

# PROJECT TO CELEBRATE

A Canadian producer finds the perfect partner to restore a completed section of an active pit.

BY **LARRY BERNSTEIN**

**CBM** partnered with **Forests Ontario**, a non-profit group specializing in tree planting, education and awareness, on this restoration project.

**T**he ongoing restoration at a Canadian Building Materials (CBM) site is a classic example of an aggregate producer doing right by its community.

CBM, a provider of aggregate and ready-mixed concrete in the Ontario, Canada, market, recently partnered with Forests Ontario, a non-profit group specializing in tree planting, education and awareness. The two organizations united specifically on a restoration project at the Sunderland Sand & Gravel Pit in an endeavor that will likely keep nature lovers in the area happy for years to come.

The Sunderland Sand & Gravel Pit, located northeast of Toronto, is part of the Durham regional municipality in Ontario. The pit, which has been active since 1958, continues to produce materials today. It is located on an esker deposit that has produced sand and stone products for high-profile projects such as the CN Tower and the Rogers Centre.

The care with which CBM treats the Sunderland Sand & Gravel Pit does not end once the company has completed a section. Mike LeBreton, the land and resource manager at CBM, is responsible for ensuring the company complies with a site's final rehabilitation plans.

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But CBM also has a team of professionals that is dedicated and knowledgeable when it comes to rehabilitating licensed pits and quarries.

“CBM does not wait until the end of the life of a site to complete rehab,” LeBreton says. “We progressively do a small part each year wherever we can on our sites.”

### THE DETAILS

As LeBreton and his team explored restoration approaches at the Sunderland Sand & Gravel Pit, a colleague put LeBreton in contact with Forests Ontario.

Now, CBM is involved in the Durham Region 5 Million Tree Program (5MTP), a program offered to landowners that covers 80 percent of the costs of plant-

ing trees. The goal of 5MTP is to get 5 million trees planted across Durham’s municipalities by 2023 as a way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20 percent.

To be eligible for the program, landowners must sign a 15-year management agreement to not cut down trees. Also, the area being considered could not have been a wood lot since 1990, and the area to be restored must be at least 2.5 acres.

Considering the benefits, LeBreton was eager for CBM to be a part of the program.

As part of CBM’s initiative, Forests Ontario was invited to the site for a tour. The Forests Ontario team toured the site with LeBreton a year before any planting took place.

“We got to see what the site looked

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Left: At **CBM's Sunderland Sand & Gravel Pit** are Mike LeBreton, land and resources manager for CBM Aggregates; Jennifer Bernard, lands coordinator for CBM's Aggregates Division; and Kerry McLaven, Forests Ontario's Forest Program manager.

Right: The **Sunderland Sand & Gravel Pit** has been active since 1958.



like in the spring, which is the best time to do planting," says Kerry McLaven, a forest program manager at Forests Ontario whose job includes overseeing forests and afforestation projects like the one with CBM.

While on the tour, McLaven and her team identified areas that had been rehabilitated yet sat fallow for 15 years. This kind of land is ideal for planting, McLaven says, as it has a higher nutrient level and is prepared for trees. This land

also had some grass cover, but the cover wasn't too heavy.

After visiting the site, McLaven and her team sent over a planting plan and presented it to CBM. The area Forests Ontario planted was just under 25 acres.

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