
**INDUSTRY
RECOGNITION
AWARDS**



Program Guide



OSSGA
ONTARIO STONE, SAND
& GRAVEL ASSOCIATION

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OSSGA Industry Recognition Awards Program

PURPOSE

The OSSGA Industry Recognition Awards Program recognizes a wide range of activities that contribute to a progressive image of our member aggregate producers and the aggregate industry as a whole. A key goal is to raise the bar in the industry by highlighting operations that go above and beyond what is required by legislation.

KEY DATES

Deadline for submissions: Early November – Please refer to OSSGA website for official date.

Award Presentation: OSSGA's Conference and AGM held annually in February

OSSGA INDUSTRY RECOGNITION AWARDS BOOKLET

A booklet will be published as an insert for OSSGA's Avenues magazine featuring winners. The Avenues magazine will be made available to delegates of the OSSGA Annual Conference and Annual General Meeting (AGM) and is sent to OSSGA's mailing list of recipients which includes OSSGA Members, MPPs, Municipalities and Mining Matters for their Teacher Resource Kits. An on-line copy will be accessible on the OSSGA website, following the conclusion of the Annual Conference and AGM. Winners will also be acknowledged via social media.

If you wish to receive additional copies of the awards booklet following the OSSGA Annual Conference & AGM, please contact Ashlee Zelek at azelek@ossga.com.

THE ONTARIO STONE, SAND & GRAVEL AWARDS WEBSITE

For award descriptions, information on past winners and to download this document go to: https://ossga.com/industry_recognition_awards_program/

INDUSTRY RECOGNITION AWARD CATEGORIES

1. Award of Excellence
 - a. Community Relations
 - b. Progressive Rehabilitation
 - c. Property Enhancement
2. Outstanding Achievement in Property Rehabilitation
3. Environmental Achievement
4. Biodiversity
5. Bronze Plaque
6. Associate Member of the Year

EXPLANATORY NOTE & WHAT'S NEW

The most commonly sought after awards include the **Community Relations, Progressive Rehabilitation** and **Property Enhancement** awards, a full description of each is provided in subsequent sections of this document. A site that receives all three of these awards is eligible to receive the **Award of Excellence**.

The **Outstanding Achievement in Property Rehabilitation Award** is presented to licensed sites that demonstrate their rehabilitation goes above and beyond the minimum requirements outlined by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry's Provincial Standards.

The most prestigious award presented by OSSGA is the **Bronze Plaque Award** recognizing exemplary efforts in rehabilitation for aggregate sites with its license surrendered for a minimum of 5 years.

The **Environmental Achievement Award** is presented to active sites that have implemented an environmental program or activity that goes beyond what is required by legislation and serves to improve environmental performance of the site and the surrounding environs.

Launched in 2014, OSSGA's **Biodiversity Award** is presented to aggregate producers for their contribution to enhancing and/or sustaining biodiversity through various means such as species protection, habitat improvement and sustainable land use activities that go beyond what is required by legislation.

Last but not least, we introduced two new awards in 2015. The first is our **Judges' Choice Award**, which recognizes the best submission received in the category of progressive rehabilitation. The other is OSSGA's **Associate Member of the Year Award**, meant to recognize contribution to OSSGA and the aggregate industry by a member who is not an aggregate producer.

OSSGA also has a Health and Safety awards program; further information about this program can be found online at www.ossiga.com/health_and_safety

IF YOU WIN

OSSGA will notify winners in January by contacting the award submission coordinator via email with details of the annual award ceremony. Following the award ceremony OSSGA notifies the Municipality, MPP and media in the area where each award winning site is located. This recognition will benefit your company and will raise public awareness of the great work that Ontario aggregate producers do. Of note, in the past, MPP's have also sent a recognition plaque as an acknowledgement of the good work.

Winners receive:

- An inscribed plaque at the Annual Industry Recognition Award Ceremony in February;
- A description in the OSSGA Awards Booklet, mailed out and posted on-line;
- Recognition by local media, Municipalities and Members of Federal and Provincial Government.
- Recognition on social media

JUDGING

Judging will be completed by a review panel consisting of a minimum of 3 judges; the judging teams vary by award category. For the **Award of Excellence** and the three sub category awards, OSSGA invites judges from outside the industry to complete the judging and Industry experts, drawn from the OSSGA associate membership, are on hand to provide technical guidance. In the past representatives from the following organizations have participated as judges: the Township of Puslinch, Coalition on the Niagara Escarpment (CONE), the Cornerstone Standards Council, Ontario Nature, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, and the Township of Uxbridge. The **Environmental Achievement Award** review team is a mixture of associate members with environmental expertise and a minimum of one judge from outside the industry. The **Outstanding Achievement in Rehabilitation Award** is judged by a review panel of external judges and a site visit is conducted by external experts to evaluate the rehabilitation. Applications for the **Bronze Plaque Award** are reviewed by the OSSGA Rehabilitation Committee and judged by a review panel who then make a recommendation to the OSSGA Board of Directors. The winner of the **Associate Member of the Year Award** will be determined by the OSSGA Board of Directors.

ELIGIBILITY

1. The company submitting the award must be an OSSGA Active Member and owner and/or operator of a licensed aggregate site for the following awards:
2.
 - Award of Excellence
 - Community Relations Award
 - Progressive Rehabilitation Award
 - Property Enhancement Award
 - Outstanding Achievement in Rehabilitation
 - Environmental Achievement Award
 - Biodiversity Award
 - Associate Member of the Year Award
3. Non-member companies and organizations are eligible to apply for the Bronze Plaque Award.
4. Poor quality images or incomplete applications may disqualify a submission.
5. Site plans must be legible; a full site plan is required for rehabilitation related awards.

