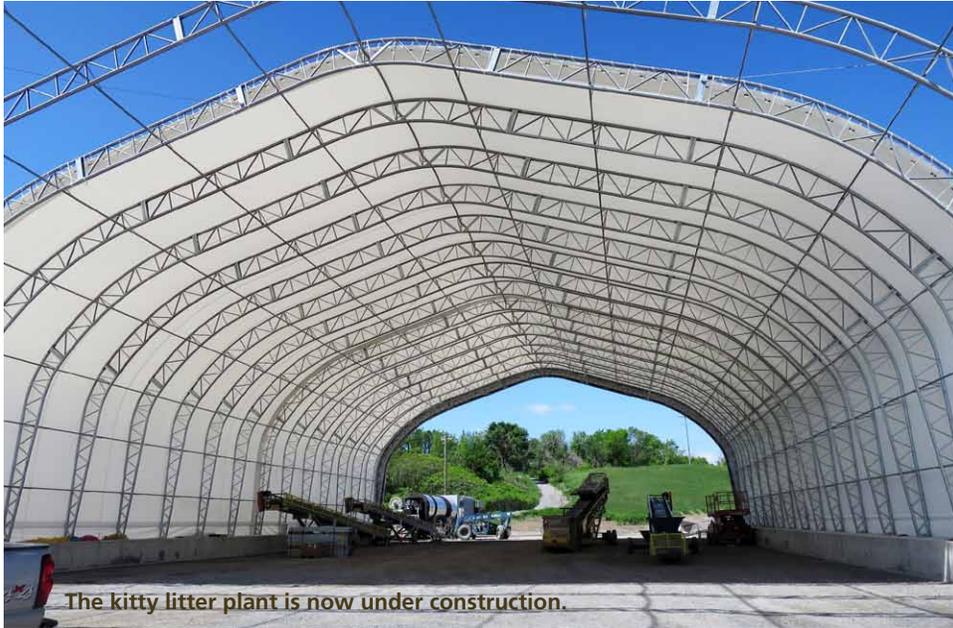


Vineland Quarries Update



Stone production at the Vineland Quarries started up again in April after a long and hard winter, and maintenance performed on the equipment in the plant. According to superintendent Angelo Bevilaqua this year is shaping up to be a good one for stone sales, with the quarry on target to meet or exceed its average of one million tonnes of stone shipped out to projects in and around Niagara.

After using a temporary plant for the production of fine aggregates to be used

in kitty litter, work is now proceeding on the construction of a new permanent plant for this purpose. The plant is expected to be completed in the next few weeks.

Earlier this spring, a Public Liaison Committee meeting was held with neighbours to discuss blasting issues. Cam Thomas from Thomas Engineering Limited provided participants with information about the mechanics of blasting in a quarry.



In early May the quarry staff joined with local scouts to clean up roadways around the quarry, with a barbecue held afterwards.

In other news, the Vineland Quarries has acquired a new water truck to wash down roads in and around the quarry and prevent dust.

Vineland Quarries Wins Community Relations Award

The Vineland Quarries has been awarded a prestigious Community Relations Award from the Ontario Stone, Sand & Gravel Association (OSSGA). The award was presented to Walker Aggregates at the OSSGA's annual meeting in Ottawa in February.

The Community Relations Award recognizes good neighbourly activities, community involvement, media relations, education and awareness.



"This award is a display of the outstanding teamwork by our workforce, who are proud of what they do and how they can make it better all around," says Frank Kielbowich, operations manager for Walker Aggregates.

The judging panel included representatives from the Coalition on the Niagara Escarpment, Ducks Unlimited, the Cornerstone Standards Council, associate members of the OSSGA representing professional consulting firms and the mayor of the Township of Puslinch.

Photo above: Walker Aggregates operations manager Frank Kielbowich (left) accepts the Community Relations Award from James Gordon, secretary of the OSSGA and chair of the Awards Committee.

EMPLOYEE PROFILE



Jim Walker with his '67 Mustang.

Back to School at Age 52

Most people would find it overwhelming to go back to school to train for a new career in their 50s, especially after not having been in a classroom for 25 years. But Jim Walker is doing just that, after working as a truck driver and plant labourer at the Vineland Quarries since 1993. Jim, who is not related to the Walker family that owns the quarries, is halfway through a four-year apprenticeship to become a heavy equipment mechanic. His studies include courses at Mohawk and Centennial colleges.

