

Vineland Stone is the Cat's Meow

Stone from the Vineland Quarries will soon be found in the homes of cat lovers across a large part of North America. The quarry is entering the kitty litter business.

Walker Aggregates has signed into an agreement to supply fine aggregates to a large manufacturer of the pet product. Cat litter is made from finely crushed stone, clay and an aromatic agent.

"The arrangement we've entered into opens up a new market for us," says Walker Aggregates' operations manager



Frank Kielbowich. "We'll be able to process and sell some of the fines left over from the crushing process." Aggregate fines are also used in the manufacture of asphalt, and combined with salt for winter road maintenance.

Frank says a number of aggregate companies were approached to provide the aggregate product for the litter manufacturer, and Walker's Vineland Quarries was selected because it reacted quickly and committed to producing the quality and gradation of stone required.

He credits Niagara marketing manager Frank Hurkmans for taking the company in an innovative, new direction in marketing its aggregates.

A processing facility for the litter product is being installed at Vineland Quarries this fall. It includes a drying machine and a screen operation to produce fines of a specific size.

Shipping of the cat litter aggregate is expected to begin in December.

Angelo is New Superintendent



Vineland Quarries has a new superintendent. He is Angelo Bevilacqua, a 26-year employee of Walker Aggregates, and most recently the superintendent of Walker Brothers Quarries in Thorold.

"Angelo brings great organizational skills, in addition to knowledge of quarry operations," says Walker Aggregates' operations manager, Frank Kielbowich. "He will also be responsible for our Spring Creek Quarry site."

Angelo says he is excited to take on this new challenge in his career and to meet the neighbours of Vineland Quarries. "There are lots of opportunities," he says, adding that Vineland Quarries is somewhat different than the Walker Brothers Quarries. Not only does Vineland have a vineyard on its quarry lands, but Vineland washes all of its aggregates, whereas the Walker Brothers' operation does not. "The stone from Vineland is for different uses," Angelo explains. "The stone needs to be washed to remove the fines, so that customers will get the exact specified size of stone they need."

Meanwhile, Mark Harmsworth is moving from Vineland Quarries to take over as superintendent of Walker Brothers Quarries. Mark became Vineland's quarry supervisor last year after working for five years as a quality technician for Walker's corporate support team.

Please Join Us for Our

Holiday *Christmas* Reception

Wednesday,
December 4, 2013

6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

StoneHill Grille*
3904 Victoria Ave.
Vineland

RSVP

before November 25
to Teresa Page
905-680-3731

*New location!

CUSTOMER PROFILE

Rapid Growth for Peters Excavating

It's only been nine years since Darren Peters began his company, Peters Excavating, but it has already grown to be a major force in the construction business in Niagara. The company has four sewer crews, one crushing crew and 16 tractor trailers for hauling stone.

"It is a reputable and growing company in the Niagara Region," says Walker Aggregates' marketing manager for Niagara, Frank Hurkmans.

Prior to starting his own business, Darren was an employee of two construction companies. Now, as owner of Peters Excavating, he has all the municipalities in Niagara as customers, as well as developers, and public and private sector companies. The business specializes in sewer and water main work, and also performs for Walker the crushing of old asphalt and concrete for recycling. Among the projects the company has worked on are the Grimsby/West Lincoln YMCA and the Downtown Performing Arts Centre in St. Catharines. A crew is also now on site at the massive Outlet

Darren Peters supervises his construction crew at The Outlet Connection shopping centre.



Connection shopping centre in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

"We have a good back-and-forth relationship with Walker," Darren says. "We are a customer of their stone, but they also subcontract projects to us." As an example, he points to the recent reconstruction of Highway 20 in Niagara Falls, a Walker Norjohn project,

with subcontracted sewer work to Peters Excavating.

On the Walker side, Frank agrees that the reciprocal arrangement between Walker and Darren's company is mutually beneficial. "We've had a good relationship with Peters Excavating since its early beginnings, and this has resulted in good business for us both."



Where the Rock Goes

Grimsby South Service Road Water Main Replacement

Stone from the Vineland and Spring Creek quarries is being used in the replacement of the force main, running from the Roberts Road sewage pumping station in Grimsby.

