

Walk of the Town



Walker Industries

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Fall/Winter 2011

Walker Brothers Quarry Update

For most of this year, the quarry has been on a four-day production schedule, with one additional day devoted to maintenance, as compared to the normal five-day production schedule. Quarry supervisor Angelo Bevilacqua says this is a result of a slowing economy in construction, especially now that major government infrastructure funds have been spent, and increased competition in the marketplace.

Walker Aggregates has been engaging neighbours in our Six Sigma review of our blasting program. Six Sigma is a business management strategy aimed at improving process quality. It applies measurement and statistical analysis to ensure quality. Part of the quality of our blasts is how our neighbours perceive them. We have engaged our neighbours in this process improvement exercise. A subcommittee of the Public Liaison Committee was created to provide a forum for dialogue with our Garner Road neighbours. Mining is now occurring along Taylor Road which resulted in residents noticing our blasts more often. To ensure quality blasts from a neighbour perspective, monitors were placed on properties along Garner Road. The measurements were assessed from a Six Sigma approach and our blasting methods were adjusted to meet both operational quality improvements and improve the quality of our blasts from a neighbour perspective.



Balls Falls

Niagara Children's Water Festival

Walker Industries shared the EARTH 1st message at the Niagara Children's Water Festival this past September. Our Walker volunteers engaged grade 3 and 4 students in the EARTH 1st workshop which is aimed at teaching children their part in the environment and showing them how much we rely on nature.

Special thanks to our volunteers this year: Carli Falcioni, Patti Bosco, Val Jupp, Scott Hurley, Kevin Kehl and Jamie Mereweather. For more information about EARTH 1st visit www.EARTH1st.ca

You're invited to our Annual Holiday Christmas Reception

Wednesday, December 7, 2011
6 pm - 7:30 pm
Niagara College Culinary Institute

If you are planning to attend,
please RSVP to Teresa Page 905-680-3731
by November 25th

Hosted by the
Walker Industries Public Liaison Committee





Walker's Quarries on Industry Tour

The Walker Brothers Quarry in Thorold and the Vineland Quarry were both featured in a recent tour organized by the Ontario Stone, Sand & Gravel Association (OSSGA) for its members.

Approximately 125 people participated in the day-long OSSGA

Operations Tour in the Niagara Region. Other stops were Nelson Aggregate's Lincoln Quarry, the W.S. Tyler plant - which produces screening equipment for the aggregate industry - and the Niagara Tunnel project.



Xstrata Nickel

Controlling emissions of airborne particulate matter (dust) is a common challenge faced by many industries, especially in the mining sector. Walker Industries has gained significant recognition for innovation through the design and implementation of emission reduction technologies. The Walker Group of companies continues to be on the cutting edge of emissions management and their efforts are catching the eye of others in the mining sector.

Walker Aggregates was recently contacted by a delegation of environmental and operational professionals from Xstrata Nickel's Sudbury operation. Xstrata is a major diversified mining group, listed on the London and Swiss stock exchanges. As part of the company's "Approach to Sustainability," Xstrata has been going through a continual improvement exercise. They are looking at industry leaders for ideas, technologies and creative ways to minimize the negative environmental and social impacts of their business. Part of their focus includes evaluating energy consumption and looking for opportunities to build stronger relations with local

communities through initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas, particulate matter, noise and other emissions.

The group was very interested in touring several Walker operations in an effort to learn about emissions controls, operational procedures and Best Management Practices Plans (BMPs).

The delegation was particularly interested in Walker's operational procedures, manuals and Best Management Practices Plans.

Xstrata hopes its efforts and learnings from industry leaders will assist the company improve its environmental program and provide guidance for sustainable development assurance audits, external verification, and improve overall environmental performance. Xstrata is focused on improving their program for their shareholders, customers, employees, environment, communities and other stakeholders. Xstrata obviously sees our leadership in dust control and management. Hats off to Walker Aggregates for meeting the 1st - Innovation & Leadership - of EARTH 1st.



Terry Johnson is Walker's New Asphalt Plant Manager

It's been only about seven months since Terry Johnson joined Walker Aggregates as its Thorold asphalt plant manager, after 23 years working at similar plants for other companies, and he's already a happy employee. "I love it here," he says. "I haven't been this relaxed in 10 years."

Not that Terry is sitting around with his feet up. He takes his job very seriously. He knows that the local asphalt business is facing some challenging times and that his team must be as productive as possible. "We are in the toughest market in Ontario with some aggressive competition," he says, adding that pricing is always an issue and

with older customers retiring, the challenge is to sell the new ones on Walker's asphalt. And once new customers are on board, the plant needs to be ready to supply them.

Terry says he's impressed by the family feeling at Walker, and by its community involvement and concern for the environment. As for his own family, the Fort Erie resident has been married to his wife, Wendy, for 20 years and has a son, Barrett. In his spare time Terry enjoys fishing on Lake Erie, golfing, and traveling to the east coast and Las Vegas.

