

STRONG FOUNDATIONS.
STRONG FUTURE.

DISPATCH

THE MAGAZINE FOR
ASH GROVE NORTH CUSTOMERS

Number 1 | July 2020



A CRH COMPANY



Celebrating our New Brand Name and our Proud Histories

C. W. GOETZ, President.

W. B. HILL, Vice Pres.

J. H. BARTON, Secretary.



Manufacturers of **HIGH GRADE WHITE LIME**
and Wholesale Dealers in **FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC CEMENTS.**

Message from Peter Buckley

As the world slowly recovers from the unprecedented impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, we recognize that 'business as usual' has taken on a new meaning. As we start to see improvements in commercial and construction activity, we look forward to continuing to meet your needs and to supporting our economy in moving forward. Our commitment to doing so while ensuring everyone's health and safety remains unwavering. We are proud of our employees, business partners and communities for working with us to put action behind that commitment, even in the most trying of times.

As you have likely heard by now, we are gradually moving forward in adopting 'Ash Grove' as our unifying brand across North America, including our Canada and Great Lakes cement operations (the Ash Grove 'North' region). Our cement platform has expanded significantly in just a few short years, to become one of the largest by production capacity in North America, and I am proud to continue to lead this strong and growing business.

To reflect this new chapter, the *CRH Times*, which has been in publication since 2011, has been renamed the *Ash Grove Dispatch*. Like before,

this customer-focused publication will continue to bring you relevant stories about our industry, our products and services and our people.

While we may be adopting a new brand, rest assured that the same great people and the products and services you have come to rely on all remain unchanged. As you will see, our new organization will bring even greater value to you, our customers.

We hope that you stay safe and well throughout the summer as communities across North America carefully and gradually resume activities. We look forward to continuing to do our part to contribute to our economic recovery while keeping our people safe.

Thank you, as always, for your support.



Peter Buckley
Senior Vice President
CRH Americas Cement
("Ash Grove")

Western Canada Market and Technical Services Personnel Update

Over recent months, we have made several personnel changes that have impacted our various markets:

Manitoba and Saskatchewan Sales:

Effective May 1, the primary contact for customers located in Saskatchewan or Manitoba, is now Murray Yewchuk.
Email: murray.yewchuk@ca.crh.com
Cell: 403-389-2173

In addition, we have updated our contact points in our Technical Services Department. If you require technical support, please contact the following:

Western Canada:

David Bangma
Senior Manager of Technical Services
Mobile: 647-204-6908
E-mail: david.bangma@ca.crh.com

Ontario:

Jasmine Samadi
Technical Service Representative
Mobile: 905-424-1507
E-mail: jasmine.samadi@ca.crh.com

Ash Grove:

STRONG FOUNDATIONS. STRONG FUTURE.

Officially launching in Canada and the US Great Lakes in September 2020, the adoption of 'Ash Grove' as our brand at CRH Canada and CRH US cement marks an exciting milestone.

Over the past year and a half, we have worked towards integrating as part of the broader CRH Americas Cement organization across the continent. Building on this foundation, we are aligning our company identities under one unified brand, capitalizing on the benefits of bringing together our proud histories as industry leaders.

SINCE ITS FOUNDING, ASH GROVE HAS BEEN A PIONEER IN THE CEMENT INDUSTRY, AND A RESPECTED BRAND IN THE BUILDING MATERIALS INDUSTRY. THE ASH GROVE BRAND IS A RECOGNIZED LEADER IN SAFETY, CUSTOMER RELATIONSHIPS, QUALITY AND RELIABILITY.

Over the last few months, we have been working to communicate this exciting change to our customers to ensure a smooth transition, as well as preparing ourselves - everything from our facilities and offices, to our stationery and websites - for our new look and feel.

Of course, our business priorities remain the same: delivering outstanding customer service, providing quality products and services, ensuring the safety of our employees and maintaining our commitment to the communities in which we live and work.

