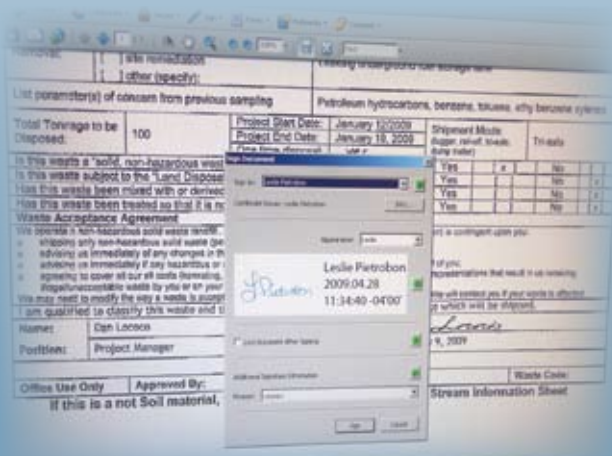




## Signing for the Environment

Many employees are seeing the benefits of electronic signatures. Instead of printing documents to sign such as invoices, you can now sign them digitally. The HR Department and some of our partners such as IGRS, NBLP, and 19 employees are now signing documents digitally. This reduces the amount of paper that is being used and wasted. If you would like to start signing documents digitally, place a work order with IT.



## Web Based Meetings

In early 2009, the IT department in conjunction with IGRS implemented a new tool that has not only saved significant dollars but also reduced the company's emissions of Greenhouse Gases (GHGs). Web - based video conferencing is now available!

The new tool called WebEx, allows employees to host meetings online and eliminate the need for wasteful travel. By hosting meetings online, Walker saves time and money by:

- eliminating travel time for consultants & employees;
- minimizing fuel consumption and maintenance on company vehicles;
- reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from driving to and from meetings.

One of the major benefits of WebEx is the ability for all participants to share the same file in real-time. This has provided partnership companies like IGRS big savings in terms of time and dollars where face-to-face meetings were once required to review drawings. Now, IGRS can host a meeting online, post a drawing, discuss and annotate the file without having to leave the desk. WebEx also has a number of other useful tools.

As a means of measuring the savings from using WebEx, Shelley Vance has developed and maintains a database of all WebEx meetings. By recording the amount of travel distance and time saved, the database calculates the amount of dollars saved. It also calculates the GHG emissions that were avoided by not having to drive to the meeting.

For assistance using this helpful and efficient tool, contact the IT department.

Darren Fry

## Reverse Osmosis Reverses WEG's Dependence of Plastic Bottles

The Walker Environmental Group (WEG) building located at the Head Office complex is becoming more efficient one step at a time. Not only have they implemented efficient lighting and renovated a number of their offices with carpet tile, they are no longer purchasing drinking water in bottles. They have installed a Reverse Osmosis (RO) system that includes UV lighting to treat the water from the tap.



Reverse Osmosis is a purification process that removes inorganic minerals and heavy metals that can be found in tap water. This water is as pure as it gets.

WEG is seeing many benefits from the installation of the system including:

- water jugs are no longer walked up the stairs, eliminating a Health and Safety hazard;
- the cost of purchasing bottled water has been eliminated
- space has been gained in the kitchen;
- the large plastic bottle use has been eliminated



There are also many health benefits from drinking water that include:

- purification of contaminants in the body
- prevents premature aging and dry skin
- increases short term memory, brain power and ability to focus
- gives you increased energy.

Visit <http://www.aquatruewater.com/> for more information.



## Celebrating Earth Day the Biosolids Way

In celebration of Earth Day the gang at Niagara Biosolids planted a few cedar trees. They have plans to plant a vegetable garden again this year so we can all look forward to some pumpkins in time for Halloween.

