

Vineland Quarry UPDATE

The Vineland Quarry has had a busier year than projected, according to quarry superintendent Evan Bartfai, largely as a result of some major local projects that needed its aggregate. These have included providing a stone base for the ongoing Walker landfill construction in Thorold and construction projects along the QEW.

The quarry recently hired three new employees. Evan explains these people will replace employees who have - or will soon - retire. He says they will be able to learn from the longer-term employees while also bringing to the job a fresh, new perspective. All employees will benefit from the renovations underway for a new staff lunchroom, and employees, customers and neighbours will appreciate the landscaping work occurring at the entrance to the quarry. This includes using some armour stone from the quarry to "spruce up our property," Evan says.



Vineyard Harvest Underway

The annual grape harvest is underway at the Edgerock Vineyard in the Vineland Quarry. Despite difficult market conditions in the local and international grape growing and wine industries, Walker Aggregates is selling grapes to producers of Niagara and Prince Edward County wines. Fielding Estate Winery is purchasing Cabernet Franc, Shiraz and Malbec Grapes. Stoney Ridge Estate Winery, Ridge Road Estate Winery, Ridgepoint Wines and Karlo Estates will be purchasing varieties including Merlot, Sangiovese, Pinot Noir and Petit Verdot.



You're invited to our

Annual Holiday Christmas Reception

Wednesday, November 23, 2011
6 pm - 7:30 pm
Twenty Valley Golf & Country Club

If you are planning to attend,
please RSVP to Teresa Page 905-680-3731
by November 18th

Hosted by the Vineland Quarries Public Liaison Committee



Walker Industries Joins the Niagara Sustainability Initiative (NSI)

Alison Braithwaite, Director, Environmental Performance



Walker Industries has joined the Niagara Sustainability Initiative (NSI), a not-for-profit organization that is leading a Niagara Region-wide program that assists organizations to measure, manage and mitigate their carbon emissions. (<http://niagarasustainability.org/home/blog/>) Agreeing to join NSI aligns Walkers with our EARTH1st and Value principles as well as the company goal of measuring our carbon footprint by 2012. To date, the Carbon Action Team (CAT) has completed tours of all the Walker facilities. They are now crunching numbers and will have the carbon footprint complete by the end of this fiscal year. In May

As part of our partnership with NSI, we are given invitations to technical workshops and educational forums that NSI will use to bring the Niagara community together. These events provide a platform for members of the partnering businesses to learn about the latest climate change news, carbon management technologies and environmental standards and legislation. The events also provide opportunities to share success stories and network with other organizations in the Niagara Region.

The Niagara Sustainability Initiative is one more step that Walkers is taking to support the environment. We're measuring, managing and mitigating our environmental impact, have you considered yours?

2012 Walkers will have developed a report and will be given the opportunity to communicate the findings to the Niagara Community at Niagara Sustainability Initiative's 1st Annual Reporting Event.

Nelson Walker Retires After Nearly a Half Century of Service

After 46 years with the company, Nelson Walker has recently retired from Walker Industries. And yes, he says he's often been asked over the years if he's a member of the company's founding family. "I'm no relation at all," he insists. But he does remember John Walker senior. "He was working here when the company bought the Vineland Quarry," he recalls.

Nelson began his employment with Walker as a truck driver and then began working in the garage at the Vineland Quarry before obtaining his licence to become a heavy equipment mechanic in 1972. He's been a mechanic at the Vineland operation ever since. He says he's seen a lot of changes over his nearly half a century of service with the company. "My starting salary was \$1.75 per hour and we were paid every week," he remembers. "Over the years, there was a new shop built, a new plant and lots of people coming and going."

As for working for Walker, Nelson says, "The company has been very good to me - all the Walkers. They're excellent to work for." He says he will miss the quarry and his workmates. He's currently undergoing some cancer treatments in St. Catharines - which he says is going well - and looks forward to spending more time with his wife



Helen, his two children, four grandchildren and two great grandchildren. He also plans to spend more time at his cabin in South River, near North Bay, and doing some hunting and fishing.

