# CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENTS IN AGGREGATE



ONTARIO STONE, SAND & GRAVEL ASSOCIATION

2021 Industry Advancement & Student Design Awards

# **BIODIVERSITY**

The Biodiversity Award honours OSSGA members for their contribution to sustaining biodiversity through species protection, habitat improvement and sustainable land use activities. They are also recognized for conserving biodiversity in a way that goes well beyond regulatory standard practices and typical activities undertaken by the industry. Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy, 2011 was central to the development of the award criteria. Each eligible project must demonstrate support for one or more of the following strategic directions: engaging people, reducing threats, enhancing resilience, and improving knowledge.

#### Miller Aggregates - A Colas Company

Braeside Quarry Village of Braeside

Braeside Quarry has gone above and beyond to preserve a 26-hectare alvar forest as part of its expansion plans. In doing so, the Miller Group has secured the future of a rare forest that is rich in biodiversity and home to the world's largest population of Ram's Head Lady's Slipper, a native rare orchid.

Several monitoring plans have been designed to assess the edge of the protected area, habitat condition and keystone species (Ram's Head Lady's Slipper and Neglected Milk-Vetch). This involves taking photos along the edge of the protected area at pre-determined GPS points and reviewing them every five years to identify if the forest has been impacted by quarry operations, weather or invasive species. These findings are compiled into a Monitoring Progress Report that is produced four, eight, and 10 years following the initiative's start in 2016. At last check, no visible changes had occurred and both keystone species have retained significant populations.

The alvar forest preservation aligns with all four of the strategic objectives outlined in Ontario's 2011 Biodiversity Strategy. It engages people by conveying the importance of the alvar forest's diversity through community communications, speaking engagements, articles and tours. It also reduces threats through consistent monitoring, enhances resilience by going above minimum expansion protection measures, and improves knowledge by participating in monitoring and preservation efforts that will be studied for years to come.

Braeside Quarry plans to continue monitoring the forest and to share strategies with the industry. The team is also eager to support colleges, universities, botanists and other groups interested in researching the alvar forest.



# **A SPECIAL THANKS TO THE JUDGES**

The Industry Awards Review Panel was comprised of judges invited from outside the industry, including Darlene Dove, NDMNRF; Beth Anne Fisher, Conservation Halton; and Lisa Burnside, Hamilton Conservation Authority. They were supported by OSSGA members Kevin Fitzpatrick, WSP Canada Inc. and Danielle Solondz of the Ontario Aggregate Resources Corporation (TOARC).

The Biodiversity Award Review Panel included Steve Hounsell, Ontario Biodiversity Council; Lynette Mader, Ducks Unlimited Canada; and Ron Reid, Couchiching Conservancy. The Student Design Award Review Panel was comprised of members of OSSGA's Rehabilitation and Ecology Committees: George Antoniuk, The Miller Group; Kevin Fitzpatrick, WSP Canada Inc.; Steven May, CBM Aggregates; and Adam Nordfors, LGL Limited.

# **COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

The Community Relations Award recognizes those who have demonstrated leadership in promoting good neighbour relations, community involvement, education, and industry awareness.

#### Lafarge Canada Inc. - A Member of Holcim

#### Uxbridge Regan Pit Township of Uxbridge

In 2020, Lafarge's Uxbridge Regan Pit received OSSGA's Biodiversity Award. This year, the 182-hectare site was honoured with a Community Relations Award for its extensive noise and dust-mitigating measures, including extensive site maintenance and the use of various technologies, natural elements and best practices to minimize disturbances.

The Uxbridge Regan Pit has also made an impact in its community. Recently, it donated materials and services towards the construction of the new Uxbridge Pump Track and Skate Park and helped double the size of the town's Walker Woods Trail parking lot by donating recycled aggregate and project support. Elsewhere, the team donated granular material and cash towards the construction of two storage containers for the Goodwood Community Centre.

