



Jim Smaling travelled from Pennsylvania to hunt for fossils in the Ridgemount Quarries.



## Ridgemount Quarries Update

The Ridgemount Quarries have started a second campaign of stone production to supply local construction projects throughout the winter months.

Blasting and crushing occurred from February through June to build up inventory, but this year, these activities will also occur from October until sometime in December.

“Our main goal is to have enough concrete stone on hand to meet anticipated demand,” says quarry superintendent Mark Harmsworth.

## Ridgemount a World-Famous Fossil Site

For many years now, fossil hunters from around the world have been coming to the Ridgemount Quarries to search for the remains of animals that lived in the Fort Erie area hundreds of millions of years ago.

On a visit in mid-October, members of the Delaware Valley Paleontological Society – from Pennsylvania, Connecticut, New York State and Ontario – were chipping through layers of rock on the quarry floor. They were particularly looking for eurypterids, also known as sea scorpions, for which the quarry is most famous. Eurypterids are related to horseshoe crabs and became extinct more than 250 million years ago.

“It’s great that the quarry lets us in,” says society member Pete Kisselburgh of Thomaston, Connecticut. He notes that many quarry companies refuse to permit fossil hunters on their sites, while others charge a fee. Walker lets them come to the Ridgemount Quarries by appointment on Fridays, providing they wear safety equipment and remain far away from quarrying operations.



Fossil hunters from the Delaware Valley Paleontological Society search for eurypterids, pictured below.



An acanthodian fossil found at the quarries is now housed at the Royal Ontario Museum.

One of the most renowned fossils found on the quarry site is that of a fish called an acanthodian. Ridgemount recently yielded the world’s oldest near-complete acanthodian fossil, estimated to be approximately 425 million years old. A scientific paper about the discovery was published this past August and the fossil itself is now on display at the Royal Ontario Museum.



Safety Footwear  
Protective Clothing

AT ALL  
THIS POINT.



Photo courtesy of Canadian Armed Forces.



## A Battle Ground for Military Training

While employees in bright orange safety vests were crushing and moving stone in one part of the quarry, soldiers in military camouflage were shooting at each other in another.

The Ridgemount Quarries were one of the training locations for some of the 2,000 Canadian army soldiers who participated in the Exercise STALWART GUARDIAN in the Niagara region this past August. The soldiers came from regular and reserve units across Ontario, as well as some from the U.S. Army and the Royal Regiment of Scotland.

The quarries provided a realistic and demanding location for the troops to test their skills in a dynamic battle space.

"Canadian soldiers are known throughout the world for their skill, bravery, and professionalism," says lieutenant-general Marquis Hainse, who is a Canadian Army commander. "Exercises such as STALWART GUARDIAN incorporate realistic training which helps the Canadian Army and the Canadian Armed Forces enhance its capabilities and maintains the focus towards a multi-purpose, combat-capable force, able to operate seamlessly and respond to a multitude of threats, both at home and abroad."

## Walker Publishes First Sustainability Report

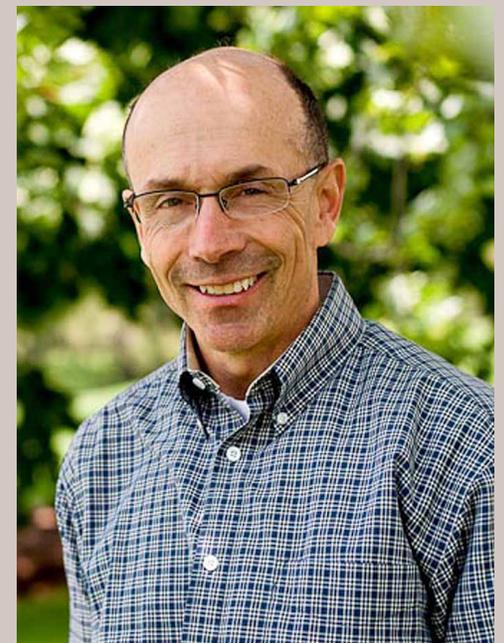
Walker Industries has published its first-ever sustainability report. It's part of the company's strong commitment to sustainability, which has been instilled in the Walker culture through its five generations of family ownership.

"The company's success has been the result of understanding that in order for the company to thrive, our communities, our environment and our people must also be thriving – not just today but into the future," says president John Fisher. "Our sustainability reporting provides a level of transparency and also holds us accountable."