EMPLOYEE PROFILE - Glenn Wilde

Glenn was born in Hamilton, now resides in Welland with his family, and has been with Walker Industries since 1998. He started working with Norjohn Contracting Ltd. as an operator, and in 2003 transferred to Walker Aggregates Inc. Currently Glenn is the Niagara Waste Systems Ltd. sweeper operator and can be found most days in the big blue and yellow sweeper cleaning our internal roads as well as keeping surrounding rounds clean as part of our commitment to the community we work in.

Glenn's dedication to his job is evident considering the numerous days when he willingly accepts the need for continuous sweeping that requires additional hours of maintenance work. That same dedication proved valuable when he recently prevented a spill while out on a public roadway. Glenn noticed a small hydraulic line leak coming from the sweeper. In order to contain the spill Glenn used his cloth material lunch cooler bag (yes, he threw his uneaten lunch out first!!) to catch the oil from the broken line, so it wouldn't drain on the ground and minimize the amount of cleanup that would have been required. Quick thinking goes a long way!

Glenn was recently part of the Big Move Cancer Ride Walker Team in September 2011. Glenn began riding his bike to and from work on a

daily basis as part of his knee surgery rehabilitation. Glenn successfully completed the 50km ride and is now in training to ride the "Century Challenge - 100 Mile" ride next September. That's 160km! Good Luck!

In his spare time Glenn keeps busy by fishing, and many other outdoor activities that keep him moving and able to spend quality time with his family.

Glenn is an important part of the daily operations team at Niagara Waste, and we thank him for his continued hard work!





COMPOST UPDATE

In September we had UTV AG (UTV), a worldwide expert in GORE® facilities and composting, spend a week at our facility. They provided guidance and retraining for all of our operators, who found it very beneficial. UTV suggested possible improvements to our system and processing techniques.

UTV's suggested that we focus on the following;

- Porosity (the amount of air spaces in the windrow)
- Moisture content • Mixing time • Equipment

Increasing the porosity of the windrows will allow for uniform airflow through the windrow reducing the potential for odours. This improved porosity will prevent the loss of moisture, preventing the windrow and cover from drying out. Adjustments in the standard mixing time that we were using will also increase the porosity and allow for the proper moisture content in windrows. Trialing different equipment such as slower speed grinders may help with the pretreatment of our bulking materials which could in turn help with the porosity, moisture and mixing of the material we commonly receive.

We are excited about what we have learned from UTV and we will be trying some new techniques they suggested. The suggestions/comments from UTV AG and the continuation of changes made earlier in the summer will assist us in further improving our operations and allow us to create a consistent feedstock of material being processed in the Gore system.

In 2011, the operation will divert over 54,000 tonnes of organic waste away from landfill disposal. The compost produced is top quality and demand has surpassed the supply.

On September 11, 2011 cyclists across the Niagara Region gathered for the Big Move Cancer Ride (BMCR), for the third consecutive year, to raise funds in support of equipment and services for the Walker Family Cancer Centre. The ride consisted of a 50K, 100K, or 100 mile ride through the Niagara Region starting and ending at Club Roma in St. Catharines. The Walker Team reached 39 people this year consisting of Walker employees, their family and friends.

In 2009, the team was able to raise \$36,455 and increased the amount significantly in 2010 with a total of \$81,217. Early in 2011, the BMCR committee agreed to set our heights even higher at a monumental amount of \$100,000. At times we as a committee did not think our goal would be attainable, but with continued efforts and dedication we exceeded our goal and raised \$104,061. In our fundraising efforts the team held three BBQ's and a Car Wash with the support of the KEG in St. Catharines. Additional fundraising efforts included podium sponsorships from our customers and suppliers.

Overall the foundation was able to raise over \$475,000 after expenses.

On behalf of the BMCR committee and team, we thank you; the Shareholders, Executive, fellow Walker employees, customers, suppliers and community for your continued support. None of this would have been possible without you.

Sims Recycling

Over the last few years many questions have been raised regarding the final destination of used electronics. With the start of the Ontario Electronic Stewardship (OES) Program in 2009, consumers are provided with assurance that used or end-of-life electronics will not be sent overseas, and actually will be recycled here in Canada. The first year of the program, saw over 17,000 tonnes of electronic waste diverted from landfills, with IMS contributing 100 tonnes.

To ensure that the OES held true to their promises of recycling all e-waste in Canada, IMS toured one of the registered processing facilities, Sims Recycling Solutions in Brampton, Ontario. Sims Recycling originated in Sydney, Australia. They now operate worldwide and are listed on the Global 100 Most Sustainable Corporations. The tour took us through the entire facility and we were able to observe the full recycling process.

When Sims receives electronic waste, each item is manually inspected and hazardous components (batteries, mercury bulbs, inks, etc) are removed and recycled through an audited downstream vendor. Electronics are then loaded into a state-of-the-art three stage shredder where they are reduced to roughly 5cm pieces. From there they go through an automated separator, sorting shredded material by product type; copper/plastic, fines, steel and aluminum. Shredded dust is collected and filtered and all commodities are domestically refined and processed for re-use in

manufacturing. Overall, the Sims policy to be a "zero-landfill" facility reins true with their meticulous attention to sorting and recycling.

