



## Vineland Quarries Update

Construction of the kitty litter plant is now complete at the Vineland Quarries, with the plant producing some 300 tonnes each day of the aggregate product used in litter box formulations. The fine crushed aggregate is dried and passed through a screen to ensure it is of the correct size – eliminating stones that are too large or too small.

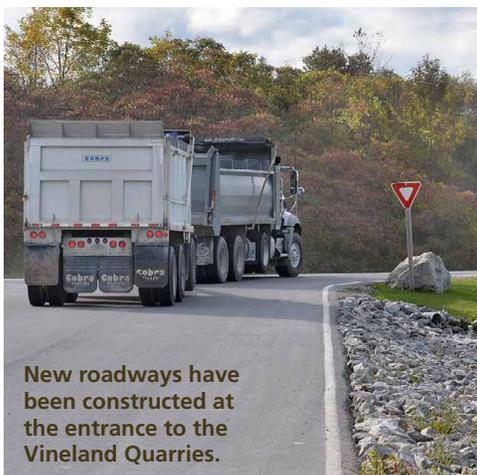
Production of other aggregate materials will continue throughout the fall with winter shutdown occurring in either December or January, depending on demand. “So far, the demand for our product is still strong, and our final production for 2014 should be close to last year’s amount,” says quarry superintendent Angelo Bevilacqua.

The entrance to the quarries has been completely redeveloped this past season, with the roadways torn up, widened and shouldered. The roads had become rutted with no place for trucks coming out of the quarry to pull over to cover their loads before turning onto public roadways.

The new entrance is more functional, visually attractive and – with the pull-off section – helps keep dust contained in the quarry area, instead of being disbursed to Victoria Avenue and Fly Road, Angelo says.



The completed kitty litter plant is now producing approximately 300 tonnes of specialty aggregate each day.



New roadways have been constructed at the entrance to the Vineland Quarries.

Please Join Us for Our

## HOLIDAY CHRISTMAS RECEPTION

Wednesday, November 26, 2014  
6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.  
StoneHill Grille • 3904 Victoria Ave., Vineland

RSVP before November 19 to  
Teresa Page • 905-680-3731  
tpage@walkerind.com

## A Good Harvest for Edgerock Vineyard



Compared to most vineyards in the Niagara Region, the Edgerock Vineyard will have a good harvest of grapes this fall, although not as plentiful as in past years.

“It was a tough winter with the extreme cold doing quite a bit of damage to most vines in the region,” says Craig Wismer, of Glen Elgin Vineyard Management, which manages the vineyard for Walker Aggregates.

He says the Edgerock Vineyard overwintered better than most others, due to its gentle back slopes and enhanced air flow. He also says the drip irrigation system – one of the few in Niagara – helped the already-stressed plants deal with the drought conditions that occurred at the end of August.

Craig says there’s a huge demand for grapes this year, with the Edgerock crops to be sold to five different wineries, instead of the normal two or three.

The one bleak spot is the Sangiovese variety of grapes. Walker is the only company able to grow these grapes successfully for commercial purposes in Niagara, because its south-facing slopes provide plenty of afternoon sun. However, the harsh winter has taken its toll and there will be no harvest of Sangiovese grapes this year.

## 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

# Gaby Lambert is Part of One Big, Happy Family

More than most people, Gaby Lambert can appreciate the benefits of working for a family-owned company, such as Walker Industries. The youngest of 12 children, Gaby was raised on his family's dairy farm in St.-Agathe-de-Lotbinière – a small town southwest of Quebec City – and learned early on the importance of getting along with others and being part of a team.

A driller at the Vineland Quarry, Gaby joined Walker Aggregates two years ago and began his employment at the quarry as an afternoon maintenance worker. He had come to the Niagara Region from Quebec 17 years ago, to build greenhouses and take on landscaping subcontract work. The lure of the region was the availability of jobs and the opportunity to learn English.

"I love it here," he says of his job at the quarry. "The company is good to work for, the people are great and it's nice to get things accomplished."

Gaby lives in Beamsville, with his wife



Gaby Lambert (back row centre in light blue t-shirt), with his dad, brothers and other family members on one of their annual family fishing trips.

Jessica, 17-year-old step-daughter Brittany, 10-year-old son Isaac and five-year-old daughter Madelyne. He spends most of his free time doing chores around the house and being what he calls a "glorified taxi driver," shuttling the kids to various sports activities. During the winter months, he and his pals spend Monday evenings shooting pool at the Smithville Legion.

A couple of times each year, he travels

back to la belle province to visit family and go on an annual trout fishing trip with his dad and six brothers at Lac St. Jacques, north of Quebec City. His co-workers always eagerly await his return. On the drive home, Gaby will usually stop at a cheese factory in Drummondville to pick up 20 kilos of fresh curds that he brings to the quarry to share with his fellow employees.



## Where the Rock Goes

## Port Weller Outflow Project

Approximately 5,000 tonnes of stone from the Vineland Quarries is being used in Port Weller for the installation of a storm sewer outflow. The outflow directs rainwater collected in catch basins on area roadways and ditches into Lake Ontario, to prevent localized flooding. The stone is being used to set the pipe in place under the lake, and to prevent erosion in the outflow area.

# 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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