
**INDUSTRY
RECOGNITION
AWARDS**



Program Guide



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OSSGA INDUSTRY AWARDS RECOGNITION PROGRAM

PURPOSE

The Ontario Stone, Sand & Gravel Association (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: November 6, 2026

Award presentation: OSSGA's conference and AGM, held annually in February

OSSGA INDUSTRY RECOGNITION AWARDS BOOKLET

A booklet will be published as an insert in OSSGA's Avenues magazine featuring the winners. The magazine will be made available to delegates of the OSSGA annual conference and annual general meeting (AGM) and sent to OSSGA's mailing list, which includes members, MPPs and municipalities. An online 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 and AGM, please contact [Alexandria Fisher](#).

THE ONTARIO STONE, SAND & GRAVEL ASSOCIATION AWARDS WEBSITE

For award descriptions, information on past winners and to download this document, visit [the website](#).

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
7. Net Zero
8. Capstone

EXPLANATORY NOTE

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**, which recognizes exemplary efforts in rehabilitation for aggregate sites with their licence surrendered for a minimum of five 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 the environmental performance of the site and the surrounding environment.

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.

The **Judges' Choice Award** recognizes the best submission received in the category of progressive rehabilitation.

The **Associate Member of the Year Award** is meant to recognize contributions to OSSGA and the aggregate industry by a member who is not an aggregate producer.

OSSGA's **Net Zero Award** recognizes practices, programs, projects and partnerships that contribute to climate neutrality in Ontario's aggregates industry.

The **Capstone Award** is established to recognize outstanding individuals from active member organizations who have dedicated their careers to advancing Ontario's aggregate industry.

OSSGA also has a **health and safety awards program**; further information about this program can be found [online](#).

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 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 raise public awareness of the great work Ontario aggregate producers do. Notably, in the past, MPPs 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 online
- 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 three judges. The judging teams vary by award category. For the **Award of Excellence** and the three subcategory awards, OSSGA invites judges from outside the industry to complete the judging, while 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 mix of associate members with environmental expertise and at least one judge from outside the industry. The **Outstanding Achievement in Rehabilitation Award** is judged by a 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, which then makes a recommendation to the OSSGA board of directors. The winner of the **Associate Member of the Year Award** is determined by the OSSGA board of directors.

ELIGIBILITY

1. The company submitting the award must be an OSSGA active member and the owner and/or operator of a licensed aggregate site for the following awards:
 - a. Award of Excellence
 - b. Community Relations Award
 - c. Progressive Rehabilitation Award
 - d. Property Enhancement Award
 - e. Outstanding Achievement in Rehabilitation
 - f. Environmental Achievement Award
 - g. Biodiversity Award
 - h. Associate Member of the Year Award
 - i. Net Zero Award
2. Non-member companies and organizations are eligible to apply for the Bronze Plaque Award.
3. Poor-quality images or incomplete applications may disqualify a submission.
4. 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 presentations 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 and 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 and site history.
4. A list of OSSGA awards previously received, including the year (contact OSSGA if you are unsure).
5. An electronic copy of the award application in PDF format is to be submitted via OSSGA's [website](#).
 - a. NOTE: Video of award submissions may be considered only if they include all the required information.
 - b. *See the section on formatting and image specifications (p.27) for more details.*
6. Copies of one or more good-quality, high-resolution digital photographs in JPEG or TIFF format, to be forwarded electronically and suitable for media releases and awards publications. Photos must be representative of the award being applied for.

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

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

The OSSGA's Award of Excellence recognizes member operators' past and ongoing commitment to industry improvement. The award is given to operators whose individual operations have previously received 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:
 - i. Community Relations Award
 - ii. Progressive Rehabilitation Award
 - iii. Property Enhancement Award (plaque and all 7 gold bars)
2. The company must be able to demonstrate an ongoing 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 ago, updated photographs and descriptions are required for: property enhancement, showing that areas continue to be maintained and noting any additional improvements; progressive rehabilitation, showing that rehabilitation is ongoing; and current community relations activities.