PUBLICATION CONDITIONS

Images submitted will be used to promote OSSGA's Industry Recognition Program in a variety of ways including posting online, award ceremony presentation and the annual awards booklet. Submission of photos constitutes consent.

GENERAL SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL APPLICATIONS

Each award category has specific submission requirements. Please see the appropriate section of this document to find out what those requirements are.

Applications for all award categories must include the following minimum submission requirements:

1. Title page containing the following information:
2. Award being applied for
 - a. Site Name
 - b. Company Name
 - c. Lot, Concession and Township
 - d. Municipal Address (fire number & street name)
 - e. Name of site/plant manager
 - f. Name, email address and phone number for the main contact person regarding the award submission
3. Background information about the site including but not limited to: area, operation type, products, site history.
4. A list of OSSGA awards previously received; include the year (contact OSSGA if you are unsure).
5. An electronic copy of the award application in PDF format to be submitted via OSSGA's website at <https://ossga.com/awardentry>.
6. For your convenience, you may also mail a copy of the file on CD or USB provided it reaches the office by the due date. See the section on *Formatting and Image Specifications* (p. 27) for more details.
7. Copies of one or more good quality, high resolution digital photographs, in JPEG or TIF format, to be forwarded electronically, suitable for media releases and awards publications. Photo must be representative of the award being applied for.

All submissions received become property of OSSGA and will be used for purposes such as social media and marketing material as OSSGA sees fit.

Award of Excellence

The Ontario Stone, Sand & Gravel Association's Award of Excellence recognizes member operator's past and ongoing commitment to industry improvement. The Award is given to operators whose individual operations have previously been awarded OSSGA's Property Enhancement Award (including the plaque and all seven *gold bars*), the Progressive Rehabilitation Award, and the Community Relations Award.

ELIGIBILITY

1. Site must be licensed under the *Aggregate Resources Act (ARA)*.
 - a. Site must have previously received the following awards:
 - b. Community Relations Award;
 - c. Progressive Rehabilitation Award;
 - d. Property Enhancement Award (plaque and all 7 gold bars).
2. Company must be able to demonstrate an on-going commitment in the areas of community relations, property enhancement and progressive rehabilitation at the site. If the above three awards were received more than one year previously, then updated photographs and descriptions are required for: property enhancement showing that areas continue to be maintained and note any additional improvements; progressive rehabilitation showing that rehabilitation is on-going; and, current community relations activities.

JUDGING CRITERIA

In addition to the eligibility criteria, the award application must demonstrate that all of the listed criteria below have been met in order for the applicant to receive the award. Demonstrating a continued commitment in all three areas of operational excellence is a critical component of this award.

1. Format
2. Background
3. Property Enhancement
4. Progressive Rehabilitation
5. Community Relations
6. Ongoing Commitment

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS (AWARD OF EXCELLENCE)

The Award’s criteria are organized within six (6) sections:

1. FORMAT	See <i>General Submission Requirements for all Applications (p.5)</i>
2. BACKGROUND	See <i>General Submission Requirements for all Applications (p.5)</i>
3. PROPERTY ENHANCEMENT	Describe in words, using supporting photographs, all seven sections of the Property Enhancement Award using current information which demonstrates an ongoing commitment to property enhancement.
4. PROGRESSIVE REHABILITATION	Describe in words, using supporting photographs, the area(s) that were awarded the progressive rehabilitation award (recent photographs showing the progression of the rehabilitation are required).
5. COMMUNITY RELATIONS	Describe in words, using supporting photographs, the activities for which the Community Relations Award was given (include activities that have taken place since the Award was received).
6. ONGOING COMMITMENT	Describe in words how the site demonstrates that the upgrading and development activities have remained an important part of the corporate commitment to the site since the original Awards were received.

NOTE

1. Images must be bright and/or clear enough to discern what is being described.
2. Images should be labelled and accompanied by a description of what the image portrays by either referencing the photo in the body of the text or providing a descriptive caption.

See the section on *Formatting and Image Specifications (p. 28)* for more details.

Community Relations Award

The Ontario Stone, Sand & Gravel Association has established a Community Relations Award to recognize the efforts of aggregate operators who pro-actively develop and maintain productive relationships within the communities surrounding their sites. The image of the aggregate industry is shaped by neighbours who live in the communities in which OSSGA members operate.

Being a good neighbour is as much a part of an aggregate operation as extraction and rehabilitation. OSSGA's Community Relations Award is presented to companies that demonstrate that they have earned the respect of the citizens in close proximity to their operations. This is accomplished through making consistent and innovative contributions to their communities and by using various forms of communication, educating their neighbours about the aggregate industry in general, as well as what is going on at the local operation(s).

ELIGIBILITY

1. Site must be licensed under the *ARA*.
2. Site must pro-actively communicate with neighbours and the surrounding community to educate about the aggregate industry in general as well as the local operation(s).
3. Examples must be current to within 2 years of application.

JUDGING CRITERIA

In addition to the eligibility criteria, the award application must demonstrate that all of the listed criteria below have been met in order for the applicant to receive the award.

