

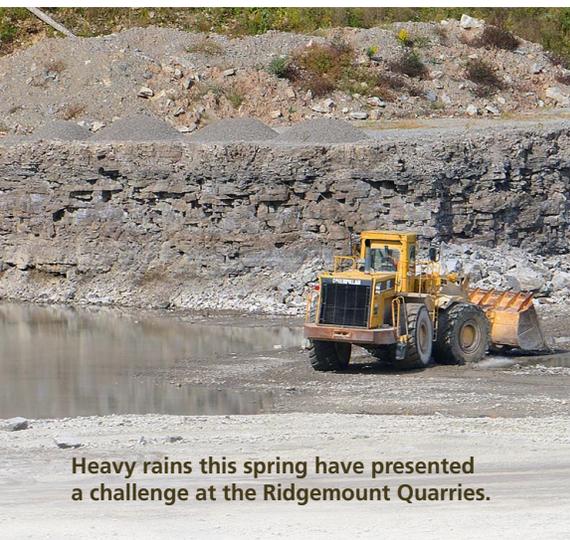
Ridgemount Quarries Update

The unusually large amounts of rain this spring have put a damper on operations at the Ridgemount Quarries. The rock extraction plans have needed to be altered and crushing operations were suspended for a month due to the challenge of removing water from the quarry floor. Care is being taken to ensure that water pumped out does not adversely affect the local aquifer.

Otherwise, the 2017 season is shaping up to be a busy year, according to superintendent Mark Harmsworth. He notes that concrete stone is in high demand from ready-mix plants throughout Niagara.

A Donation to a Local Charity

A Ridgemount Quarries employee is one of the winners in a lottery that Walker Industries runs every December. The company provides 15 prizes of \$1,000 and \$500, totalling \$10,000, for employees to donate to the charities of their choice. Loader operator Keith White won \$500 and donated the money to the Help a Child Smile organization, which provides assistance to families with kids being treated for cancer at the McMaster Children's Hospital.



Heavy rains this spring have presented a challenge at the Ridgemount Quarries.

Recycling and Reducing Environmental Impacts



Stockpiles of old asphalt and concrete prior to being crushed and used in new construction projects.

When it comes to recycling, Walker Aggregates is doing it in a big way – at a rate of about 70,000 tonnes per year in Niagara alone. This isn't just the blue box type of recycling that most homeowners know about. It's the recycling of concrete and asphalt, and part of a core philosophy of Walker's business practices – sustainability.

"It's very important to us to recycle aggregate materials," says Niagara sales manager Shea Gordon. "This venture demonstrates the Walker commitment to higher environmental performance as part of our EARTH 1st focus of finding ways to reduce our impacts."

The company's contracting customers bring torn up asphalt and concrete from construction sites to be stockpiled in the Niagara quarries. Walker then crushes the materials and resells them for use in new projects. As examples, the crushed concrete could be used as a granular base in road reconstruction projects and the crushed asphalt used for farm laneways. The recycled asphalt product creates less dust than gravel, and is less expensive than laying down a layer of fresh asphalt.

Walker has been recycling concrete and asphalt for more than 20 years, and is a founding member of Aggregate Recycling Ontario, an organization that promotes the use of recycled aggregates in new construction projects as a substitute for primary aggregates.

While initially slow to catch on, the market for recycled aggregates is steadily growing. The Ontario Ministry of Transportation encourages the use of recycled products in its road works, and municipalities across the province are becoming more accepting of them in local infrastructure projects.

On-the-Job Training Right After High School

At the young age of 18, Nathan Wallace is learning what it's like to work in a quarry and paint shop. A graduate of Beamsville District Secondary School, he is one of hundreds of high school graduates who gained work experience last year under the provincial Experience Ontario program. The program is designed to help graduates interested in pursuing post-secondary education or apprenticeship training, and provides grants to employers to help pay their wages.

Nathan's job placement at the Ridgemount Quarries and Paint Shop lasted from last October to January, and he has now been hired on a temporary full-time basis. He says he really enjoys his job, which so far has included operating some equipment and helping with vehicle body work. His career plans involve operating heavy equipment.

EMPLOYEE PROFILE



Judy Eggleton gives a weigh ticket to a truck driver leaving the quarry with a load of stone.

The One and Only Job for 40 Years

At Ridgemount Quarries, Judy Eggleton has the distinction of not only being the only woman employed full time at the site, but also the longest-serving employee. Judy began work as the quarry's scalehouse operator 40 years ago, and she's not planning to retire anytime soon. Her job is the only one she's ever had.

Judy's position would not suit everyone – she works alone all day weighing trucks as they enter and leave the quarry – but she is quite happy with it. "I have my own washroom, fridge and microwave," she jokes. Judy chit-chats with dozens of truck drivers each day. "The guys are all great to work with," she says.

Trucks come onto Judy's scale either empty or with concrete and asphalt to be recycled, or dirt to be used in the ongoing quarry rehabilitation. They leave with stone and the drivers get a weigh ticket that indicates how much they are hauling.

On a normal day up to 2,000 tonnes of aggregate could be hauled out of the quarry en route to local construction projects.