JUDGING CRITERIA

In addition to the eligibility criteria, the award application must demonstrate that all of the criteria listed below have been met 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 into six sections:

1. FORMAT	See general submission requirements for all applications (p.5)
2. BACKGROUND	See General Submission Requirements for all Applications (p.5)
3. PROPERTY ENHANCEMENT	Describe in words, using supporting photographs, all seven sections of the Property Enhancement Award, using current information that demonstrates an ongoing commitment to property enhancement. (Updated photographs and text for all criteria in each category are required.)
4. PROGRESSIVE REHABILITATION	Describe in words, using supporting photographs, the area(s) that received the Progressive Rehabilitation Award, using current images that show the progression of the rehabilitation. (Updated photographs and text for all criteria in each category 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 upgrading and development activities have remained an important part of the company's commitment to the site since the original awards were received.

NOTE

1. Images must be bright and clear enough to show what is being described.
2. Images should be labelled and include a description of what they show, either by referencing the photo in the body of the text or by providing a descriptive caption.

See the section on formatting and image specifications (p.28) for more details.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS AWARD

OSSGA has established a Community Relations Award to recognize aggregate operators who proactively build and maintain strong relationships with the communities surrounding their sites. The image of the aggregate industry is shaped by the neighbours who live in the areas where OSSGA members operate.

Being a good neighbour is as much a part of an aggregate operation as extraction and rehabilitation. The Community Relations Award is presented to companies that have earned the respect of nearby residents by consistently making innovative contributions to their communities. This includes using various forms of communication to educate neighbours about the aggregate industry in general, as well as activities at the local operation.

ELIGIBILITY

1. Site must be licensed under the *ARA*.
2. The site must proactively communicate with neighbours and the surrounding community to educate them about the aggregate industry in general, as well as the local operation.
3. Examples must be from within two years of the application.

JUDGING CRITERIA

In addition to meeting the eligibility criteria, the award application must show that all of the following requirements have been met 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 into six sections:

1. FORMAT	See general submission requirements for all applications (p.5)
2. BACKGROUND	See general submission requirements for all applications (p.5)
3. NEIGHBOUR RELATIONS	Describe, with supporting photographs, how the company is acting as a good neighbour in relation to the following common public concerns: • Noise • Dust • Traffic (specifically the interaction with off-site traffic at entrances and exits) • Other (please specify)
4. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT	Describe how the company and its employees contribute to the community, using supporting photographs.
5. COMMUNICATION TOOLS	Describe how the company uses publications, such as its website, media coverage, posters, email, announcements and door-to-door visits, to communicate with neighbours and the public about the aggregate industry in general, as well as the site. Include supporting photographs. Describe how the company communicates with its employees about the aggregate industry in general, as well as the site.
6. EDUCATION	Describe how the company educates its neighbours and the broader public to raise awareness of the aggregate industry in general, as well as the local operation.

NOTE

1. Images must be bright and clear enough to show what is being described.
2. Images should be labelled and include a description of what they show, either by referencing the photo in the body of the text or by providing a descriptive caption.
3. Include the date (month and year) of each event or communication.

See the section on formatting and image specifications (p.28) for more details.

RECOGNITION IN PROGRESSIVE REHABILITATION AND JUDGES' CHOICE AWARDS

OSSGA's Recognition in Progressive Rehabilitation highlights the efforts of individual operators who progressively rehabilitate their sites in accordance with approved site plans.

The Judges' Choice Award is presented to the best example or examples of progressive rehabilitation from among all applications submitted for a Progressive Rehabilitation Award.

ELIGIBILITY

1. The site must be licensed under the *ARA*, or be within 24 months of surrendering its licence. *Special consideration may be given to a member company completing progressive rehabilitation in partnership with a First Nation-owned site.*
2. The area of progressive rehabilitation must be at least one hectare, or a cumulative area of one hectare achieved over time by combining multiple smaller rehabilitated sections. Sites with an extractable area of nine hectares or less will receive special consideration if the cumulative area of completed progressive rehabilitation equals at least 10 per cent of the extractable area.
3. The rehabilitated area must be completed, sloped and seeded and show that self-sustaining vegetation has been established or that one year has passed since seeding. Areas where only soil movement for sloping or grading has occurred are not eligible for the award.

