



**Walker  
Industries  
Walker  
Aggregates Inc.**

# The Stonevine



Vineland Quarries

volume 9

issue 2

Fall/Winter 2012

## Quarry Update

After a good year in aggregate production and sales, we are now preparing our stockpiles in order to have supply on hand to ship out during the winter months when our quarry is not in production. We've been a lot busier at the quarry than in previous years - a good sign that the Niagara economy is doing well with construction projects underway.

In addition to outside projects, some of the stone we shipped this season has been used for the construction of the liners for the Atlas and Niagara Waste Systems landfills.

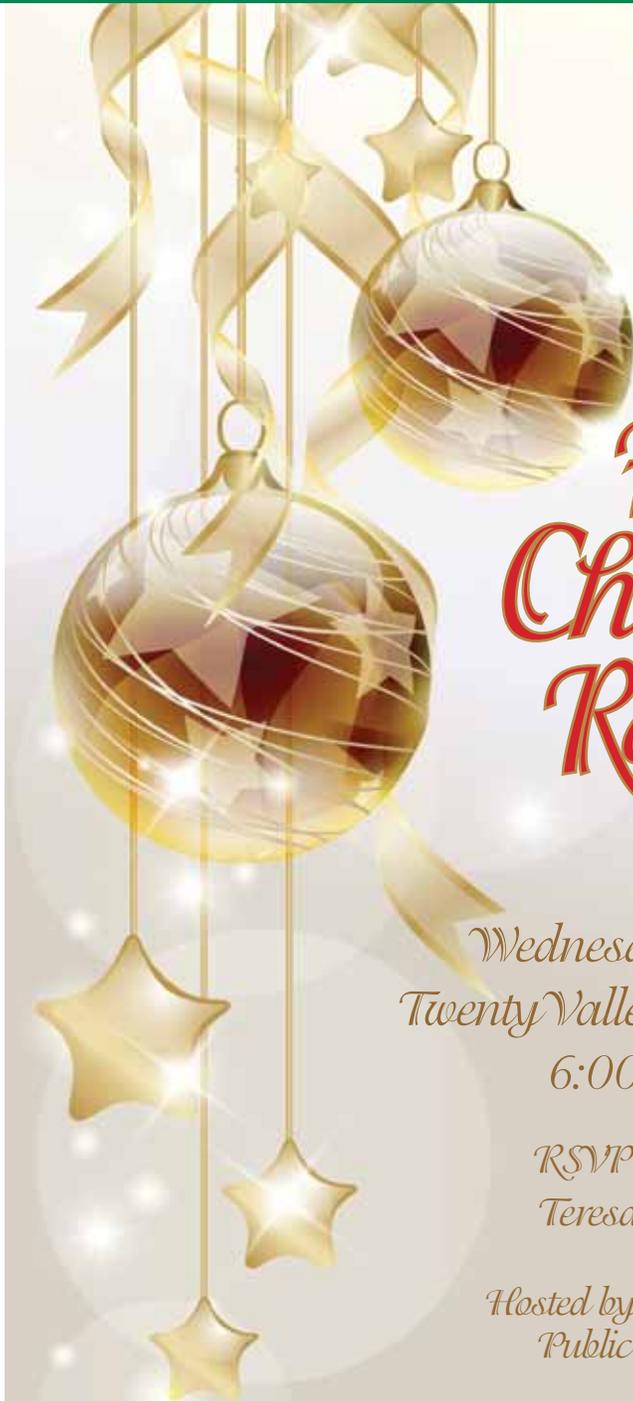
Our asphalt plant has also been busy. Among the projects where our asphalt has been used is in paving Highway 20 and on the completion of the Pelham Road project.

We also hired some new labourers this year to replace departing workers and fill in gaps where we needed some extra personnel.

Among the highlights in this edition of The Stonevine are stories about two of our retiring employees, Bert Vellieux and Bev Bryant, a story about the refurbishment of the exterior of the Scout Hut on our property and an update about what's happening at our Edgerock Vineyards.

I look forward to raising a glass of good cheer with our friends and neighbours at our annual Holiday Reception on November 21, 2012. Hope to see you there!