Xstrata Nickel

Controlling emissions of airborne particulate matter (dust) is a common challenge faced by many industries, especially in the mining sector. Walker Industries has gained significant recognition for innovation through the design and implementation of emission reduction technologies. The Walker Group of companies continues to be on the cutting edge of emissions management and their efforts are catching the eye of others in the mining sector.

Walker Aggregates was recently contacted by a delegation of environmental and operational professionals from Xstrata Nickel's Sudbury operation. Xstrata is a major diversified mining group, listed on the London and Swiss stock exchanges. As part of the company's "Approach to Sustainability," Xstrata has been going through a continual improvement exercise. They are looking at industry leaders for ideas, technologies and creative ways to minimize the negative environmental and social impacts of their business. Part of their focus includes evaluating energy consumption and looking for opportunities to build stronger relations with local communities through initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas, particulate matter, noise and other emissions.

The group was very interested in touring several Walker operations in an effort to learn about emissions controls, operational procedures and Best Management Practices Plans (BMPs).

The delegation was particularly interested in Walker's operational procedures, manuals and Best Management Practices Plans.

Xstrata hopes its efforts and learnings from industry leaders will assist the company improve its environmental program and provide guidance for sustainable development assurance audits, external verification, and improve overall environmental performance. Xstrata is focused on improving their program for their shareholders, customers, employees, environment, communities and other stakeholders.

Xstrata obviously sees our leadership in dust control and management. Hats off to Walker Aggregates for meeting the 1st - Innovation and Leadership - of EARTH 1st.



Environmental Groups Join Forces with Ontario's Aggregate Producers

A group of prominent environmental organizations and members of the Ontario Stone, Sand and Gravel Association (OSSGA) - collectively known as the Aggregate Forum of Ontario - have come together to enhance the standards of environmental stewardship and community engagement in the province's aggregate industry.

The six participating environmental organizations in the forum are Ontario Nature, Save the Oak Ridges Moraine (STORM), Nature Conservancy Canada, Gravel Watch Ontario, Coalition on the Niagara Escarpment (CONE) and the Couchiching Conservancy. Five aggregate companies are representing the 103 aggregate producer members of the OSSGA on the Aggregate Forum of Ontario. They are Walker Aggregates, Lafarge, St. Marys CBM, Capital Paving and The Miller Group.

The Aggregate Forum of Ontario was formed more than two years ago and has been working to identify and implement best business practices, green initiatives and a certification program for the aggregate industry in Ontario.

These developments respond to calls from the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario - and from environmental organizations and aggregate producers themselves - to reconcile conflicting priorities between aggregate extraction and environmental protection.

The certification program is designed to address the public's increased expectation for businesses to understand, accept and incorporate corporate social responsibility into decision-making processes that might affect the surrounding community, including the environment.

