

Dust Issues Being Resolved in Kitty Litter Plant

It wasn't long after the production of kitty litter began at the new plant at the Vineland Quarries last fall that dust problems began to arise. Unfortunately, this caused issues with some neighbours and Walker Aggregates did hear some concerns.

"It has been a bit of a learning curve getting the plant running properly, and we're sorry for the impacts of the dust," says the company's operations manager Frank Kielbowich. "We're committed to being a good neighbour and fixing the problems."

Consultants were brought in to study the issue and recommend solutions, and the plant itself was shut down between February 25 and April 6 this year for upgrades.

The two bag houses in the plant – which are essentially vacuums that collect dust – were completely rebuilt, the west end of the plant has been enclosed, the east end partially enclosed to contain the dust, and misting fans are being installed in the plant to help knock down dust.

In addition, Frank explains that a weather station has been installed to measure wind speed and direction.

Until the company is satisfied that the dust problems have been addressed, the plant will be shut down whenever the wind speed is greater than 20 kilometers per hour and there is a risk of dust migrating off site.

Vineland Quarries Update

There will be "no more clanging" when rocks roll along the conveyor belt to the secondary crushing plant at the Vineland Quarries, according to superintendent Angelo Bevilacqua. That's because the former metal screen decking has been replaced with rubber decking. The rubber is not only quieter, but also adds efficiency to the production process.

Also on the noise front, work is expected to be completed this year to completely enclose both the primary and secondary crushers with sound barriers. By the end of the season, employees and neighbours alike should notice a reduction in the sound of aggregate processing.

Production started up again for the season in early April. Angelo says he expects that in 2015 about the same amount of stone will be produced and shipped from the quarries as last year.



Rubber decking has replaced metal screen decking on the conveyor belt leading to the secondary crushing plant.

Walker Gives Back to Niagara

The Walker family and Walker Industries Holdings Limited have recently made two major donations to benefit the Niagara area. One is a gift of \$1.2 million to support the development of the Advanced Manufacturing Innovation Centre at Niagara College, and the other is a donation of \$50,000 to Habitat for Humanity Niagara.

"All of us at Niagara College are extremely grateful to the Walker family and Walker Industries for their generosity," said Niagara College president Dan Patterson. "While their gift supports Niagara College, it's also an important investment in innovation and economic development in the Niagara region. It's a true cause for celebration."

In recognition of Walker's generosity, the new centre will be named the Walker Advanced Manufacturing Innovation Centre. It will provide local manufacturers with access to much-needed facilities, equipment and technical expertise.

"On behalf of our family and our employees, we are incredibly proud to invest in Niagara College through its Achieving Dreams Campaign," says Sheila (Walker) Bonapace, one of the Walker Industries' shareholders. "For businesses like ours, that depend on skilled workers that our college educates and trains, it's important that we support this campaign."

The Habitat for Humanity gift is part of a \$200,000 donation over this year and next to four affiliates of Habitat for Humanity in Ontario – in Niagara, Halton, South Georgian Bay and Windsor-Essex. These are among the regions in Ontario where Walker's operations are located.

"The Walker family, the company and its employees are committed to making a difference in the communities where we do business," Sheila says. "We continually look to find ways to improve the social and environmental conditions in these communities, and are pleased to support Habitat for Humanity in helping families in need to purchase their own homes."

In Memory of Long-time Employees Ron Plewman and Gene Fortin



Ron Plewman

It is with great sadness that the employees of Walker Aggregates learned of the passing of Ron Plewman in November 2014 at the age of 68.

Ron was a long-time employee of Walker Industries, having served as production supervisor, operations manager, and

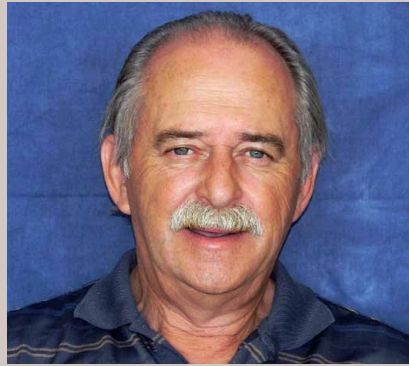
then vice-president of all of Walker's operations from 1976 to 1999.

A former resident of St. Catharines, he moved to Meaford, Ontario, after his retirement. Ron continued to work for Walker Aggregates as a consultant on special projects and overseeing the operations of the Clarksburg Pit, near Collingwood.

"He was a leader and an inspiration," notes Aggregates executive vice-president Ken Lucyshyn, who says Ron was a personal mentor to him.

"He was a very gentle man, with a lot of integrity, who had a great deal of respect within the industry. He was a tremendous influence on the people he worked with here at Walker, and we will miss him deeply."