1. Format
2. Background
3. Neighbour Relations
4. Community Involvement
5. Communication
6. Education

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS (COMMUNITY RELATIONS AWARD)

The Award's criteria are organized within six (6) sections:

1. FORMAT	See <i>General Submission Requirements for all Applications (p.5)</i>
2. BACKGROUND	See <i>General Submission Requirements for all Applications (p.5)</i>
3. NEIGHBOUR RELATIONS	Describe in words, using supporting photographs, how the company is being a good neighbour with respect to the following common public issue areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noise • Dust • Traffic (specifically the interaction with off-site traffic at entrances and exits) • Other (please specify)
4. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT	Describe in words how the company and its employees contribute to the community. Use supporting photographs.
5. COMMUNICATION TOOLS	Describe in words with supporting images, how the company uses publications (website, media, posters, email, announcements, door-to-door visits) to communicate to neighbours and the public about the aggregate industry in general as well as the site. Describe in words how the company communicates to its employees about the aggregate industry in general as well as the site.
6. EDUCATION	Describe in words how the company educates their neighbours and the public at large to increase awareness of the aggregate industry in general and the operation itself.

NOTE

1. Images must be bright and/or clear enough to discern what is being described.
2. Images should be labelled and accompanied by a description of what the image portrays by either referencing the photo in the body of the text or providing a descriptive caption.
3. Include dates (month/year) of events and communications.

See the section on *Formatting and Image Specifications* (p. 28) for more details.

Progressive Rehabilitation & Judges' Choice Awards

The Ontario Stone, Sand & Gravel Association's Progressive Rehabilitation Award recognizes the efforts of individual operators to progressively rehabilitate their sites in accordance with their site plans.

This year OSSGA is introducing the Judges' Choice Award to be given to the best example(s) of progressive rehabilitation from among all the applications received for a Progressive Rehabilitation Award.

ELIGIBILITY

1. Site must be licensed under the ARA or within 12 months post surrender of licence.
2. The area of progressive rehabilitation must be a minimum of 1 ha or a cumulative area, over time, of at least 1 ha (by combining multiple smaller areas of progressive rehabilitation). A site with an extractable area of 9 ha or less will be given special consideration provided the cumulative area of completed progressive rehabilitation is equivalent to 10% of the extractable area.
3. Area of progressive rehabilitation must be completed (sloped and seeded) and must demonstrate self-sustaining vegetation has established or is 1 year after seeding. An area where only the movement of soil for sloping or grading has occurred is not deemed eligible for the award.

JUDGING CRITERIA

In addition to the eligibility criteria, the award application must demonstrate that all of the listed criteria below have been met in order for the applicant to receive the award.

1. Format
2. Background
3. Objectives
4. Photographs
5. Details
6. Site Plan

JUDGES' CHOICE AWARD

Judges, at their discretion, will select the best example(s) of progressive rehabilitation from among all the applications and will be given special recognition at the Annual Industry Recognition Award ceremony.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS (PROGRESSIVE REHABILITATION AWARD)

The Award criteria are organized within six (6) sections:

1. FORMAT	See <i>General Submission Requirements for all Applications (p.5)</i>
2. BACKGROUND	See <i>General Submission Requirements for all Applications (p.5)</i>
3. OBJECTIVES	Describe in words the objectives of the rehabilitation plan (i.e., agriculture, naturalization, side slopes, compliance, shoreline creation, etc.).
4. PHOTOGRAPHS	Include before and after photographs of the area(s) that were rehabilitated. Photos should be accompanied by a description of what the image portrays by either referencing the photo in the body of the text or providing a descriptive caption. In either case, the photos should be labelled. Pictures taken in the summer or fall, capturing maturing vegetation are preferable.
5. DETAILS	Describe in words the technical details of the rehabilitation. Including, but not limited to, all that apply below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the size of the extractable area • the size of the rehabilitated area(s) (must be a minimum of 1 ha or 10% for smaller sites) • seeding/planting ratios • equipment used • time frames (dates) • type of rehabilitation (cut and fill side slopes, floor) • amount of overburden used • top soil thickness • pond edge design details • cliff face design • use of stumps/logs • use of deep ripping • other
6. SITE PLAN	A paper copy (full-size) of the rehabilitation page from the license site plans, including rehabilitation notes, highlighting the part(s) of the site that was rehabilitated and demonstrating that the work was done in accordance with the site plans. If there is a discrepancy from the site plan, supporting documentation is required indicating approval of the change.

NOTE

1. Images must be bright and/or clear enough to discern what is being described.
2. Images should be labelled and accompanied by a description of what the image portrays by either referencing the photo in the body of the text or providing a descriptive caption.
3. Include dates (month/year) of rehabilitation.
4. Site plans must be legible and rehabilitation notes must be included and rehabilitated areas highlighted. Full-size paper copies are therefore required.

See the section on *Formatting and Image Specifications (p. 28)* for more details.

Property Enhancement Award

The Property Enhancement Award recognizes aggregate operators who improve the aesthetics and overall appearance of their sites over time in seven key areas. Recipients of this award receive a multi-plate plaque consisting of a maximum of 7 plates that OSSGA refers to as *gold bars*. These *gold bars* recognize a company's achievement in meeting the property enhancement criteria for a specific site, within the following seven categories:

1. Entrance, Approach & Perimeter Screening
2. Office & Scalehouse Areas
3. Employee Areas
4. Plant Appearance
5. Environmental Controls
6. Trucks & Mobile Equipment
7. Communicative Signage

ELIGIBILITY

1. Site must be licensed under the *ARA*.
2. Applicants may apply for this award in multiple years until the plaque and all *gold bars* are achieved. The initial application must be for the plaque as a minimum. You may apply for any number, or all of the *gold bars* with your initial application or at any time in the future (this allows you to document the continued development of your operation) until all *gold bars* are received.
3. Once a site has earned the plaque and all seven (7) *gold bars*, it is important for that site to demonstrate an ongoing commitment to property enhancement if the site intends to apply for the Award of Excellence at some point in the future.