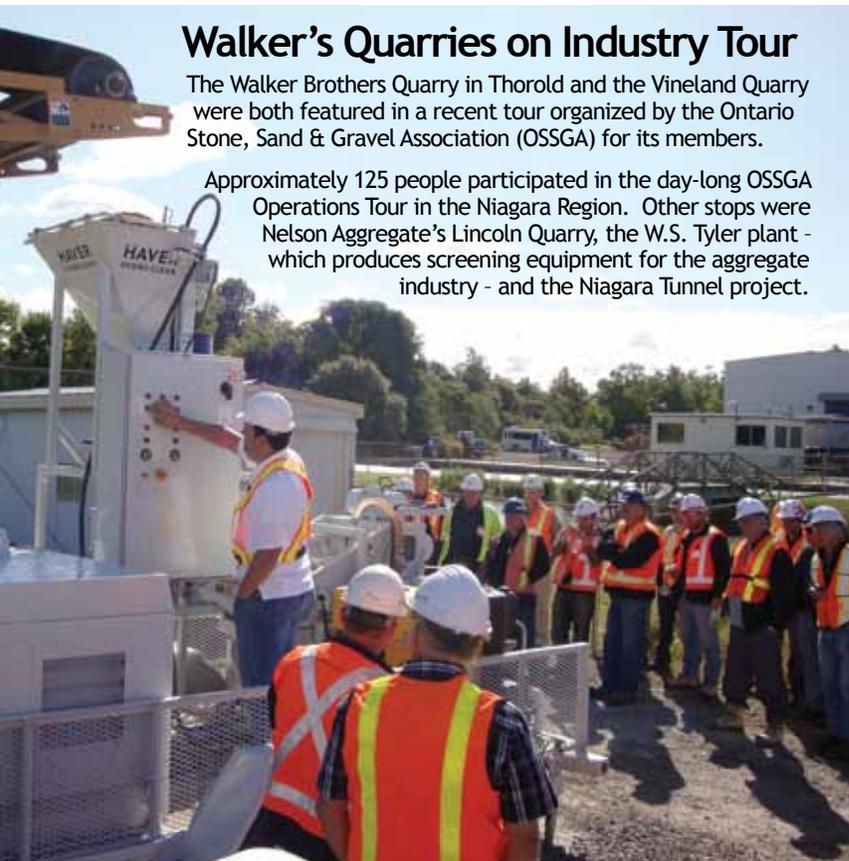
Standards will be developed for the approval, operation and rehabilitation of aggregate pits and quarries, and will likely include conservation lands, biodiversity conservation, water management, progressive and final rehabilitation, recycling, community engagement, scheduling and operations, environmental research, education and awareness, carbon neutrality, community planning processes, and energy use and conservation.

The goal of the certification program is to identify industry practices that lead to outcomes which exceed existing legislative and regulatory requirements.

Walker's Quarries on Industry Tour

The Walker Brothers Quarry in Thorold and the Vineland Quarry were both featured in a recent tour organized by the Ontario Stone, Sand & Gravel Association (OSSGA) for its members.

Approximately 125 people participated in the day-long OSSGA Operations Tour in the Niagara Region. Other stops were Nelson Aggregate's Lincoln Quarry, the W.S. Tyler plant - which produces screening equipment for the aggregate industry - and the Niagara Tunnel project.



Gibbons Contracting is a Customer and a Client

When it comes to mutually beneficial business arrangements, a very good one for Walker Aggregates is with Gibbons Contracting in Stevensville. Not only does Gibbons use Walker's stone, but they also subcontract to Norjohn Contracting and Paving on some of its project work. By the same token, Norjohn will hire Gibbons when it needs the company's specialty contracting work.

Gibbons specializes in underground site servicing - installing water, sewer and storm drainage systems. Founded in 1989 by owner Vaughn Gibbons, the company employs up to 30 people during the peak construction season. Much of their work is done for municipalities on projects such as water treatment plants and pumping stations. Gibbons also undertakes site servicing work for housing subdivisions. One such project now underway is the Warren Woods subdivision on Kalar Road in Niagara Falls.

"We decided to profile Gibbons in this issue of our newsletter because they are a long-time customer with a good reputation in the industry and offer good service in the work they do for us," says Walker's aggregate sales manager for Niagara, Frank Hurkmans. He points as an example to the site servicing work Gibbons is doing for Norjohn on a new commercial development project next to the former Atlas Landfill site in Welland.

For his part, Vaughn Gibbons also has a positive view of Walker. "They treat us fairly, with no hassles" he says.



Vaughn Gibbons (in white hat) and his crew at the Warren Woods subdivision in Niagara Falls.



Balls Falls

Niagara Children's Water Festival

Walker Industries shared the EARTH 1st message at the Niagara Children's Water Festival this past September. Our Walker volunteers engaged grade 3 and 4 students in the EARTH 1st workshop which is aimed at teaching children their part in the environment and showing them how much we rely on nature.

