

Walker Celebrates 10 years of EARTH 1st

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



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



Both the Niagara Region and the City of Thorold presented Walker Industries with special plaques, congratulating the company on the EARTH 1st anniversary. (L - r) Walker president John Fisher, Thorold mayor Ted Luciani and Walker's vice president of Environmental Performance, Alison Braithwaite.

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.

"I am thrilled with the success of EARTH 1st, which is a result of the small actions of each of our employees making a choice for the environment," said Walker's president and CEO John Fisher. "I'm proud that Walker was at the forefront of corporate environmental responsibility, and that we continue to set an example for other companies in our operating regions and associated businesses. Our Environmental Performance team – and all our company employees – are to be commended for their fantastic work."

Several Walker Industries locations hosted employees and members of the community in simultaneous receptions. These locations included the Thorold/Niagara Falls head office, and Walker operations in Toronto, Simcoe County, Burlington and Portland, Oregon. Other locations were able to participate via the internet.

Please Join Us for Our

Holiday *Christmas* Reception

Wednesday,
December 11, 2013

6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Benchmark Restaurant
Niagara College
135 Taylor Road
Niagara-on-the-Lake

RSVP

before December 5th
to Teresa Page
905-680-3731

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



Darren Peters

in St. Catharines. A crew is also now on site at the massive Outlet 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."

Walker Digs Deep for Snapping Turtles

The Walker Environmental Group is helping provide safe nesting habitat for snapping turtles in the Niagara Peninsula.

Niagara Beeway, an organization dedicated to protecting wildlife species native to Niagara, approached the company earlier this year requesting a donation of compost and mulch. These materials were required at a project site in Wainfleet to allow the turtles to create deep enough nests to protect their eggs from predators – such as raccoons, skunks, heron, snakes and possums.

The Niagara area has clay soil, which becomes very hard during periods of drought, and causes difficulty for the female turtles to dig into.

"We were pleased to make the donation," says compost process co-ordinator Diana Aquino. "Walker is a company that's dedicated to protecting the environment, so helping the snapping turtle conservation effort was a project that resonated for us."

The mulch and compost was spread to a depth of 12 inches, allowing the turtles to easily dig holes and bury their eggs. The turtle nests were then protected with wire screening. Eggs were laid in the spring and successfully hatched during the first week in September.

"Thanks to the Compost division and the entire Walker Environmental Group for your assistance in making this possible," says Niagara Beeway chairman, George Scott.

Snapping turtles have been designated as a Species of Special Concern, both provincially and federally, under the Endangered Species Act.



Where the Rock Goes

Niagara Street Road Reconstruction

Stone from the Walker Brothers Quarries is being used for a major road reconstruction project on Niagara Street in St. Catharines, near the Queen Elizabeth Way. Some 40,000 tonnes of aggregate is being used to install a new storm system, water main, curbs, sidewalk and asphalt road surface.



Photo courtesy of Wasyl Bakowsky, Natural Heritage Information Centre, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.

EMPLOYEE PROFILE



Isaac Pelissero

Helping Out on the Family Farm

Isaac Pelissero and his siblings grew up doing chores at his family's fourth-generation chicken farm in Smithville. During that time, Isaac was more interested in moving equipment around the 50-acre farm than gathering eggs, so he chose to go to college to become a heavy equipment operator.

Twenty-year-old Isaac, an employee of Walker Aggregates since May, is now a rock truck operator at the company's Walker Brothers Quarries.

"I like it a lot," he says of his job, adding that he is learning about aggregates and how the quarry business functions. He is hoping to stay on with Walker over the long term, and advance his career within the company.

Isaac does admit that at times, the work can be a bit routine – moving hundreds of thousands of rocks, day after day, in the same way his family processes more than 15,000 eggs each day in their large agricultural operation.

Still, he lives in the family home and helps his parents and siblings around the farm, work he's been doing since he was five or six years old. With increased automation over the years, the operation is less labour intensive now than in earlier days – with only one full-time employee, in addition to the family members who handle the chores.

With nearly 12-hour days at the quarry and his help on the farm, Isaac still has time for some leisure pursuits. He plays in his church hockey league, and also enjoys hunting, fishing, golf and skiing.

Walker Brothers Quarry Update

The Walker Brothers Quarries has had a busy construction season this year. Due to an increased demand for stone, crushing operations have been extended to 10 hours per day, instead of the normal eight, says former quarry superintendent Angelo Bevilacqua.

Last May, the quarry was the site of a major training exercise for employees of the aggregate industry in Ontario. The Walker Brothers team hosted the Ontario Stone, Sand & Gravel Association's annual Training Day. Forty-five workers from various aggregate companies learned how to operate quarry equipment such as front-end loaders and face loaders, maintain screens and belts in the crushing plant, and a variety of other common tasks. The annual Training Day is geared to new employees or employees moving into new jobs within their companies.

Mark Harmsworth is New Quarry Superintendent



Mark Harmsworth

The Walker Brothers Quarries has a new superintendent. He is Mark Harmsworth, a six-year employee of Walker Aggregates, and most recently supervisor of the Vineland Quarries.

Previously, Mark worked as quality technician for the corporate support group. In his new role, he also becomes superintendent of the Ridgemount Quarries in Fort Erie.

Mark says he is excited to take this new step in his career and to meet the neighbours of the two quarry operations. "I'm looking forward to taking on the challenge of operating the business and learning the two sites," he says.

Meanwhile, Angelo Bevilacqua is moving from the Walker Brothers Quarries to assume the role as superintendent of the Vineland Quarries. A 26-year veteran of Walker Aggregates, Angelo says he's also looking forward to the challenge of a new operation – which includes a vineyard on the quarry lands and different uses for the stone quarried in Vineland.



The quarry team hosted the annual OSSGA Training Day.

Staying Safe at the Residential Drop-off

Walker's Residential Drop-off Facility is a busy place that presents many safety challenges. Along with the steady flow of traffic, the site has customers and attendants on foot, as well as loaders and haul trucks to move waste.

Activities must be carefully planned and timed to ensure the safety of all visitors. Every employee understands his or her responsibility to protect not only our customers, but fellow employees as well. Site safety improvements are also continually implemented.

How our attendants keep you safe:

- Inspecting materials in each load to avoid improper disposal of potentially hazardous materials (i.e. propane tanks that could explode when crushed).

- Constant communication amongst employees and with customers improves both safety and service.
- Presence of attendants ensures an immediate response to hazards.
- Directing traffic and guiding vehicles into the appropriate location reduces the potential for collisions or injuries.

How our loader operators keep you safe:

- While bins are being crushed, customers are kept clear to avoid potential injury from flying objects.
- Maintaining awareness of their surroundings at all times, and using signals such as horns, lights and backup alarms.
- Quickly clearing waste from the site to eliminate hazards and improve visibility.

Recent site improvements include:

- New and improved signs that clearly convey the proper use of the facility.
- Installation of new railings to prevent slips and falls into bins.
- New "Do not climb" and "Do not cross" signs have been painted on the asphalt in front of railings.
- New curbs were installed to prevent vehicles from backing up too close to the railings.

"Although our Drop-off employees are doing a great job, safety is a continuous effort which involves every individual using the facility," says operations manager Greg Robles. "It's important that visitors remain alert, follow directions and obey the rules of the site."

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 employee 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.



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