

walker

PIT & QUARRY ROUNDUP

Spring/Summer 2021

A newsletter for the
neighbours of Walker's
aggregate operations.

STEP
01

Feasibility

Initial studies and
consultation, i.e. does
it make sense?

◀ This graphic shows the steps of the licence application process. Feasibility studies include:

- Archaeological Assessment
- Hydrogeological Assessment
- Natural Environment Assessment
- Agricultural Impact Assessment
- Air Quality/Noise Study
- Traffic Study
- Blasting Impact Assessment
- Planning Justification Report and ARA Site Plans
- Cultural Heritage Assessment
- Visual Impact Assessment

Submission & Compliance

Application is submitted. Ministry of
Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)
reviews application for completeness.

STEP
02

STEP
03

Notification & Circulation

MNRF posts public proposal notice
and circulates notice to pertinent
agencies.

The Regulatory Environment

Communities often ask us “What’s involved in operating a gravel pit or quarry?” While the day to day can be easily seen with a quick visit to the site, what isn’t obvious are the moving parts in the background. Aggregate operations in Ontario are heavily regulated. From preparing an application for a licence to the progressive rehabilitation of extracted lands, owners and operators must abide by rules and regulations throughout the life cycle of the pit or quarry.

The Aggregate Resources Act (ARA) prescribes the application process. Simply put, studies are needed to assess whether the chosen area is appropriate, consultations with community stakeholders must occur, and numerous other conditions must be met to ensure there are no environmental impacts that cannot be satisfactorily mitigated.

These conditions are set by provincial and regional authorities and include government acts and regulations, policies, technical specifications and best management practices. Examples include the Planning Act, regional plans and by-laws, Fisheries and Oceans Canada regulations, the Environmental Protection Act and Provincial policy statements to name just a few.

Before submitting an application for a licence, feasibility studies are completed by third party consultants who develop reports that evaluate and determine mitigation plans to ensure there are no environmental impacts to the surrounding community.

Many stakeholder groups such as First Nations communities, nearby neighbours and businesses, regional and local politicians and conservation authorities are involved throughout to ensure their concerns are met with satisfactory resolutions.

Community Consultation

Public information session
and opportunity for public
commentary.

STEP
04

STEP
05

Consultation Review

Collaborate with community
members to review community
concerns and discuss solutions.

Decision Process

Community feedback and
potential resolutions provided
to MNRF for review.

STEP
06

After a licence is granted, the operation is diligently monitored to safeguard the surrounding environment. Throughout the site life cycle, operators are required to abide by the conditions set out in their licence and submit annual reports as proof to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks. These reports summarize air quality (dust), blast impact (noise/vibration), tonnage extracted and water usage among others.

Walker’s vision is to build a sustainable future working in partnership with its communities through the work we do and how we do it. This is why we actively engage the neighbours of all our sites and operations to ensure any concerns are addressed as they arise. Annual public events, regular newsletters, blast demonstrations, school events and open communication via phone and in-person meetings help keep Walker and its neighbours connected.

Where the Stone Goes

Over the fall and winter months, Walker's aggregate operations continue to produce high quality products to support growth in our communities. From updating infrastructure, to supplying materials for new facilities, the business of aggregate supply is relied on by all our community members.

In Niagara, the revitalization of Front Street in downtown Thorold required sewer, water main and road resurfacing. Walker sites supplied the aggregates for the project and the contractor, Peters Excavating received commendation from the Mayor on a job well done. Construction on Garner Road in Niagara Falls was completed in December with over 35,000 tonnes of aggregate from our Niagara sites.

Walker continued to supply aggregate for the development of the Rolling Meadows Subdivision in Thorold, a project that started in 2011. Over 115,000 tonnes of aggregate is expected to be used throughout the project to help build family homes.

Duntroon Quarry in Simcoe has shipped concrete stone to a condo development located in the heart of Collingwood. The Monaco combines retail shops and services on the main floor with exclusive condo living topped by a rooftop terrace.

Stone from Essex has been supplied to the Hydro One Transfer Station in Lakeshore. Granular stone was used to build base for roads, buildings and hydro equipment, while gabion stone was used to help combat erosion on site. Further west, construction of a new school has started with the supply of fill for the building, base for roads and parking lots and drainage stone. Legacy Oak Trail Public School is expected to open its doors in September and welcome students for the start of the school year.

As we welcome the start of spring, we appreciate all the hard work by our team and customers to lay solid foundations for exciting projects to be completed this year.

Donations

Walker is proud to support various community projects with stone, monetary and operator/equipment donations.

A long relationship with Habitat for Humanity continues to grow with the donation of stone used to build a fully accessible home for a family of five in Welland, ON.

The Outdoor Adventures Club's conservation efforts along the Sydenham River received a donation that allowed the TREE-Mendous program to plant five established trees on a section of Shepherd Pit, known as the Holding Farm.

Employee Spotlight

On March 8th, Concrete Ontario celebrated International Women's Day by sharing stories of women in the concrete industry. Two of Walker's employees were featured and we are honoured to celebrate them as valuable members of the team.

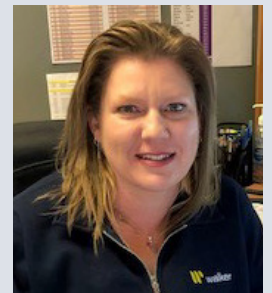


◀ "I've been featured on the cover of Canadian Occupational Safety, attended numerous conferences and industry sponsored tournaments and I've seen all sorts of people come together to help out others in our communities whether it's assisting in a build for Habitat for Humanity or pulling off a last minute food drive to fill some empty shelves."

