



NIAGARA HEALTH SYSTEM
SYSTÈME DE SANTÉ DE NIAGARA
TOGETHER IN EXCELLENCE - LEADERS IN HEALTHCARE

NEWS RELEASE

Date of Release: Tuesday, August 14, 2007

Walker Family Donates \$5 million to new Niagara Cancer Centre

Niagara, ON - The Niagara Health System (NHS) is the beneficiary of the largest private donation ever made in the Niagara region. The Walker family and Walker Industries Holdings Limited are donating \$5 million towards the construction of the Niagara Regional Cancer Centre, to be built at the site of a new community hospital in St. Catharines, at First Street and Fourth Avenue.

The new comprehensive cancer care treatment facility will be called the Walker Family Cancer Centre. It will serve the more than 2,500 Niagara residents diagnosed with cancer each year – residents who must now travel outside the region for radiation therapy.

The fifth generation Walker family members are the owners of Walker Industries, a Niagara-based company that owns and operates limestone quarries; road construction and paving businesses; an emulsions plant; an integrated waste management system which includes collection, transfer, recycling, composting, biosolids management, landfill gas utilization and waste disposal; and a residential and commercial development division.

The company began as Walker Brothers Quarries in 1887 in Thorold. Walker Industries is now one of Ontario's most respected private companies – not only because of the range of products and services it provides, but because of the Walker philosophy of being a good corporate citizen and the reputation the company has built in the communities in which it operates.

"As a family and a business that has had strong roots in the region for over 120 years, we feel a certain responsibility to support a regional facility of this importance to the community," says Sheila (Walker) Bonapace, one of the company shareholders. "The Walker family is extremely pleased to be able to continue the legacy of philanthropy established by the previous generations of our family in supporting the needs of the citizens of Niagara."

"The Walker family and Walker Industries generous gift of \$5 million towards the creation of Niagara's first and greatly needed comprehensive cancer centre marks an historic, proud and most grateful occasion here in Niagara," said Debbie Sevenpifer, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Niagara Health System. "The Walker's gift is certainly the largest single philanthropic gift ever given in the long and proud history of hospital care in our region and on behalf of the thousands of patients and families who will be served through the cancer centre, as well as our doctors, our nurses, our volunteers and our entire health-care family, we cannot say thank you enough."

Mrs. Sevenpifer adds that the Walkers' investment in the health and well being of the people of Niagara will enable care for today's generation as well as future generations of Niagarans to come. "We are thrilled that the Walker family is leading the way in helping us to address a very great health care need in Niagara."

NHS through the "*It's Our Time*" fundraising campaign is seeking \$40 million in philanthropic gifts from across the region to fund a number of local hospital facility and equipment investments across Niagara, (including the building of a new local community hospital in St. Catharines) as well as new regional services, namely the cancer centre, a cardiac catheterization lab and long term mental health facilities.

Groundbreaking for construction of the new healthcare facilities at First Street and Fourth Avenue in St. Catharines is planned for the fall of 2008 with construction completion anticipated for the spring of 2011.

- 30 -

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BACKGROUNDER

Walker Industries and the Walker Family

Walker Industries has been privately run as a family business through five generations, with professional management for the past decade. The company is 100 per cent owned by the fifth generation of the Walker family; has a board of directors made up of family shareholders and outside business people; and is managed by non-family professionals. Walker Industries employs nearly 400 people at its operations throughout Niagara and across Ontario.

The range of business Walker operates includes:

- Limestone Quarry Operations - six quarries - four in Niagara and two in the Collingwood/Orillia area.
- Road Construction & Paving - Construction and paving operations function in Niagara and in the Collingwood area, with most of the work performed for municipal, regional and provincial governments.
- Emulsion Manufacturing - A process plant is located in Burlington and produces asphalt emulsions, as well as industrial emulsions for the building products industry.
- Environmental Services - Waste collection, recycling, transfer, composting and landfill, municipal biosolids stabilization and re-use, landfill gas collection and alternative power generation, water/wastewater infrastructure development, site remediation and project management services.
- New Home Construction and Land Development - In addition to developing the Neighbourhoods of St. David's in Niagara Falls, the Village of Chestnut Ridge in Fonthill and Welland Mills in Thorold, a commercial/industrial business park is being constructed in the City of Burlington.

Walker Industries and the Walker family believe in contributing to the communities in which the company operates. The company's and family's financial support has helped to strengthen health care services, creative arts, education, community projects and more.

Past donations in Niagara have included:

- \$1.5 million to Brock University
- \$1 million to the Walker Family YMCA in St. Catharines
- Nearly \$1 million to Niagara College and its foundation
- Nearly \$500,000 to the Shaw Festival
- \$350,000 to the Greater Niagara General Hospital
- Other corporate and family donations to such organizations as: the Niagara Symphony, Hospice Niagara, Rowing Canada, Niagara Community Foundation, United Way, Child Advocacy Centre Niagara, Bethlehem Place and the Bruce Trail Association.

Walker has demonstrated its commitment to environmental leadership through its innovative EARTH 1st program. EARTH 1st reminds the company's employees, customers and suppliers to "efficiently operate, acknowledge that they are part of the environment, reduce impacts, and take time to plan for higher environmental performance.