JUDGING CRITERIA

In addition to meeting the eligibility criteria, the award application must show that all of the following requirements have been met for the applicant to be considered for 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 or examples of progressive rehabilitation from among all applications. The selected entry or entries will receive special recognition at the Annual Industry Recognition Awards ceremony.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS (PROGRESSIVE REHABILITATION AWARD)

The award's criteria are organized into six sections:

1. FORMAT	See general submission requirements for all applications (p.5)
2. BACKGROUND	See general submission requirements for all applications (p.5)
3. OBJECTIVES	Describe the objectives of the rehabilitation plan. For example, agriculture, naturalization, side slopes, compliance or shoreline creation.
4. PHOTOGRAPHS	Include before-and-after photographs of the rehabilitated area or areas. Each photo should be labelled and accompanied by a description of what it shows, either by referencing it in the body of the text or by providing a descriptive caption. Photos taken in summer or fall, when vegetation is more mature, are preferred.
5. DETAILS	Describe the technical details of the rehabilitation, including all applicable elements listed below: • Size of the extractable area • Size of the rehabilitated area(s) (must be at least one hectare, or 10 per cent of the extractable area for smaller sites) • Seeding and planting ratios • Equipment used • Time frames (include dates) • Type of rehabilitation (e.g., cut-and-fill side slopes, floor) • Amount of overburden used • Topsoil thickness • Pond edge design details • Cliff face design • Use of stumps or logs • Use of deep ripping • Other relevant technical details
6. SITE PLAN	Include a full-size paper copy of the rehabilitation page from the licensed site plans. This must include rehabilitation notes and highlight the area or areas that were rehabilitated, demonstrating that the work was completed in accordance with the approved site plans. If there is any discrepancy from the site plan, supporting documentation must be provided to show that the change was approved.

NOTE

1. Images must be bright and clear enough to show what is being described.
2. Each image should be labelled and accompanied by a description of what it shows, either by referencing it in the body of the text or by providing a descriptive caption.
3. Include the date (month and year) of each rehabilitation activity.
4. Site plans must be legible, include rehabilitation notes and clearly highlight the rehabilitated areas.

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 receive a multi-plate plaque featuring up to seven plates, referred to by OSSGA as “gold bars.” These gold bars represent a company’s achievement in meeting the property enhancement criteria for a specific site across the following seven categories:

1. Entrance, approach and perimeter screening
2. Office and scale house areas
3. Employee areas
4. Plant appearance
5. Environmental controls
6. Trucks and mobile equipment
7. Communicative signage

ELIGIBILITY

1. The site must be licensed under the ARA. *Special consideration may be given to a member company completing property enhancement in partnership with a First Nation-owned site.*
2. Applicants may apply for this award in multiple years until the plaque and all seven gold bars have been earned. The initial application must include, at minimum, the plaque. Applicants may apply for any number, or all, of the gold bars with their initial submission or at any time in the future. This allows companies to document the continued development of their operation over time.
3. Once a site has earned the plaque and all seven gold bars, it must demonstrate an ongoing commitment to property enhancement if it intends to apply for the Award of Excellence in the future.

JUDGING CRITERIA

In addition to meeting the eligibility criteria, the award application must show that all of the following requirements have been met. Judging will focus on the categories identified by the applicant.

1. Format
2. Background
3. Entrance, approach and perimeter screening
4. Office and scale house areas
5. Employee areas
6. Plant appearance

7. Environmental controls
8. Trucks and mobile equipment
9. Communicative signage

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS (PROPERTY ENHANCEMENT AWARD)

1. The application must specify whether it is for the plaque and/or the relevant gold bar categories.
2. Minimum requirements for the plaque:
 - a. All criteria outlined in Sections 1 and 2 (format and background), plus at least one criterion from each of the seven categories in Sections 3 through 9.
3. Minimum requirements for gold bars:
 - a. All criteria outlined in Sections 1 and 2, plus all criteria within the gold bar category or categories being applied for in Sections 3 through 9.
4. If a particular criterion does not apply to the site, the application must include an explanation.
5. Include photographs, preferably before and after, along with descriptive text identifying specific improvements that are planned, underway or completed.

