

what's inside

Plans for an Energy Alternative

Calcium Carbonate's "Other" Uses in General Industries

"Rain is a Good Thing"

Community Issue Team – Forum for Collaboration

Check it Out!

Partnering with the Community

Making a Difference

Another Rock 'n Time had by All

Recent & Upcoming Events

Omya Gives Back



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people at Omya

Like Father – Like Daughter

One thing is clear about Omya employees Doug Freeguard & Savannah Noble - they know a lot about each other - they are father and daughter. As father and daughter, these two share a special bond that is undeniable and many similar interests. Both are dedicated to and focused on family. Not only do Doug and Savannah work at the same company, they make time for most any outdoor activity including hunting, often challenge each other to a game of poker and both were once volunteer firefighters together for the town of Whiting. It's a toss-up as to who the better poker player actually is but nonetheless, the two make it obvious that they enjoy the time they spend together. Hands down, the one sure thing that keeps the entire family hopping is Savannah and husband Heath's inquisitive 16 month old son Jacob or "100 fingers" as he is affectionately called. As Doug and wife Stacey's first and only grandchild, Jacob keeps everyone happily on the move and in every direction!



Doug, a multi-generational native Vermonter with a farming background, learned early on how to appreciate the land and develop his mechanical talents. He began his career at Omya in 1996 and now uses his skills as a Mechanical Maintenance Technician keeping machinery throughout the facility running efficiently. Doug says that the challenges of his job are balanced with his "love to turn wrenches". Doug's low keyed manner and his diverse mechanical abilities make him a valuable and dependable resource at Verpol.

When a position opened up in Omya's Quality Control Lab, Doug thought the opportunity would suit Savannah. Omya agreed and Savannah was hired in 2008 as a Quality Control Laboratory Technician. Her role testing product throughout its production process is vital to producing a consistent high-quality product to Omya customers. Savannah finds the detail and variety in her work interesting and is always up for the challenge of learning new skills and supporting the needs of the Lab - with a smile on her face.

< Rain is a Good Thing—continued from first page >

established design standards. At Omya our systems, which meet and exceed set guidelines, are equipped to transport water by mechanically pumping stormwater from our settlement and retention basins into the facility for use in production processes.

Here's specifically how it works at Omya. Rain, as it falls on any portion of our 360-acre site, runs off into any one of a series of open stone-lined swales and steel culverts throughout the property. The swales and culverts transport the stormwater to one of the many settlement and retention basins where it is treated to remove any solids that may have accumulated in the rainwater runoff. From these basins, the clean stormwater is pumped into a large open water quarry know as the Pittsford Italian Quarry (PIQ). The PIQ has the capacity to store several months-worth of water for use throughout our wet grinding process. Water is pumped from the PIQ daily to supply Omya's production process, virtually eliminating the need to consume Town water while also substantially reducing the need to discharge stormwater.

In 2011, rainfall-harvested water provided more than 95% of the water utilized in the production process at the Omya Vermont facility. The Vermont operation is one of the lowest consumers of fresh water (municipal supply and/or groundwater wells) worldwide within the Omya organization. But with ingenuity and perseverance, we strive to achieve 100% utilization someday soon.



Pittsford Italian Quarry



Calcium Carbonate “Other” Uses in General Industries



Did you know that approximately 4% of the Earth’s crust is calcium carbonate and it is one of the world’s most abundant natural resources? Calcium carbonate comes in many forms with chalk, limestone and marble having the greatest commercial use. Stalactites and stalagmites, pearls, and many other minerals are composed of calcium carbonate as well. Even the human body contains calcium. The abundant mineral has many uses and is found in many products and industries.

The natural mineral calcium is an approved food and pharmaceutical additive, provided it conforms to purity criteria set out in the US Pharmacopoeia. It is an ingredient in many products

like chewing gum, bread, cereal, and pancake mix.

The pharmaceutical industry uses calcium carbonate for making vitamins and calcium supplements; it is also a natural ingredient of toothpaste and other cosmetic products. In the environment, calcium carbonate acts as a natural buffer, a property that is used to regulate the pH of drinking water supplies and proves most useful in protecting the environment. Calcium carbonate is a desulphurization agent for flue gas from coal fired power stations, where it helps to convert sulphur dioxide into recyclable gypsum. Calcium carbonate can also compensate for the effects of acid rain.

