

STONE VIEWS

A newsletter for the neighbours of Duntroon Quarry



Spring/Summer 2018

DUNTROON QUARRY UPDATE

While Walker Aggregates continues to work with Clearview Township to secure a development permit from the Niagara Escarpment Commission to upgrade 26/27 Sideroad, there will be some road works happening around the quarry this year.

The 10th Concession from County Road 91 to just north of 26/27 Sideroad will be paved, with sight lines improved at the intersection.

Last fall, tree planting was started along County Road 31 north of 91 to provide screening of the quarry expansion from the roadway. Further plantings will occur later this year.

The report of 2017 environmental monitoring of the Duntroon Quarry expansion is now available on the Walker website for members of the public to review. The Adaptive Management Plan (AMP) summary report includes data on the monitoring of ground and surface water quantity and quality, as well as the monitoring of ecological features, such as the colony of American Hart's Tongue Fern on the quarry property.

Walker Aggregates has hired a new employee to conduct much of the ongoing environmental monitoring that's required during the operation of the quarry, instead of contracting the work out to a third party. Jake Kenny has joined the quarry team after previously working for Walker Environmental, another division of Walker Industries.



▲ An aerial view of the former Duntroon Quarry (right) and the expansion area across County Road 91.



▲ Ryan Wall

There is another personnel change at the quarry.

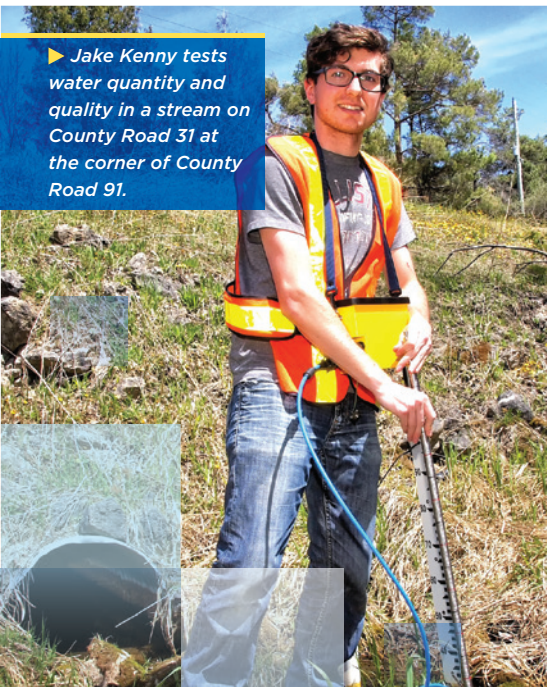
The former general manager for Walker's two quarries in Essex County near Windsor, Ryan Wall, is now the vice-president of Walker Aggregates for Essex

and Simcoe counties. Ryan reports to executive vice-president Ken Lucyshyn.

The team at Duntroon Quarry values its relationships with the local community and was once again pleased to receive a Community Relations Award from the Ontario Stone, Sand & Gravel Association at the association's annual meeting this past February.

The quarry employees wish to congratulate Walker Aggregates' sponsored Junior C hockey team, the Stayner Siskins, for its tremendous season, winning the Curruthers Division and advancing to the provincial playoffs for the first time in 14 years.

▶ Jake Kenny tests water quantity and quality in a stream on County Road 31 at the corner of County Road 91.



WHERE THE STONE GOES

Highway 10 Road Construction

Approximately 100,000 tonnes of stone from Duntroon Quarry is being used for a section of road construction on Highway 10, between Orangeville and Highway 89.



EMPLOYEE PROFILE

A BEE-AUTIFUL PART-TIME BUSINESS

One of the staff members at Duntroon Quarry actually has more than 3 million employees working for him. Those would be Grant Parsons's bees, which produce as much as 5,000 pounds of honey each year.

Grant has 38 boxes of bees placed in locations throughout Clearview Township, mostly on farmer's fields. Five of the hive boxes are on the quarry property, a location he says is one of his best, due to the abundance of wildflowers and trees that produce the necessary pollen.

The Duntroon Quarry boxes are actually sitting inside an old van, with holes punched through to allow the bees to come and go. During the first few years the boxes were kept out in the open "but then Winnie the Pooh showed up and that was the end of that," Grant says.

Grant has been a beekeeper for 15 years, and his "Out Back Hives Honey" is sold in local shops, to friends and to customers who call to place orders. His side business is mostly a hobby that keeps him occupied after his work shift ends, and on weekends during the spring through fall.

Grant does a variety of jobs at the quarry, but mostly he drives the company's water truck during warmer months. "I'm a glorified water boy," he jokes. His work involves spreading water on truck haul routes and service roads to keep dust at bay, as well as watering grass on the quarry property and the hundreds of trees planted around the expansion area.



▲ Grant Parsons with one of his beehives.