JUDGING CRITERIA

In addition to the eligibility criteria, the award application must demonstrate that all of the listed criteria below have been met in order for the applicant to receive the award. Judging will focus on the categories indicated by the applicant.

1. Format
2. Background
3. Entrance, Approach & Perimeter Screening
4. Office & Scalehouse Areas
5. Employee Areas
6. Plant Appearance
7. Environmental Controls
8. Trucks & Mobile Equipment
9. Communicative Signage

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS (PROPERTY ENHANCEMENT AWARD)

1. The application must specify plaque and/or the relevant categories being applied for.
2. The Minimum requirements for a plaque are:
 - All criteria with sections 1 and 2 (Format & Background) plus a minimum of one (1) criteria within each of the seven categories in sections 3 through 9.
3. The minimum requirements for gold bars are:
 - All criteria with sections 1 and 2 plus all criteria within the *gold bar* category/categories being applied for in sections 3 through 9.
4. If a particular criterion does not apply at the site, the application must explain why.
5. You should include photographs (preferably before & after) and descriptive text that identifies specific improvements that are being planned, underway or completed.

The Award’s criteria are organized within nine (9) sections:

1. FORMAT	
See <i>General Submission Requirements for all Applications (p.5)</i>	
2. BACKGROUND	
See <i>General Submission Requirements for all Applications (p.5)</i>	
3. ENTRANCE, APPROACH & PERIMETER SCREENING	
a. ENTRANCE & APPROACH	<p>The submission must address the appearance of the property entrance (i.e., neat and well maintained).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gate/fence – neat, tidy 2. Paved entrance – curbs, ditches 3. Berms – plantings, maintenance 4. Landscaping – flowers, shrubs, planter boxes 5. Decorative materials – flags, stone walls 6. Company sign
b. PERIMETER SCREENING	<p>The submission must address the appearance of the property from the nearest neighbour or public road. The proper use of berms, fences and tree screens should be highlighted</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Berms 2. Tree screens 3. Fences 4. Any other MNRF-approved screen, please specify

4. OFFICE & SCALEHOUSE AREAS	
a. EXTERIOR	<p>The submission must address the exterior appearance of the structures (i.e., neat and well maintained).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Landscaping – flowers and shrubs 2. General outdoor housekeeping 3. Building - well maintained
b. INTERIOR	<p>The submission must address the interior appearance of the structures (i.e., neat and well maintained).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. General housekeeping 2. Improvements

5. EMPLOYEE AREAS	
a. EXTERIOR	<p>The submission must address the exterior appearance of the facilities designed to heighten employee morale.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Landscaping – flowers, shrubs 2. Decorative materials – flags, stone walls 3. Additional facilities (i.e., outdoor picnic area)
b. INTERIOR	<p>The submission must address the interior appearance of the facilities designed to heighten employee morale.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. General housekeeping – maintained on a regular basis 2. Lunch areas 3. Change rooms 4. Lockers

6. PLANT APPEARANCE	
a. STATIONARY PROCESSING EQUIPMENT	<p>The submission must address the appearance of the equipment and create a comprehensive plan for general maintenance. To be described separately from on-site portable equipment.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Regular maintenance plan 2. Landscaping – plantings 3. Traffic controls 4. Periodic painting plan 5. Neat and safe

<p>b. PORTABLE PROCESSING EQUIPMENT</p>	<p>The submission must address the appearance of the equipment and create a comprehensive plan for general maintenance. To be described separately from stationary equipment.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Regular maintenance plan 2. Traffic controls 3. Periodic painting plan 4. Neat and safe
<p>c. APPEARANCE OF ACTIVE MINING AREA</p>	<p>The submission must address the elements of maintaining a neat and safe operation.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Floor – crowned and graded 2. Face – trimmed and safe 3. Landscaping – adjacent rehabilitated areas are sloped and seeded 4. Dust control – water or other approved substance 5. Sump appearance
<p>d. APPEARANCE OF INACTIVE MINING AREA</p>	<p>The submission must address the elements of maintaining a neat and safe operation.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Floor – crowned and graded 2. Face – trimmed and safe 3. Landscaping – adjacent rehabilitated areas are sloped and seeded
<p>e. OTHER STRUCTURES</p>	<p>The submission must address the appearance of all support buildings not directly related to the processing operation (i.e., garages, welding shops, equipment storage, etc.).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pump house – identified with signage, neat, well maintained and secured (i.e., locked) 2. Maintenance shop – identified with signage, neat, well maintained and secured 3. Fuel/oil storage facilities – identified with signage, neat, well maintained and secured 4. Screen storage – identified with signage, neat, well maintained 5. Welding shop – identified with signage, neat, well maintained and secured 6. Any other facilities – identified with signage, neat, well maintained and secured
<p>f. TRASH/SCRAP CONTROL</p>	<p>The submission must address the elements of a neat and safe operation.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Trash/scrap areas – neat and orderly 2. Disposal plan for retired equipment 3. Disposal plan for other materials

7. ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROLS	
a. DUST CONTROLS	<p>The submission must address the use of control systems to suppress dust.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. At the plant entrance 2. On the haul/access roads 3. At the stockpiles 4. At the processing plant 5. In the mining areas
b. MONITORING	<p>The submission must address the use of monitoring devices and enclosures.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Water (quality and quantity) – monitoring details 2. Noise – monitoring details and/or the use of deflectors 3. Vibration – monitoring details 4. Equipment enclosures
c. EROSION CONTROLS	<p>The submission must address the use of erosion control techniques and systems.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Drainage ditches – clear, litter free, culverts in good shape 2. Landscaping – ground cover and grasses to protect from erosion 3. Rip-rap – no slumping, filter cloths covered 4. Settling ponds/sediment control
d. REDUCE, RE-USE & RECYCLE	<p>The submission must address the techniques used within the facility at the areas listed below.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Processing area 2. Maintenance facility (shop) 3. Employee areas – lunch room, scale house

8. TRUCKS & MOBILE EQUIPMENT	
<p>Trucks are an important extension of an aggregate operation. Care and maintenance of trucks is an extremely critical element in building and maintaining the company’s image as a good neighbour.</p>	
a. COMPANY OWNED HIGHWAY TRUCKS	<p>The submission must address the use and appearance of trucks on-site (broker owned trucks are to be described separately). Prime areas of consideration include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Appearance 2. Maintenance 3. Movement on-site 4. Evidence reminding truckers of their responsibilities to the general public, such as signs, posters and handouts 5. Driver awareness program

<p>b. BROKER OWNED HIGHWAY TRUCKS</p>	<p>The submission must address the use and appearance of broker/independently owned trucks on-site (company owned trucks are to be described separately). Describe the policies implemented by your brokers. Prime areas of consideration include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Appearance requirements 2. Maintenance requirements 3. Movement on-site 4. Evidence reminding truckers of their responsibilities to the general public, such as signs, posters and handouts 5. Driver awareness program
<p>c. COMPANY OWNED MOBILE EQUIPMENT</p>	<p>The submission must address the use and appearance of the mobile equipment.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Appearance 2. Maintenance 3. Movement on-site
<p>d. BROKER OWNED MOBILE EQUIPMENT</p>	<p>The submission must address the use and appearance of the mobile equipment.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Appearance 2. Maintenance 3. Movement on-site

9. COMMUNICATIVE SIGNAGE

The submission must address the use of appropriate signage (i.e. purpose, visibility, location and clarity).

1. Building locations – employees and guests
2. Check-in signs – where guests should check-in
3. Protective equipment – hard hats, safety boots, and ear protection
4. Traffic directions – directional arrows and speed limits
5. WHMIS and safety – stations, procedures
6. Operational signs – blasting, danger and/or no trespassing

NOTE

1. Images must be bright and/or clear enough to discern what is being described.
2. Images should be labelled and accompanied by a description of what the image portrays by either referencing the photo in the body of the text or providing a descriptive caption.

See the section on *Formatting and Image Specifications (p.28)* for more details.

Outstanding Achievement in Property Rehabilitation

The Outstanding Achievement in Property Rehabilitation Award is designed to recognize achievements in rehabilitation over and above what is required by provincial legislation. New research and design into rehabilitation techniques demonstrates that rehabilitated pits and quarries can be successfully transformed into a variety of land uses that were previously considered “difficult”. For instance, above average crop yields (based on township averages) are common in rehabilitated aggregate sites, and former quarries can be rehabilitated to create biologically diverse and ecologically healthy wetlands.

The Award submission, in addition to review by the OSSGA Awards Review Panel, will be circulated to two outside experts that will assess the site and determine its success relative to other lands in the region that are being used for similar purposes.

For example, if the site has been rehabilitated to agriculture, an expert from the Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs, and a local farm representative may be asked to review the Award submission and provide comments.

ELIGIBILITY

1. Sites can be either licensed under the *ARA* or surrendered (*note, if your site has been surrendered for 5 years or more you may wish to consider applying for the Bronze Plaque Award*).
2. The applicant that carried out the rehabilitation must be a current member of OSSGA.
3. Progressive rehabilitation and final rehabilitation are eligible, and must be completed.
4. Demonstration of the following:
 - a. Compatibility with the surrounding landscape;
 - b. Site design and rehabilitation that goes above and beyond the requirements of the *ARA*;
 - c. Planned and/or ongoing site management (applicable to natural and maintained environments).
5. Applicant must notify OSSGA by June 1st of their intention to apply for the award, so that OSSGA may arrange for experts to visit the site in the fall for an evaluation.

JUDGING CRITERIA

Judging will be completed in two phases.

Phase one: In addition to the eligibility criteria, the award application must demonstrate that all of the listed criteria below have been met in order for the applicant to receive the award.

1. Format
2. Background
3. Objectives
4. Photographs
5. Site Plan
6. Rehabilitation

Phase two: The Award submission will be circulated to two outside experts that will assess the site and determine its success relative to other lands in the region that are being used for similar purposes. The outside experts will have expertise in the field related to the rehabilitated land use and will provide the review panel with a signed letter of evaluation.