In agriculture, limestone fertilizer regulates soil pH and ensures adequate supply of the mineral plant nutrient calcium. Feed limestone has long been an important ingredient of commercial animal feed. Just as in human nutrition, calcium carbonate makes an ideal source of calcium for farm livestock.

For centuries the properties of calcium carbonate have been well known in the construction sector. As a natural mineral, calcium carbonate has a multitude of characteristics that make it an ideal raw material for widely varying uses in: glass; as one of the main ingredients along with silica and soda ash, in concrete; to accelerate the hydration of the cement matrix and improve workability properties, in asphalt; to act as a sand modifier and improve the mechanical resistance of the mixture, and in roofing; to coat the bottom of a shingle to prevent shingles from sticking together and as a filler in the fiberglass matrix.

Omya’s state of the art technology is used to manufacture calcium carbonate products that are tailor made for a wide variety of applications.

“Rain is a Good Thing”

Coming on the heels of Hurricane Irene, a storm that serves as a reminder to all of us of the power and destruction such a massive amount of rainfall over a short period of time can create, the statement that “Rain is a Good Thing” may seem odd. However, under normal seasonal conditions, rainfall provides a critical ingredient in sustaining Vermont’s most valuable resources – fertile agriculture lands, pristine lakes and state parks, and the prized “Green Mountain State” image.

In addition to those benefits, rainfall provides a renewable source of water for use in commercial operations like hydro-power electrical generation, snowmaking at ski resorts and numerous industrial applications. The Omya Verpol Facility in Florence, Vermont is one such example. For more than a decade now, our Vermont operation has made improvements to its onsite stormwater systems that provide the ability to collect, store and utilize rainwater daily in our production process. Traditionally, as governed by state and local regulations, stormwater is conveyed, treated and discharged from engineered systems in accordance with

< continued on page 4 >

what’s new

Plans For An Energy Alternative

As with any business, Omya operates in a competitive environment and we are always on the lookout for better ways to control costs and improve the efficiency of our operations. Our production processes are energy intensive so we are especially sensitive to rising energy costs.



One way we control our energy costs is through our energy conservation program where we continually look for ways to reduce energy consumption while maintaining our production levels. We have also taken a look at other energy sources and are planning to switch to a more efficient fuel.

We recently explored a variety of energy alternatives for our Florence facility. Specifically, we looked at renewables (wind, solar and biomass) as well as more traditional fuels, and have determined that natural gas is an optimal fuel source for our facility. We are interested in natural gas because of its reliability, its economic advantages and its improved environmental performance when compared to other fuel sources. The use of natural gas will replace our current fuel source (No. 2 fuel oil) for our drying and heating processes and become an important part of our energy future.

As natural gas is not readily available in southern Vermont, we plan to truck natural gas in its liquid form to our plant. Once at our plant, the liquid natural gas will be stored in special tanks on our property and then turned back into a gas utilizing vaporizers which will then be used in our heaters and dryers. We anticipate that, on average, one to two truck deliveries per day would satisfy our energy needs.

While many people may be familiar with natural gas or propane, here are a few facts about natural gas as a liquid.

Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) is purified natural gas that has been cooled to minus 260 °F. LNG has been used commercially for nearly 100 years in applications ranging from heating to electricity generation and fueling of vehicles. LNG has been transported via truck since 1970 and is considered as safe, or safer, than transporting gasoline or propane. From an environmental perspective, when compared to No. 2 fuel oil, the use of LNG can reduce carbon dioxide emissions by approximately 25%.

We are in the early stages of our planning process for this fuel conversion. The project will comply with local, state and federal permitting requirements. The permitting process is expected to take approximately one year with construction lasting an additional nine months. During this time we will provide you with regular updates. Throughout the permitting and construction process, more detailed project information may also be found on our website: www.OmyaInVermont.net.

