

# ROCK TALK

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# Our Newest Bronze Plaque

## Wildwood Pit in Select Company

In the world of athletics, bronze signals third place. But in the aggregate industry in Ontario, bronze can signify the highest level of achievement in the rehabilitation of a former pit or quarry. It is the Bronze Plaque Award, after all, that the Ontario Stone, Sand & Gravel Association hands out to recognize the very best rehabilitated sites province-wide.

A total of 20 former quarries or gravel pits have been given this honour since the award's inception in 1975. They are considered the best of the best – rigorous standards must be met before a rehabilitated aggregate site is even considered for the award. The Bronze Plaque is reserved for those sites that have become truly outstanding examples of the rehabilitation of pits and quarries in Ontario.

The latest recipient of the Bronze Plaque Award is the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA), recognized for the rehabilitated Wildwood Pit located on lands it now manages. UTRCA successfully developed a unique ecosystem on the site that sustains turtles, other reptiles, and prairie grasses.

*...Continued on page 3*

# MESSAGE FROM TED WIGDOR



In my first few months in the role of CEO of the Ontario Stone, Sand & Gravel Association (OSSGA), meeting aggregate producers and touring rehabilitated gravel pits were highlights. I have been struck not only by their passion, but also by their dedication to go above and beyond what is required to rehabilitate the land. It's clearly a source of pride to producers and enlightening to observers.

Connecting with elected officials at the municipal and provincial levels at the annual Association of Municipalities Ontario (AMO) conference was also very timely. Both levels of government are together the largest builders of public infrastructure and users of aggregate resources in the province.

While the producer and politician perspectives differed in outlook, it did neatly sum up some of the challenges and opportunities before us.

Before I elaborate, please allow me to take a moment to introduce myself, for those whom I have yet to meet. My background is in government relations, association management and leadership – all of which has given me the opportunity to grapple with many complex issues and work with business and government to find a proactive solution. It's a style that I believe will complement OSSGA's approach.

Most recently, I was Vice-President of Government and Corporate Affairs at the Certified General Accountants (CGA) of Ontario. As part of the association's leadership team, my responsibilities included leading all interactions with government, involvement in the strategic planning process and working with organizations such as the Ontario Chamber of Commerce and C.D. Howe Institute to advance public policy issues important to the membership and profession.

Prior to joining CGA Ontario, I was President of Susan A. Murray Consulting (SAMCI), which develops and executes government relations strategies for business clients. It was at SAMCI that I worked with the Ontario division of the Cement Association of Canada. Among our accomplishments was the formation of a non-partisan Cement Caucus at Queen's Park.

Looking ahead, consider the mandate that the Ontario government received in June to build and renew Ontario's infrastructure – particularly roads, highways and transit. Municipalities are also investing more in roads and bridges than ever before – often in partnership with the provincial and federal governments.

Consider also that the majority of the stone, sand and gravel currently produced in Ontario is used in building public infrastructure and this need is only expected to grow in the next decade. Yet, the current approval process for the licensing of a gravel pit or quarry in Ontario can take eight, ten or even twelve years to complete.

Herein lies both the challenge and opportunity.

With governments planning a significant increase in their contribution to transportation and public infrastructure, they are going to need a steady supply of aggregate to make it happen. That's why my overall objective is to strengthen OSSGA's partnership with government and work collaboratively with stakeholders – because collectively we are building the infrastructure that sustains Ontario.

And we're doing so in a sustainable way. As I saw first-hand, aggregate producers are doing award-winning rehabilitation work. Increasing the profile and public awareness of this work is certainly one of our priorities.

We also need to raise awareness that ensuring a ready, close-to-market supply of aggregate helps reduce the environmental and traffic congestion impact of hauling greater distances to job sites.

For example, one statistic that I recently read noted that if haul distances were double what they are now, it would translate to the equivalent of the annual emissions from over 40,000 cars. Considering that supply in the currently licensed pits and quarries within reach of the GTA diminishes year by year, this should be a call to action. One of our goals must be to expedite the approval process.