Evan Bartfai  
Quarry Superintendent



*You are invited  
to our*

## *Holiday Christmas Reception*

*Wednesday, November 21st  
Twenty Valley Golf & Country Club  
6:00 pm to 7:30 pm*

*RSVP before November 16  
Teresa Page 905.680.3731*

*Hosted by the Vineland Quarries  
Public Liaison Committee*

## Walker Industries Purchases U.S. Emulsions Company

Walker Industries Inc. has purchased the assets of Associated Chemists Inc. (ACI), based in Portland, Oregon. The sale became effective at midnight May 1st, 2012 with ACI becoming part of Walker's Norjohn division. The operating entity will be known as Norjohn-ACI Inc., with manufacturing facilities in Portland, Oregon, and Palm Coast, Florida.

Located in Burlington, Norjohn manufactures wax and asphalt emulsions for municipalities and industries throughout Canada, the U.S. and Mexico. Norjohn also operates a research lab and quality assurance operation located at McMaster's Innovation Park in Hamilton.

ACI was founded in 1929 as a packager of consumer products. Over various ownership changes and shifts in manufacturing focus, it has evolved to the point where it now produces custom emulsion formulations for industrial and commercial applications.

"The purchase of ACI is part of our long-term strategic plan to expand and reach new markets throughout North America," says Archie Reynolds, Norjohn's vice-president. "ACI's culture and values are an excellent fit with our own, the company produces complementary products to those we manufacture, and we are both known for the quality of our operations and products."

Reynolds adds that through this acquisition, the company looks forward to serving new customers and offering a wider range of products to its existing ones.

ACI's employees will become part of the Walker Norjohn team.



## Bert says Goodbye After 36 Years

After 36 years with Walker Industries, Bert Vellieux is enjoying his retirement from Vineland Quarries. When he left the company this past August, he was working as a blaster, and previously held jobs as a truck driver, loader and operator.

Bert joined Walker after moving from Quebec to Ontario, where he says the job prospects were better. He says his bosses and fellow employees "are super guys to work with," which is one of the reasons he stayed with the company so long. "I never had a job for more than a year before that," he notes.

He says he is taking retirement "one day at a time," and is concentrating on some odd jobs around the house he shares with his wife Suzie in St. Catharines. He plans to continue visiting family in Quebec's Eastern Townships a couple of times each year and taking trips to the Dominican Republic in the wintertime. He's also looking forward to spending more time with his four grandchildren, who he babysits a few times a week.

## Walker Buys Two Windsor Area Quarries

Walker Aggregates Inc. has purchased Amherst Quarries in Amherstburg, Ontario.

This acquisition gives Walker a footprint in the aggregates business in southwestern Ontario. We are looking to grow our aggregates division by acquiring new businesses and expanding our existing ones. We're interested in pursuing opportunities which allow us to expand geographically or replace depleting aggregate resources.

Amherst Quarries is a family business, and has been owned by three generations of the Smith

family. Established in 1959, the company has two large quarries - one south of Windsor and another in the town of Amherstburg. These quarries supply stone products to customers in Essex County and southwestern Ontario. Approximately twenty-five employees work for the company.

While Walker will take over ownership of the company, it will remain operating as Amherst Quarries. This acquisition gives us 12 pits and quarries in Niagara, Simcoe, Grey and Essex Counties.

## Carbon Action Team (CAT) Honoured at Niagara Region Environmental Awards

On June 13, 2012, the Niagara Region recognized Niagara's top environmental contributors at the Niagara Region 23rd annual Environmental Awards which is the longest-running municipal award program in Ontario. Regional Chair Gary Burroughs awarded Walker Industries Holdings Limited (WIHL) the 2012 Green Business Award. The awards honour individuals, non-profits, businesses, schools and families who have made significant contributions to protecting and improving Niagara's natural resources.

The judges were impressed with WIHL's EARTH 1st Environmental Program which moves beyond environmental compliance to focus on environmental performance and actively seek ways to improve the environment around WIHL facilities while also empowering employees to make decisions that improve processes and operations through education and training.

Probably the most significant and exciting initiative that was recently rolled out was the introduction of the Carbon Action Team (CAT). CAT is a voluntary cross-disciplined group of young leaders within WIHL who stepped up to the challenge of developing an approach for calculating the WIHL carbon footprint, measuring the WIHL baseline carbon footprint by 2012 and developing a method for the annual calculation of the carbon footprint. CAT met these goals and has now morphed into the Carbon Action Advisory Team (CAAT). CAAT is in the process of brainstorming and recommending goals to reduce the carbon footprint in each division, providing education and engagement sessions and monitoring annual carbon footprint results.

