



Abandoned Inwood Quarry to be Resurrected as Eco-tourism Interpretive Centre

The site has no hookup to Manitoba Hydro's grid. There is no water supply. MTS service is more than a mile away. And the nearest roads are a rough & winding access path and a grassy walking trail. Yet, the Inwood Quarry will see new life as a major "green" tourism centre, according to a new business plan.

For decades, the building, located on a 30-acre exhausted quarry site north of Inwood on the Prime Meridian Trail, has seen only infrequent graffiti artists, the occasional off-roader and a plethora of wildlife. Constructed as a kiln for manufacture of limestone brick, the 3,200 square foot structure has fallen into serious disrepair.

In 2003, University of Manitoba graduate studies student Rob Zonneveld presented a concept paper to the Inwood community, proposing that the site be developed as a nature exhibit, centered around the natural and artificial snake dens at the location. Officials from the province's Natural Resources Department augmented the call for development, by offering to provide support for rehabilitation of the site.

Beginning in the late summer of 2007, development of the location will begin, with shoring up & shaping of the main quarry excavation, an engineering assessment of the kiln structure, and cleanup of several of the smaller pits. The interpretive centre will open in July, 2008.

Designed as a totally "green" project, The Inwood Quarry Interpretive Centre will showcase a wealth of innovative energy & conservation features.

A 1000-watt solar panel, constructed of salvage cells & including a solar heat component, has been donated to the initiative, along with a 1,200-watt vertical wind turbine system. Primary power will come from a small-scale anaerobic digester and biogas converter, which uses manure from 400-600 head of local cattle. While geothermal systems will provide the summer cooling source,



off-season heat will be derived from an outdoor wood furnace & auxiliary biodiesel heater. To fuse the building with the natural features of the quarry, a "green roof," constructed of natural vegetation & accessed by a bermed slope is forecast. Lastly, broken and partial bricks, on site, will form the base of the picnic & common areas.

However, innovative facets and elements of the project provide a significant draw for visitors to the site. Over a period of six years, a botanical garden highlighting each of the local flora will be constructed, using compost from the anaerobic digester. A shallow excavation site to the east of the interpretive centre will become a reclaimed wetland, stocked with local fish, and hosting natural local vegetation. In addition to the existing snake den, an artificial den with glassed viewing area (similar to Homosassa Springs, Florida) will allow visitors to view the garter snakes in hibernation. Against the vertical face of the

north pit, visitors can walk along the declining walkway, viewing a geographical "line through time."

The historical aspects of the site blend uniquely with virgin technologies. Internet visitors can view a live wireless video of the site, 24 hours per day, by logging on to the IQIC website. The series of cameras will provide a continual panoramic view of the exterior of the quarry, along with brief videos of indoor activities.

For visitors more intrigued by activities and events than static amenities, IQIC offers an eclectic experience. For families, the 16-unit splash park & wading pool offers day-long fun. Water heated by geothermal pump outflows extend seasonal use by more than two months. A children's workshop & learning centre, constructed from local woodstocks, offers schools an ideal daytrip destination. A viewing tower on the kiln roof top provides a vantage point to observe wildlife. In summer,

contoured hills provide mountain bike & bmx trails, converting to snowboard and toboggan runs in winter. Retail kiosks will offer local food products, crafts & souvenirs, while farmers' markets throughout the season provide fresh farm goods to visitors. Of more global interest is the kaolin clay baths & spa, along with massage & hydrotherapy, provided in the kiln building (kaolin clay is a prime cosmetic ingredient, with health & cleansing benefits). A library of videos, audio presentations, kiosks and printed material will promote each of the tourism destinations within the Interlake, providing visitors to the area with a "one-stop shop" to plan their vacation or weekend activities. Vintage transportation rides and guided tours staged from the IQIC round out the cornucopia of attractions on site.

Although the scope of the project is wide-ranging, costs of development are relatively

continued on Page 2

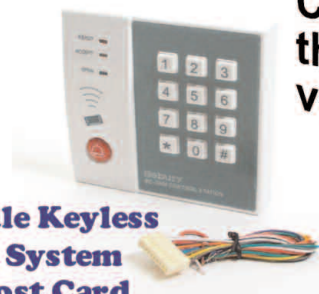


Full array of cameras available!

B/W miniature camera
Very low-light
\$46



Wireless systems
Range to 300 ft
Starting at
\$70



Wholesale Keyless Entry System
Low-cost Card Access Entry System
\$37

Cameras can be connected through computer for live viewing over Internet

Colour Camera indoor/outdoor
\$133



Ideal for feedlot/calving pen applications or home security