

THE RIDGE ROCK

A newsletter for the neighbours of Ridgemount Quarries



walker
aggregates

Spring/Summer 2018

RIDGEMOUNT QUARRIES UPDATE

Ridgemount Quarries has a new superintendent. He is Moe Collee, formerly a supervisor at Vineland Quarries. He takes over from Mark Harmsworth, who assumes superintendent duties at Vineland.

The quarry has been busy throughout the winter and spring, producing and shipping stone, mostly for concrete production. Approximately four acres of rock is set to be extracted this year, with an additional five acres of floor space in the quarry being rehabilitated.

To kick-start the upcoming busy season, the quarry is receiving a new loader. The machine's new technologies will result in cleaner emissions and minimize fuel consumption, further reducing Walker's carbon footprint.

Once again, Grade 9 students from Sir Winston Churchill Secondary School will be taking a field trip to the quarry this year to hunt for fossils.

► Moe Collee



WHERE THE STONE GOES

HighPoint Meadows Subdivision

Approximately 30,000 tonnes of stone from Ridgemount Quarries is being used in the early phase of the subdivision construction at Green Acres Drive and Garrison Road in Fort Erie.

CUSTOMER PROFILE

A COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY

Concern for the environment is a major consideration in the way Gigante Paving does business. The St. Catharines-based company uses about 75 per cent recycled aggregate as bedding for its paving projects, with the rest being mined and crushed at Walker's Niagara quarries.

The recycled product is made from broken curbs and sidewalks that have been removed during reconstruction projects and trucked to Walker to be re-processed. "We use recycled material every chance we can," says Gigante vice-president Daryl Deline. "It's not a price thing. The quality of the material is good and it's good for the environment."

Gigante employs 16 people during the busy construction season, who work paving commercial parking lots – such as those at condominium buildings, offices and factories. Much of the company's work involves scraping out the old asphalt and replacing it with new. The old asphalt is also trucked to Walker to be crushed and recycled.

The new asphalt that Gigante lays down is manufactured at plants at the Walker Brothers



▲ A Gigante Paving crew takes a break from a job at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Elementary School in Grimsby.

and Vineland quarries.

The company has been in business in Niagara for 55 years. It takes on projects across the region, from Fort Erie to Stoney Creek. Daryl runs the company but his father Harry – who is now mostly retired – was one of the two founders, and is still president and a part owner. Daryl's son Trevor also works at the company, as does his daughter Kelly, who runs the office.

"I steered them to working in the family business," Daryl says of his kids. "It's solid work with a future."

Once the weather warms up in spring, the company's crews work every day until winter comes. While business is good with the growth of the Niagara economy, Daryl says that new paving companies entering the marketplace means there's plenty of competition.

Gigante sources all of its materials exclusively from Walker. "When we were small, the other local companies charged a lot because we couldn't buy large volumes of product," he explains. Walker didn't do that. "They made us competitive, which allowed us to start up and grow."

WALKER AGGREGATES RECEIVES MINISTRY OF LABOUR FINE

Walker Aggregates has been fined \$170,000 along with a 25 per cent victim surcharge by the Ministry of Labour after pleading guilty to a charge of failing to follow a safety procedure under the provincial Occupational Health and Safety Act. The fine comes after the tragic death of one of the company's employees at Severn Quarry in February 2017.

The incident and subsequent ministry investigation have compelled Walker Industries to launch a company-wide review of health and safety practices throughout all its divisions. This includes recently completed third-party safety audits of all its sites in Canada and the U.S. and their recommendations for further safety initiatives.

"The responsibility of working safely at Walker belongs to everyone," says Walker Industries president and CEO John Fisher, noting that the company has been enhancing its health and safety training and its oversight of employees to ensure an incident like this never happens again. "We must always be mindful of the effects of unsafe work practices and the potentially devastating impact on a victim's coworkers, supervisors, and most importantly, their families," he adds. "We want to ensure that all of our employees get home safe at the end of each work day."



AN AWARD FOR COMMUNITY PHILANTHROPY

Walker Industries was honoured as "Outstanding Corporation" for 2017 during the tenth annual National Philanthropy Day Awards last November, hosted by the Association of Fundraising Professionals, Golden Horseshoe Chapter. Accepting the award were (from left) Walker family members Dave Walker, Sheila (Walker) Bonapace, Norris Walker and Robert Bonapace, which was presented by Michael LeBlanc (at right), CEO of First Canadian Title, which sponsored the award.

HELPING CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES TAKE TO THE ICE

A group of kids with physical disabilities now have the equipment they need to play sledge hockey, thanks largely to a \$7,000 donation from Walker Aggregates and the fundraising efforts of its employees.

The donation was part of a total of \$12,000 raised to purchase enough equipment to allow 12 children to participate in the sport.

The fundraising campaign was organized by the Sledge Hockey Experience and All Sports All

People, an organization that helps people with physical and developmental disabilities obtain adaptive equipment and participate in sports.

Representatives of the two organizations and a group of Walker employees presented the kids with their sledge hockey equipment at a special event last December.

"The response and support received from Walker

Aggregates completely blew us away," says Kevin Rempel of the Sledge Hockey Experience. Kevin himself is a 2013 World Champion and 2014 Sochi Paralympic bronze medalist in sledge hockey.

"The energy and excitement...is directly making a difference in the lives of many children and their families," he adds. We can't thank Walker Aggregates enough."



▲ Representatives of Walker Aggregates were among those who joined the kids receiving sledge hockey equipment during a special event last December.



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