Judy's husband Frank is the manager of a manufacturing plant in Mississauga, with a long commute from Ridgeway every weekday.

The couple like to mostly relax at home when they aren't working, but do venture out occasionally for dinner or to take in a movie. They also enjoy spending time with their son Zac, when he comes home from Halifax for a visit a few times each year.



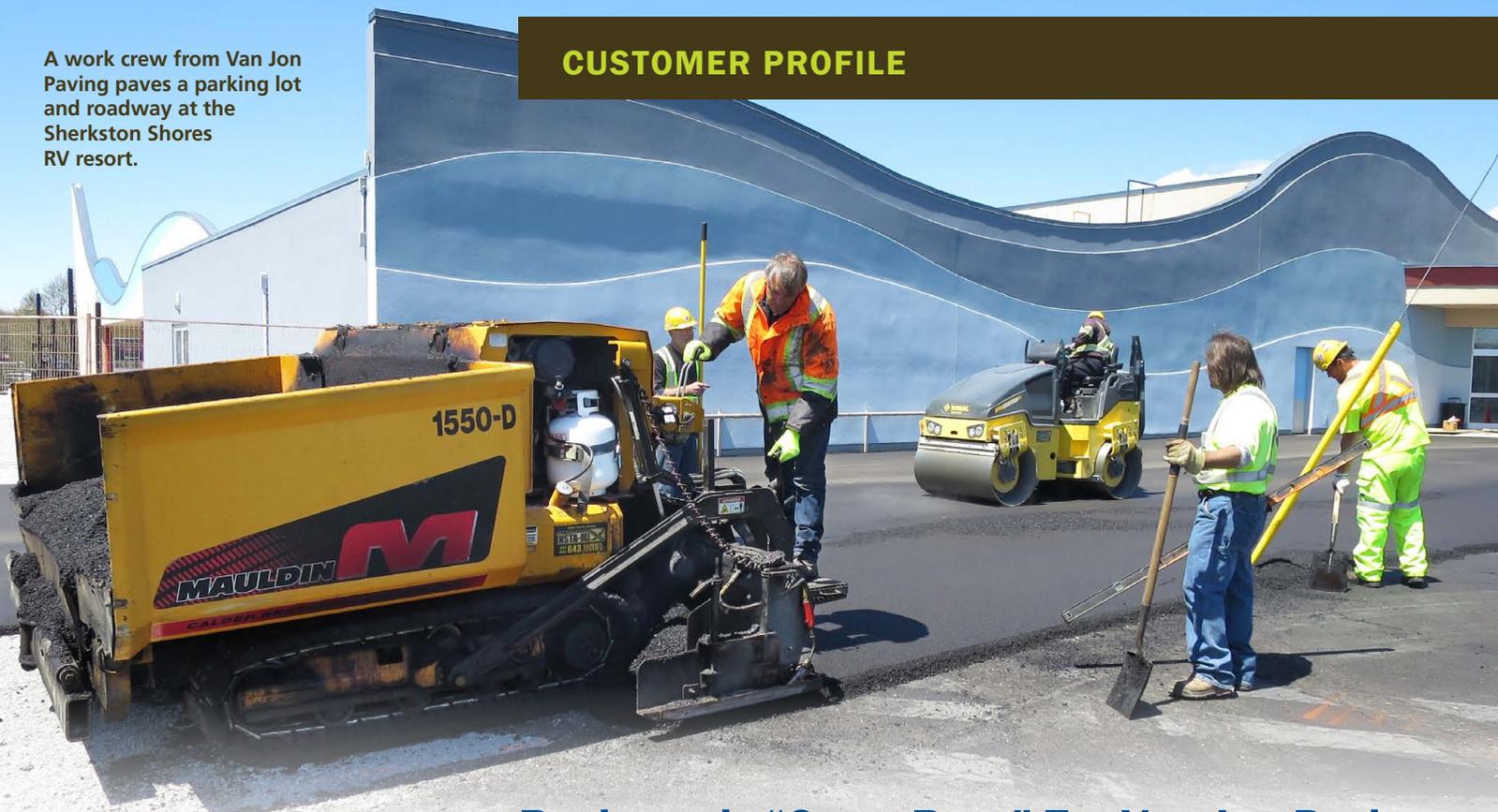
Nathan Wallace



In the weeks leading up to Christmas, Walker Aggregates' head office employees offered gift wrapping to shoppers at Fairview Mall in St. Catharines, in exchange for a donation to The Arthritis Society. Among the participating employees were (from left) Teresa Pierobon, Alanna Walker, Nicole Cathcart and Lisa Reesor.

A work crew from Van Jon Paving paves a parking lot and roadway at the Sherston Shores RV resort.

CUSTOMER PROFILE



Business is “Crazy Busy” For Van Jon Paving

If there was any doubt that the effect of skyrocketing Toronto home prices is spilling over into the Niagara Region, Devin Vanderlaan says his family business is proof of that. “We’re crazy busy this year,” says Devin who, together with his parents Bill and Carol, is an owner of Van Jon Paving.

By the end of April, Van Jon Paving already had work booked into August. The company provides paving services for new subdivisions, commercial and industrial parking lots, municipal projects, and small private roads and country lanes.

