

WALKWAYS

A newsletter for the neighbours of Walker Industries



Spring/Summer 2018



▲ A drone aerial photograph of Walker Brothers Quarries.

WALKER BROTHERS QUARRIES RECEIVES TOP INDUSTRY HONOUR

Walker Brothers Quarries has received the coveted Award of Excellence from the Ontario Stone, Sand & Gravel Association (OSSGA). The award recognizes OSSGA members' past and ongoing commitment to industry improvement.

"Being recognized with the Award of Excellence is a testament to our employees' commitment to quality work both on our sites and in their communities," says Walker Aggregates' executive vice-president Ken Lucyshyn, adding that the recognition for Walker Brothers Quarries is particularly noteworthy. "With Walker Brothers being our longest running operation — and sharing the location with Walker Industries' other divisions — it takes many levels of cooperation in order to maintain a positive relationship with our neighbours, while running a clean and safe operation. We are thrilled to say our employees have earned it."

The quarry also received a Community Relations Award from the OSSGA to add to its accolades, an honour that was also extended to several other Walker Aggregates locations throughout the region and province. The awards were presented at the association's annual conference this past February.



▲ Diana Aquino, quality control supervisor for Walker Environmental's Organics Division, explains what happens to organic waste as it travels from the green bin through the compost facility.

CAREERS AND COMPOST: WALKER TAKES KIDS TO WORK

Walker Industries' head office location hosted eight high school students during Take Your Kids to Work Day last fall. The day, which takes place annually in November, focuses on helping Grade 9 students better understand different workplace environments.

The day started with the students learning about each company division, with representatives from Walker Aggregates, Norjohn Contracting, and Walker Environmental explaining their roles. A full campus tour followed, treating the students to an inside look at Walker's Niagara Falls operations - including educational stops at the organic compost facility, landfill and Walker Brothers Quarries.

The students had a chance to ask questions of the company employees, learn what happens to waste when it leaves the curbside and makes its way to the Walker site, and experience a ride through the quarry in a rock truck.

WHERE THE STONE GOES

Confederation Heights Phase 7

Approximately 17,000 tonnes of stone from Walker Brothers Quarries is being used in the early construction of the latest phase of the Confederation Heights subdivision at Richmond Street and Confederation Avenue in Thorold.



EMPLOYEE PROFILE

RON COMES HOME TO A JOB AT WALKER AGGREGATES

Ron König spent time at a variety of jobs before becoming quarry superintendent at Walker Brothers Quarries. He was a superintendent for over 20 years in the aggregate industry, running asphalt plants, paving, mining and rehabilitation projects while working on numerous MTO projects and municipal jobs.

“My work took me all over Ontario because of my experience in different areas,” Ron recalls. “I enjoyed the travel.” When he was offered an opportunity to take a job in the tar sands in Alberta in 2013, he couldn’t pass it up.

But after nearly three years in remote Kearn Lake, Alberta, leaving his family back home in Sherkston for weeks at a time started to take its toll. “A week or two is a long time to be away,” he says, noting that no matter how often he was flown home, it still felt like he was missing too much.

His decision to return to Ontario allowed him to be home with his wife Moira and their 15-year-old daughter Ronni on the family’s 20-acre farm. He spent that year maintaining the equipment for his wife’s work on the farm and commuting to Toronto daily for work at an equipment dealership.

Then Ron received a call from Walker Aggregates,



▲ Ron König in his office at Walker Brothers Quarries.

after submitting a resume and being recommended by another Walker employee.

He jumped at the chance to work at Walker because of the company’s respect for the environment and the community. “Walker cares about its neighbours and employees, and you can tell just by driving by the site that the company goes out of its way to protect the environment,” he says. “One hundred years from now, this company will still be talked about for the good work it’s done.”

Ron’s mission is to have a positive impact on that legacy. But first of all, he says his job “is to make sure everyone is safe on the site” and to

make quality products.

Ron expects his operation to run without a hitch. “It takes a good team, the right people with the right fit for the job to make everything run smoothly,” he adds.

Now, with a job close to home, all of the cogs in Ron’s life are fitting together. He has more time to support his wife as she embarks on her new career as a personal support worker and to spend time with his daughter. He can enjoy doing the hard work he has enjoyed for most of his life without worrying about being sent far away. For Ron, everything is finally in the right place.



▲ Once the shingles have been ground through Walker Environmental’s grinders, they are then fed through a deck screen (pictured) where the material is separated into three different size specifications. Each size specification is used for different end uses, with the smallest specification being ideal for the paving project.

GIVING USED SHINGLES A NEW LIFE

Walker Environmental is developing a new process that turns old shingles into new, sustainable products. In the past year, the initiative has seen 28,000 tonnes of shingles diverted from landfills in Niagara and repurposed.

The shingles are ground and then mixed with Recycled Asphalt Pavement (RAP) from Walker Brothers Quarries to create a paving product. To evaluate the new product’s performance, Walker is paving test areas around its Niagara campus to see how these areas hold up over time. The road work is to be completed by Norjohn Contracting & Paving before summer.

Walker is also considering how to separate the paper backing from shingles and how that paper could be used as a replacement for coal fuels. The initiative is one of many examples of how Walker is recovering resources, creating sustainable products and supporting the transition to a circular economy.



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

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 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."



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.

CONTRIBUTING TO NIAGARA'S INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY

The Niagara Regional Native Centre (NRNC) recently recognized Walker Industries as a contributor to its new cultural activities and programming space in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Darren Fry and Tim MacGillivray of Walker Environmental, and Frank Kielbowich and Kevin Kehl of Walker Aggregates attended a formal presentation on January 18, 2018 to accept thanks for Walker's help in clearing an old building on site and donating stone to make way for the new projects.

"We are honoured to be able to support the NRNC in the development of its new facilities," Darren Fry commented when asked about Walker's involvement. "Collaborating on projects like these helps restore, reconcile and rebuild relationships with Indigenous communities."

Through this project, Walker Industries employees were able to learn more about Indigenous rights, history and culture while gaining valuable insight from the Indigenous community. "Through these interactions, we are able to learn more about Indigenous culture, and forge personal connections that we can build on" said Fry.

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."



2017 Walker Industries Public Liaison Committee Holiday Reception



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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