The erosion along the creek bank was an eyesore, according to Michael Kaiser, Tonawanda’s director of technical support – and getting worse. The soils were eroding from repeated rising and falling during rain events. To create an aesthetic solution while also preventing further erosion, the town once again turned to local Redi-Rock manufacturer Kistner Concrete Products Inc. Several years earlier, the town chose Redi-Rock as part of a bridge replacement project upstream.

The company’s massive, 1-ton blocks are made of architectural grade precast concrete that has a proven track record for building aesthetic storm channels that will stand the test of time. The system features several batter options, which were a major benefit in the design of this project. The majority of the project was designed using 41-in. blocks (measured from the face of the block to the back), but engineers designed several sections of the channel using 9-in. setback blocks to give the channel walls more gradual slopes. These sections terraced back from the rest of the walls to create a secondary floodplain.

To prepare the site for wall construction, the crew created a crushed stone leveling pad before placing the first row of 60-in. base blocks to prevent overturning of the walls. The wall design ranged in height from 4 to 7.5 ft., totaling 15,000 sq.ft. The entire project was installed in 60 days.

Thanks to Mike Kistner, Kistner Concrete Products, for sending this article.
Roman Stone Construction has started to produce precast buildings for pump stations and small utility structures, using either their standard specification buildings, or a custom design.

14’-0” Square Solid Wall Building *(right)*
- 4” solid precast walls
- Thin brick finish with red brick at the front and polychromatic on the sides
- Wood framed roof

15’-0” x 12’-0” Insulated Building
- Insulated sandwich panel wall that consists of a 4” structural layer, 2 inches of rigid insulation, and a 2” architectural layer
- The front is finished with thin brick
- The back and sides are colored concrete
- Electrical was cast in the walls. Wall connections are either hidden or recessed and filled in.

Thanks to Tom Montalbine, Roman Stone Construction Company for this story.

Congratulations to:

**Oldcastle Precast**, Avon, CT, a 2011 PCI Safety Award Winner. This means “0” ratings for Days Away and Restricted Time, Total Case Incidence, and Lost Workdays Incidence Rates during 2010. Zero ... way to go!! Check out the **PCI Marketing News** for a load of useful marketing information, research information, educational information, and more.
10” Thick Insulated Precast/Prestressed Sandwich Panels Enclose Albany Medical Cogeneration Facility

Oldcastle Building Systems, Selkirk, NY supplied Bette & Cring Construction Group 44 panels (approx. 21,200 sf) for the new Albany Med facility. Typical panels were 45’-10” in height, 12’ wide, and 10” thick; sandwich layers consisted of 3” exterior concrete wythe and 2” minimum interior concrete wythe. The EPS insulation thickness varied from 3” to 5”. These panels are designed 100% composite with carbon fiber truss technology used for shear connectors between the inner and outer concrete wythes. This is a superior non-thermal conducting material to reduce heat loss and provide a high R value of 17. The wall provides a STC rating = 55.

The exterior face was smooth form finish with “Metro Brick” thin brick inlay bands. The panels are load bearing to support the outer bay of roof joists near the top of the panel, and to support a mezzanine near mid-height at some areas. Field erection started late November, 2011. Project Architect and Engineer is Clough Harbor & Associates. Thanks to David Wan, P.E., Oldcastle Building Systems for this information.
The differing curvatures of these columns created forming challenges for Lakelands Concrete Products, Lima, NY. And the concrete mix had to match the color and surface texture of the existing structure. The radius and changing dimension of the members made for tricky rigging and placement by Auburn Crane, and the columns’ NMB Splice Sleeves had to match #8 dowels cast in the foundation for the structural connection. Project players included VMJR Companies, Contractor; Re4orm Architecture; Clough Harbor, Project Engineer and Biggs Consulting Engineers, Foundation and Shop Drawings; and Carl Ashley, Lakelands contact.
NYS Thruway Sound Barriers Have Colored ‘Grape Stake’ Finish on Both Faces

Made with galvanized reinforcement, these 342 panels, 4” thick, and 343 supporting posts were made with a sound adsorptive concrete mix design, supplied by Concrete Solutions, Inc., Dallas, TX. The posts were set first, before panel delivery. The system is designed to resist 30 psf wind loading. These panels can be seen at the Lackawanna Toll Exit and 1-90 Interchange in Buffalo. Submitted by: Todd Clarke and Laurie Arner at Lakelands Concrete.

New York’s New Barrier Look – Stone Facing

State highway 347 in Smithtown, Long Island will soon offer drivers a much more attractive median and barrier. These stone faced precast barriers with an integral concrete cap finish will contain a middle strip of plantings on a stretch of about one mile (both sides). Each precast unit is 20’ long and 51” high, weighs 15,000 pounds, and was made of a 4000 psi concrete mix which used 15% fly ash and contained a color additive. Grace Industries was the contractor, and Roman Stone Construction Company, Bay Shore, NY supplied the precast barriers. Our thanks go to Tom Montalbine, Roman Stone Construction, for this article.
Prestress in a Box

PCI’s Student Education Committee has compiled/created a resource for professors teaching concrete-related courses at institutions of higher learning. The technical content was created by university professors and vetted by the PCI Technical Activities Council. These materials are being distributed to universities with engineering programs to increase awareness of precast among students. Prestressed-in-a-box includes:

2. Original Participant Notes from the PCI Structural Design Seminar
3. Prestress-in-a-Box CD

The Precast Concrete Association of New York is offering this package at no cost to qualifying New York colleges and universities. Contact PCANY for more information.