The experts will evaluate the rehabilitation based on the site plan rehabilitation notes and their expertise and provide OSSGA with a letter summarizing their findings. Regardless of whether the rehabilitation qualifies for the award or not, experts may also make recommendations for improvement within the body of their letter.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS (OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN PROPERTY REHABILITATION)

The Award’s criteria are organized within six (6) sections:

1. FORMAT	See <i>General Submission Requirements for all Applications (p.5)</i>
2. BACKGROUND	See <i>General Submission Requirements for all Applications (p.5)</i>
3. OBJECTIVES	A brief paragraph stating the objectives of the rehabilitation plan and its compatibility with the surrounding landscape (i.e., agriculture, naturalization, side slopes, compliance, shoreline creation, etc.).
4. PHOTOGRAPHS	Photographs (before and after) of the final rehabilitation including a caption describing the image. Pictures taken in the summer (vs. the fall or winter), capturing maturing vegetation are preferable.
5. SITE PLAN	A full-size paper copy of the final rehabilitation page of the site plan(s). If there is a discrepancy from the site plan, supporting documentation is required indicating approval of the change.
6. REHABILITATION	<p>Details of the rehabilitation, (i.e., size of rehabilitated area; seeding, planting (species/density), fertilizing ratios; equipment used, timeframes; cut and fill side slopes; amount of overburden used; cliff face design; pond edge details; topsoil thickness and volume; use of stumps/logs; use of deep ripping; etc.).</p> <p>Specific details of the rehabilitated property that demonstrate that the property goes above and beyond what is required for rehabilitation under the ARA. (i.e., demonstration of planned and/or ongoing site management & “measurable” indicators of success such as yield improvement, increased biodiversity, etc.)</p>

NOTE

1. Images must be bright and/or clear enough to discern what is being described.
2. Images should be labelled and accompanied by a description of what the image portrays by either referencing the photo in the body of the text or providing a descriptive caption.
3. Include dates (month/year) of rehabilitation.
4. Site plans must be legible and rehabilitation notes must be included. Full-size paper copies are therefore required.

See the section on *Formatting and Image Specifications (p. 28)* for more details.

Environmental Achievement Award

The Environmental Achievement Award recognizes the efforts of individual operators who have proactively and successfully developed and implemented industry-leading policies, programs or projects that protect and/or improve the environment.

For the purposes of this award, environment refers to natural heritage including: air, land, water, flora and fauna and ecological systems.

ELIGIBILITY

Site must be licensed under the *ARA*.

1. The environmental policy/program/project should be proactive (i.e., initiated by the applicant as opposed to something that is required by a regulatory agency to address basic environmental compliance).
2. Site specific rehabilitation, property improvement and community relations activities are given separate awards by the OSSGA, and, on their own, are not eligible for this award. However, environmental policy/program/projects that incorporate rehabilitation/property improvement or community relations as part of their overall programs or projects may be considered.

EXAMPLES

Following is a list of examples of policies/programs/projects that would be eligible for OSSGA's Environmental Achievement Award:

- Waste reduction (includes energy, resources and product waste);
- Efficiency improvements which can be linked to environmental protection/conservation (i.e., reconfiguring a process to reduce material flows that result in a reduction of energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions);
- Reduction in environmental impacts or discharges to the environment (i.e., reduced noise and/or dust emissions);
- Enhanced protection of the environment (i.e., protection of water, soil, species at risk);
- Stewardship of environmental features;
- Enhanced environmental performance through education and awareness program(s) and/or incentive program(s); and,
- Conservation of renewable and non-renewable resources.

JUDGING CRITERIA

In addition to the eligibility criteria, the award application must demonstrate that all of the listed criteria below have been met in order for the applicant to receive the award.

1. Format
2. Purpose
3. Planning
4. Objectives
5. Implementation
6. Background
7. Proactive Action
8. Goals
9. Exceeding Requirements
10. Ongoing Commitment

SUBMISSION CRITERIA (ENVIRONMENTAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD)

The Award criteria are organized within ten (10) sections:

1. FORMAT	See <i>General Submission Requirements for all Applications (p.5)</i>
2. BACKGROUND	See <i>General Submission Requirements for all Applications(p.5)</i>
3. PURPOSE	Explain how the environmental policy/program/project meets the purpose of protecting or improving the environment, include supporting information and photographs, where appropriate.
4. PROACTIVE ACTION	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe how and why the environmental policy/program/project was conceived, i.e., what potential environmental issue(s) does it address. 2. Describe how the applicant responded proactively to the potential environmental issue, problem or concern.
3. PLANNING	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe the planning process used to develop the environmental policy/program/project. 2. Describe how the policy/program/project was communicated and promoted internally and externally.
3. GOAL(S)	Identification of the goal of the policy/program/project.
4. OBJECTIVES	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe the measurable objectives developed for the policy/program/project and how success is defined. 2. Describe how the policy/program/project contributed to the protection or improvement of the environment, i.e., how the policy/program/project was monitored, and a demonstration that the policy/program/project was successful.
3. EXCEEDING REQUIREMENTS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe how the policy/program/project exceeds industry standards and regulatory requirements. 2. Describe how the policy/program/project compares with or exceeds industry best practices
3. IMPLEMENTATION	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe how the policy/program/project was implemented 2. Identify any other awards or community/organizational recognition received for the policy/program/project, and provide supporting evidence.
3. ONGOING COMMITMENT	Describe proposed future action(s) that advance the goal(s) and objectives of the policy/program/project.

NOTE

1. Images must be bright and/or clear enough to discern what is being described.
2. Images should be labelled and accompanied by a description of what the image portrays by either referencing the photo in the body of the text or providing a descriptive caption.

See the section on *Formatting and Image Specifications (p. 28)* for more details.

