitat to be created at the eastern end of the pit were seeded with native grasses during the spring, and the vegetation is taking hold. "We're very happy with the project," says superintendent Ryan Dosch.



Native grasses are being grown at the eastern end of the Anten Mills Pit to create habitat for whip-poor-wills.

## Protecting American Ginseng

In an area of forest near the Edgar Pit, a small number of American Ginseng plants have been getting special attention from ecologists doing work for Walker Aggregates. That's because the plants are listed as endangered under Ontario's Endangered Species Act.

Although the act came into effect in 2007, Walker has been protecting and monitoring the plants since 1998 as a condition of its licence for the pit.

"We monitor the ginseng plants every year and prepare a report for the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry," says Heather Melcher, a senior ecologist with the consulting firm Golder Associates. This

includes counting the number of plants and reporting on their size and health.

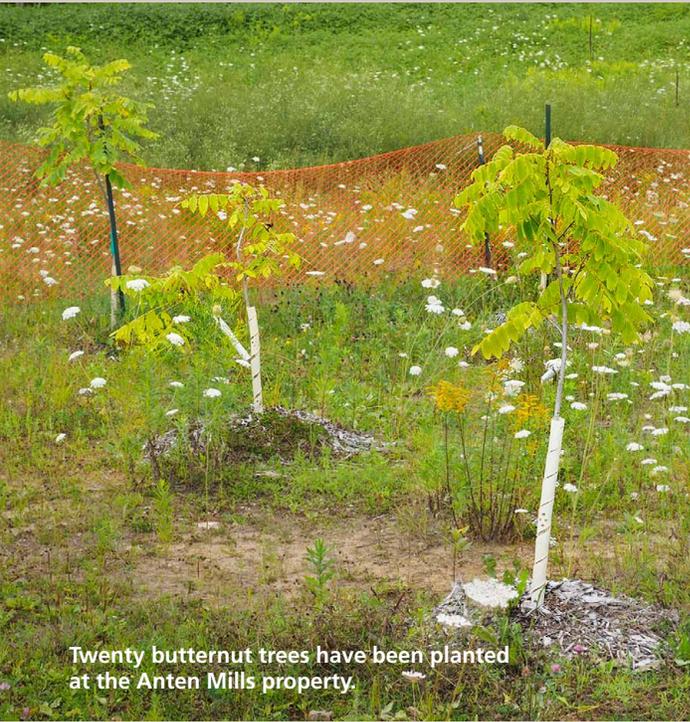
Heather says the number of plants varies from year to year, ranging from as many as 35 to as few as nine. "There's a natural fluctuation in the population size," Heather says. "This plant is known to go into decline and then come back."

American Ginseng can be found in moist soil in dense woods, usually over limestone or marble bedrock. The plants grow up to 60 centimetres tall with a cluster of bright red berries atop a single stem.

The Endangered Species Act specifies that not only must wildlife considered



threatened or endangered be protected, but its habitat must also be protected. More than 200 species of plants, animals, birds, fish and reptiles are considered to be at risk of disappearing from Ontario.



Twenty butternut trees have been planted at the Anten Mills property.

## A Hopeful Future for Butternut Trees

A single, small butternut tree in the future extraction area of the Anten Mills Pit has resulted in 20 new butternuts being planted in another area of the Walker Aggregates property. Peter DeVillers, a forest management consultant who works for Walker, explains that endangered butternuts can be removed with approval from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF). However, three butternut trees must be planted for each one taken out. Attempts were made to transplant the lone butternut in the extraction area, but this was unsuccessful.

Not all of the 20 new trees are expected to survive. Peter says he is hoping for an 80 per cent survival rate, which is considered good for most plantations. Within 20 to 30 years, the butternuts are expected to produce seeds for the establishment of future trees in the area.

“We usually put the trees in a plantation setting, close together, so they are forced to grow upwards,” he says, noting they can be thinned out at a future date.

The new trees are all DNA certified to ensure they are native species.

