

## “Touch a Truck” 2014 Draws 6,000



The “Touch a Truck” event, held Saturday, October 4, 2014, attracted a crowd of approximately 6,000 people to the Glendale Campus of Niagara College to view mighty machines from across Niagara – including a helicopter, large construction machinery and emergency service vehicles. The event, which was started by John Walker in 2005, now includes equipment from businesses and organizations across the region and has raised a total of \$70,000 for literacy programs in Niagara.

## Walker Brothers Quarries Update

Walker Brothers Quarries is on track this year to exceed the tonnage of aggregate produced and shipped in 2013. This according to superintendent Mark Harmsworth.

“We had scheduled four weeks of production shutdown over August and September for routine maintenance, but we had to keep going this year,” he said. “We are still planning our winter production shutdown over February and March.

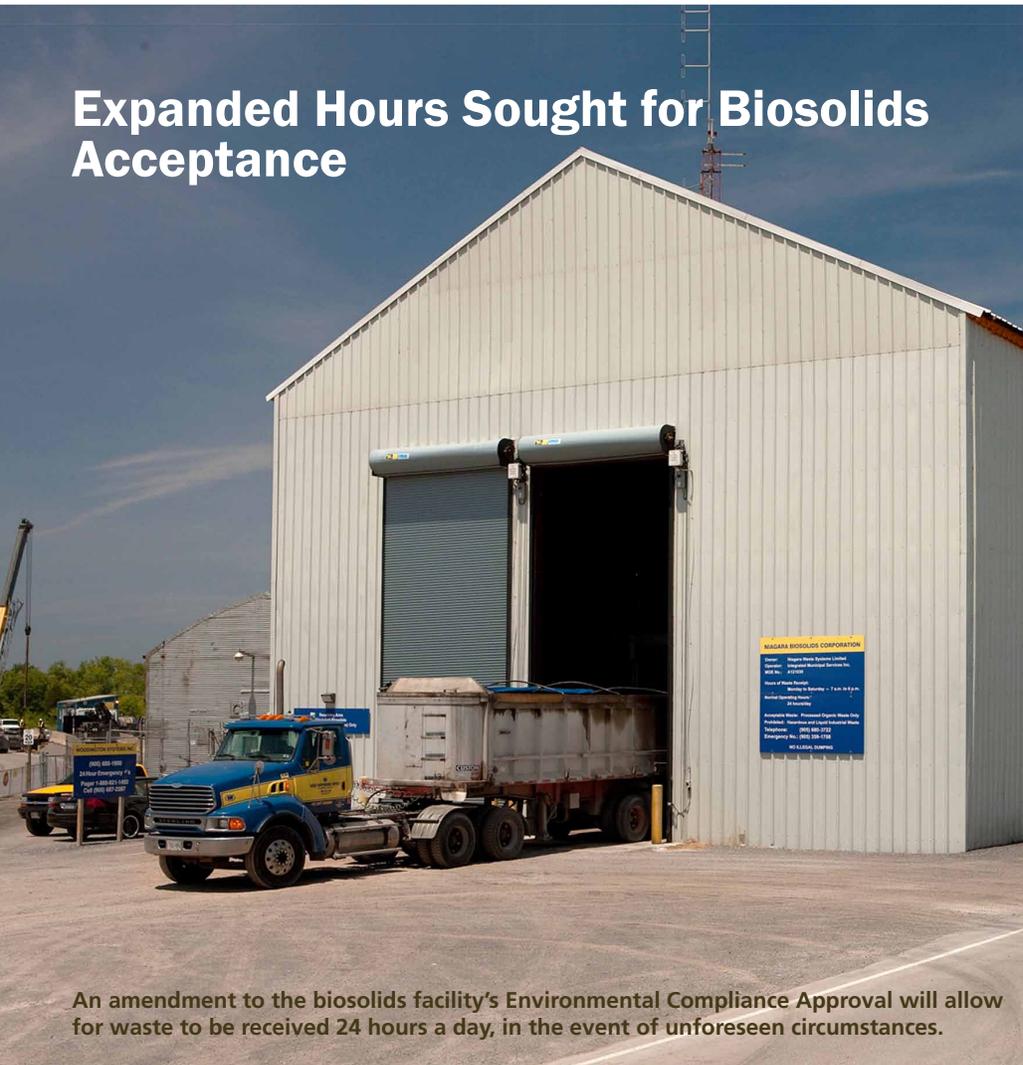
Some modifications were made at the plant earlier this fall. Water lines were added to conveyor belts, with water being sprayed on the rock as a dust suppressant.



