



MEDIA RELEASE

Partnership Addresses Municipal Remediation Costs



For Immediate Release – April 28, 2009

A partnership between the City of Welland and Walker Industries will see the remediation of a former landfill modified from an environmental liability to a productive and, ultimately, safe parkland property.

At today's meeting, Welland City Council voted in favour of the report brought forward by City Manager, Craig Stirtzinger, that would see management of the former Atlas Steels site assumed by Walker, who will work with the Ministry of the Environment to fill, mitigate, and close the site – eventually returning it to the City for use by the community.

The partnership would mean a substantial cost savings to the municipality and the Region of Niagara. Both the City and the Region were directed by the Ministry of the Environment with assuming the financial obligations to properly maintain the site, which fell into tax arrears following the loss of the Atlas Steels operation.

“This partnership with Walker is clearly a win for the municipality on a number of fronts,” said Mayor Goulbourne. “The City gets relief from the financial burden of maintaining the site and, of course, remediating the site fulfills the objectives set forth in our Brownfield Redevelopment Strategy.”

Mike Deprez for Walker Industries was also pleased with Welland City Council's decision to move forward. “The partnership with the City is a natural fit for us. This is the business we are in and it is our practice to give back to the communities in which we work. Using the remaining capacity at the former landfill to remediate the site into parkland is a very good, productive use of the land.”

Dan Degazio, the City's Manager of Economic Development has been working with Walker on this project since its inception and is happy to see this project proceeding. “I believe this project allows the municipality to move forward with another great Brownfield project, turning a potential negative situation into a very positive operation, which will not only enhance the Welland River but allow the community new recreational land”, states Degazio.

For more information about the 'Atlas Remediation Project', contact Mike Deprez or Dan Degazio.

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Backgrounder

- From 1930's to 2003, Atlas Steels was in operation and had a landfill to house the residue from the steel making process
- The Atlas Steels property was sold in 2004, then fell into arrears, prompting the City to place the property into tax registration
- The Ministry of the Environment issued a directive that the site must be maintained at the expense of the municipality and the Region of Niagara
- The site is an environmental liability, with lifetime maintenance costs estimated in the millions of dollars
- The cost to properly close the site is approximately \$15M
- Walker Industries, boasting extensive landfill site management experience and brownfield remediation expertise, presents partnership offer
- Walker Industries will bear the remediation and closure costs throughout interim use of the unused site capacity (estimate 7-10 years)
- Partnership provides for financial and community benefits to the municipality