- Sarah Nicoll-Lawler
Quality Control Supervisor

▶ "It has been quite enjoyable working in this industry. I have learned so much about the concrete world and how things work, and have had such a great experience working with various individuals that have run the division here at Walker. I look forward to continuing to learn this industry."

- Amanda Morrison
Contract Administrator



Did You Know?

Every month Walker sites perform Environmental Performance Checks. This program is based on four pillars:

Plan – Corporate Environmental Policies provide guidance on air, water and land management among other topics as outlined by regulatory requirements and Walker environmental performance standards.

Do – Monthly EnviroTalks are held at each site providing updated training on a selected policy.

Check – Following the EnviroTalk, a monthly self-assessment and inspection is required. Annual environmental performance reviews are conducted to audit each Walker site with respect to regulatory requirements, corporate policies and general conditions.

Act – A corrective action plan is assigned from each self-assessment, inspection and performance review.

Community Event Cancellations

Out of respect for the continued social distancing guidelines, summer neighbourhood events hosted by the following sites are cancelled until further notice in order to keep our communities safe:
Duntroon Quarry, Orillia Pits 5 & 7, Severn Quarry, McGregor Quarry.

Join us in congratulating our team

John Lee Lowe has settled into his new position of Lead Plant Operator at Severn Quarry. John has been a valuable member of the team as a Plant Operator for four years and a champion of Walker's safety culture. John embraces programs and leads by example in daily operations to ensure the team and community are safe.

Keith Yarnell has recently moved into the position of Lead Hand at Walker Brothers Quarry. A long-term employee, Keith has been with Walker in various roles for 21 years. Keith also serves as the environmental rep for his site, managing the dust logs, environmental messages and inspections.

Thank you for your hard work!



▲ John Lee Lowe, Lead Plant Operator at Severn Quarry



▼ Keith Yarnell, Lead Hand at Walker Brothers Quarry



▼ Duntroon's new skid steer will safely clean tighter areas around the yard

Clean-up at Vineland & Upgrades at Spring Creek

The winter months gave the crew at Vineland Quarry some time to perform equipment maintenance while continuing to meet shipping demands. This spring, the annual Earth Day clean-up in Campden and the area surrounding the quarry will resume in partnership with the 1st Vineland Scouts.

Work is currently under way to widen the entrance at Spring Creek Quarry. The reconfigured entrance will allow trucks into and out of the site simultaneously, decreasing the number of trucks idling on the road and creating a more efficient and safe flow of traffic.

Rehabilitation and Energy Conservation at Ridgemount

Ridgemount Quarry is seeing changes both in the shop and out in the quarry. Outside, progressive rehabilitation on the north side is well under way with soil placement and seeding for grass. On the south side, berms are being constructed to mitigate noise for surrounding neighbours. Inside the shop, all new LED lighting is replacing incandescent lights in the paint booth to increase energy efficiency.

Grey-Bruce protects bird habitat and community

Albemarle Quarry is home to a dozen Whip-poor-will birds. To help protect the habitat, Walker cleared a section of trees on site and the birds can now sit on the edge of the forest and hunt for insects in the clearing.

Several sites are constructing additional fencing along property lines this spring to keep the community safe and deter inadvertent trespassing on properties.

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Building a sustainable
future, **together.**

New Website

We've added more tonnage to Walker's digital portfolio with the addition of walkeraggregates.com, the new go-to resource for everything stone. The site features information on products, projects, all our sites, contact information and more. **Visit www.walkeraggregates.com to check it out.**



OSSGA Awards for Walker Sites

Each year the Ontario Stone Sand and Gravel Association recognizes aggregate operations across the province. This year a number of Walker's aggregate sites were recognized for exceptional operations and community relations.

The Award of Excellence was awarded to Walker's Ridgemount Quarries. The site demonstrated a commitment to the community through educational programs, site tours and donations. Operational improvements were put in place by using specialized technology and equipment to reduce environmental impacts from noise, dust and traffic. A commitment to sustainable practices was also recognized through rehabilitation projects, recycling programs and energy saving technologies and processes.

Meaford Quarry was given the award for Progressive Rehabilitation by demonstrating their plans to create a wetland complex once the site is fully extracted, which is expected to be complete in about five years. Sections of the quarry have already been rehabilitated to promote biodiversity with wildlife and bird nesting, creating an aesthetically pleasing final landscape.

A number of Walker sites also received the Community Relations Award. Duntroon, Keppel (now Sutherland), McGregor, Ridgemount, Severn, Vineland, and Walker Brothers Quarries were all recognized for leadership in promoting positive neighbour relations, community involvement, education and industry awareness through various initiatives at each site.

Congratulations to all the sites for exemplifying Walker values in everyday operations.

Trillium Award for Downs Asphalt Plant

The Ontario Asphalt Pavement Council has re-certified Downs Asphalt Plant with the Trillium Award. This award recognizes the best of the best in asphalt plants and is awarded to operators that go above and beyond regulation to meet the highest standards in appearance, operations, environmental, safety and community relations.

Have a question or want to go digital?

Educating our communities and keeping our neighbours in the loop matters to us. Visit www.walkeraggregates.com/contact to ask your question or fill in the form and include Digital Newsletter Signup in the message field to join our digital mailing list.