

Walk of the Town

Walker Industries

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Walker Aggregates' operations manager Frank Kielbowich accepts the 2013 Industry Leadership Award for the company's work in helping to achieve reproductively sustainable and secure populations of the American Badger throughout its range in southern and northwestern Ontario.

WALKER WINS ENDANGERED SPECIES AWARD

Walker Aggregates is the recipient of the 2013 Industry Leadership Award from the Ontario Endangered Species Act Conference. The award comes as a result of Walker's work to supplement and complement the ongoing work of the Ontario Badger Recovery Team.

"Your firm provided support for the provision of a comprehensive overview of known habitat/biological needs, ecology, threats and knowledge gaps for the species," says Tom Hilditch, chair of the province's Species at Risk Program Advisory Committee.

"You also supported the provision of quite innovative outreach products including iPod GelaSkins, badger caps and fridge magnets in recognition of efforts to reach a younger audience to inspire them to contribute to badger conservation."

It's estimated there are fewer than 200 adult badgers in Ontario, mostly in counties along the north shore of Lake Erie. Because of this, badgers were given legal protection as an endangered species in 2001. A conservation effort began in 2009, and Walker has provided significant financial support to the Ontario Badger Recovery Team since then.

The award was presented to Walker during the conference on April 8, 2013.

WALKER BROTHERS QUARRY UPDATE

The Walker Brothers Quarry resumed full spring production on April 8, 2013, after its workers participated in a two-day meeting in Orillia in March, involving some 100 employees from Walker's quarries across Ontario. The meeting focused primarily on health and safety training.

"Based on our schedule of work so far, this year will be steady for us," says quarry superintendent Angelo Bevilacqua.

Rehabilitation of the quarry is progressing according to schedule, Angelo says, with slopes being created from the top of the quarry to the floor. Overburden removed from areas to be extracted is being used to construct cells for the Walker landfill adjacent to the quarry.

Later this spring, a new 10-tonne crane will be installed in the quarry shop. The crane will run along rails and be used to lift parts from heavy machinery for repair. Until now, the company needed to rent a crane for this purpose.

Over at the asphalt plant, an overhaul of the baghouse was undertaken with 495 of the 500 bags replaced. The bags are essentially the same as the bags in a household vacuum cleaner. They capture dust particles from the exhaust gases of the plant, and are emptied when full - but do need to be replaced from time to time. Some components in the baghouse were also repaired, improving the environmental performance of its operation and ensuring the company remains in compliance with its Certificate of Approval.

WALKER ADDS A NEW COMPANY TO ITS PORTFOLIO

Walker Industries Holdings Limited added about 100 new employees to its payroll last fall with the purchase of Organic Resource Management Inc. (ORMI). It had been a publicly-traded company listed on the TSX Venture Exchange. It became part of the Walker Environmental Group (WEG) division under the direction of Vice-President Mike Watt.

ORMI's core business involves collecting non-hazardous, liquid organic wastes from more than 8,000 customers, including restaurants, grocery stores and other food processing facilities. The waste residuals are taken to ORMI's facilities for processing, and then used in on-farm anaerobic digesters to create green energy for Ontario's power grid.

ORMI is Canada's largest grease trap servicing company, with facilities in Toronto, Woodstock, Ottawa and Vancouver.

"The purchase of ORMI is part of Walker's plan to expand into organic waste processing and create a national footprint," Watt says. "ORMI's values are complementary to those of Walker, with strong environmental performance, standard of operations, regulatory compliance, safety, and employee and community relations. This acquisition is a good fit for us."

save the date

Holiday Christmas Reception is Wednesday, December 11, 2013

6:00 pm to 7:30 pm

Niagara College Benchmark Restaurant

Hosted by the Walker Industries Public Liaison Committee

CUSTOMER PROFILE



Cotton Inc. cement and pump truck operators John Hill and Larry Leveille on the job at a new subdivision in the area of Lundy's Lane and Kalar Road in Niagara Falls.