The award's criteria are organized into nine sections:

1. FORMAT	See general submission requirements for all applications (p.5)
2. BACKGROUND	See general submission requirements for all applications (p.5)
3. ENTRANCE, APPROACH AND PERIMETER SCREENING	
ENTRANCE AND APPROACH	The submission must address the appearance of the property entrance (i.e., neat and well maintained). 1. Gate/fence (neat and tidy) 2. Paved entrance (curbs and ditches) 3. Berms (plantings and maintenance) 4. Landscaping (flowers, shrubs and planter boxes) 5. Decorative materials (flags and stone walls) 6. Company sign
PERIMETER SCREENING	The submission must address the appearance of the property as viewed from the nearest neighbour or public road. It should highlight the effective use of berms, fencing and tree screens. 1. Berms 2. Tree screens 3. Fences Any other MNRF-approved screen, please specify.
4. OFFICE AND SCALE HOUSE AREAS	
EXTERIOR	The submission must address the exterior appearance of the structures (i.e., neat and well maintained). 1. Landscaping (flowers and shrubs) 2. General outdoor housekeeping

	3. Building well maintained
INTERIOR	The submission must address the interior appearance of the structures (i.e., neat and well maintained). 1. General housekeeping 2. Improvements
5. EMPLOYEE AREAS	
EXTERIOR	The submission must address the exterior appearance of the facilities designed to heighten employee morale. 1. Landscaping (flowers and shrubs) 2. Decorative materials (flags and stone walls) 3. Additional facilities (i.e., outdoor picnic area)
INTERIOR	The submission must address the interior appearance of the facilities designed to heighten employee morale. 4. General housekeeping, regular maintenance 5. Lunch areas 6. Change rooms 7. Lockers
6. PLANT APEARANCE	
STATIONARY PROCESSING EQUIPMENT	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. 1. Regular maintenance plan 2. Landscaping (plantings) 3. Traffic controls 4. Periodic painting plan 5. Neat and safe
PORTABLE PROCESSING EQUIPMENT	The submission must address the appearance of the equipment and create a comprehensive plan for general maintenance. To be described separately from stationary equipment. 1. Regular maintenance plan 2. Traffic controls 3. Periodic painting plan 4. Neat and safe

APPEARANCE OF ACTIVE MINING AREA	The submission must address the elements of maintaining a neat and safe operation. 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
APPEARANCE OF INACTIVE MINING AREA	The submission must address the elements of maintaining a neat and safe operation. 1. Floor (crowned and graded) 2. Face (trimmed and safe) 3. Landscaping (adjacent rehabilitated areas are sloped and seeded)
OTHER STRUCTURES	The submission must address the appearance of all support buildings not directly related to the processing operation (i.e., garages, welding shops and equipment storage). 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 and 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
TRASH/SCRAP CONTROL	The submission must address the elements of a neat and safe operation. 1. Trash/scrap areas (neat and orderly) 2. Disposal plan for retired equipment 3. Disposal plan for other materials
7. ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROLS	
DUST CONTROLS	The submission must address the use of control systems to suppress dust. 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

MONITORING	The submission must address the use of monitoring devices and enclosures. 1. Water (quality and quantity) monitoring details 2. Noise monitoring details and/or the use of deflectors 3. Vibration monitoring details 4. Equipment enclosures
EROSION CONTROLS	The submission must address the use of erosion control techniques and systems. 1. Drainage ditches (clear, litter free and culverts in good shape) 2. Landscaping (ground cover and grasses to protect from erosion) 3. Rip-rap (no slumping and filter cloths covered) 4. Settling ponds/sediment control
REDUCE, RE-USE AND RECYCLE	The submission must address the techniques used within the facility in the areas listed below. 1. Processing area 2. Maintenance facility (shop) 3. Employee areas (lunchroom and scale house)
8. TRUCKS AND MOBILE EQUIPMENT Trucks are a vital part of aggregate operations. Proper care and maintenance help uphold the company's image as a responsible neighbour.	
COMPANY-OWNED HIGHWAY TRUCKS	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: 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
BROKER-OWNED HIGHWAY TRUCKS	The submission must address the use and appearance of broker and independently owned trucks on site (company-owned trucks are to be described separately). Describe the policies your brokers have implemented. Prime areas of consideration include: 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

COMPANY-OWNED MOBILE EQUIPMENT	The submission must address the use and appearance of the mobile equipment. 1. Appearance 2. Maintenance 3. Movement on-site
BROKER-OWNED MOBILE EQUIPMENT	The submission must address the use and appearance of the mobile equipment. 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 and 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 AWARD

The Outstanding Achievement in Property Rehabilitation Award recognizes achievements in rehabilitation that go beyond what is required by provincial legislation. New research and design in rehabilitation techniques show that rehabilitated pits and quarries can be successfully transformed into a variety of land uses that were previously considered difficult.