I welcome your interest in this important project. If you would like to contact me with questions, please call me directly at 770-7617. If you prefer, you may also leave a message on our 24-hour Omya Community Feedback Line at 770-7644. Your call will be returned and I appreciate your feedback.

Best regards,
Pierre Masuy

recent & upcoming events

October 15, 2011

Omya Middlebury Quarry Open House

October 24 - 27, 2011

Biannual Water Monitoring Event (incl. Quarterly Surface Water Monitoring)

December 20, 2011

*Gift of Life Marathon**

December 21, 2011

Hogback Quarry Act 250 Amendment filed

May 4, 2012

Omya Employee Green Up Day

May 5, 2012

Omya-Town of Pittsford Green Up Day

May 21 - 24, 2012

Biannual Water Monitoring Event (incl. Quarterly Surface Water Monitoring)

*Omya is a sponsor of this event

Omya Gives Back

At Omya we feel it's our civic responsibility to support local efforts that benefit our community and neighbors. In the past six months we have made donations to the following organizations and community groups:

Civic Fundraisers

*Bowen Walker Fund
Brandon Area Rescue Squad
Brandon Toy Project
Brandon Senior Center
Foxcroft Farm Harvest program
Friends of Brandon Town Hall
John Graham Emergency Shelter
Lakes Regions Independent Ryders
Memorial Sports Center in Middlebury Vermont
Pittsford Fire Department – Hurricane Irene Efforts
Rutland County Women's Shelter
Rutland Cutting Edge Hockey
Tom Fiske Memorial – Golf Tournament
Vermont State Fair Bike Give Away
Youth Arts Forum- Concert to Benefit Hurricane Irene Victims*

Youth Events

*Elite Futbol Club
Four Winds in Bristol, Vermont
Mentor Bowl
Mill River Union High School – Cheerleaders
Mount Saint Joseph Academy – Shoe String Theatre
Orwell Village School
Otter Valley Football Club
Otter Valley Raft Race
Otter Valley Union High School – French Club
Pack 110 – Cub Scouts Pittsford, Vermont
Patron of the ARTS – Otter Valley Union High School
Pittsford Babe Ruth Team
Pittsford Summer Camp
Proctor High School - Yearbook Ad
Rutland Youth Theatre
Wonderfeet Kids Museum Summer Explosion*

Parent Teacher Organization – Association (PTO – PTA)

Booster Clubs

Friends of Leicester Central School

Fundraiser Walks & Runs

*Addison County Humane Society – Woofstock
Harvest Half Marathon
Make A Wish Foundation - Barrel Racing*

Community Events

*Dimensions in Marble
Proctor Skating Rink
Town of Brandon 250 Years
Town of Pittsford 250 Years
Town of Salisbury 250 Years*

Food Shelves

*Brandon Area
Castleton Cares
Fair Haven Concerned
HOPE – Middlebury, Vermont
Pittsford, Florence, Proctor & Chittenden
West Rutland*

Donation requests can be made on-line at:
<http://www.OmyaInVermont.net/community/donations/>

Partnering with the Community



Pictured front row are: Shannon Foster - Quality Control Manager, Pierre Masuy - Plant Manager, Jill Blanchard - Administrative Assistant & Committee Chairperson.

Pictured back row are: Liz Gregorek - Human Resources Manager, Ray Bradish - Process Control Specialist II, Jim Prior - Project Manager, Brenda Vladyka - Scientist III, Microbiologist. Missing is Mark Quenneville - Foreman, Packaging/Load-out.

Omya recognizes its responsibility to the needs of the communities in which it operates, through financial, in-kind and volunteer contributions. Our Donations Committee, comprised of eight employees, evaluates requests based on guidelines consistent with community needs as well as our business objectives in determining those who are eligible to receive support. The Donation's Committee (pictured above) meets on the second Tuesday of each month to review and decide upon requests.

Donations are supported primarily in the following categories:

- Children, youth, and student programs
- Community initiatives
- Humanitarian efforts

Donation requests should be submitted in writing through the Omya website at www.OmyaInVermont.net/community/donations/donation-request-form/ or mailed to Omya Verpol at P.O. Box 10, Whipple Hollow Road, Florence, VT 05744.

