

BORDERSTONES

A newsletter for the neighbours of McGregor & Amherstburg Quarries



walker
aggregates

Spring/Summer 2018

MCGREGOR QUARRY UPDATE

It's been a busy start to the year for McGregor Quarry, with plenty of changes happening. The new office was completed — with the quarry employees moving in after the Christmas holidays — and new equipment installed in the quarry itself.

A 250-foot concrete surge pile tunnel was brought into the quarry over the winter. Stone that leaves the primary crusher is piled over the tunnel and fed down through two drop-point feeders onto a conveyor belt that travels to the secondary plant. The inside of the tunnel is 12 feet square, replacing the previous tunnel that was about half that size.

This new tunnel allows for a much greater inventory of stone to be piled on top, so that both the primary and secondary plant can run at different times. Previously, all crushing needed to stop when there were problems at the primary plant, because there were limits to the amount of stone that could be stockpiled to run the secondary plant. Also, the entire operation needed to stop running if there was a problem with the secondary plant, since there was only so much stone that could be produced and piled from the primary plant.

The new tunnel system is more efficient, allows increased flexibility for repairs and uses the equipment more effectively. It also increases the safety for workers who have more space to maintain and repair the conveyor system inside the tunnel.

The crushing operations themselves were also upgraded over the winter, including installing new conveyors, catwalks and guarding to improve the plant, decrease the energy use and improve overall



▲ Stone from the quarry's primary crusher is piled over the new tunnel (pictured above), and fed onto a conveyor belt to travel through and out of the tunnel on its way to the secondary plant. The tunnel exit is pictured at left.

safety. A new shipping loader and excavator will soon complement the other machinery at the quarry.

There have been some personnel changes at McGregor as well. Former general manager Ryan Wall is now the vice-president of Walker Aggregates for Essex and Simcoe counties, Bob Haroutunian has been promoted to McGregor operations manager and Kris McGuire to sales manager. New faces include trainee production supervisor Amanda Little, sales representative Taylor Pontini and office administrator Tammy Reame.

"We're expecting to have a good year," says Ryan, noting that demand for stone from the quarry will be strong with various commercial, industrial

and residential construction projects happening in Windsor and throughout Essex County.

▼ Bob Haroutunian is now the operations manager.



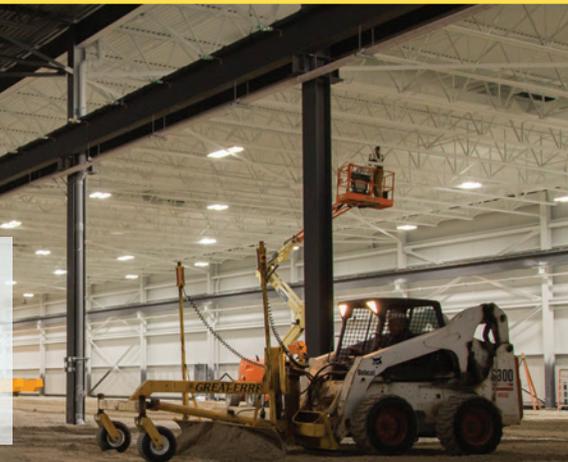
▼ Kris McGuire has been promoted to sales manager.



WHERE THE STONE GOES

CentreLine Plant Extension

Approximately 20,000 tonnes of stone from McGregor Quarry is being used to construct an expansion of CentreLine (Windsor) Limited's manufacturing plant on Morton Drive.



An Award of Excellence

McGregor Quarry is one of only three active quarries in Ontario to have received a prestigious Award of Excellence this year from the Ontario Stone, Sand & Gravel Association (OSSGA). This award is the highest honour an active site can achieve, and according to the OSSGA, includes aggregate producers "that go above and beyond industry standards." Award winners must have already earned awards for progressive rehabilitation, community relations and property enhancement. Walker Brothers Quarries in Niagara Falls also received an Award of Excellence, presented at the OSSGA's annual conference in Huntsville last February.