Biodiversity Award

The Biodiversity Award recognizes industry leaders who go well beyond the standard practices and typical activities undertaken by members of the industry to conserve biodiversity. Eligible entries will include industry-leading policies, programs or projects that align with the goals of *Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy, 2011*.

Biodiversity is the variety of life on Earth. It includes all living things and the ways in which they interact with one another and their environment. Simply put, biodiversity is life.

The purpose of this award is to raise public awareness by recognizing aggregate producers for their contribution to sustaining biodiversity through various means such as (but not limited to) species protection, habitat improvement and sustainable land use activities.

ELIGIBILITY

- Project must be submitted by an OSSGA Active Member for a site licensed under the *ARA*
- Project must demonstrate support of one or more of the following strategic directions of the Ontario Biodiversity Strategy, 2011: **Engaging People; Reducing Threats; Enhancing Resilience and Improving Knowledge.**
- The policy/program/project should be proactive (i.e., initiated by the applicant as opposed to something that is required by a regulatory agency to address basic environmental compliance). Projects that were initiated due to legal compliance will also be considered if they demonstrate action that goes above and beyond the basic legal requirement. (e.g. Legal requirement was the catalyst for a larger initiative).

INFORMATION RESOURCE

For more information about Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy, 2011: Renewing Our Commitment to Protecting What Sustains Us, go to: ontariobiodiversitycouncil.ca/reports

JUDGING

This award will be judged by members of provincial environmental, non-government organizations (ENGOS) including members of the Ontario Biodiversity Council. In addition to the eligibility criteria, the award application must demonstrate that all of the listed criteria below have been met in order for the applicant to receive the award.

1. Format & Background
2. Description of Undertaking
3. Goals & Objectives
4. Implementation
5. Ongoing Commitment

SUBMISSION CRITERIA (BIODIVERSITY AWARD)

The award's criteria are organized within five (5) sections:

1. FORMAT AND BACKGROUND	See <i>General Submission Requirements for all Applications (p.5)</i>
2. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Briefly describe your policy/program/project and how it positively impacts Ontario's biodiversity by increasing, enhancing or maintaining biodiversity. 2. Describe how and why the undertaking was conceived, and what goals and objectives or concerns it is intended to address. (Is it part of a Biodiversity Action Plan, a Corporate Social Responsibility program or was the company approached by a community action group, NGO or Government Agency?). 3. Provide an explanation of how the undertaking's impacts on Ontario's biodiversity are or will be monitored, measured, promoted and/or communicated (internally/externally).
4. GOALS & OBJECTIVES	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify how your undertaking supports one or more of the 4 strategic directions provided in the framework of <i>Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy, 2011</i>. ontariobiodiversitycouncil.ca/reports 2. Specifically: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Engage People b. Reduce Threats c. Enhance Resilience d. Improve Knowledge 3. Describe the measurable objectives developed for the biodiversity undertaking and how success is defined. Reference how these objectives support the Key Actions in <i>Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy, 2011</i>. 4. Describe how the undertaking exceeds regulatory requirements and operational standards/best practices for the aggregate industry.
5. IMPLEMENTATION	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe the specific actions taken to implement the undertaking. Include supporting information and photographs where appropriate. 2. Describe how the undertaking was successful based on the monitoring, measuring, promoting and/or communicating. 3. Indicate whether the undertaking received other awards or recognition from the community or other organizations. Provide supporting documentation which may include letters of recommendation etc.
4. ONGOING COMMITMENT	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe proposed future actions that further the goals and objectives of the undertaking. 2. Describe legal or operational commitments implemented to give the project longevity.

NOTE

1. Images must be bright and/or clear enough to discern what is being described.
2. Images should be labelled and accompanied by a description of what the image portrays by either referencing the photo in the body of the text or providing a descriptive caption.

See the section on *Formatting and Image Specifications* (p. 28) for more details.

Bronze Plaque Award

Established in 1975, the Bronze Plaque Award is the most prestigious award given by OSSGA and is reserved for sites that are truly outstanding examples of rehabilitation of pits and quarries in Ontario. Any member of the public can submit an Award application for consideration.

KEY DATES

Application submission:	Any time of year.
Annual Conference Announcement:	Late February, annually.
On-site Award Ceremony:	To be determined in consultation with the award recipient.

IF YOU WIN

OSSGA will notify the award winner following the approval from the OSSGA Board of Directors and an announcement will be made during the Industry Recognition Award ceremony at the next Annual Conference held in late February. There will also be an award ceremony that takes place on-site at the award winning property, the details of which will be arranged with the award recipient.

In consultation with the award recipient, OSSGA will supply the main plaque with a secondary title plate and will arrange to have it installed on a rock or other permanent feature at the award winning site in advance of the ceremony.

The on-site ceremony is intended to be a public event to showcase the rehabilitation. Typically invitations are sent to the local MPP, the local Mayor and Council, neighbours, stakeholders, OSSGA members and local media.

JUDGING

The application will be reviewed by the OSSGA Rehabilitation Committee which is comprised of aggregate producers and consultants with expertise in the area of rehabilitation of pits and quarries. If the application meets all of the criteria, the application will be judged by the awards panel committee which make a recommendation to the OSSGA Board of Directors.

ELIGIBILITY

1. The licence/permit for the property has been surrendered for at least five years (in case of sites that were finished extracting before 1971, a licence or permit may not exist).
2. Demonstration of the following:
 - a. Compatibility with the surrounding landscape;
 - b. Outstanding site design and rehabilitation; and,
 - c. Outstanding ongoing site management (applicable to both natural and maintained environments).
3. The aggregate producer that created the original excavation does not have to be a member of OSSGA now, or in the past.
4. It is not a requirement that all of the rehabilitation be completed by the aggregate producer.