Kirsten Groody and Kyle Monteith, significant contributors to CAT were on hand to accept the award on behalf of WIHL at the quaint ceremony held at Niagara Region Headquarters in Thorold.

Recent green initiatives at WIHL include:

- Renovating the WEG office building which should result in a GHG reduction for that building
- A \$500,000 donation to Woodend Living Campus to revitalize the campus for thousands of students from the Niagara Region to enjoy educational and environmental experiences
- Participation at an annual Children's Water Festival which provides Grade 3 & 4 students an opportunity to learn about the importance of water
- A partnership with the University of Guelph to reclaim Landfill for agriculture
- Optimizing blower time settings to reduce their use and save energy at the Walker Compost Facility
- Restoring the gravitational flow connection between upstream and downstream reaches of the Frenchman's Creek in the vicinity of the quarry which reduced the energy use for perpetual pumping of non-quarry water at Ridgemount Quarries
- The installation of high efficiency lighting along with insulation in the new control tower to R45 at Vineland Quarries
- Revision of the transportation of metal for recycling at our public drop-off. The scrap metal is shipped in one large trailer load rather than several smaller loads, reducing the fuel used for shipments
- A wetland treatment system for Twelve Mile Creek, in partnership with Niagara College
- A "Krazy Ideas" contest rolled out to employees to challenge them to come up with ideas for improving our environmental performance
- A tree planting team building event with the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority



Regional Chair Gary Burroughs, Regional Councillor Barbara Greenwood and Thorold Mayor Ted Luciani flank Walker Industries employees Kyle Monteith and Kirsten Groody who accepted the Niagara Region Green Business Award on behalf of WIHL.

## In November Bev will be “Gone Fishing”

Bev Bryant is leaving Walker Industries after 32 years of service, first at Ridgemoor Quarries and more recently as a driller for Vineland Quarries.

While he says he will miss the routine of his work life and the “good bunch of people,” at the Vineland Quarries, “I am not going to miss getting up at a quarter after four in the morning,” in preparation for the 45-minute drive from his home in Stevensville to his work, which start at 6 a.m. every weekday.

Bev and his wife Isabelle have a small farm where they board horses, and he plans to do a bit of work both at the farm and at a local marina where he keeps his boats. He also wants to spend more time on his motorcycle, and his hobbies of hunting and fishing.

After Bev retires, Isabelle will still be working at a local veterinary clinic. There’s a list of projects around the house that she wants done. In addition, he says, “She wants the housework done and supper on the table every night when she gets home.” But he adds, “As long as the fish are biting, that’s not going to happen.”



## New Members of Walker Aggregates Management

Two new members have joined the management team at Walker Aggregates. Frank Kielbowich (pictured left) is the new operations manager responsible for all aggregate operations of Walker Aggregates, as well as the asphalt operations in Niagara. Frank has more than 16 years of progressive management experience in the steel industry, most recently with JMC Steel Group (formerly Lakeside Steel) in Welland.

Mark Harmsworth (right) has been promoted to the position of quarry supervisor for Vineland Quarries. Mark has been with Walkers Aggregates for five years in the role of quality technician for the corporate support team.



## Walker Community Garden

As part of the 2011 Krazy Ideas Contest, a team from the Walker Environmental Group put forward the idea of a community vegetable garden at Head Office. With the help of Jane Hanlon from Climate Action Niagara, the group planned out and began planting a plot in the open field just north of head office.

They planted tomatoes, beans, pumpkins, lettuce, squash, zucchini, potatoes, onions, dill and beets, with the plan being to donate as much produce as possible to local food banks. Garden maintenance and harvesting have been ongoing throughout the summer.

126 pounds of fresh produce was donated to Community Care in August 2012! Weekly donations continued as the garden was harvested. Weekly weeding and some regular mulching have helped to maintain the garden, though more volunteers are always welcome!