Special thanks to our volunteers this year: Carli Falcioni, Patti Bosco, Val Jupp, Scott Hurley, Kevin Kehl and Jamie Mereweather. For more information about EARTH1st visit www.Earth1st.ca

Big Move Cancer Ride 2011



On September 11, 2011 cyclists across the Niagara Region gathered for the Big Move Cancer Ride (BMCR), for the third consecutive year, to raise funds in support of equipment and services for the Walker Family Cancer Centre. The ride consisted of a 50K, 100K, or 100 mile ride through the Niagara Region starting and ending at Club Roma in St. Catharines. The Walker Team reached 39 people this year consisting of Walker employees, their family and friends.

In 2009, the team was able to raise \$36,455 and increased the amount significantly in 2010 with a total of \$81,217. Early in 2011, the BMCR committee agreed to set our heights even higher at a monumental amount of \$100,000. At times we as a committee did not think our goal would be attainable, but with continued efforts and dedication we exceeded our goal and raised \$104,061. In our fundraising efforts the team held 3 BBQ's and a Car Wash with the support of the KEG in St. Catharines. Additional fundraising efforts included podium sponsorships from our customers and suppliers.

Overall the foundation was able to raise over \$475,000 after expenses.

On behalf of the BMCR committee and team, we thank you; the Shareholders, Executive, fellow Walker employees, customers, suppliers and community for your continued support. None of this would have been possible without you.



Wishing you and your family
all the Joys of the Holiday Season.



Walker
Aggregates Inc.

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Suggestions and comments are always welcome.
Please contact: Teresa Page 905 680 3731 tpage@walkerind.com

Sims Recycling

Over the last few years many questions have been raised regarding the final destination of used electronics. With the start of the Ontario Electronic Stewardship (OES) Program in 2009, consumers are provided with assurance that used or end-of-life electronics will not be sent overseas, and actually will be recycled here in Canada. The first year of the program, saw over 17,000 tonnes of electronic waste diverted from landfills, with IMS contributing 100 tonnes.

To ensure that the OES held true to their promises of recycling all e-waste in Canada, IMS toured one of the registered processing facilities, Sims Recycling Solutions in Brampton, Ontario. Sims Recycling originated in Sydney, Australia. They now operate worldwide and are listed on the Global 100 Most Sustainable Corporations. The tour took us through the entire facility and we were able to observe the full recycling process.

When Sims receives electronic waste, each item is manually inspected and hazardous components (batteries, mercury bulbs, inks, etc) are removed and recycled through an audited downstream vendor. Electronics are then loaded into a state-of-the-art three stage shredder where they are reduced to roughly 5cm pieces. From there they go through an automated separator, sorting shredded material by product type; copper/plastic, fines, steel and aluminum. Shredded dust is collected and filtered and all commodities are domestically refined and processed for re-use in manufacturing. Overall, the Sims policy to be a "zero-landfill" facility reins true with their meticulous attention to sorting and recycling.

Like Walker Industries, Sims also puts the environment at the forefront. They are committed to environmentally safe methods; auditing sites regularly and pursuing ISO 14001 registration. By using recycled materials during manufacturing, Sims Recycling is able to preserve natural resources resulting in reduced pollution and carbon emissions and energy and water consumption. It also conserves limited landfill space. Lastly they work at reducing their carbon footprint by providing logistics pickup routing that reduce freight and travel.

Similar to our Superior Safety Culture, Sims Recycling is working towards a "Zero Harm Workplace." They have toolbox talks each morning and provide company wide alerts when a hazard is found in the workplace. These alerts are posted for all sites, along with solutions to mitigate or eliminate risk.

Going forward, IMS will be sending all e-waste directly to Sims Recycling, knowing it will remain domestic and everything will be recycled. It's comforting to have found a company that mirrors our commitments to both the environment and the health and safety of their employees.