A WIN-WIN RELATIONSHIP WITH COTTON INC.

The best business relationships are the reciprocal ones - relationships where the parties are both each other's customers and suppliers. That's the case with Cotton Inc. and Walker Aggregates. Cotton was established in 1979 as a concrete forming company, based in Niagara Falls. Over the years it has grown to employ some 170 staff, and provides excavation and trucking services, in addition to forming and pouring concrete foundations for residential and commercial buildings. One of its landmark projects was the foundation work for "The Lofts," seven, five-story student residences at Brock University last year.

From the very beginning the company has turned to Walker's Niagara quarries - Vineland, Walker Brothers and Ridgemount - to purchase its aggregate products, from driveway stone to stone used in the manufacture of concrete.

"They are a very loyal and valued customer," says Walker's marketing manager Frank Hurkmans. "As our businesses have grown, the relationship becomes more important."

Cotton's trucking and equipment manager Joe Ruggi concurs. "The reciprocal business makes the difference; that's what keeps us loyal to Walker," he says. Joe notes that Walker hires Cotton to truck asphalt for its Norjohn Paving division. Cotton also uses Walker's Niagara Falls landfill to dispose of construction and demolition wastes. Both companies also share similar values - to be the very best in their industries, operate in an environmentally friendly way and give back to the communities in which they operate.

EMPLOYEES TURN DOWN THE HEAT FOR SWEATER DAY

Employees of Walker Aggregates, Walker Environmental Group and Head Office in Niagara Falls/ Thorold joined in the first of several challenges marking the 10th anniversary of Walker Industries innovative EARTH 1st Program by participating in National Sweater Day.

The 550-plus employees across Walker Industries' divisions were asked to wear a warm sweater on February 7, 2013, when the temperature in all of the company's buildings was lowered by two degrees. "We encouraged staff to find wacky, funky and wild sweater, toque and scarf combinations," says Alison Braithwaite, the company's director of Environmental Performance.

Members of the communities in each of Walker Industries' operating locations were also encouraged to become involved. "We asked our customers, suppliers, friends and neighbours to lower their heat and put on their favourite sweater to take action against climate change and work towards a sustainable future," Braithwaite says.

If every Canadian lowered the heat by just two degrees this winter, it would reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 4 megatons.

Walker Industries' EARTH 1st Program acknowledges that, "Our business is the environment and the environment is our business. As individuals and as a company we challenge our employees to give back to the environment more than we take from it."





Woodend Before



Woodend After

WOODEND CAMPUS GETS A MAKEOVER

About a dozen Walker employees last fall donated their time and efforts to sprucing up the Walker Living Campus at Woodend at Taylor Road south of Glendale Avenue in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The work included a cleanup of the grounds around the campus and painting a meeting room in the former Thomson House residence.

The work was done under the company's Together We (Walker Employees) Can (Care About Neighbours) program. Through the program, the company provides employees with two paid days per year to work on community projects.



Woodend Before



Woodend After

WHERE THE ROCK GOES: EDGEDALE/EASTCHESTER WATERMAIN PROJECT

Aggregates extracted from Walker Aggregates quarry operations in the Niagara region are used for various projects in the peninsula - including the construction of roads, schools, hospitals, homes and businesses.

This construction activity contributes to the social and economic well-being of our community. In this and every subsequent issue of Walk of the Town, we will feature a project which uses aggregate from the Walker Brothers Quarry.



Victoria Avenue Watermain



Edgedale Road Watermain

Aggregates are often used in projects to replace aging infrastructure. Stone from the Walker Brothers Quarry is now being used in a major watermain replacement project in St. Catharines. An old cast iron watermain is being replaced along a four kilometre stretch of Edgedale Road, Riverdale Drive, Melbourne Avenue, Westchester Crescent and Eastchester Avenue. The trench for the watermain will be backfilled with stone to allow for enough compaction to prevent settlement in the roadways.

