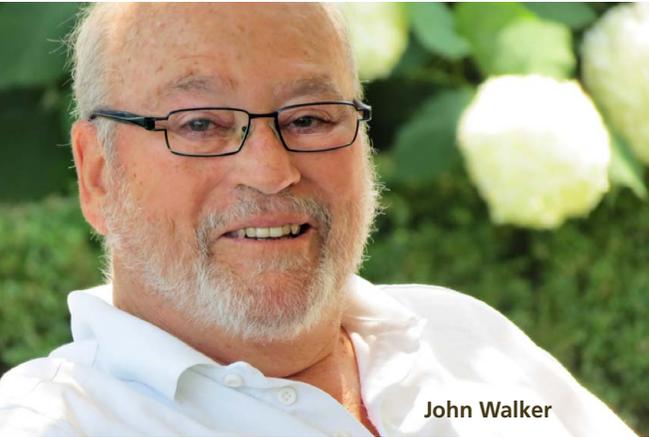


## Remembering John Walker – A Business and Community Legend



John Walker

The Board of Directors and employees of Walker Industries Holdings Limited were saddened to learn of the passing of John Walker on May 26, 2016, at the age of 77. John was the retired, fourth-generation co-owner of Walker Industries, and as proud of his family legacy in business as in its community service and philanthropy.

John joined the family business after his studies at McGill University in 1962, starting as a superintendent of the company's quarry in Niagara Falls. He and his brother Norris later purchased the company from their father and uncle.

"John was a good judge of character and very good at sizing people up," recalls Norris. "He looked for and cared for hard-working, honest and loyal employees."

"We did for the community what we felt was right," John said of the company's community service in the locations where Walker had operations. "We were happy to do it and never expected anything in return."

John served on several national and international industry associations and received a number of prestigious

entrepreneurial and achievement awards. He also served as a chair or member of numerous boards of directors in the Niagara Region where he lived, including the Shaver Hospital, Knox Presbyterian Church, Ridley College, Shaw Festival Theatre, AIDS Niagara, YMCA, Niagara Peninsula Children's Centre Foundation and the St. Catharines General Hospital Breakthrough Health Care Campaign. He was an executive in residence at Brock University, where he received an Honorary Doctorate degree, was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal in 2002, and was honorary co-chair of the fundraising campaign to build a new hospital and cancer centre in St. Catharines.

John leaves behind his wife Carol, and children David (Jennifer), Wendy (Michael), Ian and Geordie (Adrienne), along with stepchildren Sarah and Rachel, and 11 grandchildren.

## Walker Brothers Quarries Update

Stone production and shipping has been slower than normal this past year, with fewer local construction projects needing stone from the Walker Brothers Quarries. "The market has not been as active as in previous years," says Frank Kiebowich, Walker Aggregates' general manager for Niagara and the West GTA. As a result, stone processing has been occurring four days each week, compared to the normal five days per week.

A new haul truck driver has joined the quarry team. Kevin Danku has moved from Walker Industries' Norjohn Contracting Division to the Walker Brothers Quarries to replace Les Hegyes, who retired this past June.

Please Join Us for Our

## HOLIDAY CHRISTMAS RECEPTION

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

at **Benchmark Dining Room**  
**Niagara College**

135 Taylor Rd., Niagara-on-the-Lake

Please **RSVP** before November 30  
to Heather Flindall at 905-680-3759  
hflindall@walkerind.com

## CUSTOMER PROFILE

A work crew lays down FiberMat® paving on a road in Haliburton.

### Norjohn Contracting – A Customer Within its Own Company

One of the best customers of Walker Aggregates is actually one of Walker Industries' divisions – Norjohn Contracting. Norjohn was founded in 1973 to take advantage of stone and asphalt from Walker's Niagara quarries for local road and site development projects. In some cases that means that Norjohn competes

with Walker Aggregates' other contracting customers, says general manager John Blake. But he is quick to note that "we're careful which projects we bid on because we don't want to come in conflict with Walker's other customers. We want them to continue using stone from our quarries."

About 75 per cent of the asphalt produced at the Vineland and Walker Brothers quarries is used by Norjohn Contracting. The company uses both hot and cold recycled mix asphalt for its road reconstruction and pavement preservation. It also uses asphalt emulsion produced by another of Walker's divisions – Walker Emulsions in Burlington.