We are excited to continue to build and nurture our relationships with all of our customers under the Ash Grove brand and to have you join us on our journey to building an even stronger future.



Ash Grove:

STRONG FOUNDATIONS. STRONG FUTURE.

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

- 750,000 short tons of clinker
- 75 employees
- The plant has been in production longer than any other Ash Grove cement facility.



DURKEE, OREGON

- 1.1 million short tons of clinker
- 115 employees
- The plant's advisory committee meets quarterly to discuss its community involvement, as well as to inform participants on company activities.



MONTANA CITY, MONTANA

- 330,000 short tons of Portland cement
- 75 employees
- The plant provides emergency backup water for the municipal volunteer fire department.



LEAMINGTON, UTAH

- 960,000 short tons of clinker
- 100 employees
- The plant began production in 1980, making it the youngest facility of the original Ash Grove family.



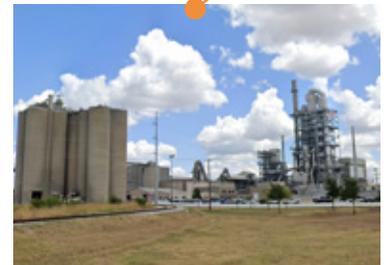
LOUISVILLE, NEBRASKA

- 945,000 short tons of clinker
- 140 employees
- The plant is recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Defense for its support of reserves on active duty.



MIDLOTHIAN, TEXAS

- 949,000 short tons of clinker
- 120 employees
- The Midlothian municipal water treatment plant is located on 81 acres of land donated by Ash Grove. Wildlife habitat is certified as "Corporate Lands of Learning" by the Wildlife Habitat Council.



Three recent acquisitions have positioned CRH as a leader in the North American cement market. Already the leading building materials supplier on the continent, CRH made an impactful entry into the Canadian cement market in 2015 with the acquisition of Holcim Canada. This was followed in 2018 by the acquisition of Ash Grove Cement Company, the fifth largest cement producer in the U.S. The purchase of Suwannee American Cement later that year added a strong Florida presence to our footprint.

Together under the Ash Grove banner, the CRH Americas Cement organization counts 2,500 employees and is now one of the largest cement producers in North America. We proudly operate 12 cement plants and 42 terminals across the U.S. and Canada to provide industry-leading products and services to serve the needs of our customers.



JOLIETTE, QUEBEC

- 1.1 million metric tons
- 220 employees
- Alternative fuels account for over a quarter of the plant's thermal energy needs.



MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO

- 1.7 million metric tons of Portland and slag cement
- 185 employees
- Limestone is delivered to the plant by barge from its quarry located 160 km away.



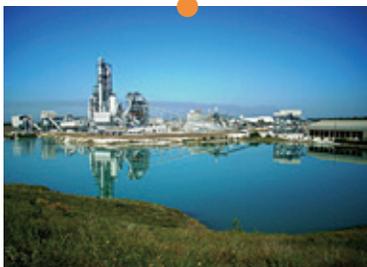
CHANUTE, KANSAS

- 1.6 million short tons of clinker
- 150 employees
- First cement plant in the U.S. to reach 20-25% alternative fuels annually, thereby reducing fossil fuel use.



BRANFORD, FLORIDA

- 1.1 million short tons of Portland cement
- 89 employees
- Has been manufacturing high-quality cement for the Florida and Southern Georgia construction market since 2003.



FOREMAN, ARKANSAS

- 1.5 million short tons of Portland cement
- 140 employees
- Almost 60 years after it began production, the plant was reconstructed in the late 2000s. Certified its wildlife habitat for its "Wildlife at Work" and "Conservation Education Site" designations from the Wildlife Habitat Council.



SUMTERVILLE, FLORIDA

- 1.2 million short tons of Portland cement
- 105 employees
- Innovatively designed in 2006, making it the newest plant in the CRH Americas Cement network.