The home building and renovation business, along with good economic

activity in Niagara, is causing the paving company to consider adding an extra work crew to its current complement of 10 employees.

In 1981, Bill and Carol started a small enterprise in Welland sealing driveways. They have since grown their business to the point where they’re now taking on large paving projects.

Van Jon Paving sources stone from all of Walker Aggregates’ Niagara quarries, and asphalt from the Vineland and Walker Brothers operations. The company is one of many in the region that rely on Walker for its products.

In addition to what Devin says are the paving of “1,001 driveways,” the company has paved parking lots at a variety of well-known Niagara businesses and tourism sites.

Despite a full schedule of jobs for the coming year, the Vanderlaan family is reluctant to expand their business very much. “My dad and I sell the job, and then we are on the job,” Devin says. “We like to be on the ground at all times to ensure the project is done right.”

It’s this dedication to high quality work that has ensured the ongoing success of Van Jon Paving for more than 35 years.



Where the Stone Goes



Village Creek Subdivision in Stevensville

Approximately 20,000 tonnes of aggregate from the Ridgemount Quarries is being used for the site servicing and road works in the Village Creek subdivision on Old Mill Road in Stevensville.

Helping Out the First Responders

Many of the lands that Walker purchases to grow its operations have homes and other buildings on them. Some of the homes are rented for varying lengths of time, while others have damage too expensive to repair. In the latter case, the company offers the buildings and nearby property to local fire, police and K-9 units for training purposes. In the photos above, a local fire department set fire to a home and then extinguished the blaze (left), and a SWAT team from the Niagara and Buffalo police practiced responding to a hostage situation (right) on another site.



Walker Purchases Three Pits in Simcoe County

Walker Aggregates has added to its operations in Simcoe County with the purchase of three sand and gravel pits from the Stewart Group of Companies, based in Orillia, Ontario.

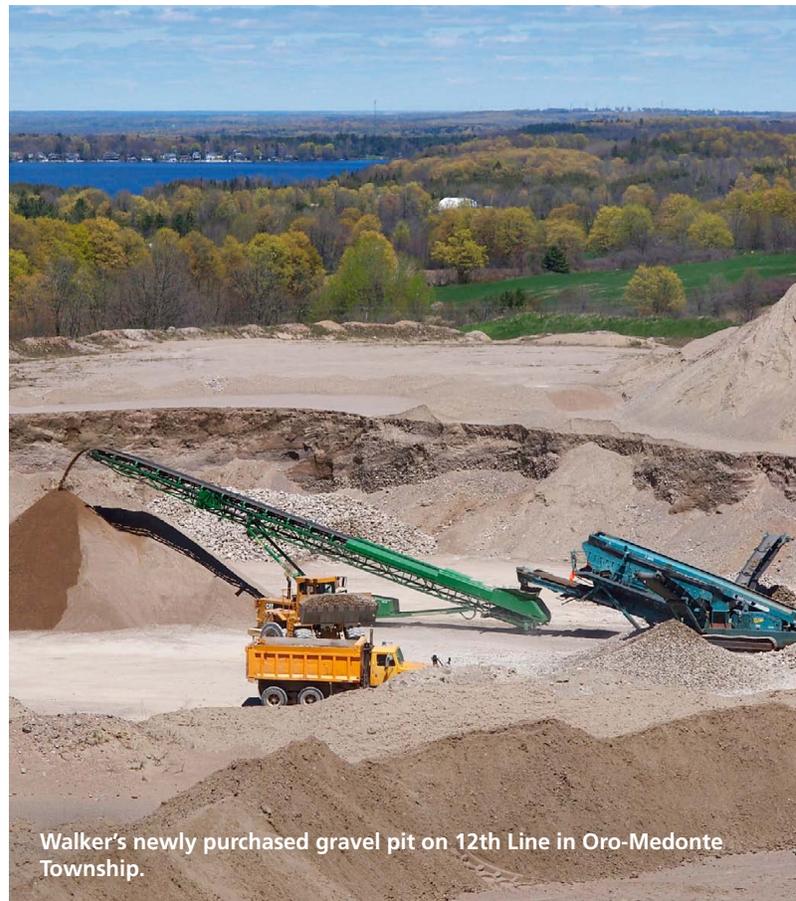
Two of the sand and gravel pits are in Oro-Medonte Township – one on 12th Line and another on 13th Line – while the other is in Severn Township on Uthhoff Line.

This acquisition, finalized last December, enables Walker to expand its aggregate operations in the Simcoe area by serving more customers and by enhancing the supply of products to its existing customers.

The approximately 15 employees working at the pits were offered jobs with Walker Aggregates.

The acquisition of Stewart's aggregate assets is part of Walker's sustainability plan for the future, according to executive vice-president Ken Lucyshyn. "We want to ensure we can continue to provide a good supply of sand and gravel to our customers involved in construction projects that contribute to the growth and economic well-being of Simcoe County," he says.

Walker Aggregates owns pits and quarries in Niagara Region, Simcoe County and Essex County.



Walker's newly purchased gravel pit on 12th Line in Oro-Medonte Township.



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