Generally requests from individuals, religious organizations or political candidates are not funded through this committee.

This year, Omya is excited to be the presenting sponsor for The heARTS of Rutland, a Community Street Art project to benefit victims of disaster and children's art education. This community partnership is organized by The heARTS of Rutland Committee with support from the Home Builders and Remodelers Association of Southern Vermont, Downtown Rutland Partnership, Rutland Region Chamber of Commerce, and Rutland Economic Development Corporation. Local artists will create works of art on oversized fiberglass hearts to celebrate the unity of the people in our community and to showcase the Rutland region. This art will be unveiled in the late spring and placed on display throughout the area, culminating with a live fundraising auction in the fall.

Check it Out!

Our OmyaInVermont website has been updated! The 'new' site contains information about our facility located in Florence, Vermont in addition to providing more comprehensive information about Omya worldwide. Visit the site to learn more about Omya and its operations, the markets we serve and our many products. You will also find information about major projects, job openings, environmental management and our community involvement. Use our "Contact Us" page if you have a question, would like information, or for donation requests.

We hope you will find this site user friendly, easy to navigate and helpful in keeping you informed about Omya. Please visit the site at: www.OmyaInVermont.net and let us know what you think.

Do you wish to continue receiving this newsletter by mail?

All Omya Newsletters can be found on the Omya website at: www.OmyaInVermont.net/multimedia/newsletters/.

If you prefer to view our newsletter on-line rather than receive a paper mailing, please leave a message on our Community Feedback Line 770-7644 or contact us through our online comment form found at <http://www.OmyaInVermont.net/contact/online-comment-form/> and that adjustment will be made.



Making a Difference

“To help our family, friends and the community” is the collective response four Omya employees shared when asked why they chose to become volunteer firefighters. Ed Elliott, Sample Preparation/ Inventory Clerk, Rusty Chapin, Experienced Packaging/Load-out Operator, Adam Parry, Mechanical Maintenance Technician and Ray Shortsleeves, Experienced Packaging/Load-out Operator are all active volunteer firefighters committed to making a difference. It is a job that requires strength both physically and mentally and these men combined have given 67 plus years of service to the Chittenden and Pittsford Fire Departments assisting others in times of need and with community outreach.



Pictured left to right: Serving Pittsford Fire Department since 2007 is Ray Shortsleeves, serving Chittenden Fire Department since 1982 is Rusty Chapin, 2nd Captain; serving Pittsford Fire Department since 2007 is Adam Parry; and serving Chittenden Fire Department since 1981 is Ed Elliott, Secretary.

Volunteer firefighters are on call 24/7 and their service is a necessity to the towns and people they serve. It is a serious commitment and speaking with each of these dedicated men it is apparent that they serve with pride. All volunteer firefighters are required to meet State requirements for training. In addition, they attend to firehouse administration; including meetings, equipment maintenance, organizing and participating in fundraisers and providing fire safety/prevention educational opportunities for everyone. There is a strong sense of camaraderie found among firefighters and forming these friendships, often lifelong connections, is an added reward to the job. These men have each other's back and they have ours too - everyday. Our local firefighters met the challenges of Hurricane Irene with resolve and provided immediate fire and rescue support, food convoys and fundraising efforts for those who suffered unfortunate losses.

Thank you Ed, Rusty, Adam and Ray for believing in the importance of our community and valuing the people in it through your volunteer service to our local Fire Departments. You make a difference and it matters.

Community Issue Team – Forum for Collaboration

Omya is committed to open communication and developing its relationships with neighbors, community members and stakeholders. Four years ago, Omya collaborated with the local community to establish three separate Community Issue Teams each covering a wide range of topics dealing with Trucks and Transportation, Plant, and the Quarry. Today, the Omya Community Issue Team is one combined team comprised of ten community members and four Omya employees. The team works together to develop solutions and responses to community questions, issues and concerns involving Omya's Vermont operations.

The Issue Team members from the community serve voluntarily and work diligently and proactively as advocates for the community. Through frank and open discussions, this team is effective at identifying community concerns, conveying that information to Omya and facilitating positive results beneficial to all stakeholders. The major areas of focus continue to include truck transportation, noise, environment, permitting and development. Other concerns involve signage, road repairs and washing as well as Omya's participation in community events. Through this team collaboration, Omya has been able to support many community efforts and causes by active participation at events and through monetary donations.