The 44-page report provides a baseline for sustainability – a summary of Walker's performance to date – and sets goals to shape its future. Highlights include social, environmental and economic achievements by the company and its employees during 2013. Among those highlights are details of Walker's philanthropic activities, efforts to reduce its carbon footprint and protect threatened species of wildlife, and its contributions to the economies of areas in which its operations are located.

"Publishing this report not only demonstrates to our partners and our communities the tangible actions we take, but it also drives our people to even greater achievements," says Alison Braithwaite, the company's vice-president of Environmental Performance.

To review the report in full, visit <http://www.walkerind.com/corporate/sustainability/>



"Our sustainability reporting provides a level of transparency and also holds us accountable," says Walker president John Fisher.

## EMPLOYEE PROFILE

# Quality Control for Quarry Stone

Steve Shisler was planning for a career in forensics after graduating with an Honours Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminology from Wilfred Laurier University. But fate had other ideas. Steve found that jobs in the field were scarce in the Niagara Region, where he was born and raised and wanted to remain.

Then he heard about an opening in quality control at Walker Aggregates. Steve was intrigued so he applied, went through an interview process and was offered the job. "It just came along and I couldn't pass it up," he says.

That was five years ago, and Steve has been with the company ever since. He started working as an aggregate process control technician for the Vineland Quarries, and is now assigned to the Ridgemount and Walker Brothers quarries.

"This is a great company to work for," Steve says. "They show appreciation throughout the year for all the contributions you've made." He says he particularly likes the close knit group of employees he interacts with every day,



Steve Shisler samples aggregates at the Ridgemount Quarries to ensure they meet industry standards.

and the opportunities for advancement within the company. He is now planning to further his career in the aggregate industry.

Steve's job involves sampling aggregate materials during the production phase and when loaded onto trucks, to ensure they meet industry standards. He tests the products for their blends of aggregate sizes, as well as abrasion, absorption, density and quality.

In his spare time, Steve plays baseball

in the Welland District Slo-Pitch League and hockey in the Club Champlain Men's Hockey League.

This is an exciting time for Steve in his personal life. A year ago, he and his fiancé Erin Brown, moved out of their parents' homes into a new house they had purchased together in Welland. Long-time friends since high school, the pair only began dating a couple of years ago, and will be getting married later this fall and honeymooning in Aruba.



## Point Abino Road Reconstruction

Some 25,000 tonnes of crushed limestone from the Ridgemount Quarries was used for road base and shouldering during the recent road reconstruction of Point Abino Road in Fort Erie, from Friendship Trail to Michener Road. An additional 3,500 tonnes of hot mix asphalt from Walker Aggregates' asphalt plant was also used in the project, which included stone from the company's Walker Brothers Quarries in Thorold.

# Enticing Future Rock Stars

## STUDENT TOUR



Niagara high-school students overlook the operations of Walker Brothers Quarries.

Getting young people interested in careers in the civil construction industry is a challenge these days. As part of its efforts to address this problem, Walker Aggregates partnered with the Ontario Civil Construction Careers Institute (OCCCI) and the Heavy Construction Association of Regional Niagara earlier this fall to give teenagers a taste of work in the aggregates and civil construction business.

A group of 83 grade 11 and 12 students enrolled in technical programs at Niagara's public and separate schools toured the Walker Brothers Quarries, witnessed a blast and had a chance to simulate operating heavy machinery.

"There's a huge shortage of skilled workers in the civil construction industry across Canada," says Jessica Steffer, director of Career Promotions for the OCCCI. She says the workforce in the industry is aging and young people are not replacing the older workers, in large part due to pressure from parents for their kids to go to university or community college.

Yet she notes that teenagers can begin learning construction trades on the job, and have opportunities for career advancement with an average starting salary in Niagara of \$22 per hour, right out of high school.

"Walker and companies like us are always looking for enthusiastic and conscientious young people to join our team," says Frank Hurkmans, Walker's Niagara marketing manager. "We hope that the visit to our quarry operations prompts some of the kids who visited to think about a career with us."



Operations manager Frank Kielbowich (right) explains the details of the aggregate production process.



## A Bike Ride to Beat Cancer

Some of the women riders from Walker Industries pose for the camera at the start of the Big Move Cancer Ride on September 7, 2014. The 35 cyclists on the Walker team raised just over \$64,000 this year, in support of Niagara's Walker Family Cancer Centre.



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