JUDGING CRITERIA

In addition to the eligibility criteria, the award application must demonstrate that all of the listed criteria below have been met in order for the applicant to receive the award.

1. Format
2. Background
3. History
4. Community

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS (BRONZE PLAQUE AWARD)

The Award's criteria are organized within four (4) sections:

1. FORMAT	See <i>General Submission Requirements for all Applications (p.5)</i>
2. BACKGROUND	See <i>General Submission Requirements for all Applications (p.5)</i>
3. HISTORY	<p>Include information with respect to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The life of the operation (i.e. number of years licensed or in production). 2. Year the licence was surrendered. 3. The operator of the site. 4. Types of materials produced (i.e., major projects the site may have provided raw materials for, and the market area). 5. Any awards the site may have won during its operation (e.g. industry awards or community recognition awards). 6. Any environmental/planning/enforcement issues associated with the site during its operating years and how they were addressed. 7. Details of the rehabilitation techniques. 8. Details of subsequent changes that occurred to the site (i.e. additional buildings, houses, etc.). 9. Unique qualities of the site. 10. Current owner (s) of property and current zoning of the site. 11. Current partnerships (government, municipal, or community groups). 12. Details of public access to the site if applicable (i.e., a road or a walking trail, etc.)
13. COMMUNITY	<p>A written letter of endorsement that conveys that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The site is viewed by the municipality as a benefit to the community. 2. The community recognizes the site's contribution both as a rehabilitated site and as a supplier of aggregate.

NOTE

1. Images must be bright and/or clear enough to discern what is being described.
2. Images should be labelled and accompanied by a description of what the image portrays by either referencing the photo in the body of the text or providing a descriptive caption.
3. Include dates (month/year) of rehabilitation.

See the section on *Formatting and Image Specifications* (p. 28) for more details.

Associate Member of the Year Award

The Ontario Stone, Sand & Gravel Association has established an Associate Member of the Year Award to recognize the efforts of associate members who advise, supply and support aggregate producers, maintaining productive relationships with those producers and the communities in which they operate. These associate members play an important role in shaping the image of the aggregate industry in Ontario.

Aggregate producers don't operate without seeking advice from experts in the field. They rely on associate members for planning, blasting, heavy equipment, engineering expertise and more. Our association is fortunate to have a great assortment of associate members who are able to provide strong support to our industry.

The Associate Member of the Year Award is intended to recognize one person employed by an associate member company which, during the course of the year has shown active involvement and dedication to the aggregate industry in Ontario and to OSSGA.

Nominations for this award may be submitted by any active member of OSSGA, and must detail the way(s) in which the nominee is deserving of the award. The nomination form can be found at ossga.com/associate_award

ELIGIBILITY

1. The nominating member must have been an OSSGA active member for a period of no less than one year from the date the nomination is received.
2. Nominee should be active within the association. This can include, but is not limited to being involved on committees and attending association seminars and events.
3. Nominees should have made a contribution to the industry in some demonstrable way. This could mean developing a new product or service that filled a need within the industry, going above and beyond to try to help solve a problem within the industry, performing outstanding service on OSSGA committees, representing the industry to various levels of government, or volunteering time with community groups and events to protect the image of our industry within the communities in which our members operate.

JUDGING CRITERIA

The winner will be determined by objectively weighing the merits of each nomination.

4. Note

1. Images must be bright and/or clear enough to discern what is being described.
2. Images should be labelled and accompanied by a description of what the image portrays by either referencing the photo in the body of the text or providing a descriptive caption.

See the section on *Formatting and Image Specifications* (p. 28) for more details.

Formatting and Image specifications

IMAGES/PHOTOS

High resolution photos are required for sharp reproduction in our publications; otherwise the printing quality is very poor. **Pictures should be taken at the highest resolution setting on the camera.**

1. Your images should adequately convey the project, activity or feature for qualification purposes.
2. Images must be bright enough to discern what is being described when printed.
3. Where appropriate, images should be labelled with numbers and or captions, this helps the judges to match the text with the photo and understand what is being described.
4. For rehabilitation photos, please include the date (month/year) in the caption. Also, take before and after shots from the same perspective and location so a true comparison can be seen.
5. At least one high resolution digital image must be sent electronically for use in presentations and/or publications that follows these specifications:
 - a. .jpeg, GIF, TIFF;
 - b. 600x800 pixels or larger;
 - c. 1MB or greater;
 - d. Colour;
 - e. Representative of the site and award being applied for;
 - f. Name each image file as follows: yourCompany_sitename_imagedescription.

SITE PLAN(S)

For rehabilitation related awards, site plans must be legible and rehabilitation notes must be included. Full size paper copies are therefore required.

ELECTRONIC FORMAT OF AWARD APPLICATION

1. PDF;
2. Colour;
3. Submitted via: <https://ossga.com/awardentry>
4. Name each file: yourCompany_sitename_awardname.

INQUIRIES

Applications and inquiries may be directed to:

<p>Ashlee Zelek Director, Environment & Sustainability Tel: (647) 727-8778 Cell: (416) 315-3916 azelek@ossga.com</p>	<p>Mailing Address: Ontario Stone, Sand & Gravel Association (OSSGA) 5720 Timberlea Blvd., Suite 103 Mississauga, ON L4W 4W2</p>
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