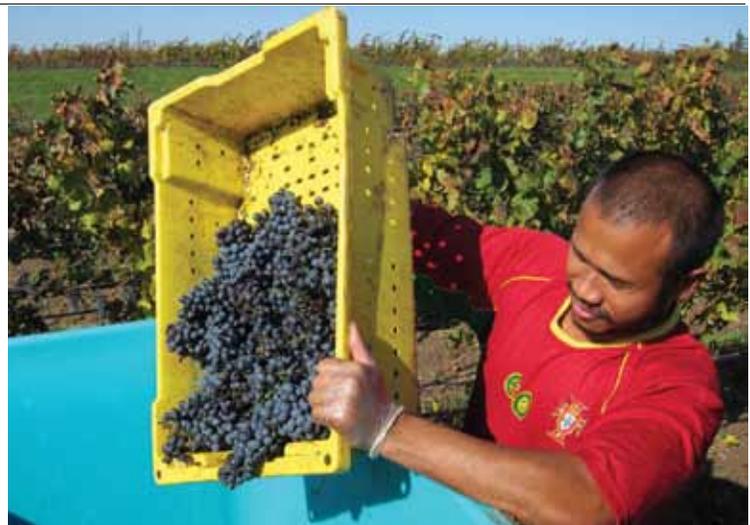
## A Good Harvest for Edgerock Vineyards

The 2012 grape harvest has been a good one for Walker’s Edgerock Vineyards, located in the rehabilitated section of the Vineland Quarry. According to Peter Graham, the company’s director of Business Development, all the grapes in the vineyard have been sold this year.

Buyers include renowned winemaker Andre Lipinski, who works with the likes of Cornerstone Estate Winery in Beamsville, Burning Kiln Winery in Port Dover, and Colaneri Estate Winery in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Some grapes are going to The Foreign Affair Winery in Vineland and as far as Karlo Estates Winery in Prince Edward County.

This past spring, Glen Elgin Vineyard Management was hired to manage and assist in the marketing of the grapes, and Peter says this company will also work to upgrade and enhance the vineyard.

“The future looks bright for the vineyard,” he says, highlighting that the short-term focus will be on improving the quality of the harvest. Fall 2012 marks the tenth harvest for Edgerock Vineyards. The first vines were planted in 2000.



A worker harvests the last of the grapes at the Edgerock Vineyard at the end of October.

## A Very Small Start for Alfred Beam Excavating

The little company that grew. That's the best way to describe one of Walker Aggregates' many long-time customers in the Niagara Peninsula, Alfred Beam Excavating Limited. When the company was established in 1976, president Alfred Beam had only one excavator, and a trailer



One of the Alfred Beam excavating crews is working on servicing a new subdivision in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Pictured from left are James Poirier, Pat Murphy, Jeffrey Bateman and foreman Shawn Schertzing.

to move it around, and at that time only one employee. Work was concentrated on basement excavation and drainage for agriculture.

Now Alfred Beam Excavating has more than 35 pieces of earthmoving machinery, a fleet of 28 vehicles, and 50 full-time and seasonal employees. Its projects include the installation of water and sewer services, road construction and reconstruction, municipal infrastructure, subdivisions and other commercial excavating projects. Customers have included every municipality in Niagara, the Buffalo and Fort Erie Public Bridge Authority, Niagara Parks Commission, the former Hamilton Harbour Commission and private developers planning subdivisions of up to 300 homes. Alfred Beam Excavating has been an integral partner of Walker Industries Holding's including Niagara Waste, Norjohn Contracting as well as Walker Aggregates.

From the beginning, Walker Aggregates has been a supplier to Alfred Beam Excavating. "They understand contractors and the pressures we are under," says Tom Stack, the company's vice-president of Finance and Administration. "They are excellent to deal with," he adds, noting that Walkers continues to accommodate last minute requests in order for both small and large scale projects to remain on schedule.

Alfred Beam Excavating is planning even more growth and expansion in the years ahead with increasingly complex infrastructure projects in Niagara and beyond.

## Scout Hut Gets Spruce Up

The Vineland Scout Hut, owned by Walker Aggregates Inc. and used for meetings by the First Vineland Scout Troop, was given a facelift in October, thanks to Walker and its employees.

The project was the first for the company's new Together We (Walker Employees) Can (Care About Neighbours) program. Under the program, the company encourages employees to help and assist on community projects.

A total of 20 Walker employees worked on the scout hut refurbishment over two days, including installing new eaves troughs and fascia, repainting the outside of the hut, and cleaning up the exterior grounds and planting gardens.

The hut is located at 3790 Moyer Road and is occasionally used by other scout troops. Walker has owned the building and the scouts have used it since 1967.



Before



During



After



**Walker  
Aggregates Inc.**

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## PUBLIC LIAISON COMMITTEE

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