Ash Grove:

BRINGING TOGETHER OUR RICH SHARED HISTORIES

As part of Ash Grove Cement, we share rich histories in an industry that plays a fundamental role in our everyday lives. Since 1882, Ash Grove has supplied cement for highways, bridges, commercial and industrial complexes, homes, and other structures to help build America, from the West Coast to the Midwest and Texas.

St. Lawrence Cement was established in 1951, initially to supply cement for the construction of the St. Lawrence Seaway linking the Great Lakes to the Atlantic Ocean for ocean-going vessels. The company grew to become a leading cement producer in Eastern Canada and the Northeast US. Meanwhile, Suwannee American Cement helped build Florida, the third most populated state in America.

1882

Ash Grove White Lime Association incorporated in Ash Grove, Missouri to produce lime for construction and sanitary uses.



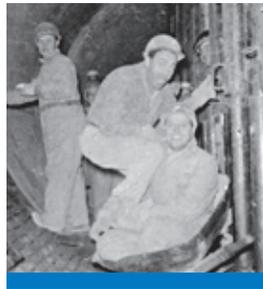
1908

First cement plant built in Chanute, Kansas.



1951

St. Lawrence Cement builds cement plant in Quebec for construction of the St. Lawrence Seaway.



1960S and 1970S

Modernization and expansion of Chanute and Louisville Plants.



1983

Acquisition of cement plant in Durkee, Oregon.

1984

Acquisition of cement plant in Seattle, Washington.

1850

1900

1950

1980



1929

Second cement plant built in Louisville, Nebraska



1956

Second cement plant built in Mississauga, Ontario to serve Canada's largest market.



1976

Acquisition of cement plant in Joliette, Quebec.

1985

Acquisition of cement plant in Foreman, Arkansas.

As part of the expanded Ash Grove family, we have access to the collective knowledge, best practices, innovation and skills of the wider group, a strong safety culture and a shared commitment to sustainability.

- Ash Grove
- St. Lawrence Cement and Holcim
- Suwannee American Cement

1987
Acquisition of cement plant in Montana City, Montana.

1992
Modernization and expansion of Seattle Plant.



2000S
Modernization and expansion of Chanute and Foreman Plants.



2015
CRH acquires Holcim (Canada)



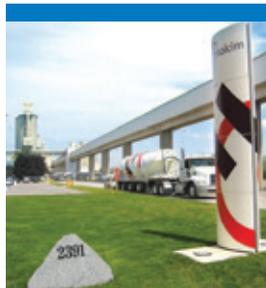
2020
CRH Canada and Suwannee American Cement adopt the Ash Grove brand



1989
Acquisition of cement plant in Leamington, Utah.

1994
Acquisition of cement plant in Midlothian, Texas.

2009
St. Lawrence Cement rebrands to Holcim (Canada) Inc.



2018
CRH acquires Ash Grove Cement.

CRH acquires Suwannee American Cement



1990 2000 2010 2020

Circular Economy: A Priority

At Ash Grove, we aim to be a leader in the application, transition and promotion of responsible environmental practices and performance. Working in an industry with high energy and material consumption, it is essential for us to set up smart habits and processes that support sustainable development and the emerging model of the circular economy.

What is the circular economy?

The circular economy is a production system that aims to optimize the use of all resources at each stage of the production cycle while reducing the environmental footprint. The goal is to ensure that products create minimal waste and can be reused or transformed into something new.

The circular economy is different from the linear economy, which uses significant natural resources with little or no reuse, thus producing a large amount of waste.

Real-world applications at Ash Grove

The use of alternative fuels at the Joliette Cement Plant

The Joliette Cement Plant has been in operation for more than fifty years and perfectly illustrates the practical case of a transition from a linear to a circular economy. Indeed, thanks to the use of alternative fuels, nearly 70,000 tonnes of residual materials are diverted from landfills each year. Thanks to this process the Joliette

Cement Plant has also been able to reduce its fossil fuel consumption by 35%, hence avoiding CO₂ emissions by 70,000 kilotonnes.