Norjohn has several unique paving technologies, including one that's used in road preservation projects across Ontario, called FiberMat®. Strands of chopped fibreglass are sprayed in place between layers of asphalt emulsion and then covered in stone. The FiberMat® paving technology prevents reflective cracking in existing road surfaces. "Typically a road will require maintenance between year eight and 10," says John. "With FiberMat®, we can extend the life of the road for five or more years before it needs to be resurfaced or rebuilt." The FiberMat® process takes crews from Norjohn to road projects in municipalities across the province.

Altogether, the company is involved in approximately 300 kilometres of road construction each year.

Norjohn has formed several subcontracting relationships with contracting companies throughout the Niagara Region for site servicing projects, sewer and water main construction, and curb and sidewalk construction projects, for example. It employs between 65 and 70 local workers full time during peak construction season.



## Welland Rose Festival Parade

The Niagara Region Métis Council was awarded the Best Themed Entry in Welland's annual Rose Festival Parade last June, thanks in part to some assistance from Walker Environmental. Walker offered a truck, trailer, driver and donation. This sponsorship helps the council unite the Métis people and promote their historical values, culture, language and traditions.

## Keith's Job Keeps Things Interesting

As is common among Walker Industries employees, Keith Yarnell has been with the company for quite a while. He originally began working at Norjohn Contracting 15 years ago, mostly as an operator on road reconstruction projects. Keith had started driving a dump truck and then switched to operating a stone chip spreader.

Before that he had been travelling throughout the Niagara region, delivering bottled water to businesses and homes. He applied to Walker because he'd heard it was a good company to work for.

However, the Norjohn job was seasonal, and with a young family to support, Keith decided he needed to work year round. Four years ago, he landed a position at Walker Brothers Quarries as a general labourer.

"I run all kinds of equipment," he says. "I shuffle around and do different jobs on different pieces of equipment to keep things interesting."

Keith says he enjoys his work. "The pay is good and the people I work with are good."

He travels to the quarry each day from his home in Thorold where he lives with his wife Jennifer, an employee of the Niagara Region, their 13-year-old son Benjamin and



Keith and Jennifer Yarnell with their children Benjamin and Charlotte.

### EMPLOYEE PROFILE

11-year old daughter Charlotte. With the winter season approaching the family will be making regular trips to local arenas where Benjamin plays hockey – with Keith as a coach – and Charlotte takes figure skating lessons.

Once the snow arrives, the family will be heading up north for snowmobile trips, and when the warm weather returns they'll be back on their boat in Lake Ontario.



## Promoting Careers in the Construction Industry

More than 80 Niagara high school students visited the Walker Brothers Quarries this past spring as part of a tour of sites that employ people in the construction sector. Organized by the Heavy Construction Association of Regional Niagara, the visit gave the students an opportunity to learn about work in a quarry and speak to employees about their jobs.

# Where the Rock Goes

## OPG Niagara Reservoir Construction Project

Some 26,000 tonnes of stone from Walker Brothers Quarries is being used in a construction project to refurbish the reservoir at the Sir Adam Beck Pump Generating Station in Niagara Falls. The reservoir is the largest in Canada and can hold the equivalent of 8,000 Olympic-sized swimming pools of water. It is used by Ontario Power Generation (OPG) to pump in and store water during off-peak periods, and later drained to generate hydro-electric power when electricity demand is high.