Food for thought. Our collaboration will result in reduced emissions, abundant supply of aggregate to meet the province's needs while sustaining our economy and quality of life for years to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ted Wigdor".

Ted Wigdor, CEO

# OUR NEWEST BRONZE PLAQUE

...Continued from page 1.

The Wildwood Pit, which lies just east of St. Marys, was purchased by UTRCA in 1957, and they operated the gravel pit throughout the 1960s, until extraction finished prior to 1971. The pit supplied material for the construction of the Wildwood Dam from 1963 to 1965, and later for the development of the Conservation Area. After extraction ceased, the pit was allowed to naturally regenerate until active rehabilitation efforts began in 1996.

OSSGA CEO Ted Wigdor emcee'd the bronze plaque presentation event, attended by UTRCA employees, both past and present, local residents, OSSGA staff and board members Anne Guiot, Bill Marquardt, Tony



Iacocca and John Moroz. After some short speeches at a beautiful spot overlooking the rehabilitated pit, a short hike brought the group to the plaque itself, appropriately attached to a large rock in the middle of the tall grass prairie that the rehabilitation efforts have created.

Prior to rehabilitation efforts by the UTRCA, the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) considered the site abandoned because it was never formally rehabilitated. In 1996, the UTRCA and the MNR began a rehabilitation project, with funding from the Abandoned Pits and Quarries Rehabilitation Fund. MNR did plant inventories and made recommendations. They re-inventoried plants in 2004.

When the project began, vegetation in the Wildwood Pit had been regenerating on its own for more than 20 years. Conditions varied across the site, however most of it lacked topsoil and nutrients. In deepened areas, ground water seepage was evident. In other areas, there were gravel mounds or stock piles left behind.



A pond was dug along the southwest wall of the pit to create a more permanent wet habitat for amphibians and reptiles, and the extracted material was mounded along the edges to create habitat for snakes. The pond level fluctuates with the reservoir level. Sand pits were built for nesting turtles. Wood chip piles were added to make homes for snakes.

A native tallgrass prairie was planted in a flat, dry plot on the southeast site of the pit. This planting was quite innovative at the time. Planting of the seedlings (plugs) was carried out by UTRCA staff with help from Forest Buddies Children's Nature Club (and their parents), neighbours and Stratford Field Naturalists. The higher dry areas, including gravel ridges and mounds, were left in place. The ridges create microclimates, or areas with slightly different temperatures, in the areas they shelter. Unusual grasses as well as deciduous trees have moved into some of these sheltered areas. To date, biologists have recorded approximately 115 plants in the pit, including two plants not found elsewhere in Oxford County, and the site has become home to a variety of wildlife.



# OPERATIONS TOUR



This year's operations tour was a great success, both for attendees and for operators. This year's tour was focused on the Orillia area, and members enjoyed a meet and greet in the hotel at Casino Rama.

The following morning, everybody met for a quick breakfast, and then filled three motorcoaches for the day's tour. Stops included **Fowler Construction Company's** Fleming Quarry, **Walker Aggregates'** Severn Quarry, **Nelson Aggregates'** Uthoff Quarry and **J.C. Rock's** Norland Quarry.

All three coaches met at Tiremaster halfway through the day, where the people at Tiremaster had a feast prepared for everyone, including a roast pig and corn-on-the-cob.

Thanks to our sponsors, **Amaco**, **Kal Tire**, **Tiremaster**, **Top Lift Enterprises**, **Toromont CAT** and **Walker Industries**.



# NEW OSSGA TRAINING PROGRAMS



The Ontario Stone, Sand & Gravel Association is continually looking to meet the needs of its membership and the industry at large. OSSGA is offering industry expert-lead training, tours and seminars as well as certified training courses.

Courses are offered for individual sign-up or OSSGA can offer training exclusively for any company.

