

# New Greensville community park to be city's first arboretum

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A 37-acre (15-hectare) parcel of land extending from behind Lafarge Dundas Quarry on Hwy. 5 to the back of Greensville Public School will be developed into a community park and Hamilton's first arboretum. City forestry employees planted the first tree, a bur oak, on the site last Tuesday, with Ward 14 councillor Robert Pasuta and Lafarge Canada's president and CEO Bob Cartmel providing a few shovelfuls of mulch at a ceremonial tree-planting attended by city staff, Lafarge Canada representatives, Hamilton Conservation Authority officials, neighbours and members of the Johnson Tew family, after whom the park is named.

Pasuta told the crowd of about 30 that the park bordering the Briar Cliff Estates at the end of Tews Lane is located on land once owned by Johnson Tew, who was reeve of the Township of West Flamborough in the early 1900s as well as warden of the County of Wentworth in 1926. Approval to develop part of the farm as a park predates Flamborough's amalgamation with Hamilton in 2001, he said.

Steve Barnhart, Hamilton's manager of landscape architectural services, said development of the park has been "a long time in the making," but he added, "We're at the stage now where the plan is ready to move."

He welcomed the opportunity to partner with Lafarge, which will be donating \$50,000 in materials towards the development of a 1.8-kilo-

metre trail system. The company will provide more than 150 truckloads of granular stone to be used for the construction of the three-metre-wide trails and a playground.

The park will be developed in phases, with the trail system being the first project undertaken. Capital funding for the first phase has been approved and working drawings are being finalized, Barnhart said, adding that tenders will likely be called this fall. "Next summer, it will start to look more like a park."

The arboretum will feature more than 400 native and ornamental trees planted over a four-year period. The topography and landform character of the park will be preserved.

Barnhart said the park offers an educational component, through interpretive panels along the trails and for-schoolchildren who will tour the park and learn about its history and features, as well as the history of the adjacent quarry.

A redeveloped parking lot will accommodate school buses and an amphitheatre will be built in an area



Lafarge Canada president and CEO Bob Cartmel (left) and Ward 14 Councillor Robert Pasuta at the ceremonial tree-planting in Greensville last week.

where students can learn to identify types of trees. Other features include a meadowland for ground nesting bobolinks and Eastern meadowlarks, two species of endangered birds found on the site, and a children's playground with an accessible junior/senior play structure and swing set, a sun shelter and an embankment slide built into a slope.

The trail system will be fully acces-

sible to walkers, runners, cyclists and those in wheelchairs. The north part of the system will lead to two look-outs, one with a view of the quarry to the north, the other facing west with a view of the exposed quarry walls. The southern trail system will offer leisure walks in the arboretum with park benches every 120 metres.

The pending transformation was welcomed by four of Johnson Tew's descendants, on hand for Tuesday's event – grandchildren Brad Tew of Westover and Kathy Albers of Brantford, along with daughter-in-law Eleanor Tew of St. George and Linda Tew of Greensville, the wife of his grandson, Rick.

Brad and Kathy hold fond memories of growing up on the farm. "I'm glad to see there will be new memories for the community," said Albers. "A couple of years down the road, it's just going to look so different."

The park will be accessed from Medwin Drive, Cedar Avenue and Tews Lane. Construction and planting are scheduled to start next year after completion of an archaeological assessment currently underway.