

# Press Release



*Essential materials for building a strong Ontario*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**November 15, 2010**

## **OSSGA: OMB TAKES STEP BACKWARD WITH DECISION ON ROCKFORT HEARING**

The Ontario Stone, Sand & Gravel Association (OSSGA) is both surprised and disappointed with the recent Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) decision regarding James Dick Construction Limited's Rockfort Quarry application. Rockfort Quarry can safely supply high-quality aggregate products that limit truck travel and greenhouse gas emissions to growth areas of the province, which is why parties should work diligently towards a solution that makes the resource available in a sustainable manner.

The OMB has ruled otherwise.

The Greater Toronto Area is already in an aggregate supply deficit and this should be reflected in sound planning decisions that involve the province, the region and the local community in supplying aggregates resources to meet local needs. The OMB has made the decision on behalf of all of the provincial bodies: that other parts of the province should supply Peel Region with aggregate resources into the future.

Two million people live in the Region of Peel and collectively consume 15 million tonnes of aggregates every year. The production of aggregates in Peel Region has dropped 30 percent in the last decade, now only producing 24 percent (3.6 million tonnes in 2009) of the resources consumed by its residents. As resources continue to dwindle, Rockfort Quarry would have contributed substantially to the existing shortfall. Now, materials will continue to be trucked from further afield to supply market demand in Peel Region. OSSGA believes this approach is not sustainable.

The statement made by the OMB on page 76 of the decision, that "it is time for alternatives to aggregate for infrastructure construction to be found" is unrealistic. The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources released a major report in June entitled "State of the Aggregate Resources of Ontario" (SAROS). Paper 3 of the SAROS report "Reuse and Recycling" conducted a detailed study into alternatives to aggregate, and found that none are available:

*"At the moment there is no readily apparent substitute for aggregate it is an essential input for many parts of the Provincial economy. Therefore, it is imperative that efforts be sought to maximise the associated benefits and minimise costs".*

— SAROS Paper 3, pg. 108

In light of the lack of alternatives for aggregates in construction, OSSGA remains fully committed to exploring and utilizing all forms of recycled and re-used aggregates in order to sustainably develop the

Ontario Stone, Sand & Gravel Association  
365 Brunel Road, Unit 2, Mississauga, ON L4Z 1Z5  
[www.ossga.com](http://www.ossga.com)  
[www.theholestory.ca](http://www.theholestory.ca)

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resources available in Ontario. However, the bulk of the supply for future construction materials for the province's infrastructure needs will still have to come from new or expanded pits and quarries.

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The Ontario Stone, Sand & Gravel Association is a non-profit industry association representing 103 producers of sand, gravel, and crushed stone in the province of Ontario, along with 157 suppliers of valuable aggregate industry products and services.

OSSGA promotes the wise management of Ontario's aggregate resources in a manner which is conducive to conserving the natural and social environment while maintaining a healthy and competitive aggregate industry.

### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

**Moreen Miller, President**  
**Ontario Stone, Sand & Gravel Association**  
**Phone: (905) 507-0711**  
**Email : [mmiller@ossга.com](mailto:mmiller@ossга.com)**

Ontario Stone, Sand & Gravel Association  
365 Brunel Road, Unit 2, Mississauga, ON L4Z 1Z5  
[www.ossга.com](http://www.ossга.com)  
[www.theholestory.ca](http://www.theholestory.ca)