## **Certified Training**

- Surface Mining Common Core Training
- Generic First Line Supervisor Training
- Emergency First Aid/CPR (Level C)
- Working at Heights
- Accident/Incident Investigation

Delivery of training varies from course to course. Industry Expert Lead Education is delivered by competent industry experienced individuals.

Certified Training is led by experienced and government qualified instructors. These programs include both theory and practical training. Participants who successfully complete the training and test will receive a record of certified training.

## **Industry Expert Lead Education**

- Aggregates 101
- Environmental Workshop
- Operations & Service Training Day
- Operations, Health and Safety Seminar
- Annual Conference & AGM



[Click here for full course dates and details.](#)

# 2015 OSSGA CONFERENCE & ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



2015 OSSGA CONFERENCE  
AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

February 25 – 27, 2015  
Hilton Toronto Hotel



# NEXT GENERATION LEADERSHIP



Join industry leaders for the Ontario Stone, Sand & Gravel Association Conference and Annual General Meeting, February 25 to 27, 2015, in downtown Toronto at the Hilton Toronto Hotel.

OSSGA has put together a very unique agenda! We will discuss our heritage, what's happening in today's market and a look ahead at the next generation.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING?

- Keynote speakers Wendel Clark and Katie Davis
- Outstanding industry speakers from across the province and beyond
- Entire day of offsite presentations at the old Maple Leaf Gardens arena on Friday (Mattamy Athletic Centre)
- Welcome lunch with exhibitors Wednesday afternoon
- Wine and cheese reception Wednesday night
- Your choice of social activities – Ripley's Aquarium, Hockey Hall of Fame or CN Tower
- Chair's dinner and show Thursday night
- Networking opportunities over all three days
- Companions program – Tours and Taste Buds

Registration is now open for the OSSGA Conference and Annual General Meeting – [Click Here](#)

Book your hotel room today! OSSGA has a special rate at the Hilton Toronto Hotel for only \$182 a night – [Click Here](#)

# DON LOCKHART BURSARY



On June 22nd of this year, we lost a long-time member of OSSGA, Don Lockhart, President of D & J Lockhart Excavators Ltd.. Don was actively involved in OSSGA, particularly in the Waterloo-Wellington-Brant region. Our deepest condolences to his wife Lynn, daughter Shelly and the entire family.

OSSGA's Waterloo-Wellington-Brant committee members decided to contribute \$1,000 in Don's name to the Heavy Equipment Operator program at Conestoga College for the Don Lockhart Memorial Award bursary. Don's widow, Lynn Lockhart offered to match those funds. Together, Lynn Lockhart and Waterloo-Wellington-Brant committee chair Tony Iacocca presented a cheque for \$2,000 to Stephen Speers, Chair of Trades and Apprenticeships at Conestoga College's Guelph Campus.

Also on hand for the presentation were members of the Lockhart family, students of the Heavy Equipment Operator program, and Ruth Prior, member of the Waterloo-Wellington-Brant committee.

Don will be missed.



# PUBLIC TOURS



Many of our member companies are currently offering public tours of their aggregate production facilities. These tours offer the public a chance to see what really goes on inside pits and quarries, and the heavy equipment really excited kids about our industry.

If your company does not currently offer public tours, please consider it as part of your community relations plan. It can benefit not only your site and company, but the entire industry.