## LEEDing the Way

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) is a third party certification program that is accepted internationally as a benchmark for design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings. To become a LEED certified building there is five key areas that are looked at:

- sustainable site development
- water efficiency
- energy efficient
- materials selection
- indoor environmental quality

The certification is based on the total point score that is achieved and an independent review and audit of selected credits. The four levels of certification are certified, silver, gold and platinum.

John Koeman, Graham Guest and John Colamartini have been attending different conferences and workshops to learn about building green. Some of the upcoming conferences include the Green Building Conference and Green Building Expo.



John Colamartini

John Colamartini will be attending a 1 week hands on training workshop in Arizona. Habitat for Humanity is building a LEED Certified building in the United States and John will be going to work with them on the building. This will be a great learning experience for John.

John Koeman has received his Gold Seal Certification from the Canadian



John Koeman

Construction Association. They have endorsed John as a Project Manager – General Contractor under the Senior Practitioner provision. This certification signifies that John has attained a nation recognized level of experience, competence, skills, professionalism and commitment to construction management excellence. This certification is recognized by the construction industry across the country.

For the long term, it is our goal to have this team become accredited professionals (AP) under the LEED Certification. This can be a very lengthy process as there are no University programs that are offered in this field yet. Both John and Graham will attend conferences and workshop to gain more knowledge about building green and the long term goal would be to become LEED certified.

Some of the benefits of becoming accredited professionals are:

- recognition for involvement in LEED projects
- proof of credentials to clients
- strengthens qualification when responding to RFPs
- encourages other industries to build green
- become leaders in our industry

The new office building at the compost site will be built with the environment in mind and we will apply to have it LEED certified. We are working with a LEED certified auditor to ensure we are implementing all green initiatives possible. The building is approximately 1500 sq.ft. and will be built with solar panels, green roof, bamboo flooring, waterless urinals, and recycled building products.



Graham Guest



## Big Buzz at Duntroon Quarry

Venturing west from the crushers, conveyors, loaders and haul trucks that characterize daily operations at Duntroon Quarry, you will find something that normally isn't expected at an average aggregate operation. But WAI's Duntroon Quarry doesn't exactly fit the definition of 'average' aggregate operations. There is a swarm of activity near the quarry's water retention ponds. The activity has become all the buzz for operations.

Bee enthusiast and quarry operator Grant Parsons has been practicing the science of bee keeping since 2005. 2009 will mark his third year keeping hives at the Duntroon Quarry. The idea of placing bee hives in the quarry came about in early 2007. At that time, Grant was working afternoons at the quarry and couldn't help noticing how suitable the habitat along western extent of the quarry was for bee keeping. According to Grant, "the area had all the necessary components for successful bee keeping; plenty of pollen, flowers and water". In May 2007, he set up a few trial boxes and to his surprise the bees took, and his colony exploded. By season's end (late August), Grant had collected the first lucrative honey yield from his population at Duntroon Quarry.

In 2008, Grant set up 12 hive boxes in the same area along the western extent of the quarry. Each box contained approximately 80,000 female worker bees. If you do the math, that's 960,000 honey bees. To show his gratitude, Grant shared a portion of his 2008 honey yield with his coworkers at the Duntroon Quarry. Grant and his 960,000 bees will be returning to their summer home adjacent to the quarry settling pond in mid May, 2009.



Grant is always willing to share his knowledge of bees and fields bee keeping questions of all sorts from his co-workers daily. Grant's associates have taken a keen interest in the bees and the science of lucrative bee keeping. They've even gone as far as painting some of the hive boxes walker blue and yellow. He would like to acknowledge the continued support received from WAI and the quarry staff at Duntroon. Grant would also like to thank his 960,000 full-time volunteers for their sweet contributions.



## Duntroon Hart's-tongue Fern Study

Did you know that Walker Aggregates Inc. is undertaking a study to test the success of transplanting Hart's-tongue Fern (AHTF)? The study was recommended by environmental scientists involved in technical studies for the expansion of our Duntroon Quarry. The results will provide valuable information to Ontario's Recovery Strategy program, under which Ontario has an obligation to prepare a management plan for all species deemed to be of "Special Concern," such as Hart's-tongue Fern.