Please Join Us for Our  
**HOLIDAY CHRISTMAS  
RECEPTION**  
Wednesday, December 3, 2014  
6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.  
Benchmark Restaurant, Niagara College • 135 Taylor Road,  
Niagara-on-the-Lake

**RSVP** before November 26 to  
Teresa Page • 905-680-3731  
tpage@walkerind.com

# Expanded Hours Sought for Biosolids Acceptance



An amendment to the biosolids facility's Environmental Compliance Approval will allow for waste to be received 24 hours a day, in the event of unforeseen circumstances.

The Niagara Biosolids processing facility is planning to amend its Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA) to allow it to receive waste 24 hours per day. Currently, waste may only be accepted between the hours of 5 a.m. and 7 p.m., although processing can occur 24 hours a day.

"We are seeking this approval as a contingency measure in the event a truck is late arriving at our facility due to unforeseen circumstances," says Walker Environmental Performance lead Lesley Clarke. As examples, she cites extreme weather conditions or major highway accidents, such as the one that shut down the Burlington Skyway Bridge this summer.

"We currently don't have any plans to change our normal delivery schedule at the facility," she says.

Currently, if a truck arrives after 7 p.m. at the facility due to some unforeseen situation, it is either turned away or parked in a secure lot until 5 a.m. This results in an increased possibility of adverse effects on neighbours – such as increased odours.

"With the amended ECA we can process all trucks immediately and reduce the chance of undesirable impacts," Lesley says.

# Where the Rock Goes



# Thorold Gateway Project

Some 20,000 tonnes of stone from the nearby Walker Brothers Quarries is being used in the construction of a new gateway project at the corner of Thorold Stone Road and Taylor Road. A plaza with a gas station and restaurant is being built on the site.

## 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 Walker Brothers and Ridgemount 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 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.

## Walker Publishes First Sustainability Report

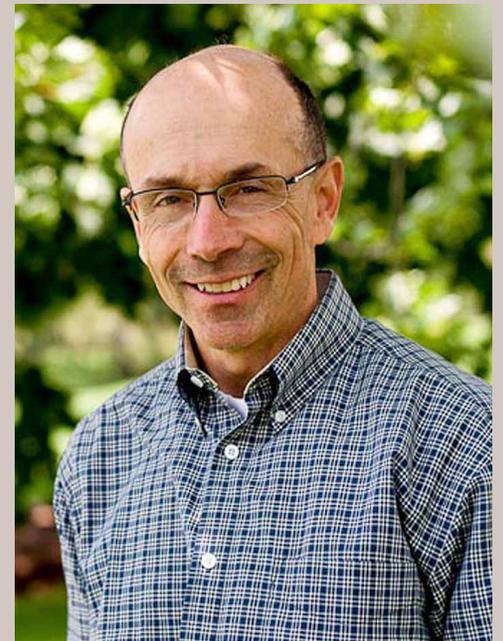
Walker Industries has published its first-ever sustainability report. It's part of the company's strong commitment to sustainability, which has been instilled in the Walker culture through its five generations of family ownership.

"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.

# 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.



Walker Industries  
P. O. Box 100  
Thorold, ON L2V 3Y8  
905 227 4142  
www.walkerind.com

## WALKER INDUSTRIES PUBLIC LIAISON COMMITTEE

Tim McVicar  
Vice President, Disposal  
Walker Environmental Group  
905 680 3709  
tmcvicar@walkerind.com

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