"It was a bit overwhelming at first," Jim admits, adding that he's impressed with the challenges that his studies bring. "I've worked hard and learned a lot." As for making the career change, he says he's happy to be learning new skills and especially pleased to be working on equipment in the heated quarry shop in the wintertime, instead of doing maintenance on the plant outside in sub-zero temperatures.

Employment at Walker is a family affair for Jim. His dad was employed at the Vineland Quarries in the 1970s and '80s as a loader operator, his brother-in-law works at the quarries, as did a cousin until he retired three years ago.

When he's not on the job, Jim works on an old '67 Mustang in the garage of his home in Smithville, a project that involves ordering and installing hundreds of parts and has taken more than 10 years of puttering in his spare time. He hopes to have the car on the road next year. Jim also enjoys the occasional round of golf with his wife Debbie and a group of friends.

Mark Cosby Bleeds Black!

Mark Cosby, the foreman of the Vineland Asphalt Plant is the first recipient of the "Bleeds Black Award," issued by the Ontario Hot Mix Producers Association (OHMPA). The Vineland plant has been recognized on numerous occasions for its safety record, and Mark has demonstrated a dedication to the health and safety of the plant's employees.

"He strives to produce the best quality asphalt mix for his customers and colleagues, and has been known to drive to paving sites to see how the asphalt his plant produced is doing in respect to workability by paving crews," noted OHMPA president Colin Burpee at the association's awards ceremony last December.



Mark Cosby (left) receives the "Bleeds Black Award" from OHMPA president Colin Burpee.

Where the Rock Goes



New Tim Hortons Field in Hamilton



Stone from the Vineland Quarries is being trucked to Hamilton to construct the Tim Hortons Field, which will be the new home of the Hamilton Tiger-Cats and location for the soccer competition of the 2015 Pan American Games. Among other applications, the stone is being used for drainage under the sports field.

CUSTOMER PROFILE



Glen Finbow with his wife Lynda and one-week-old "Splitrock's Marquis."

From the Pavement to the Pasture

After 50 years in business, Economy Paving has ceased operations, and its owner is quite literally headed into greener pastures. The company, which has been a loyal customer of Walker Aggregates since the beginning, provided concrete and asphalt paving services to customers in the Niagara Peninsula and across southern Ontario. Its projects have included the cart paths, roadways and parking lots at the "Legends on the Niagara" golf courses.

"I'm 63 and have other interests I want to pursue," says Economy's owner Glen Finbow. Glen has sold the company's eight acres of land on Townline Road in St. Catharines, as well as its construction equipment. His passion these days is raising alpacas on his 60-acre farm in Ridgeway.

Glen and his wife Lynda have a herd of 100 of the animals, which are sheared every spring for their luxurious fleece. Alpaca yarn is hypoallergenic, much warmer than wool while being as soft as cashmere. Glen and Lynda decided to get into the alpaca business after attending a Clay Aikin concert nine years ago and picking up a brochure about the animals. They are documented to be the oldest-known livestock in the world, yet even today are the least known.

"They are really very gentle," remarks Glen. "Being with them is a wonderful stress reliever." He says each member of the herd has a different personality. "Some will come up and kiss you and some will spit on you." Lynda knows each of the alpacas by name.

Glen's intense interest in the creatures has made him an expert. He is working on the second edition of his industry bible "The Alpaca Breeder's Terminology Sourcebook," and is a qualified judge at alpaca shows across this continent and Europe. His animals make regular appearances at seniors' homes and in local Santa Claus parades.

"Walker Aggregates very much appreciates the business that Glen has given us over the years through Economy Paving," says Niagara marketing manager Frank Hurkmans. "We wish him and Lynda all the best in this new chapter in their lives."

For more information about Glen's alpaca business, visit www.splitrockfarmsbb.com



Wes is New Vineland Supervisor

Wes Foebel is the new production supervisor at the Vineland Quarries. He has been a Walker Industries employee for six years, most recently as a team leader in the company's Environmental Performance Department for the Walker Environmental Group.



A Proud Moment for Shirley!

Vineland Quarries scalehouse operator Shirley Rempel (far right) proudly poses with her son Kevin, wearing his bronze medal for Sledge Hockey awarded at the 2014 Sochi Winter Paralympics. Joining Kevin and Shirley in the photo are Shirley's mother G.G. Spiece and daughter Rebecca, who also travelled to Sochi to cheer Kevin on.

Public Liaison Committee Holiday Reception



Neighbours and friends of the Vineland Quarries shared some holiday cheer at the StoneHill Grille in late November.



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