# REHABILITATION TOUR

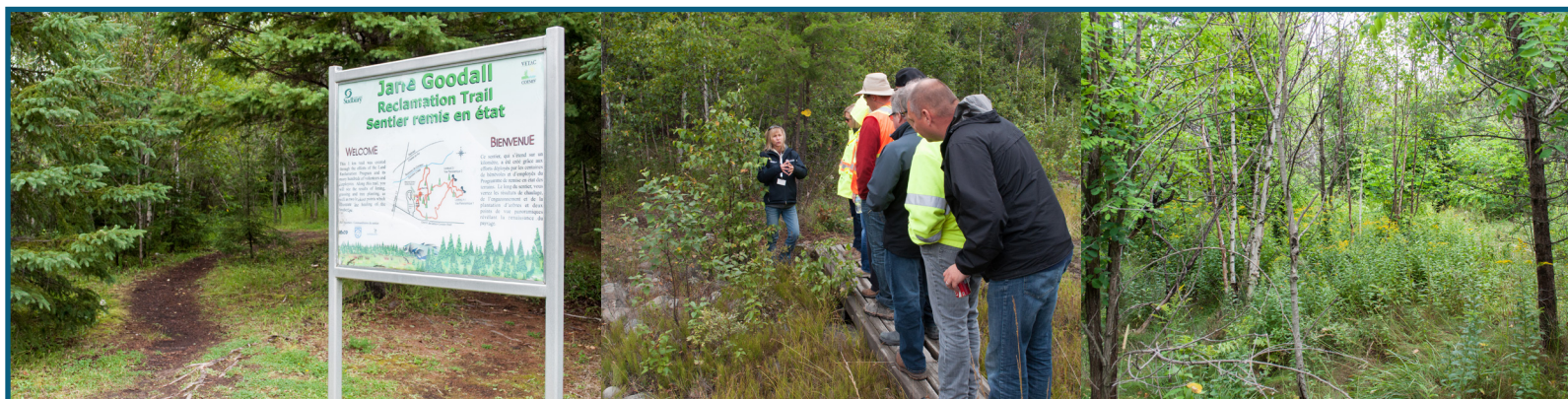
# GOLF TOURNAMENT



Sudbury is a community that has proudly transformed itself by greening its landscape through many unique rehabilitation success stories.

The 2014 OSSGA Rehabilitation Tour featured sites that show why Sudbury is recognized as a world-leader in the environmental restoration of mining landscapes, and it was a hit, even with uncooperative weather.

On August 13th, attendees met at the Holiday Inn Sudbury for dinner and some interesting talks by representatives of both the City of Sudbury, and Laurentian University, about their rehabilitation efforts and experiments. On the 14th, they visited several examples of landscape rehabilitation. The tour included visits to rehabilitated aggregate properties, a trail walk to glimpse Sudbury's past and reclaimed present, forest floor transplanting, and more.



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The 2014 OSSGA annual golf tournament at Cardinal Golf Club was once again a roaring success! Members dusted off their clubs and joined about 400 of their colleagues in Kettleby for a day of great weather, golf and networking.

We look forward to seeing you all at the tournament in 2015.



# TEACHERS TOUR



In early June, the Department of Earth Sciences at Carleton University hosted the Discovering Earth Sciences 2014 Workshop for Teachers. This included a day of hands-on earth science learning activities and instructional development, as well as a field trip to sites of geological and industrial interest in the Ottawa region.

OSSGA member sites were featured on the field trip that included visits to a sand and gravel pit and two rock quarries, providing teachers with the opportunity to discover sediment and rock types from a range of geologic ages and to learn about the crushed stone, sand and gravel industry.

Stops on the tour included the Miller Group's Miller Pit and Braeside Quarry, as well as Karson Aggregates' Huntley Limestone Quarry. A special thank you to tour guides Tom Jones of the **Miller Group** and Erwin Schulz of **Karson Aggregates** for giving up their time on a weekend to act as tour guides.



# REHAB STUDY, PART III



The Ontario Stone, Sand, & Gravel Association (OSSGA) set out to 'unearth the truth' in 2010 with the start of the Rehabilitation Study. After the release of the State of the Aggregate Resource in Ontario Study (SAROS) in 2009, OSSGA continued the research effort put forth in this study by assessing the condition of rehabilitated pits and quarries licenced under the Aggregate Resources Act as well as those whose licences had been surrendered.

The data collected by Caitlin Port of **Skelton Brumwell & Associates Inc.** as part of the OSSGA Rehabilitation Study forms baseline information to document and track the final land use of rehabilitated pits and quarries across Ontario. This information is stored in a "living" database for rehabilitated aggregate sites in Ontario, which can be continually updated as new information is gathered.

