

Walker Brothers Quarries Limited fonds

1975, 1980-1981, 1984, 1987-1989

RG 75-22 rev 2

Brock University Archives

Creator: Walker Brothers Quarry

Extent: 22 cm of textual material (3/4 box)

Abstract: This archive contains materials relating to the Walker Brothers Quarries Limited. The bulk of the materials are correspondence, meeting minutes and media releases. The materials have been kept in original order, except where noted.

Materials: Typed and handwritten correspondence, reports, media releases, clippings, photographs.

Repository: Brock University Archives

Processed by: Jen Goul & Anne Adams

Last updated: May 2011

Terms of Use: The Walker Brothers Quarries Limited fonds are open for research.

Use Restrictions: Current copyright applies. In some instances, researchers must obtain the written permission of the holder(s) of copyright and the Brock University Archives before publishing quotations from materials in the collection. Most papers may be copied in accordance with the Library's usual procedures unless otherwise specified.

Preferred Citation: RG 75-22 the Walker Brothers Quarries Limited Fonds, 1975, 1980-1981, 1984, 1987-1989, Brock University Archives, Brock University.

Acquisition Info.: This collection is part of the Ontario Editorial Bureau fonds, donated by Lou Cahill in November 1997.

History: Serving the Niagara and surrounding areas for over 120 years, Walker Industries has made its impact not only commercially, but also culturally.

Beginning in 1875 with the erection of a stone sawing mill on a property John Walker purchased from the Welland Canal Loan Company. One of the first projects Walker cut stone for was the Merritton Town Hall. In 1882 the business expanded to include Walkers children, changing the name to Walker & Sons. Eventually in 1887 the two eldest sons took

control of the business operation and their partnership changed the company's name to Walker Brothers, the same year the company began operating its first quarry. The quarry was conveniently located alongside the 3rd Welland Canal, offering easy access to Toronto and Hamilton. It was also close to the railway system which allowed immediate access to Thorold and Niagara Falls and later access to parts of Ontario and Quebec. The quarry supplied stone to build numerous halls and armouries across Ontario. A use was also found for the 'waste products' of cutting the limestone. Leftover stone chips were sent to paper mills, where stone was needed as part of the sulphite pulp process for making paper.

Beginning to supply the Ontario Paper Company with stone in 1913, meant not only long, hard, work, but also more profit for the company. Before mechanization, most of the loading and unloading of the stone was done by hand, taking 19 man-hours to load an 18 yard railway car. Mechanization followed in 1947 when the plant became fully mechanized making the work easier and increasing production rates. In 1957 the company moved from its original location and opened the St. Catharines Crushed Stone Plant.

Scope and Content:

The fonds contains materials relating to Walker Brothers Quarries Limited, from 1975-1989 (non-inclusive). The materials included are meeting minutes, annual reports, media releases, correspondence and minimal photographs. This collection was processed using the 'fast-track' processing method; therefore many of the original folders were retained. The materials remained in their original folders in their original order. In some cases titles were added to the folders to clarify the folders contents.

Organization: The records were arranged into one series:

Series I, Administrative, 1975, 1980-1981, 1984, 1987-1989

Inventory:

Series I. Administrative, 1975, 1980-1981, 1984, 1987-1989

- 1.1 Clippings, 1980; includes sludge dumping, opposition fights chemical plant, officials jeered liquid waste site, liquid waste control sought, Thorold mayor opposes waste site, excavation done at Walker

quarry, MLA attacks waste dumping, Ministry official presses for restrictions at landfill site, waste violation charges urged, Swart says quarry issue could topple Davis government, information on “closed meeting”, Niagara plant won’t store PCBs, Innovative techniques turn quarry into diversified pollution control plant, safety stressed at quarry waste disposal site, area firm to prepare environmental study, residents’ fears, groundwater pollution feared, plant to turn waste into rock, concerned citizen’s group formed, Ontario forced to shelve liquid landfill ban, Thorold hires Brock professor to study disposal site plan, Thorold residents protest waste dump and waste referendum.

- 1.2 Clippings, 1980; includes opposition to waste site mounts, quarry making switch from oil separating business to enclosed tank system, expert fails to allay fears of waste plant, waste proposal is safe, waste carriers, Walker closes quarry after liquid is dumped, fire chief defends force’s capabilities, Love Canal fears felt in Chatham, Anti dump group praised, quarry rejects cannery pulp, quarry tanker dig, alternate dump sought by canners, Woodington faces charges, Ontario gets tough on illegal waste dumping, no charges laid in dump site investigation, sludge affair, toxic Toronto waste dumped in Quebec, environment ministry knew about dumping past limit, Norris Walker responds to charges, liquid waste found at quarry, firm may face loss of waste license, fear of liquid waste puts focus on Cayuga, Parrott freezes quarry proposal, Waste sites biggest Great Lakes threat, plan would ship PCBs overseas, Falls company dumps proposal to ship PCBs to Europe, waste disposal probe ordered and demand for the resignation of Environment Minister John Roberts.
- 1.3 Clippings, 1981; includes quarries may not face charges, quarry firm sues CTV news program, council endorses Walker dump and negotiators hope to avert Stelco walkout.
- 1.4 Correspondence and flyers, 1980; includes a proposed statement by the Thorold Chamber of Commerce, *The Insider*, *Inside Canada Public Relations*, energy report no.14, ramifications of Reagan’s election for Canada, talks on liquid industrial waste, *Communique*, *Ontario Editorial Bureau Contact*, statements from Walker Brothers Quarries, results of police investigation into Walker Bros. Quarries, history of the present disposal site, NDP ‘s *Information*, and Hansard “roughs” re. disposal of PCBs
- 1.5 Correspondence and clippings, 1978-1980; includes statements from Norris Walker re. allegations made concerning solid waste disposal, a report to the Ontario Legislature concerning the Ministry’s review and investigation of Walker