Before the pandemic, the Uxbridge Regan Pit hosted tours for local school groups and organizations interested in its rehabilitation work on the Oak Ridges Moraine and it hopes to do the same when pandemic conditions improve.





### Walker Aggregates Inc.

#### Duntroon Quarry Township of Clearview

This is Duntroon Quarry's eleventh Community Relations Award, which recognizes the site's efforts to mitigate the impacts of its operations. Those efforts include extensive noise and blast monitoring, using covers on equipment and transfer points to reduce dust, watering roads and stockpiles to limit dust generation, and employing a retired police officer to oversee on-site traffic.

The quarry was also spotlighted for its community outreach. In 2021 it donated more than 650 tonnes of stone and screening to the Highlands Nordic Cross Country Ski Centre for a biathlon range, as well as stone for projects at the Great Northern Exhibition (Collingwood Agricultural Society) and the Love of Brian Farm Sanctuary in Meaford. Additionally, Duntroon Quarry sponsored the OHA Stayner Siskins Junior C Hockey Club, and Walker Aggregates made a sizable cash donation to the Hospice Georgian Triangle Foundation. These activities and more are communicated via a biannual newsletter and the Walker Aggregates website.

### Walker Aggregates Inc.

#### McGregor Quarry Town of Amherstburg

Walker Aggregates' McGregor Quarry has earned seven consecutive Community Relations Awards for its multifaceted community relations approach. This includes on-site efforts to uphold traffic safety and reduce the noise and dust from its operations through the use of natural elements, equipment upgrades and technologies, and daily road and site maintenance.

While several of the quarry's community relations events (e.g., summer barbecue, site tours, etc.) were put on hold because of the pandemic, McGregor Quarry spent 2021 donating 185 tonnes of screenings to the Windsor-Essex Therapeutic Riding Association for the creation of a new accessible pathway. It also provided financial support to the Amherstburg Unifor Local for the union's Social Justice and Paid Education Leave funds, and continued sponsoring several golf charity tournaments.

McGregor Quarry maintained constant contact with its community during the pandemic through feedback channels, its community newsletter, and updates on the Walker Aggregates website.





# Walker Aggregates Inc. Ridgemount Quarries

Town of Fort Erie

Ridgemount Quarries takes its role in the community to heart. It employs various technologies (e.g., Explotech) and maintenance activities to reduce noise and dust and is committed to collecting and acting on neighbour feedback. As a world-famous location for fossilized sea scorpions, the quarry also hosts tours for school groups and paleontologists, but curtailed these activities during the pandemic.

Donations are key to Ridgemount Quarries' community relations. In 2021, it gave 1,500 tonnes of screenings to the Heartland Forest Nature Experience to help create accessible pathways. It also provided financial support to the Greater Fort Erie Centre for the Arts and donated 70 tonnes of stone to Habitat for Humanity to support a house build in Welland. Beyond this, Walker Industries gave \$100,000 to the Niagara Health Foundation as part of its \$500,000 commitment towards purchasing a new MRI machine, and it also extended support to Brock University and the Friends of Laura Secord.

### Walker Aggregates Inc.

#### Severn Quarry Township of Severn

Noise, dust and traffic-calming measures make up only part of Severn Quarry's strategy for building a strong community reputation. Other measures include supporting numerous local organizations through material and financial contributions. In 2021, for example, the quarry provided nearly 105 tonnes of 24-inch armour stone towards the construction of the Wiidookdaadiwin Lookout in Minesing and 46 tonnes of stone to help the Washago Lions Club expand its clubhouse parking lot. Additionally, the quarry hosts two runways for use by the local model airplane club.

Severn Quarry is also known for hosting year-round community events. These include tours for various groups (e.g., Georgian College students), PLC summer barbecues, and Holiday PLC Wine and Cheese Receptions. These activities were cancelled because of COVID-19 but are set to return when it is safe to do so. Quarry updates are regularly communicated to neighbours via phone calls, a biannual newsletter and the Walker Aggregates website.