Since 2010, OSSGA staff have visited and documented the final land uses for over 700 surrendered and rehabilitated pits and quarries across Ontario. The results of this research have been presented in three subsequent research reports in: 2010, 2013, and 2014. This past summer marked the fourth year of field work, with an additional 133 records being added to the OSSGA rehabilitation database and the completion of the rehabilitation statistics for Bruce, Dufferin, and Simcoe Counties.

Watch for OSSGA's Rehab Study, Part III available soon.

# WATER STUDIES

The OSSGA environment committee is putting together factsheets about water management at pits and quarries over the coming months. These build on existing factsheets and draw on information learned from various water studies carried out over the last few years by OSSGA and address relevant topics including source water protection, water quality and water quantity. They are designed with the public in mind and will be available to members to use as needed and will answer some of the common questions we get asked about water management at our operations.



## WELCOME NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

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# CURLING BONSPIEL

Thanks to those who came out to the 8th annual OSSGA curling bonspiel. It was a great day with friends, co-workers and customers, with lots of fun had by all. This year, the event was held at the newly refurbished ice pad at Burlington Golf & Country Club.

Thank you to sponsors **Cowan Insurance** and **Golder Associates** for their ongoing support of the event.



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### OSSGA AGGREGATES 101 JANUARY 20, 2015

Toronto Marriott Airport Hotel

In-class education about the industry, its terminology and different processes, policies and practices. Product types, licensing, processing, delivery, quality control, best practices and more will be discussed.

#### Overview:

- Definitions - Sand & Gravel, Quarry, Recycled Aggregate, Products and more
- Aggregate Licensing
- Health and Safety
- Staffing
- Aggregate Processing- Stripping, Drilling, Blasting, Crushing and more
- Delivery of Product
- Quality Control and Specifications
- Controls, Obligations and Best Practices
- Costs, Sales and Marketing

For more information, [click here.](#)

### OPERATIONS, HEALTH AND SAFETY SEMINAR JANUARY 21-22, 2015

This annual seminar attracts over 250 industry members from across the province to participate in learning and discussions on a variety of presentations. Topics range from operational best practices to new technology, health and safety training to industry hot topics. In addition, 30 industry suppliers showcase their products and services to attendees to educate them on the latest leading technology for operations and safety available.

#### Presentations for 2015 include:

- Lockout / Tagout
- Tire Safety & Maintenance
- Confined Spaces
- Tier 4 Final
- Belts - Transfer Point Improvements & Dust Management
- Working At Heights Update
- Education On Sound - How Loud Is Loud?
- Ministry Of Labour Hot Topics
- Keynote speaker **Clint Malarchuk.**

### OPERATIONS TOUR AND DINNER

JANUARY 28, 2015

With this colder weather upon us, what better time than now to start thinking about the Annual RMCAO/OSSGA Ski Day – it will be here before we know it. This is a perfect opportunity to spend some quality time with colleagues, friends and your family – so why not bring them out for a day of skiing.

We are returning to OSLER BLUFF SKI CLUB, courtesy of Kent Knowlton. Our home base will be the ORCHARD LODGE, with registration and lift tickets available beginning at 8:45am. Lunch is buffet style this year and will be served from approximately 11:30am to 1:30pm. Après Ski will begin around 3:30pm and will include an assortment of hors d'oeuvres, presentation of the prizes, as well as the Raffle Draw.

For more information, [click here.](#)

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*Rock Talk* is published three times each year for members of the Ontario Stone, Sand & Gravel Association. We welcome your suggestions and comments.

OSSGA is a non-profit industry association representing over 280 sand, gravel and crushed stone producers and suppliers of valuable industry products and services that supply most of the 143 million tonnes of aggregate consumed annually in the province to build and maintain Ontario's infrastructure needs.

OSSGA works in partnership with government and the public to promote a safe and competitive aggregate industry contributing to the creation of strong communities in the province.

