

McGregor & Amherstburg Quarries Update

A new office is being constructed for the operations of McGregor and Amherstburg quarries, with completion expected by the end of the year. The main office was formerly located at Amherstburg Quarry and dates back several decades. With most extraction

and processing now done from McGregor Quarry, a new office is needed at this location. The existing McGregor office, located on the North Side Road off Concession 6 North, was built in the 1970s and does not have the required facilities or space. In fact, the quarry's administrative support staff are now working out of a trailer at the opposite end of the quarry – off the North Side Road near Howard Avenue.

A new office is being built for McGregor and Amherstburg quarries.



The new office will take up approximately 2,200 square feet of space and house all office employees, along with the necessary IT infrastructure and meeting space. It will be located at the east side of the quarry near Howard Avenue. An application for a site plan

amendment is now before the Ministry of Natural Resources for a new entrance to the office directly off Howard Avenue. This will result in increased safety of the site since small vehicles will use the office entrance, while the large trucks use the main entrance near the scales.

In other news, trees that had been planted on the berm along Howard Avenue – and did not survive the elements over the past year – are being replaced this fall. The berm along the north side of the quarry expansion area has been sculpted and seeded, with tree planting scheduled for next spring.

This season has been a busy one for McGregor Quarry, with an increase in economic activity in the Windsor area, and new housing and municipal infrastructure projects underway. Quarry staff have been working extra-long shifts since February.



The berm along the north side of the quarry expansion area has been sculpted and seeded.

A rock loader attachment to a front-end loader has been purchased for McGregor Quarry.



With the increased demand for armour stone over the past couple of years, a new piece of equipment has been purchased to lift the huge rocks onto flat bed trailers. The fork-claw device attaches to a front-end loader. Until recently, front-end loader buckets were used to lift and place the stones. This resulted in loose material also being scooped up and a very rough placement of the rocks onto the trailers. The new method has decreased loading times for customers and allows the operator to gently place the rocks on the flatbed, thus reducing the chances of damage from the large rocks.

Lights, Camera, Action at Amherstburg Quarry

A film crew was on location at Amherstburg Quarry over two days in September to shoot scenes for an upcoming short film. Titled "The Quick and Dirty," the film is described as "a crime thriller in the vein of the old Steve McQueen classics – smokey bars, double crossing and, of course, muscle cars." It is being produced by Windsor-based Suede Productions, which has also developed television shows for the National Geographic channel and the Food Network channel in the U.S.



CUSTOMER PROFILE

Keeping Shoreline Erosion at Bay

With major bodies of water surrounding most of Essex County and extremely high water levels on the Great Lakes this year, it's no wonder that a local company providing shoreline protection has had a booming construction season.

"We've been crazy busy, with two crews working 11 to 12-hour days," says Butch Mitchell, owner of Cobby Marine in Kingsville. His company was established in 1985 and specializes in constructing stone and steel walls along the shorelines of Lake Ontario and Lake St. Clair, as well as the Detroit River. It also builds custom docks and installs boat lifts.

About 90 per cent of Cobby Marine's business is protecting the shorelines of home and cottage owners, and large armour stones are usually brought to the properties on one of the company's two tugboats and barges.

The stone comes from McGregor and Amherstburg quarries in Essex County. Butch says he typically uses between 4,000 to 6,000 tonnes of rock from the quarry each year for both armour stone walls and to reinforce steel walls, but is on track

to double that amount this year. "We've been hauling rock out of the quarries constantly on four different flatbed trucks," he says.

The construction of walls to provide shoreline protection is very costly but necessary, he says. Break walls don't last forever, and old cement and steel walls will eventually deteriorate. If homeowners don't do regular maintenance – such as topping off the armour stone – erosion will occur and could result in a loss of their property.

Were it not for McGregor and Amherstburg quarries, the expense of building new walls and maintaining existing ones would be much higher, Butch notes, explaining that the stone would need to be trucked in from a great distance, with the closest other quarries being outside of the GTA.



Cobby Marine crane operator Ron Wright offloads armour stone from a barge and places it along the shoreline of a homeowner near Oxley.



Shoreline Protection at Point Pelee National Park

Approximately 9,000 tonnes of armour stone from McGregor Quarry was used this summer to protect the shoreline from erosion at Point Pelee National Park.

Summer Community Barbeque 2017



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