# **COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

### Walker Aggregates Inc.

#### Sutherland Quarry Township of Georgian Bluffs

Sutherland Quarry's philanthropy was on full display in 2021. It donated 36 tonnes of stone and services to help build a playground at the Hibou Conservation Area and gave aggregate material and machine time (with operator) towards Owen Sound's Outdoors Adventures group's stream and habitat enhancement initiative at the Upper Sydenham River. Elsewhere, the quarry donated cement blocks to a resident whose house was damaged by a tornado, and machinery and manpower to help clear a crevice in the Niagara Escarpment during the search for a missing woman.

Beyond this, Walker Aggregates made a sizable cash donation to the Bruce Peninsula Hospitals Foundation and sponsored both the Owen Sound Salmon Spectacular fishing derby and the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Grey Bruce Golf Tournament. The quarry also supported Owen Sound's Festival of Northern Lights, 2021 Walk for OSHaRE (Owen Sound Hunger and Relief Effort), and a virtual Canada Day celebration.





# Walker Aggregates Inc.

Vineland Quarry and Crushed Stone Town of Lincoln

The team at Walker Aggregates' Vineland Quarry and Crushed Stone works diligently to maintain a high reputation in its community. Beyond monitoring the noise and vibration levels of its blasts via Explotech, it conducts daily dust-control measures and employs a retired police officer to enforce traffic safety. Neighbours are contacted before blasts and complaints are logged to inform continuous improvements.

The quarry is equally committed to building its community. In 2021, it gave 10 tonnes of stone to Habitat for Humanity's Fonthill ReStore for site improvements, and quarry volunteers joined other Walker staff to plant trees and grasses for shoreline stabilization along Twelve Mile Creek as part of the Niagara Chapter of Trout Unlimited Canada's Bring Back the Brookies initiative. Furthermore, Walker provided financial support to the Pelham Community Centre, the children's area of the West Lincoln Public Library, and the West Lincoln Arena & Community Centre.

#### Walker Aggregates Inc.

#### Walker Brothers Quarries Town of Stamford (Niagara Falls)

Walker Brothers Quarries' twelfth Community Relations Award recognizes its daily strategies to mitigate the impacts of its blasting operations and keep its roads safe. The award also acknowledges the quarry's communications strategy, which leverages newsletters, direct neighbour contacts and social media messaging to stay connected with the community.

The pandemic prompted the cancellation of several on-site events but did not stop the Walker Brothers team from supporting local initiatives. They donated nearly 126 tonnes of stone and screening for walking trails at the Merrittville site of Pathstone Mental Health in Welland, and over 108 tonnes of recycled asphalt to the Small Scale Farms community food hub. Cash donations were also made to the Pelham Community Centre and Coldest Night of the Year winter walk in Niagara Falls. Additionally, quarry volunteers partnered with Walker Industries staff to clean up public spaces in Niagara Falls during Walker Brothers' annual Day of Action on Litter event.



# **PROGRESSIVE REHABILITATION**

The Progressive Rehabilitation Award recognizes the ongoing efforts of individual operators to progressively rehabilitate their sites in accordance with their site plans.

### Jennison Construction -A Colas Company

#### Clinton Pit Municipality of Clinton

Since 2012, Clinton Pit has executed a largescale Woodland Rehabilitation and Restoration Plan at its site. Its goal is to establish a climax forest woodland community via ecological restoration and to maintain the interior forest habitat and diversity functions of forested patches while minimizing the loss of these functions on the property. Approximately 10,200 cubic metres of forest soils have been removed during various phases of extraction and used to cover rehabilitated portions of the site at average depths of 30 centimetres. Today, rehabilitated portions of the land already feature different tree species (e.g., black cherry, red oak and white pine) as well as shrub and ground cover species (e.g., staghorn sumac and goldenrod).