Some 35,000 tonnes of aggregate are being used in the project, which extends for almost one kilometer along the South Service Road.



EMPLOYEE PROFILE

Family Comes First for Mike Theal

While Mike Theal has been an employee of Walker Industries for five years now, he is new to Vineland Quarries, having recently taken on the job as heavy duty mechanic in the quarry shop.

Previously Mike worked as an apprentice and then truck mechanic at Walker's Woodington transportation division in Thorold.

His daily routine involves ongoing maintenance of the quarry equipment, paperwork, and keeping the shop clean and organized.

"I love it," Mike says of his job. "Walker is a great company to work for and I wouldn't work anywhere else. They have good management, the pay is good, and the company takes care of its employees."

As for his time away from work, hobbies such as golf and hockey have mostly given way to time spent with his young family and projects around the house. Mike's wife Stefanie works in human resources for an insurance company and the couple has a young daughter, Hailey, who is almost two. "She's at a fun age," he says of his daughter. "We do family things like going to the park or the zoo.



Mike Theal, with his wife Stefanie and their daughter Hailey, at their home in St. Catharines.

"We do have to watch what we say around her," he adds, noting that Hailey will now repeat offhanded comments made by her parents. Mike is a proud and doting father, who says his outlook on life has changed dramatically since taking on the responsibility and protection of a child.

Mike's focus on family extends to making improvements to the home they all share.

Included in his recent renovation projects are a new upstairs bathroom and a finished recreation room in the basement. Most recently, he installed a new above-ground swimming pool in the backyard for the family to enjoy once the warm weather returns next summer.

Vineland Quarry Update

Vineland Quarries has experienced steady business over the past six months, with operations and shipping on schedule for the season, according to Walker Aggregates' operations manager Frank Kielbowich.

The screen deck in the tertiary crushing plant was recently replaced. The previous screen deck was repeatedly breaking down and had become unreliable.

Down the road at the Spring Creek Quarry, rock blasted and crushed last year is being shipped to projects in the Niagara region. No production has taken place at Spring Creek during 2013.



Vineland Donates Armourstone to Oakwood School

Port Colborne Mayor Vance Badawey cuts the ribbon to officially open the Oakwood Public School outdoor classroom.

EARTH 1st Celebrating a Decade of Environmental Care



Employees and guests at Walker Industries' head office in Thorold celebrate the 10th anniversary of EARTH 1st.

It's been 10 years since Walker Industries launched its innovative EARTH 1st program, and celebrations were held September 12 across the company's operating divisions to commemorate its anniversary and successful growth.

EARTH 1st was developed by Walker employees to take the company to a new level of environmental performance by empowering their colleagues to take action on behalf of the environment – to make a difference at work and at home. Through the suggestions of employees, the company has dramatically reduced its environmental impacts - including launching a carbon neutral building service, recycling concrete and asphalt, installing energy efficient lighting and developing wax emulsions from environmentally sustainable resources.

Walker Employees Ride for Cancer

The Walker Industries team of 26 employees raised more than \$68,000 for the Walker Family Cancer Centre during the annual Big Move Cancer Ride in September. This brings to \$345,000 the amount company employees have raised for the bicycle ride over the past five years.



The total amount raised by all teams and individuals during the 2013 ride was \$422,500, with \$2.1 million raised in total over five years.

Cyclists could choose to ride 25, 50 or 100 kilometres, or the "century club" ride, which is 100 miles. Mark Rattle from the Norjohn laboratory was the first Walker staff member to complete the century ride.

In addition to funds raised by the employees, Walker Industries also was a corporate sponsor of the annual event.

Proceeds from the Big Move Cancer Ride will be directed toward patient equipment for the cancer centre. The centre will serve the more than 2,500 Niagara residents diagnosed with cancer each year.

Walker Aggregates Inc.

Vineland Quarries
P. O. Box 100, Thorold, ON L2V 3Y8
905 227 4142
www.walkerind.com

VINELAND QUARRIES CONTACT INFORMATION

Angelo Bevilacqua
Quarry Superintendent
905 562 4163

abevilacqua@walkerind.com

Frank Kielbowich
Operations Manager
905 680 3673

fkielbowich@walkerind.com

Teresa Page
Administrative Assistant
905 680 3731
tpage@walkerind.com