Still with a view to shrinking its environmental footprint, the Joliette Cement Plant is also using more alternative raw materials in its production system and

manufacturing processes such as synthetic gypsum or refractory bricks from aluminum companies. The cement plant has been selected as finalist for the Projet vert ICI+ award at the EnviroLys Gala organized by the Conseil des entreprises en technologie environnementale du Québec (CETEQ).

Responsible use of raw materials at the Mississauga Cement Plant

Another example is the Mississauga Cement Plant. In operation since 1956, the plant is also part of a dynamic that promotes the circular economy, improved environmental performance and the transition to a more sustainable economy.

Through measures such as the use of construction shale as a raw material, the use of petroleum coke, the recovery of used oils and solvents and the use of slag cement, the plant has reduced its dependence on virgin natural resources by 50%, and by nearly 30% in the case of raw materials.

To produce cement, Ash Grove requires shale sedimentary stone, and although it has some at its disposal, we are seeking



The Linear Versus Circular Economy



for Ash Grove

to source shale via construction projects. So, rather than accumulating or disposing of it, we meet our needs and limit our use of virgin resources. This process perfectly illustrates the principles of the circular economy.

Our sister Materials and Construction divisions rely on recycled materials

Other CRH divisions transform concrete and asphalt residues into recycled aggregates for reuse on construction sites. The use of materials is subject to provincial regulations, and a process is in place to ensure the quality of recycled products. The materials received are sorted, processed and controlled to ensure that our customers have access to a source that is not only more environmentally friendly but also effective.



Continuing Education on Circular Economy

Recently two Ash Grove employees, David Bangma and Nishat Ahmed, received a Certificate of Completion from McMaster University on the Circular Economy (CE). This will help the organization move forward with integrating sustainable development goals that align to our vision and strategy.

Key concepts in the course included:

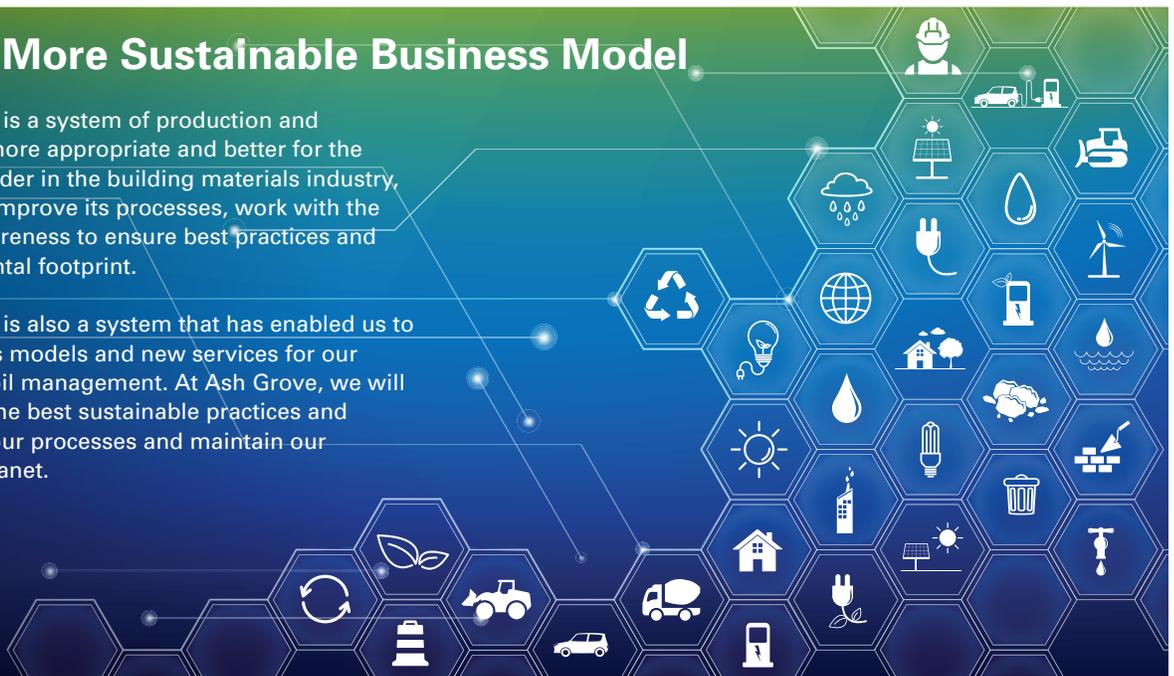
- Circular economy means GDP growth without increase of GHGs and/or depletion of natural resources
- Examples of companies leading the way in sustainability have integrated sustainability by making it part of their purpose
- Many useful CE metrics and tools are available such as life cycle assessment (LCA), material input per unit of service (MIPS), Dependency Diagram, and Material Circularity (MCI)

