

# Walk of the Town



Walker Industries

volume 12

issue 1

Spring/Summer 2012

## SAVE THE DATE

### Walker Industries Holiday Christmas Reception

Wednesday, December 5, 2012

6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Niagara College Culinary Institute

### Busy time at the IMS Residential Drop-Off

**Keep your trip quick with these tips!**

The IMS Residential Drop Off is currently operating under Spring and Summer hours of 7 am to 5 pm Monday through Saturday. We are closed on statutory holidays.

The busy season is underway, seeing over 500 cars on a busy day! In an effort to reduce the wait times, we've bypassed all residential leaf and yard waste traffic away from the scale, using our back entrance on Regent Street. We estimate this initiative decreases scale traffic by 200 cars during peak season. If planning a trip to our facility, we recommend visiting the site during the week, specifically Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday as these have been identified as non-peak times.

Other helpful tips that may speed up your experience include:

- Have the required \$20 deposit ready when you approach the scale.
- Use cash if possible. Credit/debit card transactions tend to take longer.
- Know your PIN # if are using your debit card or credit card.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at 905-680-3059.

### Walker Brothers Quarry Update

The Walker Brothers Quarry resumed full production in mid April, and "business is good so far this year," says superintendent Angelo Bevilacqua. He notes that the mild winter resulted in an early start to this year's construction season with quite a bit of stone having already been shipped from the quarry.

Over the winter, one crusher was removed and replaced to improve productivity. The former crusher required stone to be removed by hand in the event of a power outage, a process that could take up to four hours to complete. With the new crusher, the stone can be removed in about five minutes. The plant's tertiary crusher is now running with three screens instead of the normal six. Some adjusting and fine tuning to the equipment has allowed this to happen, resulting in reduced power usage.



New garden at Shop Building entrance  
Scott Traubenik, Lead Hand, Ground Maintenance

During the annual general meeting of the Ontario Stone, Sand & Gravel Association in February, Walker Brothers Quarry was honoured with two industry awards. The Property Enhancement Award recognized the quarry's efforts to improve the appearance of its property, which included cleaning up the area around the maintenance shop and building a new flower garden in front, painting the interior office areas, and enhancing storage in the building. The second award, the Community Relations Award, recognized the company's



Community Care 2011 Adopt-A-Family Christmas Program

work with its Public Liaison Committee, its new blasting program communications, dust and noise mitigation efforts, and its community charitable works - including participating in the Community Care Adopt-A-Family Christmas program. We are looking forward to another encouraging year. Safety has always been our first priority and this year we intend to revisit and reinforce our safety program.

## Southeast Quarry - Taylor Road Drainage Tunnel



Area in South Landfill being prepared where tunnel starts to go under Taylor Rd. towards Southeast Quarry.

2012 will see the installation of a drainage tunnel under Taylor Road as part of the long term operating plan for the Southeast Quarry.

Originally the Southeast Quarry's drainage plan called for the installation of a "tunnel" under Taylor Road that would empty out onto the South Quarry floor. The water would then travel along an open ditch leading to a 1200mm (4 ft.) pipe and eventually to an outfall on the Niagara Escarpment. The goal of the plan was to provide drainage of the Southeast Quarry by gravity and alleviate the need for perpetual pumping.

Now, because of the siting of the South Landfill, the option of the open drainage ditch across the South Quarry floor no longer exists. As a result, NWSL took on the project of placing the 1200mm pipe around the South Landfill footprint and connect it to the tunnel.

More pictures of the actual tunnel installation to follow in the next newsletter.

## Paving is a Family Affair for Circle P

After working in construction for 52 years, Dwight Phibbs says retirement is on the horizon. Dwight is president and owner of Circle P Paving in Stevensville and a customer of Walker Aggregates. He says he will soon be looking for the next generation to take over control of the business so that he and his wife Martha can relax and enjoy some leisure time.

Dwight started working for a local contracting company as a bulldozer operator at age 16. He purchased one-third of the company, later sold it, took a break and started Circle P Paving with Martha 33 years ago. He bought a paver, tractor, trailer and dump truck, and then had three or four employees. Now, more than 30 people are employed at the company during the busy summer construction season.

All three of Dwight's children work for the company. Rick is operations manager, Jimmy is production manager and Penny is office manager. "Most of the time, everyone gets along," Dwight says with a chuckle.

The majority of Circle P Paving's customers are municipalities, and the company is now working to install asphalt at a sewer project in St. Catharines, and repairing and resurfacing a road project in Niagara



Falls. The company has purchased stone, asphalt, and tar and chip products from Walker since its very beginning.

Dwight says that what sets Circle P Paving apart from its competitors is a combination of price, quality and reputation. "We're sticklers and try to do the work right," he says. "Everybody in the world will know about it, if you don't do a good job."

## IMS Compost Site Focuses on Oxygen Levels for Odour Reduction

Composting is the biological process of breaking down organic waste such as food scraps, leaves and wood into a beneficial humus-like product. This decomposition can only take place in the presence of oxygen and when accompanied by various micro-organisms such as bacteria and fungi. It is essentially nature's way of recycling and is the framework of the IMS Compost Operation. The secret to successful composting is to maintain optimal conditions for these organisms to thrive and grow. As mentioned, one of the key components is oxygen. Without adequate oxygen the wrong type of microbes, the anaerobic type, will grow and create foul type odours.

Throughout the winter months, we have focused and studied the oxygen levels throughout the composting process. The Gore System is designed to deliver oxygen by actively blowing air through the piles via aeration trenches. With oxygen trying to move throughout the pile, it is important to have enough airspace, referred to as porosity. What we found was that the material was too closely packed and oxygen was not always able to travel throughout that pile. To improve this, IMS sourced more construction and wood pallets as this high carbon material, would provide the structure needed to provide space for the air to pass through the pile. These pallets are ground and added to the feedstock mix.