For example, above-average crop yields (based on township averages) are common in rehabilitated aggregate sites and former quarries can be restored to create biologically diverse and ecologically healthy wetlands.

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

If the site has been rehabilitated for agriculture, for instance, an expert from the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness and a local farm representative may be asked to review the 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 who 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. Applicants must notify OSSGA by June 1 of their intention to apply for the award, so OSSGA can 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 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 who will assess the site and determine its success relative to other lands in the region used for similar purposes. The experts will have relevant expertise in the rehabilitated land use and will provide the review panel with a signed letter of evaluation.

They will evaluate the rehabilitation based on the site plan's rehabilitation notes and their own expertise and will provide OSSGA with a letter summarizing their findings. Regardless of whether the rehabilitation qualifies for the award, the experts may also include recommendations for improvement in their letter.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS (OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN PROPERTY REHABILITATION)

The award's criteria are organized into six sections:

1. FORMAT	See general submission requirements for all applications (p.5)
2. BACKGROUND	See general submission requirements for all applications (p.5)
3. OBJECTIVES	A brief paragraph outlining the objectives of the rehabilitation plan and its compatibility with the surrounding landscape. This may include elements such as agriculture, naturalization, side slopes, compliance, shoreline creation and other relevant land uses.
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	Before-and-after photographs of the final rehabilitation, each with a caption describing the image. Photos taken in summer, which capture maturing vegetation, are preferred over those taken in fall or winter.
6. REHABILITATION	Provide detailed information about the rehabilitation, including: • Size of the rehabilitated area • Seeding and planting (species and density) • Fertilizer application rates • 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 and logs Also include specific details that demonstrate how the rehabilitation goes above and beyond the requirements under the Aggregate Resources Act. This may include evidence of planned or ongoing site management and measurable indicators of success, such as improved crop yields or increased biodiversity.

NOTE

1. Images must be bright and clear enough to show what is being described.
2. Each image should be labelled and accompanied by a description, either referenced in the body of the text or provided as a caption.
3. Include the date (month and year) when rehabilitation took place.
4. Site plans must be legible and include rehabilitation notes. Full-size paper copies are required.

See the section on formatting and image specifications (p.28) for more details.

ENVIRONMENTAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Environmental Achievement Award recognizes individual operators who have proactively and successfully developed and implemented industry-leading policies, programs or projects that protect 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

1. The site must be licensed under the *ARA*.
2. The environmental policy, program or project should be proactive — initiated by the applicant rather than required by a regulatory agency to meet basic environmental compliance. An initiative developed in partnership with another organization, such as a research institution or non-governmental organization, may be eligible if it meets the judging criteria.
3. Site-specific rehabilitation, property improvement and community relations activities are recognized through separate OSSGA awards and, on their own, are not eligible for this award. However, environmental policies, programs or projects that incorporate these elements as part of a broader initiative may be considered.

SCOPE

The proactive environmental policy, program, project or partnership can be implemented at either the corporate or site level.

EXAMPLES

The following are examples of policies, programs, projects or initiatives that may be eligible for OSSGA’s Environmental Achievement Award:

- Waste reduction, including energy, resource and product waste
- Efficiency improvements linked to environmental protection or conservation (such as reconfiguring a process to reduce material flows, resulting in lower energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions)
- Reduction in environmental impacts or discharges (such as reduced noise or dust emissions)
- Enhanced protection of the environment (such as safeguarding water, soil or species at risk)
- Stewardship of environmental features
- Enhanced environmental performance through education and awareness programs or incentive programs
- Conservation of renewable and non-renewable resources
- Aggregate recycling initiatives
- Development of environmental management systems or environmental product declarations
- Excess soil initiatives

JUDGING CRITERIA

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

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Format | 6. Goals |
| 2. Background | 7. Objectives |
| 3. Purpose | 8. Exceeding requirements |
| 4. Proactive action | 9. Implementation |
| 5. Planning | 10. Ongoing commitment |

SUBMISSION CRITERIA (ENVIRONMENTAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD)

The award's criteria are organized into ten sections:

1. FORMAT	See general submission requirements for all applications (p.5)
2. BACKGROUND	See general submission requirements for all applications (p.5)
3. PURPOSE	Explain how the initiative protects or improves the environment. Include supporting information and photographs where appropriate.
4. PROACTIVE ACTION	1. Describe how and why the initiative was conceived, including the potential environmental issue or issues it aims to address. 2. Explain how the initiative proactively responded to the identified environmental issue, problem or concern.
5. PLANNING	1. Describe the planning process used to develop the initiative. 2. Explain how the initiative was communicated and promoted, both internally and externally.
6. GOAL(S)	Identification of the goal of the initiative.
7. OBJECTIVES	1. Describe the measurable objectives developed for the initiative and explain how success is defined. 2. Explain how the initiative contributed to protecting or improving the environment. Include details on how the policy, program, project or partnership was monitored and provide evidence demonstrating its success.
8. EXCEEDING REQUIREMENTS	1. Describe how the initiative exceeds standards and regulatory requirements. 2. Describe how the initiative compares with or exceeds industry best practices
9. IMPLEMENTATION	1. Describe how the initiative was implemented. 2. Identify any other awards or community/organizational recognition received for the initiative and provide supporting evidence.

10. ONGOING
COMMITMENT

Describe proposed future action(s) that advance the goal(s) and objectives of the initiative.

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 standard practices and typical industry activities to conserve biodiversity. Eligible entries must include industry-leading policies, programs or projects that align with the goals, targets and priority actions of Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy 2023–2030.

Biodiversity refers to the variety of life on Earth. It includes all living organisms and the ways they interact with one another and with their environment. Simply put, biodiversity is life. The purpose of this award is to raise public awareness by recognizing aggregate producers for their contributions to conserving, restoring and sustaining biodiversity through efforts such as species protection, habitat improvement and sustainable land-use practices.

ELIGIBILITY

1. The project must be submitted by an OSSGA Active Member for a site licensed under the ARA.
2. The project must support one or more of the strategic directions outlined in Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy 2023–2030: Empower people, reduce threats, enhance resilience, improve knowledge and transform investments.
3. The policy, program or project should be proactive; initiated by the applicant rather than mandated by a regulatory agency to meet basic environmental compliance. Projects initiated due to legal requirements may also be considered if they demonstrate actions that go above and beyond minimum legal standards, for example, when a legal requirement catalyzed a broader biodiversity initiative.

INFORMATION RESOURCE

For more information about Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy 2023–2030, visit the Ontario Biodiversity Council's [website](#) and review the strategy's targets, priority actions and supporting information.

JUDGING CRITERIA

This award will be judged by members of provincial environmental non-governmental organizations (ENGOS), including representatives from the Ontario Biodiversity Council. In addition to meeting the eligibility criteria, applicants must demonstrate that all judging criteria listed below have been met to be considered for the award.

1. Format and background
2. Description of undertaking
3. Goals and 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 general submission requirements for all applications (p.5)
2. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING	1. Briefly describe your policy, program or project and explain how it positively impacts Ontario's biodiversity by increasing, enhancing or maintaining biodiversity. 2. Describe how and why the initiative was conceived, including the goals, objectives or concerns it aims to address. Indicate whether it is part of a Biodiversity Action Plan, a Corporate Social Responsibility program, or if it was initiated through engagement with a community action group, Indigenous community or organization, nongovernmental organization, local stewardship group, academic partner, or government agency. 3. Explain how the initiative's impact on Ontario's biodiversity is or will be monitored, measured, promoted and communicated, both internally and externally.
3. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES	1. Identify how your undertaking supports one or more of the five strategic directions in Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy 2023–2030: a. Empower people. b. Reduce threats. c. Enhance resilience. d. Improve knowledge. e. Transform investments 2. Specifically, describe how the project aligns with relevant targets and priority actions in the strategy, such as: a. increasing biodiversity awareness, stewardship and participation, b. reducing habitat loss, invasive species, pollution or climate impacts, c. restoring degraded areas or improving connectivity,

	d. improving monitoring, reporting or the use of diverse knowledge systems, e. integrating biodiversity into planning, financing or decision-making. 3. Describe the measurable objectives developed for the biodiversity undertaking and how success is defined. 4. Describe how the undertaking exceeds regulatory requirements and operational standards or best practices for the aggregate industry.
4. IMPLEMENTATION	5. Describe the specific actions taken to implement the undertaking. Include supporting information and photographs where appropriate. 6. Describe how the undertaking was successful based on monitoring, measuring, promoting and/or communicating results. 7. If applicable, describe partnerships or collaborators.
5. ONGOING COMMITMENT	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 OSSGA's most prestigious honour, reserved for sites that are outstanding examples of pit and quarry rehabilitation in Ontario. Any member of the public may 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 approval by the OSSGA Board of Directors. An official announcement will be made during the Industry Recognition Awards ceremony at the next Annual Conference, held in late February.