These concepts are a further demonstration that the above examples are supporting the circular economy but also create a larger vision of how we can strive to do more in this new exciting future.

A New and More Sustainable Business Model

The circular economy is a system of production and consumption that is more appropriate and better for the environment. As a leader in the building materials industry, Ash Grove strives to improve its processes, work with the community, raise awareness to ensure best practices and reduce its environmental footprint.

The circular economy is also a system that has enabled us to develop new business models and new services for our customers, such as soil management. At Ash Grove, we will always strive to find the best sustainable practices and continue to improve our processes and maintain our commitment to the planet.



Ash Grove, Your Reliable Slag Cement Producer

That slag cement is an incredible product doesn't come as news to our readers. Slag cement provides many performance benefits, such as improved workability, reduced permeability, increased strength, reduced set times, reduced heat of hydration, and improved resistance to chemical attack including sulfates. Over the last few decades it has not only become an essential part of our product portfolio, but necessary to meet many of the new concrete performance requirements.

The raw material for slag cement is molten slag, which comes from the steel industry. Molten slag is first quenched, either using a pelletizer or granulator, to generate slag granules. The granules are then further processed at a grinding station, which is typically located in a cement plant. Both of these processes ensure a consistent, high-quality end product.

In North America, one of the challenges of the last two decades has been supply from the steel industry. Steel pricing can be quite volatile as it is strongly influenced by global supply and demand. In the last 10 years alone the

pricing has moved from lows of close to \$400 a metric tonne to highs of over \$1,000 a metric tonne; not to mention many additional swings in-between. China represents over 50% of global steel production and exports between 10% and 20%, which, along with tariffs, has a strong influence on pricing and production within North America. Over the last 20 years, a significant amount of steel production has either been idled or demolished.

AT ASH GROVE, WE ARE COMMITTED TO MEETING THE NEEDS OF OUR CUSTOMERS, AND DESPITE NORTH AMERICA MARKET PRICING AND SUPPLY VOLATILITY, WE CONTINUE TO WORK HARD TO ENSURE AND COMMIT TO PRODUCING SLAG CEMENT ACCORDING TO MARKET REQUIREMENTS.

Products like Slag Cement remain important to achieving concrete performance, and are vital in the reduction of the overall carbon footprint of concrete.





