

Photos by Frank O'Connor/The Intelligencer

The Essroc Italcementi plant in Picton has been a hive of activity for the last 18 months, with the construction of a new stack (left) and storage dome (above). From a large hole in the ground in July of 1998 (right), to a state-of-the-art domed storage facility now, the mega-project has quietly progressed, with the completion date slated for later this year. Both the stack and klinker storage dome will improve the environmental situation at the plant, greatly reducing the discharge of dust in the area.

sents only about 10 to 15 per cent of the weight of finished concrete. Concrete looks like an econom-

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ical way to imitate the classic look of original limestone structures. Essentially, it is. It was invented by an English stonemason, Joseph Aspdin, in 1834, inspired by the grey-colored look he observed in the local stone of his Portland Island home. (For a time the substance was commonly called Portland cement.)

The product has been refined greatly by modern research and