EMPLOYEE PROFILE

LES IS FIXING MACHINES AND SAVING LIVES

Les Hildebrand is one of those people who's on the clock 24/7, every day of the year. He works from 6 a.m. until 4 p.m. weekdays as the lead mechanic at the Walker Brothers Quarry. But when he gets home in the evenings and during weekends he's always on call. Les is a volunteer firefighter for the Town of Pelham.

Les says he likes the variety of work at Walker over his nearly 38 years with the company. "It's never a boring routine and there's a wide variety of equipment I'm in charge of repairing." A quarry is a harsh environment for machinery and there's always something that needs to be fixed.

When he's not on the job at the Walker Brothers Quarry, Les Hildebrand is on call as a volunteer firefighter in Pelham.

In his 25 years of firefighting, there's also been a wide variety of situations to respond to - from handling calls about carbon dioxide alarms going off to house fires and car accidents. Les is involved in more than 350 calls each year.

Fatal car accidents are the toughest, he says. "I manage to compartmentalize my feelings once I'm there." Les and his wife Marsha, lost their teenaged son Ian in a car accident in 2003.

The Pelham Fire Department is very well equipped and although the firefighters are all volunteers, they are extremely well trained, Les says. He hopes to keep working at Walker and volunteering to help save lives for the foreseeable future.

"It's a very rewarding activity," he says with a smile.



Les Hildebrand

2013 SOUTH LANDFILL LANDFILL GAS COLLECTION SYSTEM CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

The landfill gas collection team was busy this past winter constructing the 3rd phase of the wellfield in the South Landfill. Braving cold conditions, a total of 14 permanent extraction wells were installed along with a number of connections to leachate collection system (LCS) infrastructure. This brings the total number of extraction wells to 23 and LCS connections to 15. The wells were connected to the existing gas collection system via the installation of approximately 1 km of underground piping. All of the gas collected from the South Landfill, which is almost 950 standard cubic feet per minute (scfm), is conveyed to an onsite flare where it is combusted for greenhouse gas emission and odour control.

As you may recall, the majority of the gas collected from the East Landfill is delivered to the nearby Resolute Forest Products paper mill, where it used as a fuel in lieu of natural gas. With the additional gas from the South coming online, the team is actively seeking to expand or create additional beneficial uses for this renewable energy source. Stay tuned for more updates.



Landfill Gas Header Installation

SOUTH LANDFILL UPDATE

2012 was a busy year for the new South Landfill. During the year Cell 4 was constructed and received Ministry of the Environment approval to fill (place waste) in November. This cell was the first to be constructed by our local forces versus the major out of town contractor that was brought in to construct the first three cells and associated infrastructure.

In addition, 2012 saw the initial installation of the landfill gas collection system where the collected gas is cleaned and piped to Resolute Forest Products for use in their paper manufacturing process, is used to fire our 1 megawatt generator which produces electricity that is sent out to the Niagara Peninsula Energy Inc. grid or is simply flared when the other options are not capable of receiving gas.

2013 will see the next landfill cell constructed (Cell 5) as well as the remaining footprint of Cell 2 being completed. This work will commence as soon as the seemingly unending winter season is over and drier/warmer temperatures allow for the working and compaction of clay soils that make up a major part of the landfill liner system.

The landfill gas collection system will also be expanded to include the permanent header pipe that will carry the collected landfill gas to our onsite gas treatment plant and the addition of collection wells that are drilled into the waste materials within each cell.

Let's hope the sun shines on us all and 2013 can be enjoyed by everyone; including our contractors.



PUBLIC LIAISON COMMITTEE

Alison Braithwaite
Director,
Environmental Performance
905 680 3769
abraithwaite@walkerind.com

Tim McVicar
General Manager, Operations
Walker Environmental Group
905 680 3709
tmcvicar@walkerind.com

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



2012 HOLIDAY CHRISTMAS RECEPTION