The purpose of the American Hart's-tongue Fern studies is to scientifically characterize the growing conditions of local populations of American Hart's-tongue fern with the objective of gaining valuable information that could be used to successfully transplant the AHTF population to a suitable neighbouring habitat. Ensuring transplant survival and population longevity, while expanding on scientific knowledge of AHTF and successful relocation, are the primary goals.

The American Hart's-tongue fern (*Asplenium scolopendrium* var. *americanum*) is considered rare to uncommon in Ontario but can be routinely observed in the vicinity of the Niagara Escarpment, predominantly within Grey County.

Involved in the study is a team of scientists from Stantec Consulting as well as Dr. Stephen Murphy, Ph.D. Biology, Associate Professor, University of Waterloo and Allan Anderson a retired Greenhouse Manager with the University of Guelph Botany Department both of whom have interest and experience with Hart's Tongue fern.



Julie Veilleux and Wes Foebel

## EARTH 1st Contractor Orientation Package

The Environmental Performance Department has teamed up with Norjohn Contracting to assemble an EARTH 1st Contractor Orientation Package. This Package was designed to aid those facilities having difficulty finding an EARTH 1st orientation option for contractors, conducive to day-to-day operations. This comprehensive package is a convenient way to inform contractors of all relevant EARTH 1st information and is condensed enough to be completed in 10-15 minutes.

The documents included in the orientation package are:

- Environmental Code of Practice
- Contractor/Partner Environmental Assessment
- EARTH 1st Checklist
- Contractor/Partner Environmental Performance Evaluation

The EARTH1st Contractor Orientation Package is posted under the Contractors heading on the **Environmental Intranet** site. Please feel free to use it as a reference. It is one more step in acknowledging our part.



## Supporting the Environment Taken to the Next Level



Silt fencing, geotextile and gabion stone are common measures implemented by construction companies to mitigate potential environmental impacts when working on routine projects involving slopes and water bodies. But what happens when a unique project requires a company to deviate from the routine in an effort to provide a superior level of environmental protection? The team at GAC Paving and Construction has the answer.

In 2008 GAC Paving and Construction was awarded a contract by Grey County to remove and replace a rural bridge along a light traffic county road in the Township of Thornbury. The project required GAC Paving to exercise a superior level of environmental stewardship throughout construction as the subject bridge crossed over the sensitive Grier Creek and one of its dominant tributaries. Given the environmental significance of the creek and watershed, the project had been subject to an environmental assessment, detailing strict specifications and guidelines as to how the construction was to be performed. Neighbors were also very concerned with the ecological health of the creek and the potential impacts construction may have.



GAC Paving worked diligently to maintain the ecological integrity of the Grier Creek. To ensure their operations would not threaten the creek ecosystem, GAC Paving utilized 4,046 m<sup>2</sup> of Rip-rap rock underlined with 150 and 200 mm geotextile and 275 meters of heavy duty silt fence barrier to reroute the creek and tributary. To stabilize the steep slopes adjacent to the creek and prevent imminent erosion, 7,970 m<sup>2</sup> of erosion blanket were accented with seeding, sodding and other diverse vegetation plantings.

The Grier Creek project has carried into 2009 and will be completed this season. Congratulations are extended to GAC Paving and Contracting for their careful planning and due diligence. A great example of successfully applying the EARTH 1st principles!



## Norjohn Limited – Soya Based Easy off Spray

Operations and the product development team at Norjohn Limited (previously Norjohn Emulsions) have out done themselves yet again. Norjohn continues to prove that they are so much more than an asphalt and wax emulsion manufacturer. They are solution makers. NJL's innovators have stepped up to the plate and struck a home run with customers through another superior emulsion that is designed to support the environment.