Ron leaves behind his devoted wife Connie, and daughters Dayna and Sharlene and their families.



Gene Fortin

A 35-year employee of Walker Industries, Gene Fortin, passed away suddenly in March 2015. Gene Fortin began his career at Norjohn Contracting and Paving as a heavy equipment mechanic.

He held his most recent position as equipment

manager for the Walker Aggregates and Construction Group for more than 20 years.

"For those of us who knew Gene, we know he was a committed family man who was always ready with a laugh, extremely fun-loving and so lovable," says Walker executive vice-president Ken Lucyshyn.

"He was also like family to many employees at Walker Industries. He will be sorely missed for so many reasons, especially the loyalty and dedication he showed to our company."

Gene was based at Walker's head office in Thorold and lived in Niagara Falls.

He leaves behind his loving wife Larisa, daughter Ashton and step-son Timour.

A Community Relations Award for Vineland Quarries



The Vineland Quarries have once again won a Community Relations Award from the Ontario Stone, Sand & Gravel Association (OSSGA). The award recognizes good neighbourly activities, community involvement, media relations, education and industry awareness.

The Vineland Quarries were recognized for community events such as the annual Christmas holiday Wine and Cheese reception, information sessions and student programs, as well as regular communications through The Stonevine newsletter, and efforts to reduce noise and dust.

The Vineland Quarries support organizations such as the "Fire Safety for Kids" Program and Scouts Canada, and donate armour stone to projects including the War of 1812 "Battle of Cook's Mills" monument.

The awards review panel was comprised of judges including representatives of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, Ducks Unlimited, associate members of the OSSGA and Mayor Dennis Lever of Puslinch Township.

Photo at left: Walker Aggregates operations manager Frank Kielbowich accepts the OSSGA Community Relations Award from association president James Gordon.

Eighteen Cents Leads to 42 Years of Service

All it took for Alex Bartfai to join Walker Aggregates as an employee was 18 cents. That, and an opportunity for more career advancement.

In 1973 Alex was working as an apprentice mechanic in a farm machinery shop in Beamsville, when he learned about a job opening from some quarry workers who were renting part of a home that he and his wife Ebe were also renting. He was earning \$3.25 an hour, but the Walker position was paying \$3.43.

"Back in those days, that was a big raise," Alex notes. He joined Walker's Vineland Quarries as a mechanic and is now the quarries' lead welder. "I love it," he says of his job. "I like coming to work every day; there's never a dull moment."

Alex is especially proud of the work he performed in his early years at the quarries in assembling the – then – new crushing plant and ensuring it was working efficiently. "It became my baby," he says. "I've bonded to it over the years."

To this day, Alex is constantly working on repairing and maintaining the plant, and other machinery and equipment at the quarries. "I love challenges; tackling a job

EMPLOYEE PROFILE



Welder Alex Bartfai is an active member of the Niagara Peninsula Amateur Radio Club.

that other people might not be interested in."

In his spare time, he is a ham radio buff and member of the Niagara Peninsula Amateur Radio Club. While he admits his is a dying hobby, he still enjoys building equipment, talking to other hams in the area and around the world, and socializing with other club members. Plus, he and his

fellow amateur radio aficionados provide an important emergency response service for the Niagara Peninsula.

In cases of disaster and power outages, amateur radio brings together families and emergency services when telephones, cell phones and commercial radio systems are not functioning.

Where the Rock Goes

Sewer and Water Line Replacement on Main Street West in Grimsby

Some 15,000 tonnes of stone from the Vineland and Spring Creek quarries is being used for this project, which includes granular 'A,' granular 'B,' and 3/4-inch clear stone aggregate used in trenches, sidewalks, curbs and in road asphalt.



Public Liaison Committee Holiday Reception 2014



Neighbours and friends of the Vineland Quarries came together for some holiday cheer at the StoneHill Grille last November.

SAVE THE DATE! The 2015 PLC Holiday Reception happens Wednesday, November 25, 2015, 6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. at the StoneHill Grille.

Safety is a Walker Priority

The approximately 200 employees of Walker Aggregates came together in Orillia in February for two days of lectures and workshops focusing on safety. The featured guest speaker was Paul Kells, founder of Safe Communities Canada, whose 19-year-old son died in a workplace accident in 1994.



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

VINELAND QUARRIES CONTACT INFORMATION

Angelo Bevilacqua
Quarry Superintendent
905 562 4163
abevilacqua@walkerind.com

Frank Kielbowich
Operations Manager
905 680 3673
fkielbowich@walkerind.com

Teresa Page
Administrative Assistant
905 680 3731
tpage@walkerind.com