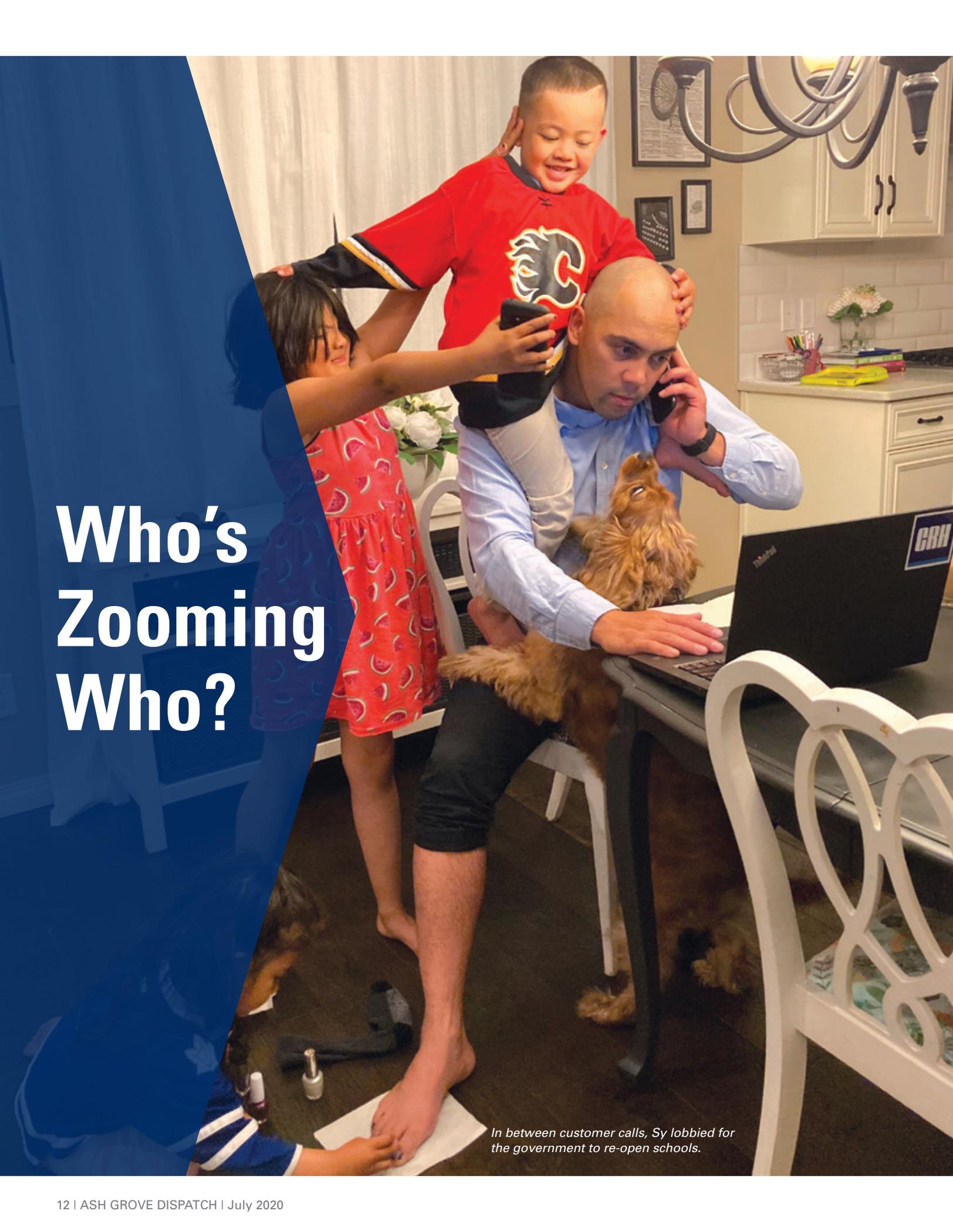
Ash Grove Bags - Coming to a Jobsite Near You!

Over the past several weeks, you may have noticed that our packaged products have already begun to transition to our new Ash Grove branding, replacing CRH branded bags as those stocks are depleted. Rest assured that while our branding is changing, the overall bag design, the quality products that you trust and the relationships you have with us continue to remain the same.

New Ash Grove branded bag data sheets, mill certificates and safety data sheets are also available upon request as we complete our transition to our new brand.

If you have any questions or concerns about our new Ash Grove bags, please reach out your Ash Grove North representative.