# **CBM Aggregates - A Division of Votorantim Cimentos**

Eramosa Pit Township of Eramosa

This is the first rehabilitation award for the Eramosa Pit. It recognizes the final steps taken to return the pit's 19.10 hectares of licensed land to agricultural use, a project that began back in 2008. The final stage took place in 2021 and targeted 9.6 hectares of land. An excavator and D8 dozer were used to trim and fill the rehabilitation site's deeper depressions, and then nearly 50,000 cubic metres of materials were moved to create an agricultural base of 35 centimetres of overburden and 15 centimetres of topsoil. After trimming and contouring, the site was then seeded with a cover crop of oats and an underplanting of grass-legume mix in summer 2021.



# **CBM Aggregates - A Division of Votorantim Cimentos**

#### Shelter Valley Pit Township of Alnwick/Haldimand

Shelter Valley Pit earned its first Progressive Rehabilitation Award for its success in transforming the extraction faces around its east and south perimeter and a portion of the floor into a naturalized forested area. The rehabilitation targeted 3.05 hectares of land and was completed in fall 2019. It required the placement of 3,000 cubic metres of overburden to obtain a 3:1 slope at the east face and grading the pit floor with 2,500 cubic metres of overburden. The slopes and floors were covered with six to eight inches of topsoil, and the site was seeded with a mix of native grasses such as big bluestem, little bluestem, poverty oat grass, forbes butterfly milkweed and hoary vervain. In May 2021, 500 trees were also planted by the Northumberland Tree Planters.



# **PROGRESSIVE REHABILITATION**

# Lafarge Canada Inc. A Member of Holcim

#### Point Anne Quarry Township of Thurlow

From 2009 to 2020, Point Anne Quarry has been rehabilitating its south and west faces, which total approximately 7.3 hectares. The work has required depositing 245,000 cubic metres of overburden and topsoil material over the rehabilitation area and grading it to a 3:1 slope to minimize the erosion of the site's heavy clay overburden material. Additional grading of the slope was also performed before seeding to ensure the slope had no rills or erosion gullies. Once ready, Lafarge crews used a broadcast spreader to fertilize and seed the entire rehabilitation area with a mix comprised of Kentucky bluegrass, creeping red fescue, intermediate ryegrass, annual ryegrass, and perennial ryegrass.

### Lafarge Canada Inc. A Member of Holcim

#### Tanner Pit Township of Perth South

September 2021 marked the conclusion of Tanner Pit's rehabilitation project, which encompassed approximately 18.35 hectares of land. Its goal was to rehabilitate former extraction areas to natural features. Work included applying three to four inches of topsoil to the nature area and edges of the pond, and then the areas were seeded to prevent erosion, stabilize the slopes, and promote revegetation in the coming years. Tanner Pit also received a Progressive Rehabilitation Award in 2007 and 2019 for its long-running initiative.

# Lafarge Canada Inc. - A Member of Holcim & Dufferin Aggregates - A CRH Company

#### McMillan Pit Township of Puslinch

The 7.8 acres of land that McMillan Pit rehabilitated between 2018 and 2021 is part of the site's mission to turn former extraction areas into a pond area with stable slopes and shallow shorelines with natural features. The eastern and southern sides were sloped at 2:1 and up to 10:1, respectively, using a Dragline Liehbherr 895 on top of the berm that dredged the excess overburden and cast it into the pond – a technique used to mitigate the caving risks associated with sloping near water. Topsoil was then applied to an average thickness of 60 centimetres and seeding was performed at various times throughout the year, using a native mix of creeping red fescue, Kentucky bluegrass, perennial ryegrass, annual ryegrass and white clover.







# **PROGRESSIVE REHABILITATION**

### **Huron Construction - A Colas Company**

Harwich Pit Township of Harwich

From March 1985 to March 2020, Harwich Pit crews were hard at work rehabilitating 48.39 hectares of land into a parcel of farmland, complete with farming fields, hedgerows and a large pond as its focal point. Highlights of the work included using granular material to berm up the water's edge and installing a two-metre gravel edge between the berm and topsoil to prevent erosion and runoff. The result is a lush parcel of land with new vegetation and wildlife, including hundreds of birds that have made Harwich a stop on their migratory route. Thanks to these efforts, the site was successfully prepared for its new owners, who took possession in November 2021.



