

## Landfill Gas Milestone Reached

Walker Environmental Group (WEG) is celebrating a significant milestone in its efforts to reduce carbon emissions and help Ontario tackle climate change. Enough biogas from Walker's Thorold landfill has been used by nearby Resolute Forest Products since 2002 to offset the need for 200 million cubic metres of natural gas – that's the equivalent amount of natural gas used by 80,000 average Ontario homes in one year.

Resolute Forest Products (formerly Abitibi-Consolidated) manufactures 100 per cent recycled newsprint at its plant on Allanburg Road, which is 3.2 kilometres from the Walker landfill gas plant.

For the past 13 years, rather than flaring off the gas emitted from the landfill as waste decomposes, Walker has processed and piped it to Resolute – thereby transforming what was once waste into a valuable energy product. This has reduced Resolute's reliance on natural gas, and eliminated more than 375,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions.

"Projects such as this with WEG contribute to our ongoing efforts [to reduce our greenhouse gas footprint], and likewise provide a stable, low-cost, renewable energy source for our operations," says Gord Cole, the vice-president and general manager of Resolute's Thorold operations.



Landfill gas is collected through a series of wells drilled into the landfill.

The Niagara Sustainability Initiative has recognized Walker's leadership in the development of a low carbon economy. "This project supports a resilient Niagara Region that wastes less, and makes an efficient use of energy from waste resources," says its executive director Katrina Kroeze.

## Walker Brothers Quarries Update

The processing plant at Walker Brothers Quarries underwent a significant amount of maintenance over the winter with upgraded equipment and new parts to improve efficiencies and reduce the number of maintenance problems. Spring start up of the plant happened on April 6, 2015.

Also new at the quarries is a state-of-the-art face loader. According to superintendent Mark Harmsworth, the new loader is more environmentally friendly because it produces lower carbon particulate, sulfur oxides and nitrogen oxides emissions.

Mark says he expects the production and sale of stone from the quarries this year to match previous years.

Two new bridges for the 10-Mile Creek trail have been built in the shop at Walker Brothers' sister quarry in Ridgemoor. The previous wooden bridges were washed away last year, and the new ones have a steel frame with a wooden decking. They will be installed later this spring.

In the early 1990s, Walker began the process of realigning the creek to expand the Walker Brothers quarry operations. A new pathway was planned for the creek and a public nature trail created by the company. The trail is accessible from a parking lot on the east side of Thorold Townline Road at Mountain Road.



New bridges ready to be installed over 10-Mile Creek.



A state-of-the-art face loader has been acquired for the quarries.

## Coming to Canada for a Better Life



### EMPLOYEE PROFILE

Elio Porco has been a Walker employee for 27 years.

It was during a trip to Canada to visit his brother and sister that Elio Porco met his future wife, and decided that he too, would leave Italy and make a life for himself in this country. That was 35 years ago.

At first Elio worked on a road construction crew. Then in 1988 he joined Walker Aggregates as a haul truck driver at the Walker Brothers' Thorold quarry. He says it was "a better job" than he had previously, and adds that he plans to stay until he retires at the age of 65.

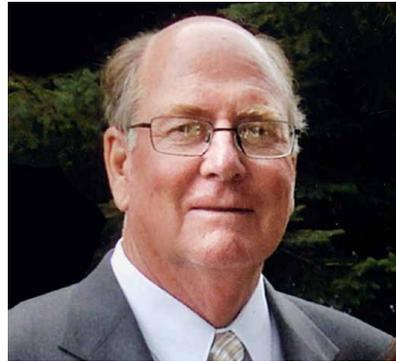
"I like everything," he says about his work. "There's fresh air and nice people here. Walker is a good company to work for."

Elio and his wife Gloria, have two children who are now grown, and one grandchild. Gloria has been a stay-at-home wife and mother, while Elio has been the family breadwinner. It's only a five minute drive from the family home in Thorold to the quarry workplace.

Both Elio and Gloria tend to a typical Italian vegetable garden in their backyard, with tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers and other produce. During weekends they enjoy going on picnics with their family and visiting nearby relatives. Elio hasn't been back to Italy since his parents passed away, one in 2000 and the other in 2002.

A particular hobby for Elio is fishing. He and his son-in-law enjoy heading up north for weekend fishing trips.

