

Lafarge-Aecon invite community for run/walk and open house of their Caledon Pit

The Caledon community, together with a number of local elected officials, will join the staff of Lafarge Canada Inc. and Aecon Construction Ltd. for their second annual Caledon Pit Run.

It will be Sept. 14, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and will take place within the scenic 2nd Concession of the Lafarge-Aecon Caledon Pit, southwest of Charleston Sideroad and Willoughby Road in Caledon.

This promises to be a unique opportunity for runners to experience a five-kilometre trail run/walk or one-kilometre walk through an active pit. Organizers anticipate more than 300 people to attend the event (rain or shine) which will include both the race and open house.

The Caledon pit received Ontario Sand, Stone and Gravel's Award of Excellence in 2004, an award that recognized the pit's many years of cumulative effort, hard work and dedication to safety, environmental stewardship, property enhancement, progressive rehabilitation and community relations.

"These are all values that the staff at the Caledon pit still proudly uphold to this day, as emphasized in our Deep Roots community initiative," commented Mal Wensierski, land manager for Lafarge.

In the spirit of the company's history of on-going support of many diverse local interests, such as Caledon Community Services, Caledon Pool, Terra Cotta Conservation Area and Bruce Trail; this year's event will be run in support of Bethell Hospice.

Bethell Hospice has a 20-year history of providing community based palliative care and compassionate support to families struggling with a life-limiting illness. It also opened a 10-bed residential hospice in Inglewood in 2010, providing end-of-life care in a home-like environment.

"Bethell Hospice is very important to the Caledon community and in many ways it defines us as a caring community," Councilor Richard Paterak observed.

Bethell Hospice's programs and services are partially funded by the government. The organization relies heavily on the community for donations and its fund-raising activities to bridge the financial gap. There are no fees to stay at Bethell Hospice, no fees for any of the community support programs and no one is ever denied access due to financial situations.

As well, Lafarge-Aecon will also be hosting a food drive, kids' fun activity corral with activities such as a gold nugget hunt and face painting, sponsor expo, heavy equipment display and tour of their nearby rehabilitated pits. It promises to be a day full of fun activities for the whole family!

"This open house will provide a great opportunity for us to meet with our neighbours and show them the activity conducted here on a daily basis," commented Aecon General Manager Donn Bernal.

Friends, neighbours, employees and anyone from the public interested in the event are welcome to take part. On-line registration for the run is now live at www.caledonpitrun.ca

All registration fees will go directly back to Bethell Hospice. Participants are asked to bring non-perishable food to the event, particularly Tetley Tea Bags, applesauce, puddings, dried fruit, apple and cranberry juice and cans of soup, potatoes and tomatoes.

Lafarge is a world leader in building materials. Aecon Group Inc. is a Canadian leader in construction and infrastructure development providing integrated turnkey services to private and public sector clients.