Community Issues Team members include Sharon Carpenter, Peg Flory, Matt Harvey, John Haverstock, Jon Keith, John Lapre, Dave Markowski, Bev Peterson, Umberto "Pat" Rosato, and Butch Shaw. All community members can be contacted through local telephone listings. Representatives from Omya are Pierre Masuy, Plant Manager, Michael Laurent, Pre-Grind Area Manager and Environmental Manager, Jim Morale, PX Area Manager, and Mary-Kaye Zambon, Safety, Environment and Quality Coordinator.

To contact Omya directly with community issues or questions about Omya's operations, please call the Omya 24-hour automated Community Feedback Line at 770-7644; or to speak to an Omya representative call Mary-Kaye at 776-8615.

To gain further perspective and additional information on the Community Issue Team view meeting notes and agendas at: www.OmyaInVermont.net/community/issue-teams/.

contact us

Do you have a comment or suggestion? We want to know.

802-770-7644

The Omya Community Feedback Line is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You can also reach us through our website at www.OmyaInVermont.net. Simply click on "Contact" and select any one of the contacts listed or fill out the on-line comment form at the bottom of the page.

All calls and website inquiries will be returned by 5:00 p.m. on the next regular business day.

Verpol Facility Tours

Ever wonder what the inside of an industrial mineral processing facility looks like? We invite you to contact us to arrange a tour of the Verpol facility in Florence. Come and see how Omya's highly skilled employees use the most innovative and efficient equipment and technology to produce the highest quality calcium carbonate products for use in thousands



of diverse applications in the paper, packaging, paint and plastics and food/pharmaceuticals. School groups, 4th grade and up, are welcome. Closed toe shoes are required.

For further information, please contact Jill Blanchard at 802-770-7500, leave a message on our Community Feedback Line 802-770-7644 or use the on-line comment form on Omya's website at <http://www.OmyaInVermont.net/contact/online-comment-form/>.

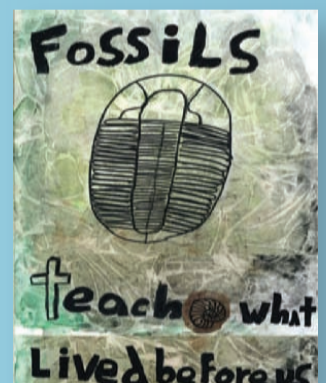
Another Rock 'n Time had by All



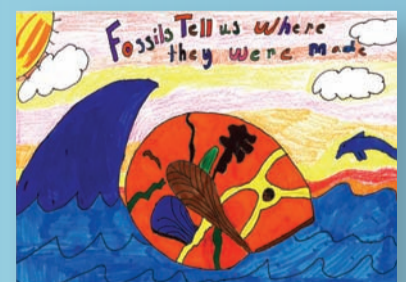
Omya's Middlebury Quarry Open House held on Saturday, October 15, 2011 attracted inquiring minds of all ages. This annual event, in its 11th year, was once again a great day of education and fun. Spirits remained high even through intermittent rain. Nearly

1,000 visitors enjoyed mineral collecting, quarry tours, mineral "Show & Tell" with experts and the ever popular kids "sand" pile (calcium carbonate) and display of trucks and equipment. Omya employees were on hand to host the event and share their knowledge of mining marble through to the processing of it at the Omya Verpol facility in Florence, Vermont.

Each year the Quarry Open House coincides with Earth Science Week, an educational program that promotes awareness of the natural processes and stewardship of the earth, and the role that Earth Science plays in society. An art contest was sponsored by Omya, the Vermont Geological Survey, the Vermont Geological Society, and the Vermont Marble Museum with the topic – "Fossils – what they tell us". The two First Place Award recipients were:



Kyle Postans, Grade 6, Hartland Elementary School.



Madisen Rieger, Grade 4, Killington Elementary School



For more information about Omya's North American and International Operations visit www.omya-na.com and www.omya.com.