An additional on-site ceremony will take place at the award-winning property. Details will be arranged in consultation with the recipient. OSSGA will provide the main plaque along with a secondary title plate and will coordinate its installation on a rock or other permanent feature at the site prior to the ceremony.

The on-site event is intended to be a public celebration showcasing the rehabilitation work. Invitations are typically extended to the local MPP, mayor and council, neighbours, stakeholders, OSSGA members and local media.

ELIGIBILITY

- 1. The licence or permit for the property must have been surrendered for at least five years. (For sites where extraction ended before 1971, a licence or permit may not exist.)
- 2. The site must demonstrate all of the following:
 - a. Compatibility with the surrounding landscape
 - b. Outstanding site design and rehabilitation
 - c. Exceptional ongoing site management, applicable to both natural and maintained environments
- 3. The aggregate producer responsible for the original excavation does not need to be a current or past member of OSSGA.
- 4. It is not required that all rehabilitation work be completed by the original aggregate producer.

JUDGING CRITERIA

The application will be reviewed by the OSSGA Rehabilitation Committee, which is made up of aggregate producers and consultants with expertise in pit and quarry rehabilitation. If the application meets all eligibility criteria, it will be evaluated by the Awards Panel Committee, which will make a recommendation to the OSSGA Board of Directors.

In addition to meeting the eligibility requirements, applicants must demonstrate that all judging criteria listed below have been satisfied in order to be considered for the award.

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

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS (BRONZE PLAQUE AWARD)

The award’s criteria are organized into four sections:

1. FORMAT	See general submission requirements for all applications (p.5)
2. BACKGROUND	See general submission requirements for all applications (p.5)

3. HISTORY	Please include the following details in your application: 1. Life of the Operation i. Number of years the site was licensed or in production. 2. Licence Surrender Date i. Year the licence was officially surrendered. 3. Operator Information i. Name of the operator responsible for the site during its active years. 4. Materials Produced i. Types of aggregate materials produced. ii. Major projects the site may have supplied. iii. Market area served. 5. Awards and Recognition i. Any industry or community awards received during the site's operation. 6. Environmental, Planning or Enforcement Issues i. Any issues encountered during the operating years and how they were addressed. 7. Rehabilitation Techniques i. Detailed description of the methods and practices used in site rehabilitation. 8. Post-Rehabilitation Changes i. Any subsequent developments on the site (e.g., buildings, homes, infrastructure). 9. Unique Site Qualities i. Distinctive features or characteristics of the site. 10. Current Ownership and Zoning i. Name(s) of current property owner(s). ii. Current zoning designation of the site. 11. Current Partnerships i. Any ongoing collaborations with government, municipal or community organizations. 12. Public Access i. Details of public access, if applicable (e.g., walking trails, roads, public amenities).
4. COMMUNITY	A written letter of endorsement that conveys that: 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 the date (month and year) when rehabilitation took place.

ASSOCIATE MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Associate Member of the Year Award was established by OSSGA to recognize the contributions of associate members who advise, supply and support aggregate producers, while maintaining strong relationships with both producers and the communities in which they operate. These members play a vital role in shaping the image of Ontario's aggregate industry.

Aggregate producers rely on associate members for expertise in areas such as planning, blasting, heavy equipment, engineering and more. OSSGA is fortunate to have a diverse group of associate members who provide essential support to the industry.

This award is intended to honour one individual employed by an associate member company who, over the course of the year, has demonstrated active involvement and dedication to both the aggregate industry in Ontario and to OSSGA.

Nominations may be submitted by any active OSSGA member and must clearly outline how the nominee has earned this recognition. The nomination form can be found on the OSSGA [website](#).

ELIGIBILITY

1. The nominating member must have been an active OSSGA member for at least one year prior to the date the nomination is received.
2. The nominee should be actively involved in the association. This may include participation on committees, attendance at OSSGA seminars and events, or other forms of engagement.
3. The nominee must have made a demonstrable contribution to the aggregate industry. Examples include:
 - a. Developing a new product or service that addresses an industry need
 - b. Going above and beyond to help solve a problem within the industry
 - c. Providing outstanding service on OSSGA committees
 - d. Representing the industry to various levels of government
 - e. Volunteering with community groups or events to help protect and promote the industry's image within local communities

JUDGING CRITERIA

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

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.