Until recently, Grant was a volunteer firefighter for Clearview Township. His work at Duntroon Quarry came as a result of fighting a house fire just east of the quarry property on County Road 91 back in 2006. "It was a bit of a lark," he recalls, "I went over and asked [office manager] Rosemary Ackermann if the quarry was hiring, she said 'yes' so I brought in my resume."

"Getting a job at the quarry is one of the best things that ever happened to me," Grant says. He was originally looking to get a job operating heavy equipment in the Toronto area, but now he's just a 12-minute drive to work from his house in Stayner. He's happy and so is his wife Judy, who'd been hoping he'd be able to find a good job close to home.

"I'm sitting in a very good spot," Grant says. "The company is great to work for, and the benefits are terrific. I will retire with Walker if they'll let me."

RESEARCH TO HELP FORESTS GROW FASTER

Some important ecological research is happening at Duntroon Quarry.

Last fall, a team of researchers from the University of Waterloo began a project to determine whether the process of establishing a mature, old-growth forest can happen more quickly than the time it takes for such a forest to naturally occur.

Some of the forested areas in the quarry's expansion area will be removed for mining, while other areas of the property have been planted with trees to replace the woodlands.

The researchers are scraping off the top layer of soil from the older forest and transplanting it to the newly treed areas, with the aim of dramatically reducing the time it takes to create a complete forest ecosystem.

The research is being conducted by a team led by research associate Dr. Paul Richardson, and professor Stephen Murphy of Waterloo's School of Environment, Resources and Sustainability. The \$750,000 funding for the project has come from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council and The Ontario Aggregate Resources Corporation.

"Walker Aggregates' contribution to the project is as valuable as the funding we've received," says Dr. Murphy, adding that in addition to offering a site for the project, the company is also providing logistical support.

Last November, the Waterloo team created 45 experimental plots that were covered with living mulch from the donor forest.

"Living mulch includes the upper layers of the forest floor — from the topmost litter and woody debris through to the topsoil, with its banks of seeds and forest plants, plus essential soil animals, microbes, nutrients and organic matter," explains Dr. Richardson.

Over the coming years, his team will monitor and analyze how the transplanted forests compare with the donor forests.

"Within two or three years we'll be able to see what's going on," says Dr. Murphy. "We're hoping to be able to speed up the process to create an old-growth forest from the normal 150 years, to 50 or 60 years."

Millar Homestead on the Move

The former home of Dalton and Marie Millar and their family, which had been used as the Duntroon Quarry office, was moved last fall to a lot beside son Eric's home on the 6th Line. The house is being readied for occupancy by Eric's son Chris.

In this photo, Marie and Chris pose by the house as it's being moved off the quarry property.



▲ A team of researchers from the University of Waterloo has been transplanting soil from an old forest to newly treed areas at Duntroon Quarry.

NEIGHBOUR PROFILE

ENJOYING LIFE ON THE FARM IN CLEARVIEW TOWNSHIP

Jeff and Bonnie Bruce were well aware of the Duntroon Quarry expansion just over a kilometre away when they purchased their property on the 10th Concession, south of Sideroad 26/27 five years ago. But they were undeterred, having suffered through a much more challenging situation at their previous home. The couple had been involved in a seven-year negotiation with Hydro One over the expropriation of their dairy farm in Grand Valley.

"It was a very stressful time and we had to pack up and leave after 18 years on that land," Bonnie recalls. This included selling the family's herd of 500 dairy goats. "It was a whole life change," she says.

In planning their move, Jeff insisted on finding a large plot of land with a stone house and a view, and Bonnie wanted a place with character. That brought them to their current 100-acre homestead north-west of Duntroon.

"We do hear the blasts once in a while and feel the vibrations from the quarry," Bonnie says. "But it doesn't bother us at all," adding that the neighbourhood is quieter than in their Grand Valley farming community. Most of her neighbours now are weekenders, she explains.

The Bruce's current property has a 155-year-old stone home and an old board and batten home that had been moved from the town of Duntroon back in 1986. Both had been largely unoccupied during the previous 10 years. "Our house was full of critters including snakes in the basement," Bonnie says. "But it was a diamond in the rough. It's a good thing my husband is handy and a workaholic," she notes, adding that the couple have been involved in extensive renovations to both homes and the property's barn. The board and batten house is used to accommodate guests.

The couple's two sons Dakota and Quinten still live at home, and both are in apprenticeship programs, one for plumbing and the other for



▲ Bonnie and Jeff Bruce in front of their old stone house on the 10th Concession.

sheet metal working. Also on the farm are four cows, two horses, eight chickens, a dog and a cat. Just under 40 acres of the property is rented out to a local farmer to grow and harvest cash crops.

Jeff works full time at Enbridge as a heavy equipment operator and Bonnie works part time as a financial services advisor with Primerica. She also tends to the needs of her guests and the farm's animals.