# Miller Paving Limited - A Colas Company

Boyington Pit 3 Township of Uxbridge

This is Boyington Pit 3's first Progressive Rehabilitation Award. It recognizes the pit's work from April to November 2021 to return 12 hectares of land to agricultural production and work with the local agricultural community to re-establish the productivity of the soils. This included sloping the pit faces in two areas to closely mimic the naturally occurring topography of the farmland area. The initiative involved 300 hours of dozer grading for 60,000 cubic metres of overburden and fine sands to help shape the target areas and applying 35,000 cubic metres to depths between eight inches and one foot to support agricultural use of the pit floors. Corn, soybean and wheat crops were then planted and harvested in later months.



### Walker Aggregates Inc.

#### Ridgemount Quarries Town of Fort Erie

A total of 8.07 hectares of land have been rehabilitated at Ridgemount Quarries since 2020 with the goal of creating a new lake for recreational and natural activities. Work on the northeast portion of the site was conducted from February to September 2021 and included creating and seeding temporary berms and adding clay fill to the lake floor in the southwest section. The northeast section has also been naturalized and seeded with grasses and wildflowers. Given the plans to create a lake, less than one hectare of the rehabilitated area has received overburden, consisting mostly of clean fill. A D8 dozer and CAT 836 packer were used to shape the berms and push, shape and pack the 2:1 side sloping.



# **PROPERTY ENHANCEMENT**

The Property Enhancement Award recognizes operational best practices at a site's entrance, approach and perimeter screening, office and scale house areas, employee areas, plant appearance, environmental controls, truck and mobile equipment, and communicative signage. Sites that initially meet the minimum requirements in each of the aforementioned sections are awarded a plaque. Site operators are then provided with an opportunity to win a "gold" bar for each section by meeting the comprehensive list of criteria for each. There are a total of seven "gold" bars that can be achieved.











#### CBM Aggregates - A Division of Votorantim Cimentos

Osprey Quarry Township of Osprey

Plaque

Gold Bars:

• Office & Scale House Areas, Plant Appearance, Environmental Controls, Trucks & Mobile Equipment, Communicative Signage

# Lafarge Canada Inc. - A Member of Holcim

Oro Pit Township of Oro-Medonte

Gold Bars:

• Plant Appearance, Trucks & Mobile Equipment

#### Miller Aggregates - A Colas Company

Patterson Quarry Township of Stephenson Gold Bar:

Plant Appearance

#### Miller Paving Limited - A Colas Company

#### Picton Quarry Township of Sophiasburgh

Plaque

Gold Bars:

• Entrance, Approach & Perimeter Screening, Office & Scale House Areas, Employee Areas, Plant Appearance, Environmental Controls, Mobile Equipment, Communicative Signage







E.C. King Contracting -

A Colas Company

• Entrance, Approach & Perimeter Screening, Communicative Signage

#### **R.W.** Tomlinson

#### Brechin Quarry Township of Carden

Gold Bars:

• Plant Appearance, Environmental Controls, Trucks & Mobile Equipment, Communicative Signage

#### **R.W.** Tomlinson

#### Napanee Quarry Township of Fredericksburg

Plaque Gold Bar: • Communicative Signage

#### Walker Aggregates

Sutherland Quarry Township of Georgian Bluffs

Plaque

- Gold Bar:
- Entrance, Approach & Perimeter Screening, Office & Scale House Areas, Employee Areas, Communicative Signage



# **SAFETY INNOVATION**

In 2020, OSSGA introduced the Safety Innovation Award, which recognizes innovative practices, programs and projects in Ontario's aggregate industry. The award honours innovations that improve the health and safety of employees, subcontractors and the public in the areas of OHS management systems, health and safety training, wellness programs and culture.