A man in a light blue shirt and dark shorts is sitting at a dining table, multitasking. He is talking on a mobile phone held to his ear with his left hand while his right hand rests on a laptop. A young boy in a red baseball jersey is perched on his shoulders, holding a smartphone. A woman in a red dress with a watermelon pattern is standing behind him, also holding a phone. A large, shaggy brown dog is sitting on the man's lap. The setting is a kitchen/dining area with white cabinets and a chandelier. A blue diagonal graphic is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Who's Zooming Who?

In between customer calls, Sy lobbied for the government to re-open schools.



Sometimes a tape measure just isn't long enough for social distancing with John Hellyer.

By **JOHN HELLYER**
Senior Market Manager

WORKING IN OUR PAJAMAS, COFFEE BREAKS WITH KIDS DANCING AROUND THE ROOM, DOGS AND CATS 'SUPERVISING' WORK - THAT'S WHAT MANY OF US ARE DEALING WITH THESE DAYS. THE WAY WE WORK HAS UNDERGONE A HUGE TRANSFORMATION AND WE HAVE HAD TO ADAPT ALMOST OVERNIGHT TO A TOTALLY NEW WORK ENVIRONMENT.

Those of us who are new to working from home may have struggled with common issues such as video call technology, staying productive in the face of distractions and whether pants are actually necessary, but despite all of this we have continued to make it a priority to try to stay connected with each other and our customers.

Although we are trying to remain connected to you by phone and at times even by video call, we look forward to getting back out on the road to see you this summer. We will do everything necessary to ensure that we practice social distancing and that we keep everyone's health and safety top of mind.



Marie's iPhone makes a special appearance during our team meeting.



Turns out Emma's cat is a micromanager.



Murray's dog convincing him that he should just stay home indefinitely.



Gord being quite studious during quarantine.



Quarantine expectation versus reality



A Farewell from Senior Technical Dennis



I remember my dad taking me to the old McCord ready-mix plant on Eglinton Avenue in Scarborough, Ontario, to get some sand for my play box. What a treat it was to watch the trucks being loaded and moving around the yard.

My first job was with Warnock Hersey testing materials, including concrete and asphalt, on job sites. This was followed by a short stint with Clifford Masonry before I started with Dufferin Concrete in November of 1986, first as an order-taker and then as a dispatcher.

It was only natural for me to study Civil Engineering at Ryerson University and I could not wait to graduate and start my career in the construction industry.

A year and a half later I moved to Quality Control and eventually became Quality Control Manager for the Toronto area. In March of 2005, I joined the cement division as Senior Technical Services Representative.





Message Service Representative Baker

It has been a great career for me and a dream come true to work in such a great industry. I've spent 33 of my 39 years with CRH Canada and its legacy companies. I am very proud to have played a role in so many projects, including the Metro Convention Centre, Terminal 1 and the parking garage at the airport, and of course the 407 Highway project.

I look forward to retired life and have many plans with my wife. These include travel, working on my hobbies (woodworking and model building) and handyman work around the house. I honestly do not think that I will have any time to get bored.

Over the years, it has been the people that I have met and worked with that have made this such a wonderful and exciting time for me. I consider many of these people as friends.

In closing, because of these friendships, I will not say 'goodbye' but only 'see you later'!

Dennis Baker, C.E.T., LEED AP
Senior Technical Service Representative
Ontario Division
CRH Canada



Photo Gallery

- 1 Concrete Ontario/OSSGA Ski Day
- 2 Checking out the Toronto Redi-Mix booth at the CCE
- 3 Hockey Night with Burnco Edmonton
- 4 Concrete Cup donation to Camp Ooch
- 5 CCPA AGM in Palm Springs
- 6 The closest Mac will get to professional hockey
- 7 Golfing with the CCPPA
- 8 Concrete Manitoba AGM
- 9 The Precast Show in Fort Worth
- 10 Hanging out with the Caswell's in the CRH booth at the CCE



Ash Grove
 Mississauga Cement Plant
 2391 Lakeshore Rd. West
 Mississauga, Ontario L5J 1K1
 Email: AMAT-Communications-CA@crh.com