

## Quarry and Pits Update

Walker Aggregates' Severn Quarry is finishing up the construction season, producing and shipping approximately the same amount of aggregate as last year, but with different materials. "We've shipped more granular products – normally used in road base construction – this year, compared to last year when we shipped more stone used to manufacture concrete and asphalt," says quarry superintendent Roger McGillvray.

The last day of scheduled crushing for the season is scheduled for December 15, 2017 with the site closed on December 22 until after the new year.

Over at Walker's Simcoe pits, the final phase of rehabilitation in the southwest corner of Edgar Pit is nearing completion. The slope has been sculpted with seeding scheduled for the spring.

The Walker Aggregates team was pleased to meet neighbours of its newly acquired



The final phase of rehabilitation in the southwest corner of Edgar Pit is nearing completion.

Orillia pits during a BBQ last July at Pit 7, with many neighbours dropping by from Big Cedar Estates (see photos on page 2). Since purchasing the pits earlier this year, Walker's sales and management employees have been familiarizing themselves with the markets and operations of these three pits.



## Where the Stone Goes



## Construction of New Military Heritage Park

Some 550 tonnes of armour stone from Severn Quarry has been used as part of the construction of the new Military Heritage Park on Lakeshore Road in Barrie. The armour stone has been placed along the park's Kempenfelt Bay shoreline to protect against erosion.



Neighbours and friends of Severn Quarry and the Simcoe pits are invited to join us for our

## Holiday PLC Wine & Cheese RECEPTION

Thursday, November 30, 2017

6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

at the

Stone Gate Inn

437 Laclie Street, Orillia

RSVP before November 27  
to Rosemary Ackermann  
705-445-2300 ext. 4223  
rackermann@walkerind.com



## CUSTOMER PROFILE

# Plenty of Opportunities for B & J Contracting



A work crew from B & J Contracting has been doing major work on a section of Seventh and Eighth streets in Collingwood, replacing sewer and water lines, and reconstructing roads, curbs and sidewalks.

The explosion in housing construction – primarily in the Collingwood and Blue Mountain areas, but also throughout other parts of Simcoe County – has kept the company's approximately 50 employees busy all year round.

Five separate B & J Contracting crews do all the preliminary work on each development site – from the very start of clearing the land until the homes start going up.

The company sources virtually all of its stone from Walker Aggregates' Duntroon and Severn quarries – everything from limestone fill to level out housing sites, to gravel for road base construction

and to place in trenches where sewer and water pipes are laid.

B & J Contracting has a problem that most business owners would love to have. The company is so busy that it's unable to handle all the project opportunities that come along.

"It's been a really good three to five years," says Dean Prior, the company's general manager.

Based out of New Lowell, B & J Contracting specializes in excavating, water and sewer

installations, and road works. It has been in operation for 20 years, mostly working in Simcoe County, but also taking on projects in Grey County and Muskoka.

About 75 per cent of the company's work is for private companies, usually new housing developments. The rest involves projects for municipalities, installing new or replacing old water and sewer mains, and reconstructing the roads on top of them.

Dean says one of the biggest challenges the company is facing these days relates to the workforce. B & J Contracting is always looking to bring on new employees. "We're looking for anybody with drive and passion, who is willing to work long hours and show up every day in all kinds of weather," he says.

## Orillia Pits Summer BBQ 2017



# Sarah is Working in a Man's World

## EMPLOYEE PROFILE

It's not all that typical for women to be employed in the aggregate industry, and especially not to come to work in a hard hat, safety vest and steel-toed boots. The few female employees who are employed at pits and quarries are usually found behind a desk in an office, or working in the scale house weighing trucks that come and go.

Sarah Nicoll is different. As the quality control lead for Walker Aggregates in Simcoe County, she works hands on in all of the company's local pits and quarries, as well as on job sites where the sand and stone goes. It's her job to ensure the products being produced meet customers' specifications and that those customers are happy with the performance of the materials once they arrive on the job site. If there is an issue, Sarah is the person the customers call. "I'm the complaints department," she says with a chuckle. Sarah troubleshoots any problems that might arise with aggregate materials on construction sites, and works with the pits and quarry staff and the customers to resolve them.

"I really like it," Sarah says of her job. "The guys are pretty easy to work with, once you get to know them."

Sarah's attraction to the aggregate industry came naturally. Both of her parents had worked in the business; her father drove a gravel truck and her mother was a scale house operator.

Sarah herself has 17 years of experience in sand, stone and gravel. She's been with Walker Aggregates for the past decade as a quality control technician and was recently promoted to lead. She spent seven years before that with another aggregate company in various capacities involving quality control, general labour work and helping with equipment maintenance.



Sarah Nicoll with her fiancé Wes Lawler and their 10-year-old Boxer dog Kilo at home in Dundalk.

She is engaged to be married next summer to another Walker Aggregates employee – Wes Lawler, a mechanic at Duntroon Quarry. Wes has four children from a previous marriage, two boys aged 15 and 10, and nine-year-old twin girls, so Sarah will be marrying into an instant family. "I completely skipped over the baby years," she says. She and Wes live together in Dundalk, along with the children part of the time.

In their spare time, Sarah, Wes and the kids enjoy outdoor activities – including camping, fishing, baseball and golf – and watching the oldest child play hockey during the winter months.

## Lights, Camera & Action



Two of Walker Aggregates' quarries were the location of movie shoots over the past few months. Ridgemount Quarry in Fort Erie (pictured above) doubled as the Afghanistan countryside this past summer for a documentary called "I AM WAR," that recently aired on the History Channel. In September the company's Amherstburg Quarry near Windsor was the site of scenes shot for a short action film.

## Where the Stone Goes



## Barrie Intersection Reconstruction

Approximately 25,000 tonnes of stone from Walker's Edgar and Orillia pits is being used to reconstruct and widen the Dunlop Street West and Tiffin Street/Miller Drive intersection in Barrie. The project also includes installing a new water main and sanitary sewer, new culverts and ditches, and road surfacing.

# Severn Quarry Summer BBQ and Quarry Tour 2017



**Severn Quarry**  
 2646 Nichols Line  
 Orillia, ON L3V 6H3  
 705 689 6800  
[www.walkerind.com](http://www.walkerind.com)

**Edgar Pit, 1540 Line 7 North, RR #2, Oro Station, ON L0L 2E0**  
**Anten Mills Pit, 4436 Horseshoe Valley Rd. W., Minesing, ON L0L 1Y0**  
**Pit 5, 1267 Line 13 N., Oro-Medonte, ON L0L 1T0**  
**Pit 7, 1533 Line 12 N., Oro-Medonte, ON L0L 1T0**  
**Pit 48, 4364 Uthoff Line, Orillia, ON L3V 6H2**

## QUARRY MANAGEMENT

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