Like Walker Industries, Sims also puts the environment at the forefront. They are committed to environmentally safe methods; auditing sites regularly and pursuing ISO 14001 registration. By using recycled materials during manufacturing, Sims Recycling is able to preserve natural resources resulting in reduced pollution and carbon emissions and energy and water consumption. It also conserves limited landfill space. Lastly they work at reducing their carbon footprint by providing logistics pickup routing that reduce freight and travel.

Similar to our Superior Safety Culture, Sims Recycling is working towards a "Zero Harm Workplace." They have toolbox talks each morning and provide company wide alerts when a hazard is found in the workplace. These alerts are posted for all sites, along with solutions to mitigate or eliminate risk.

Going forward, IMS will be sending all e-waste directly to Sims Recycling, knowing it will remain domestic and everything will be recycled. It's comforting to have found a company that mirrors our commitments to both the environment and the health and safety of their employees.

Walker Industries Joins the Niagara Sustainability Initiative (NSI)

Walker Industries has joined the Niagara Sustainability Initiative (NSI), a not-for-profit organization that is leading a Niagara Region-wide program that assists organizations to measure, manage and mitigate their carbon emissions. (<http://niagarasustainability.org/home/blog/>) Agreeing to join NSI aligns Walkers with our EARTH1st and Value principles as well as the company goal of measuring our carbon footprint by 2012. To date, the Carbon Action Team (CAT) has completed tours of all the Walker facilities. They are now crunching numbers and will have the carbon footprint complete by the end of this fiscal year. In May 2012 Walkers will have developed a report and will be given the opportunity to communicate the findings to the Niagara Community at Niagara Sustainability Initiative's 1st Annual Reporting Event.

As part of our partnership with NSI, we are given invitations to technical workshops and educational forums that NSI will use to bring the Niagara

community together. These events provide a platform for members of the partnering businesses to learn about the latest climate change news, carbon management technologies and environmental standards and legislation. The events also provide opportunities to share success stories and network with other organizations in the Niagara Region.

The Niagara Sustainability Initiative is one more step that Walkers is taking towards supporting the environment. We're measuring, managing and mitigating our environmental impact, have you considered yours?

Alison Braithwaite
Director, Environmental Performance





Niagara Waste South Landfill Cell 3 Construction

Environmental Groups Join Forces with Ontario's Aggregate Producers

A group of prominent environmental organizations and members of the Ontario Stone, Sand and Gravel Association (OSSGA) - collectively known as the Aggregate Forum of Ontario - have come together to enhance the standards of environmental stewardship and community engagement in the province's aggregate industry.

The six participating environmental organizations in the forum are Ontario Nature, Save the Oak Ridges Moraine (STORM), Nature Conservancy Canada, Gravel Watch Ontario, Coalition on the Niagara Escarpment (CONE) and the Couchiching Conservancy. Five aggregate companies are representing the 103 aggregate producer members of the OSSGA on the Aggregate Forum of Ontario. They are Walker Aggregates, Lafarge, St. Marys CBM, Capital Paving and The Miller Group.

The Aggregate Forum of Ontario was formed more than two years ago and has been working to identify and implement best business practices, green initiatives and a certification program for the aggregate industry in Ontario.

These developments respond to calls from the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario - and from environmental organizations and aggregate producers themselves - to reconcile conflicting priorities between aggregate extraction and environmental protection.

The certification program is designed to address the public's increased expectation for businesses to understand, accept and incorporate corporate social responsibility into decision-making processes that might affect the surrounding community, including the environment.

Standards will be developed for the approval, operation and rehabilitation of aggregate pits and quarries, and will likely include conservation lands, biodiversity conservation, water management, progressive and final rehabilitation, recycling, community engagement, scheduling and operations, environmental research, education and awareness, carbon neutrality, community planning processes, and energy use and conservation.

The goal of the certification program is to identify industry practices that lead to outcomes which exceed existing legislative and regulatory requirements.



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



Gibbons Contracting is a Customer and a Client

When it comes to mutually beneficial business arrangements, a very good one for Walker Aggregates is with Gibbons Contracting in Stevensville. Not only does Gibbons use Walker's stone, but they also subcontract to Norjohn Contracting and Paving on some of its project work. By the same token, Norjohn will hire Gibbons when it needs the company's specialty contracting work.

Gibbons specializes in underground site servicing - installing water, sewer and storm drainage systems. Founded in 1989 by owner Vaughn Gibbons, the company employs up to 30 people during the peak construction season. Much of their work is done for municipalities on projects such as water treatment plants and pumping stations. Gibbons also undertakes site servicing work for housing subdivisions. One such project now underway is the Warren Woods subdivision on Kalar Road in Niagara Falls.

"We decided to profile Gibbons in this issue of our newsletter because they are a long-time customer with a good reputation in the industry and offer good service in the work they do for us," says Walker's aggregate sales manager for Niagara, Frank Hurkmans. He points as an example to the site servicing work Gibbons is doing for Norjohn on a new commercial development project next to the former Atlas Landfill site in Welland.

For his part, Vaughn Gibbons also has a positive view of Walker. "They treat us fairly, with no hassles" he says.



Vaughn Gibbons (in white hat) and his crew at the Warren Woods subdivision in Niagara Falls.