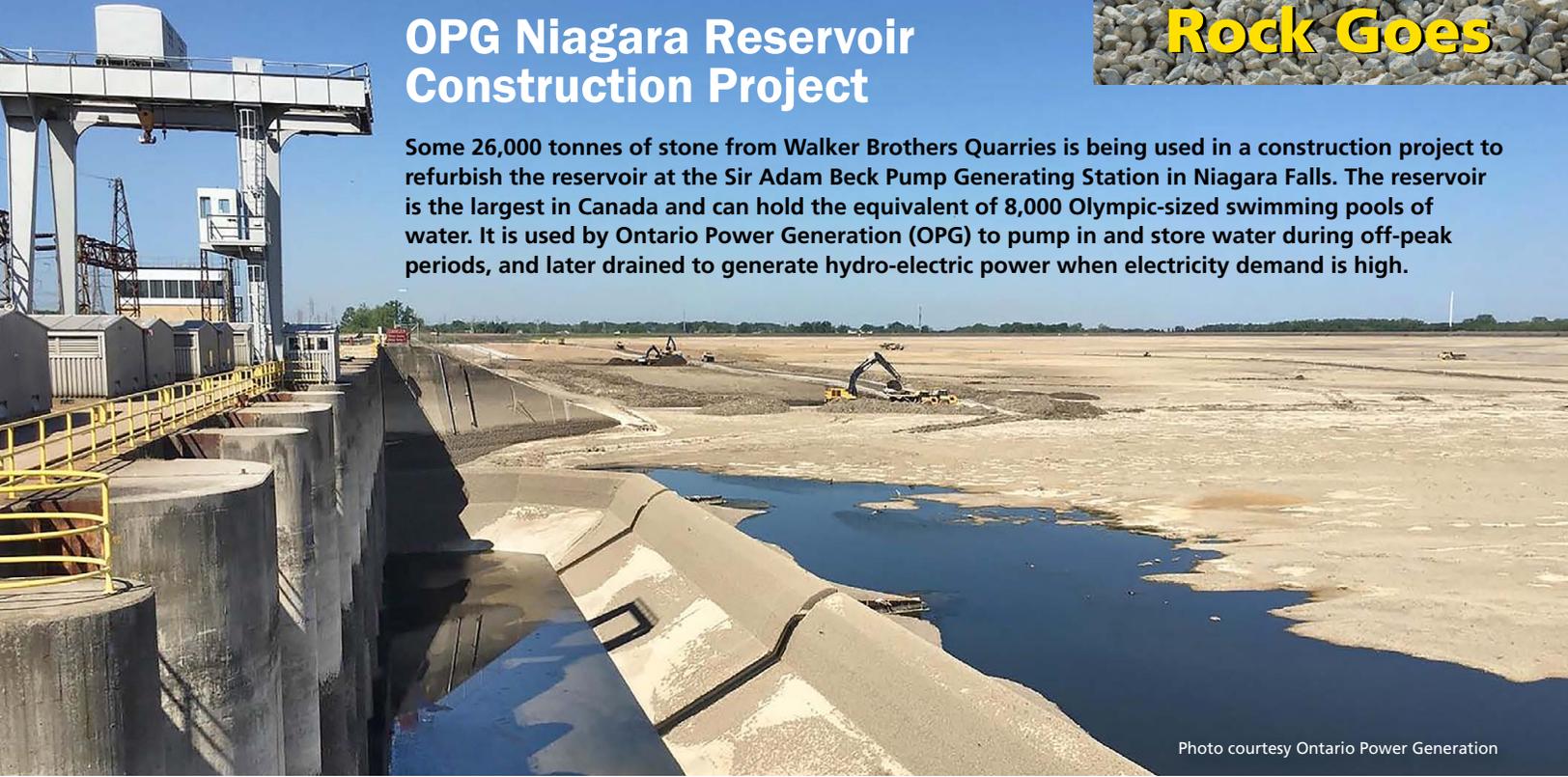


Photo courtesy Ontario Power Generation

## Breann Gray-Mitchell Gives her Time for Art

Walker Environmental employee Breann Gray-Mitchell successfully bid 100 hours of volunteer time for a painting at the annual Priceless Art Auction, hosted by NEXTNiagara at the Jackson-Triggs Vineyard on July 14, 2016. NEXTNiagara is a group of young community leaders formed under the auspices of the Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce.

Walker Environmental was one of the sponsors of the event, and six Walker employees were in attendance.

The auction invited young professionals to bid on artwork with volunteer hours, asking them to "bid your time, not your dime." Breann will now be giving 100 hours of her time to the Niagara Children's Centre and the Big Brothers Big Sisters organization, in exchange for her new piece of artwork, painted by local artist Robin Nisbet.

Nearly 1,300 hours in total were pledged for 14 works of art.



Artist Robin Nisbet (left) with her painting "Abandoned in Welland: Plastic Chair" with successful bidder and Walker employee Breann Gray-Mitchell.

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