# WINNER

### CRH Canada Group Inc. Dufferin Aggregates

Flamboro Quarry

**Project Name: Headbox Modification** 

Project Team: Joint Health & Safety Committee, Amar Khan, Dale Arnold, Paul Sardella, Odette Palis, Neil Woodcock

The innovation came about when the JHSC team discussed concerns regarding clearing material jams from the headbox. The usual procedure involved climbing onto the belt to access the headbox. The team at the Flamboro Quarry worked with Sovereign Fusion to engineer a solution that allowed workers to access the jam in the headbox safely by adding a lockable gate. Through Safe Work Procedure review and collaboration with the JHSC, a common Working at Heights risk was eliminated while ultimately improving plant performance and efficiencies.



# **HONOURABLE MENTIONS**

### 1) CRH Canada Group Inc. Dufferin Aggregates

#### Flamboro Quarry

Project:

Installation of additional platforms with guardrails to the fines screen platform to eliminate working at heights risk.

### 2) CRH Canada Group Inc. Dufferin Aggregates

#### Millcreek Pit

Project:

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Implementation of an electric belt cutter as a safer replacement for knives for cutting/splicing conveyor belts and rubber skirting.

### 3) CRH Canada Group Inc. Dufferin Aggregates

#### **Teedon Pit**

Project:

Installation of a hand railing to allow employees to access the flume chute safely, avoiding working at heights.

### 4) CRH Canada Group Inc. Dufferin Aggregates

#### **Teedon Pit**

Project:

Improved traffic flow and avoiding truck lineups by relocating overload area, creating a dedicated tarping area, and relocating parking area to prevent pedestrians from walking into traffic.

# **STUDENT AWARDS**

The Student Design Competition recognizes the most innovative and impressive designs for the rehabilitation of a former pit or quarry. This year, students were challenged to create site plans for Walker Aggregates' Vineland Quarries & Crushed Stone in Vineland, Ontario



#### The Cornerstone 1st Place (\$3,000)

School: Fanshawe College Team: Rayne Jones and Matthew Litwinchuk

This first-place winner this year is Fanshawe College, whose entry attempts to sow deeper connections between local Indigenous and farming communities while introducing an interactive natural space for visitors across the region.

Called the Cornerstone, the design envisions a "mosaic quilt of land" comprised of visitor amenities, cultural facilities and income-generating crops. Highlights include a rich, natural heritage system with an amphitheatre, Indigenous garden, Christmas village, corn maze, apple orchards, vineyard, wagon ride paths and rehabilitated forests.

The master plan also includes a LEED Certified Centre of Excellence at the entrance to the site. This net-zero facility will utilize solar energy technology and be a hub for Indigenous programs, agricultural practices, environmental teachings and community events.

These features and more will be connected via a network of walking trails and lookouts. Additionally, a 0.46-km boardwalk will provide visitors with the opportunity to get within steps of the Cornerstone's water features, which will be home to a variety of endangered and threatened species.

"The Cornerstone's views will leave you wanting to return as soon as possible," the team states in its submission. "With so much to do, and so many trails to hike, it's not hard to find yourself getting 'lost' in the site's wonders."

Sustainability and preservation are at the heart of the Cornerstone's vision. The



master plan details several strategies for conserving and revitalizing the quarry's natural heritage ecosites while incorporating manmade and natural features that will encourage Indigenous teachings and practices. The site itself will be kept viable through an emphasis on agri-tourism, as well as attractions that will draw visitors throughout the year.

"The site will serve the existing community as a cultural and agricultural hotspot, while tying back to its agricultural roots by creating agritourism activities for all to utilize while living, working and playing," the team declares.



#### RE-Sanctuary 2nd Place (\$1,500)

### School: Fanshawe College Team: Benjamin Calderon, Chantal Doyon, Alex Jackman

Renewal, reconnection and reverence for Indigenous culture are central themes within RE-Sanctuary, this year's second-place Student Design winner. The Fanshawe College team delivers a plan to breathe new life into the impacted landscape by creating ecosites, establishing wildlife habitats and curtailing invasive species. At the same time, RE-Sanctuary honours the site's Indigenous heritage through the envisioning of facilities and cultural spaces designed in partnership with the local Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) Nation.

