



## Vineland Quarries Update

The first three months of 2016 at the Vineland Quarries were dedicated to performing major maintenance work on production facilities – including the replacement of a screen tower that’s part of the wash plant, the rebuilding of eight heavy duty motors and the replacement of a number of bearings. A new stacker was also added to the facilities at the quarries.

Stone production is expected to be a bit higher this year than last, according to general manager Frank Kielbowich, who notes that the warm winter resulted in a greater than normal demand for the stone used in the manufacture of concrete for local construction projects. “We are working to get our inventories back up,” he says.

Two new supervisors have joined the Vineland Quarries. They are Mike Deluca, who comes to Walker from more than 20 years of employment in the steel industry, and Moe Collee, who has worked at the Walker Brothers Quarries for more than two decades as a lead hand and maintenance employee.

Left: A new screen tower has been installed at the quarries.



## Where the Rock Goes

## Agricultural Lime Applications



Approximately 15,000 tonnes of dolomitic and calcitic lime is trucked from the Vineland Quarries each year for application on farm fields in and around the Niagara region. The lime is used as a natural soil supplement. Both types of lime neutralize acid in the soil. Dolomitic lime provides additional magnesium and calcium for plant uptake, while calcitic lime provides calcium but almost no magnesium.



## Project of the Year

The District School Board of Niagara Walker Living Campus at Woodend was awarded the 2015 Project of the Year award from the Niagara Construction Association (NCA) in December. Accepting the award from NCA past president Tyler Green (left) were Greg Redden of MZE Architects, John Koeman of Walker Environmental Group and Bert Poort of the District School Board of Niagara.

## CUSTOMER PROFILE



The Demar construction crew takes a quick break from a road works project in Niagara Falls to pose for a group photo.

Demar is a general contracting company that specializes in water main, sewer and road reconstruction projects.

According to estimator and project manager Dimitri Marianos, much of the work done by Demar is done for municipalities. A previous major project involved the excavation and site servicing for the two towers and parking garage of the Hilton Hotel in Niagara Falls.

The company has also been involved with numerous methane gas recovery projects across Ontario, installing piping in landfills to generators that convert the gas into a useable energy source. This includes working on the methane collection system at Walker's Thorold landfill, as well as landfills in the Ottawa, Ingersoll, Windsor and Cornwall areas.

Demar purchases aggregates and asphalt from Walker Aggregates, and has placed orders of up to 40,000 tonnes for one particular project. The company is also a supplier to Walker, bringing recycled asphalt and concrete to the quarries to be reprocessed and reused.

## Construction is a Family Affair for Demar

Demar Construction is a family business in the truest sense of the word. Founded 16 years ago by George Marianos, the Thorold business also employs his wife, two sons and, at one time, his daughter

as well. The family emigrated from Greece to Canada in 1985 with a history in the construction business. George's father himself was one of the first general contractors in Athens.

"We have a great relationship and Walker is great to work with," Dimitri says.

"We like to form relationships with our suppliers, and the team at Walker is very organized and steady. We always know what to expect."



## An Expanded Sales Role

Shea Gordon has been given an increased role as a sales representative for Walker Aggregates in Niagara. Where he was formerly responsible for specialty aggregate products, Shea is now handling sales of all aggregates and hot mix products from Walker's Niagara operations.

## An Award for Community Relations



Walker Aggregates general manager for Niagara & the West GTA, Frank Kielbowich, accepts a community relations award from OSSGA board chair Steve Bisson.

The Vineland Quarries has received a Community Relations Award from the Ontario Stone, Sand & Gravel Association (OSSGA). The award recognizes quarries that demonstrate leadership in promoting good neighbour relations, community involvement, education and industry awareness.

To minimize dust from one of its processing facilities, the Vineland Quarries built an enclosure over the facility and installed misting fans. The quarry also invested in additional tarps as well as a weather station to track the speed and direction of wind so that staff can be notified of any changes that could affect the spreading of dust to the community.

Vineland Quarries is also active in Walker Industries' annual Earth Day cleanup and a major sponsor of the Niagara affiliate of Habitat for Humanity.

The awards review panel was comprised of judges from outside the aggregate industry – including representatives from Ducks Unlimited Canada, the Cornerstone Standards Council and the Ontario Ministry of Resources and Forestry.

## Jamie Appreciates His Steady Job

As the head of a family of six, Jamie Little is grateful for his six years of steady work with a good salary at the Vineland Quarries. For more than 20 years prior to joining Walker Aggregates, he lived with the stress of uncertain employment. He had been a telephone company technician for 15 years with a guarantee of only 24 hours of work per week, and then found himself on the picket line with his fellow employees during a major strike. Jamie next went to work as a material handler and shipper for a steel company and was laid off during the 2008-09 recession. His last job prior to joining Walker was at a feed mill with a salary that didn't cover his family's living expenses.

"I was on the verge of losing my home," he recalls. Within four years of joining Walker, Jamie was debt free.

Now working as the secondary plant operator, Jamie first heard about a job opening at the Vineland Quarries through a friend of a friend.

"I love it here," he says. "I've never had a day when I didn't want to go to work."

He says his job pays well and the company treats its employees well. "This is a place where you are treated as a person, and not a number."



Jamie Little at work in the control room of the secondary crushing plant.

For his part, Jamie is giving back to the company and his community. For five years he has been a member of the Walker Health and Safety Committee and also served on the "Together WE Can" employee giving committee. Earlier this year, Jamie was the recipient of a prestigious Individual Safety Award from the Ontario Stone, Sand & Gravel Association for his outstanding safety activities and abilities.

"I've been fortunate to be able to give back," he says. For the past two years, the Vineland Quarries employees have raised funds to sponsor a family in West Niagara during the Christmas holidays.

Jamie typically works long days, so during his time off he likes to "veg" by watching NASCAR and football on television, and going for walks with his family in Smithville, where he lives.

## An 'Egg'citing Experience for Isaac

A seasonal slowdown in his work environment turned into an enlightening experience this past February for Vineland Quarries labourer Isaac Pelissero. With the quarry in the slow part of the production cycle, Isaac decided to take on a volunteer project for a month, teaching workers at an orphanage in Swaziland how to become egg farmers.

The opportunity came through the Egg Farmers of Canada and the International Egg Foundation, which are co-sponsoring the egg farming project. Isaac's dad is an egg farmer in Smithville and vice chairman of the Egg Farmers of Canada, and Isaac himself has been helping out on the family farm since he was five or six years old.

As part of an effort to make the orphanage self sustaining and provide employment for local villagers, a farm has been created on the site, including a barn to house 2,500 chickens. Malnutrition is a major concern in the tiny African country of Swaziland, and eggs provide an excellent source of protein. HIV and AIDS is another major concern, with Swaziland having the highest rate of the disease in the world, killing people who've left behind hundreds of thousands of orphaned children.

Before travelling to Swaziland, Isaac had only travelled to other parts of Canada, and as far as Florida in the U.S. "It was a very big culture change," he says of his experience.

"I am much more humble now and appreciate what we have in Canada," Isaac says of his experience teaching local villagers to become egg farmers. "This opportunity has made me think in a much less selfish way about what I do with my money and my time."

For more information about the Swaziland egg farming project, or to make a donation, visit [eggfarmers.ca/heartforafrica](http://eggfarmers.ca/heartforafrica).



Isaac Pelissero plays with two of the children living at the Project Canaan orphanage in Swaziland.

# Public Liaison Committee Holiday Reception 2015



Neighbours and friends of the Vineland Quarries gathered for some holiday cheer at the StoneHill Grille & Taps in Vineland last November.



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