- Bros. Quarries, notes from the legislature regarding liquid industrial waste, transcript of two interviews carried on CBL radio, ex-worker pinpoints buried drums, correspondence from the law offices of Julian Porter and Donald Posluns, notes about hydroxide sludges and guidelines for Canadian drinking water.
- 1.6 Correspondence and flyers, 1981; includes *Official Report (Hansard)* in which Walker Brothers Quarries are exonerated, Ministry of Environment news releases, and a letter from the Public Works and Utilities Department regarding the disposal of solid waste.
 - 1.7 Correspondence and clippings, 1984; includes N. Walker and quarries win \$1 million suit against CTV network and a transcript of questions for the jury in the Supreme Court of Ontario in the case of Norris Walker and Walker Brothers Quarries Ltd. and CTV Television Network Ltd.
 - 1.8 Correspondence and media releases, 1987; includes a flyer on Walker Industries, the Thorold High School reunion, notes on the Thomas B. McQuesten biography and book launch, Rodman Hall's gardens, *Welland Canals Society* pamphlet and *Accepting New Opportunities is the Key to Survival*.
 - 1.9 Correspondence and clippings, 1987; includes A history of Walker Brothers Quarries Ltd. written by Sheila M. Wilson, an article from the Hamilton Spectator entitled *Parties in the Garden*, notice of withdrawal of application to set up a transfer station for solid wastes in Fort Erie, Walker Brothers Quarries milestones and *Reflections* by Norris Walker presented at the Centennial dinner.
 - 1.10 Correspondence and clippings, 1987; includes Centennial planning update, *1887: A Memorable Year*, memo regarding a new garage building and parkette to be built by Thorold Hydro, *Movers and Shakers* in Hamilton's history, a career summary of Roland H. Barnsley and a biography published on *Ontario's Forgotten Builder* (Thomas B. McQuesten).
 - 1.11 Correspondence and clippings, 1987; includes *St. John Ambulance Opens its New Home*, *Start Planning for Spring*, *Swat team provides 24 Hours Protection*, *Swim Meet is International Success*, *Homes a Source of Hazardous Wastes*, *Can Quarries be Recycled* and the McQuesten book launch,
 - 1.12 Correspondence, 1988; includes information on the Canada-wide quilt show, McQuesten book launch and the opening of Walker Botanical Gardens.
 - 1.13 Correspondence, clippings and media releases, 1989; includes Lincoln and Welland Regiment memorial, *Anybody want to buy 95,000 Tonnes of*

Waste? article, *Laidlaw Chief Fears Political Feud Could Sink Recycling Project* article, *New trash transfer station opens* article and information on the Norjohn Transfer System Limited in Burlington.

- 1.14 Media releases, 1987; includes *Let's Talk Business*, *Rodman Hall's unique garden a "delight"*, information on the swim meet, *Welland Canals Society*, *Good Roads Needed*, *Swat team provides 24 hour protection*, *Can quarries be recycled? Ontario's forgotten builder*, *Homes a source of hazardous wastes*, *For the service of mankind*, *John Fisher: Mr. Canada*, The Centennial dinner, Career summary of Roland H. Barnsley, article on Walker Brothers' centennial, *John Fisher: Mr. Canada*, A history of Walker Brothers Quarries and *Historic Henley bridge in peril*.
- 1.15 Media releases and correspondence, 1987; includes *Railways in the Niagara Peninsula*, *Reflections by Norris Walker (The Story of our Years)*, *1st generation in North America*, *Let's Talk Business*, *Walker Industries – One Hundred Years*, *The Early Days...*, *Walkers to Double Quarry Production* and an article on John Walker, includes 1 b&w. photograph
- 1.16 Media releases and correspondence, 1987; includes article about Thomas B. McQuesten, *Officials pleased with response* (re. disposal of toxic waste), milestones, *Walker Bros. Quarries 100th Anniversary 1887-1987* flyer and Quarry function list.
- 1.17 Media releases and correspondence, 1988; includes notes on the opening and dedication of the Front Street Park and a list of Thorold Hydro-Electric commission representatives.
- 1.18 Media releases and correspondence, 1988; includes notes about a plaque for the Thorold Park, an article about Whitehern home (owned by McQuesten Family), Thorold Secondary School reunion, *Falls Firm adds Safety to New Landfill Design*, *Lewiston hires Winner in Battle to Stop Modern Expansion*, Donation to the hospitals of St. Catharines by the Walker Family, *Tale of Three Galleries*, *the Story of Walker Brothers Quarries* and *A guide to Walker Botanical Garden*.
- 1.19 Media releases and correspondence, 1989; includes a request to the City of Niagara Falls for a zoning amendment and to Niagara Region for an adjustment to the Region's official plan, news release regarding industrial monitoring regulation, article regarding waste transfer station in Fort Erie, and *Norjohn Transfer Systems Limited* flyer, includes 1 col. negative.
- 1.20 Meeting, dust disposal, 1975, 1977, 1979

600 Walker, Norris.

Subject Access: 650 Quarries and quarrying -- Ontario -- Niagara (Regional municipality)

650 Refuse and refuse disposal -- Ontario -- Niagara (Regional municipality)

650 Walker Brothers Quarries -- History.

650 Walker Brothers Quarries Limited