This student design sees a greener future for the quarry. It outlines numerous rehabilitation and habitat creation efforts that will increase on-site vegetation by 84 per cent, up from the site's original 16 per cent. Plans include creating aquatic and wildlife habitats, as well as supporting the growth of a dry-fresh sugar maple-beech deciduous tree forest, mineral cultural meadow, dry-fresh oak-hickory deciduous forest, bedrock meadow marsh, shallow marsh and open alvar. These ecosites will share the space with rental cabins and walking trails that will encourage visitors to experience a slice of RE-Sanctuary for themselves.

"These amenities will engage the local community to further their understanding of healthy ecosystems and will contribute to the micro-economy of the region," the plan suggests.

Elevating this design is its focus on preserving and celebrating the site's Indigenous history. In it are plans to collaborate with the Indigenous community on the development of an Indigenous Museum and Ecological Education Centre, a modern facility that will host public and corporate events and house opportunities to learn and participate in Indigenous practices. These practices include native seed harvesting, which will take place throughout RE-Sanctuary's life and be incorporated into the site's restorative process.

#### Re-Source Eco-Centre Honourable Mention (\$900)

#### School: Fanshawe College Team: Jayme Hudyma, Emily Hurtubise, Cole Taylor

This runner-up entry transforms the Vineland Quarry into a focal point for eco-awareness and education. In so doing, it lays out plans to create a thriving ecosystem that will host a variety of agricultural and recreational uses.

Nature reigns supreme in the Re-Source Eco-Centre's design. It expands the site's existing Carolinian forest, supports a maple-beech forest in the north, creates a vineyard in the upper east portion, installs an apiary to the west, and fosters land and water habitats throughout. Visitors will also have a chance to tour and take in these natural features via boardwalks, trails, informative signage and outdoor seating made from locally sourced wood.

"The trail will create a welcoming and engaging atmosphere in a naturalized setting as the site progressively moves through the stages of regrowth," the Fanshawe College team notes in its submission.

True to its name, the rejuvenated site will feature an Eco-Centre that offers unique views of the surrounding water bodies and ecosites. It will also serve as a hub for eco-education and awareness.

Speaking to the overall philosophy behind its Re-Source Eco-Centre, the team writes, "With the growing demand for multipurpose infill projects, this rehabilitation and revitalization plan will serve as an excellent source for education, engagement, experience and economic development."





#### Rejuvita Honourable Mention (\$900)

#### School: Fanshawe College Team: Roydan Carmichael, Haylee Hallema

An Honourable Mention also goes to Rejuvita, a comprehensive rehabilitation plan that sees the Vineland Quarry reborn as a site for eco-rejuvenation, wildlife protection and the preservation of Indigenous teachings and practices.

Plans for the site include rehabilitating the soil and expanding the Carolinian forest by 65.7 acres through tree planting programs. It also involves developing a 7.21-acre snake habitat along the western edge, as well as a meadow marsh, shallow marsh and mineral cultural meadow.

"Meadows attract a variety of animals and provide habitat for flora and fauna that would not be able to survive in other ecosystems," the masterplan explains. "They are ecologically significant because they provide locations for animal courting displays, nesting, food collection, pollinating insects and, if vegetation is high enough, sheltering."

Another notable highlight includes Rejuvita's planned fruit field, where visitors will be able to stroll among cherry, apple and peach trees. The field will also be rented out to generate revenue for the site.

Rejuvita's natural features will be tied together by an extensive trail system that will grant visitors views of the wildlife, habitats and water features. Along the way, visitors will learn more about the environment through educational stations that will offer information on the land and its inhabitants. Educational and reconciliation buildings will also support Indigenous teachings and practices.

"The whole site is focused on creating a space where people can interact with nature," the team explains in its submission. "[It will] create a space where physical exercise is encouraged as well as environmental education."