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



### Ron Plewman

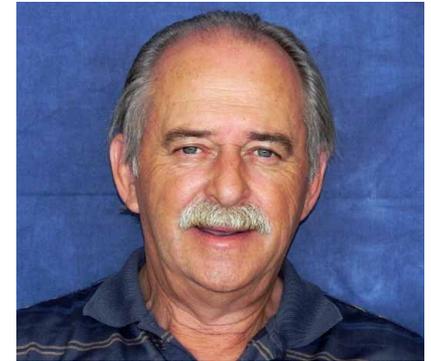
It is with great sadness that the employees of Walker Aggregates learned of the passing of Ron Plewman in November 2014 at the age of 68.

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.

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## Our New Newsletter Name

The name of our newsletter for the neighbours of Walker Industries' head office operations has been changed from "Walk of the Town" to "Walkways."

This new name is tied to the Walker company name and also suggests the "ways" of Walker – the news and philosophy of our company. An additional reason we chose this name is that Walker has a real connection to walkways. Our aggregates are used in both asphalt and concrete pathways (some of which our company actually builds), and we have also constructed and supported the creation of nature paths.

As always, we welcome comments and suggestions from our readers. Please contact Teresa Page at [tpage@walkerind.com](mailto:tpage@walkerind.com) or 905-680-3731.

## 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 so pleased to support Habitat for Humanity in helping families in need to purchase their own homes."



## Niagara-on-the-Lake Wastewater Treatment Plant

Approximately 130,000 tonnes of aggregate from the Walker Brothers Quarries will be used in the construction of a new wastewater treatment plant and ancillary services on Lakeshore Road in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

## An Industry Achievement Award

The Walker Brothers Quarries have 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 quarries were recognized for community relations – such as hosting an annual holiday wine and cheese event, tours and educational initiatives – support for local organizations, efforts to reduce dust and the effects of blasting, and regular communications through the Walk of the Town newsletter.

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.



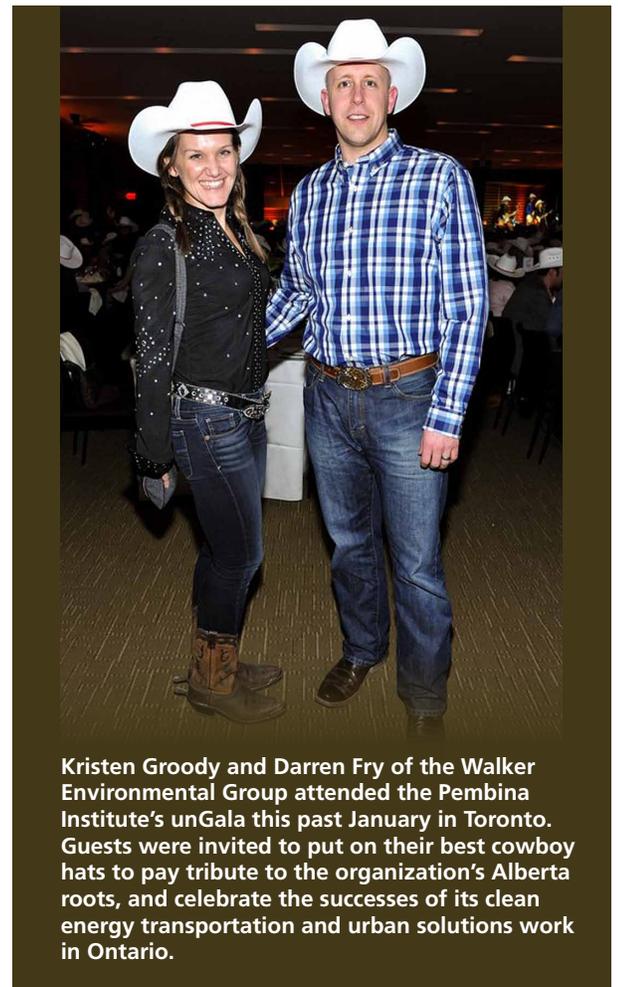
Walker Aggregates operations manager Frank Kielbowich accepts the OSSGA Community Relations Award from association president James Gordon.

# Public Liaison Committee Holiday Reception 2014



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

**SAVE THE DATE!** The 2015 PLC Holiday Reception happens Wednesday, December 2, 2015, 6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. at the Benchmark Restaurant, Niagara College.



Kristen Groody and Darren Fry of the Walker Environmental Group attended the Pembina Institute's unGala this past January in Toronto. Guests were invited to put on their best cowboy hats to pay tribute to the organization's Alberta roots, and celebrate the successes of its clean energy transportation and urban solutions work in Ontario.



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