

Walker Brothers Quarries Update

The number and scale of construction projects in the Niagara Region is resulting in a good season projected for Walker Brothers Quarries, according to superintendent Mark Harmsworth. The winter shutdown was shorter than usual – despite the cold weather – and the hours of production have been extended an hour from 7 a.m. until 5 p.m. on weekdays, instead of until 4 p.m. A new haul truck has been purchased for the quarry, and the site was featured on two tours, led by Walker Aggregates executive vice-president Ken Lucyshyn. On May 30 and 31, more than 100 delegates from the annual conference of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities visited the Walker head office site. Travelling in coach buses, politicians and senior bureaucrats from towns and cities across Canada got a first-hand look at the quarry, landfill, gas collection plant, municipal drop-off depot, biosolids plant and compost facility. “The tour was very well received,” Ken says, “and everyone said they learned a lot and appreciated the work we are doing.”

Walker Purchases Organics Recycling Company



The Niagara Biosolids facility in Thorold.

Walker Industries has purchased N-Viro Systems Canada LP (N-Viro). The two companies have operated the Niagara Biosolids facility in Thorold in partnership since 2007.

“The purchase of N-Viro represents the latest piece in the development of our comprehensive organics strategy and focus,” says Mike Watt, executive vice-president of the Walker Environmental Group. “The technology provides us one more tool in our basket of biosolids treatment options for our clients. It also broadens our geographic base across

Canada.” N-Viro operates certified biosolids management facilities in Leamington, Thorold, Sarnia, Sudbury, Halifax and Banff.

N-Viro processes dewatered biosolids and source-separated organics from various municipalities.

The resulting products are approved for use as fertilizers or soil amendments by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and sold to fertilizer distributors, soil manufacturers and used for land reclamation projects.

A Second Life for Toronto’s Damaged Tree Canopy



Damaged tree branches are turned into mulch.

Walker Environmental Group’s (WEG) mobile grinder division last fall entered into a contract with the City of Toronto to process urban forestry wood at five depots across the municipality. In late December, a devastating ice storm damaged a significant portion of Toronto’s tree canopy, and the City approached WEG for a grinding and disposal solution for an estimated 30,000 tonnes of brush collected at 14 different sites. WEG deployed three horizontal grinders to begin the formidable task of turning the mountains of brush and trees into mulch.

The next step was to find a home for the resulting thousands of tonnes of wood mulch. Being innovators in the beneficial re-use of organics, WEG was able to find multiple uses for the mulch – including for landscaping purposes, and to act as a bulking agent for compost facilities and a biofilter for biosolids plants. The mulch products will eventually break down and return their value to the earth, giving a second life to Toronto’s prized urban forests.

Boys' Club Meets Weekly to Watch Hockey



Mike Camposarcone cheers a goal in the game room of his home while watching the NHL playoffs alongside friends Joe Ambrosio and Domenic Riso, and (opposite) John and Joe Ranieri.

For the past 13 years, Mike Camposarcone and four of his childhood pals have come together every Tuesday night from October through June to watch NHL hockey games. They rotate the homes where they meet. During the summer months, the asphalt plant operator at Walker Brothers Quarries and his friends meet monthly to watch football. "We sit around eating pizza and chicken wings, and shoot the breeze while watching a game," he says. Each week, the friends pay dues into a kitty, and once a year use the money to travel for a couple of days to watch a live hockey game

somewhere in North America. Among the cities they've visited are Boston, Columbus, Pittsburgh, Ottawa, Chicago and Atlanta. "It's a fun tradition," he adds.

Mike has been working at Walker Industries for the past 19 years. He began as a general labourer at the former recycling plant, and then worked in maintenance as a welder before moving to the asphalt plant. He is also the president of Steelworkers Union Local 4957, with 25 employees from the company as members. "We have a strong

relationship between the union and the company," he says, adding that he enjoys his job at Walker. "There's a good bunch of guys here."

The asphalt plant itself produces about 100,000 tonnes of material each season, for use by the company's Norjohn Contracting and Paving division, as well as some local independent contractors.

Mike lives in Niagara Falls with his wife Lori, and daughter Jenna, a student at Niagara College, and son Kyle, who recently graduated from Brock University. An involved dad in his kids' lives, he goes to the movies about once a week with Jenna and watches Kyle's soccer matches. He and Lori take annual trips to destinations including Las Vegas and Florida, and can be frequently seen walking their dog in the evenings around their neighbourhood.

Taking Time to Plan for Climate Change

The publication *Adapting to Climate Change: Challenges to Niagara*, by the Region of Niagara, triggered a group of dedicated volunteers from Walker Brothers Quarries to "Take Time to Plan," one of the principles of Walker Industries' EARTH 1st program.

The employees assessed the potential effects of climate change on operations and created an adaptation plan to minimize risks and maximize opportunities using the company's sustainability (SEE) model.

The Niagara Report projects higher annual temperatures, drier summers, increases in freeze-thaw cycles, increases in freeze-free days and more extreme weather events (such as heavy rains, thunderstorms, high winds). The group identified the risks and opportunities, rated the probability and severity of each, and identified actions that would minimize risk and maximize opportunities.

Major concerns identified by the group included loss of production and rehabilitation challenges from extreme weather and power outages, health and safety impacts from severe heat and increased freeze-thaw events, and the potential for more dust in drier summers. The recommended actions will be shared with management.

WEG Wins Biosolids Management Award

The Walker Environmental Group Inc. (WEG) is the recipient of the prestigious Water Environment Association of Ontario (WEAO) Exemplary Biosolids Management Award, celebrating the success of the Niagara Biosolids Facility at Walker's campus in Thorold.



Executive vice-president Mike Watt (left) and Organics general manager Geoff Boyd with their WEAO award.

The WEAO is dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of Ontario's water environment. A ceremony was held at its annual conference in London in April.

"It's a testament to the reliability and the success of our plant," says WEG executive vice-president Mike Watt of the award. "We're pretty happy about it. It's a big deal for us."

The Biosolids Facility processes the organic residuals – known as biosolids – from wastewater treatment plants and turns this into a safe, nutrient-rich fertilizer valued by farmers across southern Ontario. In 2013, more than 26,000 tonnes of the fertilizer were produced and sold.

CUSTOMER PROFILE

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



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

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



Welland Canal Tie-Up Wall Reconstruction

Stone from the Walker Brothers Quarries was used in the recent reconstruction of the tie-up wall at Lock 2 of the Welland Canal in St. Catharines. The aggregates were used as shoreline rip-rap, backfill behind the sheet piles of the wall and backfill above the deck of the canal wall.

Photo courtesy of the St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation.



Public Liaison Committee Holiday Reception



Neighbours and friends of Walker Industries shared some holiday cheer at the Benchmark Restaurant last December.



Walker Aggregates operations manager Frank Kielbowich accepts the Community Relations Award from James Gordon, secretary of the OSSGA and chair of the Awards Committee.

Walker Brothers Quarries Wins Community Relations Award

Walker Brothers 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.

"We pride ourselves on being a good neighbour and environmentally responsible," says Frank Kielbowich, operations manager for Walker Aggregates. "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."

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.



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