Slow Speed Shredder

We also looked at the mixer. In the mixer, the food waste was getting mixed together and forming a dense, porridge like product. To change this, IMS has rented a slow speed shredder to do trials on processing incoming waste. So far this equipment is creating a less dense product that allows for better air penetration.

A Process Control Manager position was added with a key focus on controlling the Gore Cover system fans and testing parameters such as porosity. The results of these combined efforts have shown significant improvements in oxygen levels, decreased odours and improved product quality. IMS continues to make improvements to our operations with the goal of minimizing odours while creating a high quality compost product.



## Niagara Biosolids Product Update

If you've ever wondered what's inside the big white warehouse across the street from the Walker Industries head office, the answer lately would be "not much".

The Niagara Biosolids facility produces a soil-like fertilizer by blending municipal biosolids with an alkaline additive. Our product, called N-Rich™, is used primarily for soil pH adjustment and is rich in organic matter and nutrients. The demand for our product has been building each year since 2007, and has now outpaced production.

Farmers across Southern Ontario are seeing the many benefits of using N-Rich™ on their fields, including: increased yields, enhanced nutrient uptake and improved soil health.

One of our local customers was kind enough to send us these words on his experience using our product: "We have been very pleased with using N-Rich™ in our field crop production. Given the escalating costs of purchased commercial nutrients and ever tightening regulations of other organic sources, N-Rich™ is a sound choice. It's economically viable, beneficial to the soil in multiple ways and provides a more harmonious method of applying municipal biosolids on farmland that is amongst rural, residential homes."

"The staff at Niagara Biosolids has always been very courteous and makes every effort to accommodate requests of product availability and logistics. We have praise for the product, professional respect for the people and look forward to the continued utilization of N-Rich™ on our farm."

## Walker is a Leader in Aggregate Recycling

Walker Aggregates Inc. is one of the founding member companies of a new organization formed to promote the use of recycled aggregates in construction projects. The organization is called Aggregate Recycling Ontario (ARO), and its goal is to eliminate the large piles of concrete and asphalt removed from demolition sites and road reconstruction projects by re-using these materials.

"There is an immediate crisis in the GTA surrounding recycled aggregate," said Adrian Van Niekerk, chair of ARO. "Recycling yards are filling up to capacity with broken concrete and asphalt, yet not nearly enough is leaving the site to be used again in new construction," he said. "Some facilities have had to close their yards to new deliveries, because there is just no more room," he added.

Nearly three million tonnes of recyclable concrete, asphalt and aggregate that have been recovered from GTA construction sites now sit in piles to be processed. Although the Ontario government, through the Ministry of Transportation, and some municipalities have been leaders in using recycled aggregates for years, many municipalities' specifications do not allow recycled aggregates to be used in construction projects. Processed properly, these aggregates meet all performance requirements and provide a suitable alternative to primary aggregates which come directly from pits and quarries. Using recycled aggregate is also environmentally friendly in that it keeps these materials out of landfills and cuts down on the demand for primary aggregate from pits and quarries.

Walker's aggregate sales manager Frank Hurkmans is a director of the ARO. He says Walker has been accepting recycled materials from torn up roads and demolished buildings for more than a decade at all three of its Niagara quarries. The company resells on average about 95,000 tonnes of recycled concrete and 15,000 tonnes of recycled asphalt each year. Most of the customers are local municipalities, and private sewer and water main construction companies.



## Jake Coens Retires After 41 Years

After 41 years working as a blaster at the Walker Brothers Quarry, Jake Coens retired in April. For most of those years he was also president of the Steelworkers Union local 4957. But he says disputes between the union and the company were rare. "We've always been able to walk away from the table, come to an agreement and shake hands," he says. "There was no bad mouthing on either side of the fence."

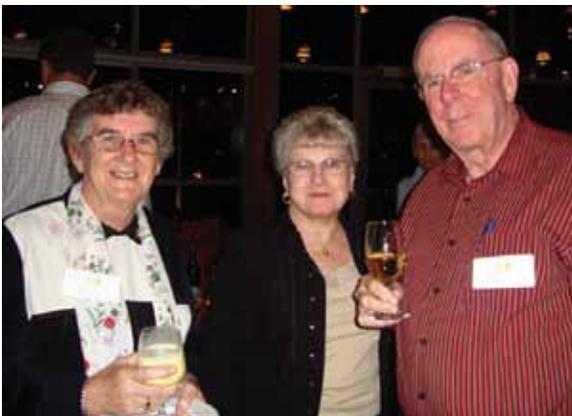
Jake has seen a lot of changes since the early days of his job. "In the beginning it was light the fuse and run like hell," he says, noting that electric detonators and then electronic ones came later.

Now that he is retired, Jake is looking forward to spending more time with Sandra, his wife of 42 years, four children, 16 grandchildren, and one great grandchild - all of whom come to the family home in Niagara Falls every Sunday for dinner. Also part of the group are two severely disabled foster children who have been cared for by the Coens for more than 20 years.

Jake also plans to expand his hobby of making custom cabinetry in his basement woodworking shop and traveling across Ontario with Sandra in his motor home. He also says his wife has a "do it list" for him to tackle. "I haven't looked at it yet, and don't plan to," he says jokingly. His first goal is much more leisurely. "I'd like to try sleeping in. It's hard to stay in bed in the morning."

As he leaves Walker, Jake has a parting message to the company executive, asking that safety and the safety of the employees be kept the number one priority. "Keep my brothers safe," he said.

Remembering Our Annual Holiday Christmas Reception on December 7, 2011 Niagara College Culinary Institute Hosted by the Walker Industries Public Liaison Committee.



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