"I'm downright lazy now," Bonnie jokes, compared to working from 4:30 in the morning until 10:30 at night in her previous life as a dairy goat farmer. She enjoys going horseback riding in the local countryside during quiet times.

"We just love it here," she says of her family's new life in Clearview Township, adding "Isn't it nice that our name is Bruce and we live right across the road from the Bruce Trail."

CUSTOMER PROFILE

KING CITY COMPANY WORKS TO ENHANCE NATURE AND PROMOTE FUN

For a company based in King City, Latitude 67 Limited takes on construction projects all across southern Ontario, from Niagara to Kingston, the GTA and as far north as Penetanguishene. Company project manager Paul Degli Angeli says he stays away from working in the City of Toronto, though. "Too much traffic," he explains.

Paul and his brother Frank are co-owners of Latitude 67, a site works and excavating contracting company. It's a business they assumed after the death of their father in 1994, who established it more than 50 years ago.

Both grew up in the family business and began working for their dad at an early age. "The business was our playground," Paul explains.

Latitude 67 employs up to 15 people during the peak building season, and specializes in landscape construction, erosion control and sport field

construction. Among the projects the company has completed are shoreline protection work on Kempenfelt Bay in Barrie, sports fields in Stouffville and King City, and foundations for mausoleum construction projects in Southern Ontario. A large majority of Latitude 67's work is done for municipalities.

The company sources much of its stone from Duntroon and Severn quarries. "We love the connection we have with Walker Aggregates," Paul says. "We get the product we need when we need it, along with good service from the company."

Paul says his work in the family business "came naturally," and adds that he hopes it will continue for another 50 years, at least. His sons have expressed an interest in the business, with the oldest already a part of the work crew during summer holidays from high school.



▲ Gravel and armour stone from Walker Aggregates' Simcoe County quarries are being used by Latitude 67 Ltd. to construct Middletown Park in Bradford West Gwillimbury.

WALKER AGGREGATES RECEIVES MINISTRY OF LABOUR FINE

Walker Aggregates has been fined \$170,000 along with a 25 per cent victim surcharge by the Ministry of Labour after pleading guilty to a charge of failing to follow a safety procedure under the provincial Occupational Health and Safety Act. The fine comes after the tragic death of one of the company's employees at Severn Quarry in February 2017.

The incident and subsequent ministry investigation have compelled Walker Industries to launch a company-wide review of health and safety practices throughout all its divisions. This includes recently completed third-party safety audits of all its sites in Canada and the U.S. and their recommendations for further safety initiatives.

"The responsibility of working safely at Walker belongs to everyone," says Walker Industries president and CEO John Fisher, noting that the company has been enhancing its health and safety training and its oversight of employees to ensure an incident like this never happens again.

"We must always be mindful of the effects of unsafe work practices and the potentially devastating impact on a victim's coworkers, supervisors, and most importantly, their families," he adds. "We want to ensure that all of our employees get home safe at the end of each work day."

HOW QUARRY BLASTS HAPPEN

For some people of a certain age, a blast might conjure up images of a coyote with several sticks of dynamite, connected to a plunger that sets off a big explosion — typically at the coyote's expense. But in reality, blasts in quarries are nothing like that.

Blasts in quarries are carefully planned, controlled and monitored. A series of holes are drilled in a grid pattern several metres back and pretty much parallel to the edge of the quarry. The holes are then filled with explosives and detonated in sequence — a few milliseconds apart — to control the impact of vibration. The rock blasted in a quarry typically drops straight down along the quarry face; it doesn't fly in all directions.

The provincial government sets maximum noise and vibration levels for quarry blasts to ensure the effects on neighbours and the local environment or ecosystem are minimized. Seismographic monitoring stations are set up between 500 metres and one kilometre from the blast site to measure and record each blast.

The degrees of noise and vibration produced by a blast are primarily based on two factors. The first is the technical specifications of the blast — such as the size and depth of the drilled holes, and the type and amount of explosives used. The second factor involves atmospheric conditions such as wind direction, humidity and cloud cover. For example, a blast on a day with low cloud cover will sound louder than on a clear day, because the clouds can cause sound waves to bend or refract back down to the ground.

Every blast will generate noise and vibration that nearby neighbours may notice. Vibration levels are normally lower than common household events, such as a door slamming or claps of thunder. No structural damage will occur due to noise or vibration with blasts that are within the limits established by the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change.

Blasts are designed and conducted by professionals who are certified in this skilled trade, and every quarry keeps detailed records of each blast.



2017 Duntroon Quarry Holiday Reception

SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR SUMMER BBQ!

Friends and neighbours of
Duntroon Quarry
are invited to our annual
summer BBQ and quarry tour.

Friday, July 13, 2018

Tour buses are loading at 11:30 a.m.,
followed by lunch.

**We hope to
see you there!**



www.walkerind.com

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