A QUARRY WORKER AT HOME IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Justin Garneau has the kind of outgoing and enthusiastic personality that would make him a great game show contestant. In fact, less than two years ago he was a participant on the popular “The Price is Right” television show with Drew Carey.

Prior to a planned trip to California, Justin’s then girlfriend booked the couple to attend some show tapings, and once in Los Angeles, The Price is Right producers decided he had what it took to ‘Come on Down’ and try his luck on stage.

Justin ended up forfeiting his prize — a home entertainment system. “By the time I paid the tax, duty and shipping back to Canada, it wasn’t worth it,” he explains. Nonetheless, he says he enjoyed the experience.

Justin runs the primary crushing plant at McGregor Quarry. He’s a fairly new employee of Walker Aggregates, having been with the company just under a year.

His early job experience was as a full-time Navy reserve ironworker on maritime coastal defence vessels. He was posted on ships in Windsor, Nova

Scotia, Quebec and British Columbia. After deciding he’d had enough of being around water, Justin performed ironwork on the Herb Gray Parkway, and then enrolled in trade school and took an apprenticeship as a heavy equipment operator.

Justin spent two years working in construction in the Barrie area, and then decided he wanted to return home to the Windsor area to be close to family and friends. After first working on a part-time basis he was hired full time at McGregor Quarry.

“This is a great company to work for,” he says of Walker Aggregates. “Everyone is easy to work with and the guys are the pick of the litter. In most companies there are usually a couple of slackers, but that’s not the case here.”

Justin’s enjoyment of the spotlight extends to his recreational activities. He sings at ‘open mike’ events in Windsor area bars, and performs in a small band at his church on Sundays.

His other interests include target shooting — he is the range officer at a local gun club — and frequent travels across North and Central America.



▲ Justin Garneau is part of a musical group that performs at his church on Sundays.

SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR SUMMER BBQ! Thursday, July 19, 2018 at 3:30 p.m.

Friends and neighbours of McGregor and Amherstburg Quarries are invited to our annual summer BBQ.

Please join us at McGregor Quarry, 6781 North Side Road, Amherstburg.

We hope to see you there!

CUSTOMER PROFILE



▲ Florent and Guylaine Creve, along with son Skyler, in the Talbot Trail garden supply yard in Wheatley.

YOUNG ROMANCE LEADS TO A THRIVING BUSINESS

The origins of the Talbot Trail garden supply centre began back in the mid 1970s, when a young girl from the small community of Lac-Saint-Jean in Quebec first travelled to Leamington with her family to pick tomatoes during the harvest season. Guylaine was 16 when she first met 12-year-old Florent Creve, the young son of their employer,

Eleven years later, Guylaine and Florent married and within a few years purchased some land in Wheatley, along with Florent’s brother John, to start a garden centre. The three business owners built a greenhouse and sold bedding plants and garden supplies such as driveway stone, mulch and top soil. Eventually, the greenhouse operation was shut down and the sale of plants ended because that part of the business proved to be unprofitable.

Now, after 25 years in business, Talbot Trail supplies gravel, bulk mulch and top soil to homeowners and small businesses within

about a 30 kilometre radius of their business on Talbot Trail Road East. The company has five semi-trailer trucks and three dump trucks for transporting their supplies.

Talbot Trail purchases quite a lot of gravel from McGregor Quarry each year, either for delivery directly to their customers or storage at their yard for future sales.

“During busy times, we’re at the quarry sometimes three or four times a day,” Guylaine says. “We buy a lot of stone from Walker Aggregates.”

Florent and Guylaine have two sons, 28-year-old Skyler and 24-year-old Cody, who also work in the family business. Skyler is a licensed mechanic and millwright, while Cody is a licenced CNC machinist, and both also have truck licenses. In addition to making deliveries, their skills come in handy when it comes to repairing and maintaining the company’s machinery.



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