

BEING A GOOD NEIGHBOUR

An aggregate operation plays an important role in the local economy and the community. Aggregate producers strive to be good neighbours.



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Expansion of our urban areas and increased rural development has lead to many more people living in close proximity to aggregate operations.

Aggregate producers are committed to being good neighbours within the communities that they operate.

Communication

Aggregate producers have open door policies and encourage communication with their host communities. Open dialogue is achieved through one-on-one communication, industry/community liaison groups and open houses.

Education

Aggregate producers enjoy hosting tours of their operations – from elementary and high school students, to college and university students, community groups, and government agencies. Topics discussed include:



Scouts planting seedlings at an open house

environmental stewardship, rehabilitation techniques, geology, aggregate processing, resources management, career planning, and the importance of aggregate resources.

The Ontario Stone, Sand & Gravel Association (OSSGA) and its members are proud supporters of the Mining Matters program - an earth science educational program for grades 4 and 7 students which is operated by the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC).

Community Involvement

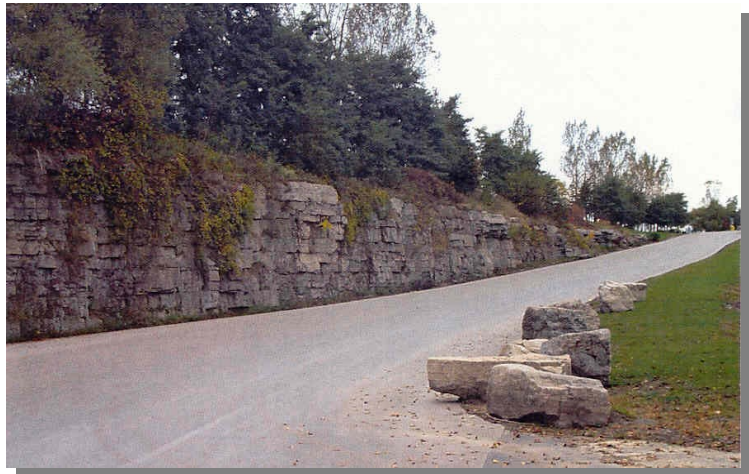
Aggregate producers get involved in their host communities in a variety of ways, such as:

- sponsoring local teams and groups
- participating in service clubs
- hosting community events
- sponsoring community initiatives and special events



Visual Enhancement

Aggregate operations are screened using attractive berms, trees, and landscaping. OSSGA presents property enhancement awards to members that put extra effort into making their operations attractive.



Dust Control

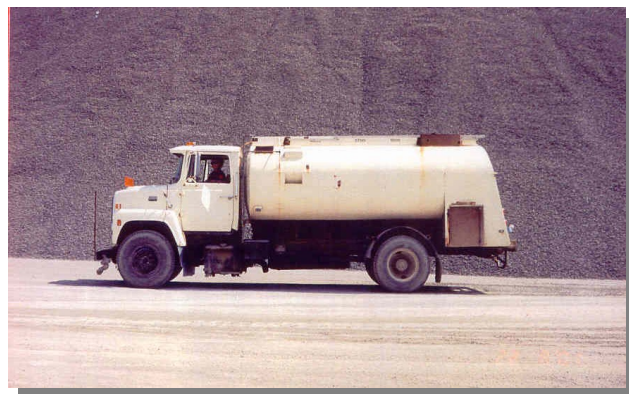
Dust is one of the byproducts of aggregate extraction and processing. Dust levels must be monitored annually according to Ministry of Environment (MOE) regulations. The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) requires that dust be mitigated on site.

To minimize dust, aggregate operators:

- Collect or control dust through the use of dust enclosures on processing equipment
- Spray water or approved dust suppressants on internal haul roads, processing equipment, stockpiles
- Revegetate worked out areas quickly according to progressive rehabilitation plans
- Create berms and tree screens to reduce wind carrying dust off site



Berm and tree screens reduce dust distribution



Water trucks are used to control dust

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Noise and Vibration

Noise and vibration levels must be below provincial guidelines. Noise and vibration can be suppressed in a number of ways:

- Using sound deadening materials such as rubber on processing equipment
- Ensuring that processing equipment is well maintained and equipped with effective mufflers
- Blasting is carried out by professionals and is designed to ensure that noise and vibrations are within provincially mandated limits (see About Aggregates #7, “Controlled Blasting at Quarries” for more information.)



Settling ponds are used to collect water for recycling

comply with the *Ontario Water Resources Act* and the *Environmental Protection Act* (see About Aggregates #8 “Groundwater at Pits and Quarries” for more information)

Water Management

The extraction and processing of aggregates is a clean process, it does not involve chemicals. Aggregate processing involves the careful management of water resources:

- Water used to wash aggregates is recycled on site
- Taking and discharging of water must

Also available in the “About Aggregates” series:

1. Aggregates and the Law
2. Bronze Plaque Award Program
3. Rehabilitation of Pits and Quarries
4. Being a Good Neighbour
5. Importance of Aggregates
6. Geology and Aggregate Extraction
7. Controlled Blasting at Quarries
8. Groundwater in the Aggregate Industry
9. Management of Abandoned Aggregate Properties Program (MAAP)



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