Responding to an idea proposed by one of their existing industrial wax suppliers, NJL's product development team utilized a starting formulation suggested by the wax supplier to develop their new Norwax 900 emulsion. By innovating on this basic starting formulation, NJL was able to produce the stable emulsion by blending various waxes, including a vegetable based wax, with emulsifiers in water, under high pressure.

The product is currently being purchased by global operator Reckitt Benckiser ([www.reckittbenckiser.com](http://www.reckittbenckiser.com)). Reckitt Benckiser blends NJL's vegetable based Norwax 900 emulsion with other materials in the manufacturing of their Easy Off spray products. NJL's product has the advantage of being much more stable than the competitor's product.





## 2009 Safety Conference

Walker employees reduced their impact during a trip to the 2009 Safety Conference. Carbon emissions were reduced when employees travelled by bus instead of taking their own vehicles. Thanks to the Safety Department for taking time to plan with EARTH 1st in mind.

### Waste Electrical & Electronic Equipment Program Plan (WEEE) at Drop Off

IMS is once again making an effort to divert waste from the landfill. They are currently in the process of becoming a registered site under the Ontario Electronic Stewardship (OES). OES is a non-profit organization that will be implementing the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Program Plan (WEEE) that has been made under the Waste Diversion Act. In Ontario, there are more than 91,000 tonnes/year of electrical and electronic equipment available to be reused or recycled. According to the Province only about one-quarter is being managed properly.

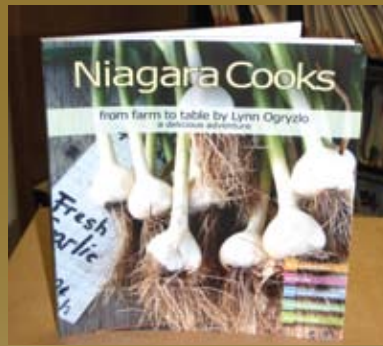
This program launched on April 1, 2009, has been designed to divert electrical and electronic equipment from landfill. The program will be implemented in phases. Phase 1 will be the collection of desktop and portable computers, computer peripherals, monitors, printers, fax machines and televisions.



Once the Minister approves Phase 2 it will be implemented and will collect items such as phones, cameras, audiovisual equipment and many other WEEE items.

Once we become a registered site, our name will be listed as a registered receiver on the OES website <http://www.dowhatyoucan.ca/Electronics/>. People will visit the site and search for registered locations that they can drop their WEEE off at.

Our participation in this program will support the Goal "Towards a Zero Waste Future" a discussion paper released under the Waste Diversion Act. Participation will also increase the diversion rate of materials ending up in landfill and will help support the environment.



# Shopping Locally

Walker Industries is encouraging everyone to shop locally. Throughout the past couple months the Environmental Performance Department has sent out a Shop Locally Environmental Messenger and most recently delivered culinary maps and brochures to each site to spread the word about shopping locally.

Buying locally is one of many ways you and your family can help protect the environment. Long distance travel requires more packaging, refrigeration, fuel, and generates waste and pollution.

Locally produced food does not travel long distances. Lower carbon dioxide emissions as well as less packaging materials is kinder to the environment and helps reduce our ecological footprint. Shopping locally is a great choice for the environment.

The 2009 Environmental Performance Review gift is keeping with our shop locally theme. It is a beautiful locally written and published "Niagara Cooks" cookbook. It challenges all of us to eat local, seasonally available foods for the sake of our health, our environment and our future. It is packed full of delicious culinary adventures in Ontario foods and beverages.