Peter checks on the progress of the trees – monitoring their health, taking photos and measuring their height – at least four times during the year, and reports annually to the MNRF.

## CUSTOMER PROFILE

### Brock Aggregates – A Customer and Competitor

Sometimes the customers of Walker Aggregates are also its competitors. That's the case with Brock Aggregates, one of the G&L Group of companies, based in Concord, Ontario.

Brock Aggregates has six of its own gravel pits in Sunderland, Tottenham, Flesherton, Maxwell, Peterborough and Stouffville. But the company also buys products from other aggregate companies to supply to its customers. Walker Aggregates is one of those companies.

Brock Aggregates routinely purchases sand, stone and gravel from Walker's Severn Quarry, and its Edgar and Anten Mills pits.

Marketing manager Stephanie Moore says her company's reliance on Walker for some of its aggregates needs “is a huge part of our business. They're an important supplier and we have a great relationship.”

Like Walker, Brock is a family-owned company. It has experienced steady

growth over more than three decades, and is now a leading supplier of aggregate to projects across Southern Ontario.

This includes the aggregate being used in the site preparation of the Friday Harbour resort living community being built at Big Bay Point on Lake Simcoe.

“Brock Aggregates and Walker Aggregates have had a strong relationship since the beginning of our company,” Stephanie says. “We really work well together.”



Brock Aggregates is a leading supplier of stone products.

## Family Is What It's All About

Whether it's at home or at work, Jason Collee is all about family. When talking to Jason, it's instantly clear how much pride he takes in both the Collee and Walker Industries families. He started working at Severn Quarry just over three years ago, shortly after his wife Karilyn gave birth to their little girl, Mackenzie. He is currently employed as a plant tower operator, ensuring that the computer system controlling the secondary side of the plant runs smoothly. "So much is automated now," said Jason, and that makes his job an incredibly important one.

The majority of Jason's spare time goes to his family, but he also plays baseball in the Gravenhurst Men's Slow-Pitch League. Yet that doesn't stop him from spending time with the Severn Quarry team as well. When describing his friends and coworkers at Walker, Jason sees them as family. "It doesn't take long to mesh with everyone here," he said. "People are incredibly friendly, and it's a close-knit group."

Jason has also been on the quarry's Health and Safety Committee for around two years, and just last year he won an award through the Ontario Stone, Sand and Gravel Association, recognizing his contributions and the new ideas he has



### EMPLOYEE PROFILE

Jason Collee with his wife Karilyn and daughter Mackenzie in the backyard of their family home.

implemented while on the committee. When asked what he likes most about working at the Severn Quarry, Jason laughs. "Definitely not the dust," he jokes. Originally from Niagara Falls, Jason says

that he and his family love being up north, and that was a big draw for him to work at Severn. In their spare time, the Collee family loves to go camping and enjoy the scenic northern outdoors.



Murray Arcaro

## New Equipment Manager

Murray Arcaro is the new equipment manager for Walker Industries. He started his career as a truck, coach and heavy equipment mechanic at the Duntroon Quarry and is now responsible for the purchasing, repair and maintenance of heavy equipment at all Walker Industry sites.

## Agricultural Lime Applications

## Where the Rock Goes

Tupling Farms of Melancthon Township is one of the largest customers of the Severn Quarry for agricultural lime. The operation uses more than 900 metric tonnes of lime each year to prepare its 1,600 acres of potato fields for planting. The lime is used as a natural soil supplement. The Severn Quarry sells more than 6,000 metric tonnes of agricultural lime for farm use each year.



# Severn Quarry Summer BBQ and Quarry Tour 2015



**Severn Quarry**  
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Orillia, ON L3V 6H3  
705 689 6800

[www.walkerind.com](http://www.walkerind.com)

**Edgar Pit**  
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Oro Station, ON L0L 2E0  
705 487 2380

**Anten Mills Pit**  
4436 Horseshoe Valley Rd. W.  
Minesing, ON L0L 1Y0  
705 726 6597

## QUARRY MANAGEMENT

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