## Our Hybrids are Multiplying

You may have noticed that our parking lot is changing a bit. As vehicles are being replaced, they are being substituted with more fuel efficient alternatives. Walker had rewritten our vehicle policy to better support the environment. The vehicle selector list is based on the US Environmental Protection Agency's Greenhouse Gas Score Chart. Walker cars must have a minimum score of 8 on that chart which means CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the vehicle are less than 5,200 kg/year (based on 20,000 km driven). A car scores a 10 when the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are less than 3,600kg/year. Cars that have a greenhouse gas score of 10 include:

- Toyota Prius
- Nissan Altima Hybrid
- Toyota Camry
- Ford Escape Hybrid
- Malibu Hybrid 1ZF69
- Volkswagon Jetta Diesel



## The EARTH 1st WAI

The busiest hall in Clearview Township is going green with funds they have raised from the rental of the hall. Nottawasaga Hall is located in Islay Park. They are in the process of upgrading their sports fields. Thinking ahead, the Board of the Hall saw an opportunity to install geothermal piping under the playing fields prior to the improvements they are making to the park.

Nottawasaga Hall has partnered with B&R Geothermal and Walker Aggregates Inc in their quest to go green. WAI will be providing the heavy equipment to dig trenches that will be used to install 7,200 feet of geothermal piping under the relocated baseball diamond. The expertise and labour for the installation of the piping is being donated by B&R Geothermal. A geothermal system allows heat from the earth to be used to heat and cool buildings or generate electricity. It is a great source of renewable energy.

Picture Source – [www.clearview.ca](http://www.clearview.ca)

## Reusable Massage Gift Bags

Our EARTH 1st Principles are continually encouraging individuals to make a difference and help protect the environment. Lisa Brennan, our on-site Registered Massage Therapist, is reducing her impacts by reusing her gift bags at each appointment.

Lisa has changed from the regular paper gift bags to more durable cloth bags. This allows clients to bring the bags back to be refilled at each visit. Each step counts to reduce our impacts and make a difference for the environment.



# We congratulate many for embracing the EARTH1st principles.

## EARTH1st Champions at Norjohn Limited

When faced with the environmental challenge of creating ammonia emissions from a new product Maria, Larry, Rocco and Dave went back to the drawing board.

They gave up on their old ideas on making wax emulsions and embraced new ideas of how emulsions can be made. They lowered the temperature for making the product and left out what was thought to be a key ingredient so that ammonia was not emitted in the manufacturing process. The solution – a product with less emissions and no impact on the environment.



Larry Sinnige & Maria Racota



Rocco Battaglia



Dave Thompson

## EARTH1st Champions at the Duntroon Shop

Concerned about the noise and emissions from old haul trucks with no mufflers, Wes and Murray took steps to Reduce Our Impacts by upgrading the exhaust systems and reconfiguring the pipes to reduce noise and air emissions.



Wes Lawler



Murray Arcaro

## Supporting the Environment and the Community

Has anyone noticed that Ken Lucyshyn is getting bagged? Take a look in his office and you will find a collection of milk bags. (the coloured outside plastic bag of 4 litres of milk). Ken collects them at work for his wife Joanne who also collects the bags at her workplace.

So what do the Lucyshyn's do with all these bags?

Joanne cuts them into strips for a group of women at her church who then crochet the plastic milk bag strips into mats. The mats are sent to the developing world where they are used as sleeping mats. Because they are made of plastic they are water resistant and they last a long time.

This is a beautiful example of giving back to the earth and supporting our world community.

**Do you have a family member who makes EARTH 1st part of their life? Let us know so we can spread the word.**



Joanne Lucyshyn

## Who do you know who commits, creates and participates in EARTH 1st?



## Who have you spotted "Going Green"?

You can email us at: [environment@walkerind.com](mailto:environment@walkerind.com)

You can write us at: Environmental Performance Department  
P.O. Box 100, Thorold, ON L2V 3Y8

You can call us at: 905-227-4142 ext. 3850

If there is something you, your company or your co-worker is doing that should be recognized please let us know. You could also write an article for the newsletter to share your steps towards Higher Environmental Performance!

[www.EARTH1st.ca](http://www.EARTH1st.ca)



Contact Alison 905-680-3769, Leslie 905-680-3786 or Jamie Mereweather in the Environmental Performance Department, with your ideas, comments, thoughts and solutions.