NET ZERO AWARD

Aggregates are essential to achieving carbon neutrality and play a key role in reducing the industry's carbon footprint. They contribute to greener energy supply and use, support site restoration for climate change adaptation and promote the circular economy.

OSSGA's Net Zero Award recognizes practices, programs, projects and partnerships that advance climate neutrality in Ontario's aggregate industry. The award honours member companies that contribute to OSSGA's goal of aligning with Ontario's 2050 carbon neutrality policy. It also promotes members' efforts both within the industry and to the broader public.

ELIGIBILITY

OSSGA member companies are eligible to submit entries. A company may submit more than one project, including projects from different divisions. Any initiative implemented from the year prior up to the submission date is eligible for consideration.

The following are examples of projects that may be eligible for OSSGA's Net Zero Award:

- Switching to grid supplied electricity
- Fleet conversions and upgrades
- Switching from mobile equipment to conveyors for material transport
- Increased energy efficiency of processing equipment
- On-site renewable energy
- Use of lower carbon alternative fuels
- Carbon capture through land management/restoration
- Innovation in aggregate recycling
- Blast optimization to reduce processing time
- Upgrades to on-site buildings to reduce heating and cooling energy needed

JUDGING CRITERIA

Entries may be judged by members of OSSGA's Awards and Environment Committees, as well as independent experts from the aggregate industry. Judges will evaluate submissions based on the following criteria:

1. Format and background
2. Project objectives
3. Project implementation
4. Measurable project results

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS (NET ZERO AWARD)

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

1. FORMAT AND BACKGROUND	See general submission requirements for all applications (p.5)
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2. PROJECT OBJECTIVES	Describe the project objectives
3. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION	Describe how the project was implemented
4. MEASURABLE PROJECT RESULTS	Provide measurable results on how the project contributed to the aggregates industry achieving net zero

CAPSTONE AWARD

The Capstone Award was established to recognize outstanding individuals from active member organizations who have dedicated their careers to advancing Ontario's aggregate industry. These individuals have played a significant role in shaping the province's infrastructure, communities and the success of the sector through leadership, service and innovation.

ELIGIBILITY

To be considered for the award, nominees must meet the following criteria:

- **Membership Status**
The nominee must be a current or former member of OSSGA in good standing. Nominees must be living at the time of nomination.
- **Industry Experience**
The nominee must have contributed to the aggregate industry for a minimum of **30 years**.
- **Impact and Contribution**
The nominee must have demonstrated a **direct and significant positive impact** on the aggregate industry in Ontario or on OSSGA as an association.

JUDGING CRITERIA

Nominees will be assessed based on the following:

1. **Support for OSSGA Objectives**
Demonstrated alignment with and support for OSSGA's mission, vision and strategic goals over the course of their professional career.
2. **Industry Leadership and Innovation**
A proven record of leadership, innovation and advancement within the aggregate industry.
3. **Business or Professional Excellence**
Significant accomplishments and sustained success in their business or professional career.
4. **Community Involvement**
Active participation in charitable, civic or local economic initiatives, showcasing commitment beyond the workplace.

NOMINATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

- **Nominations**
OSSGA will invite nominations from the general membership, board of directors and staff members.
- **Reconsideration of Nominations**
Nominees not selected in a given year may be reconsidered in future years.
- **Selection**
The Awards Committee will confirm the nominees who will be submitted to the Board of Directors for final selection approval.
- **Optional Annual Award**
The award is not required to be given annually; it shall be awarded at the discretion of the board, based on the merit of submissions received.
- **Award Presentation**
The recipient(s) will be presented with a physical award at the OSSGA Annual Conference in February. In addition, a short video highlighting the accomplishments of each award winner will be created.

SUBMISSION / NOMINATION REQUIREMENTS (CAPSTONE AWARD)

- A written **biography (maximum 1,000 words)** clearly demonstrating how the nominee meets the award criteria.
- A **high-resolution photograph** of the nominee suitable for publication and display.
- Cooperation in creating a short video of inductee should they be successful.

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, which 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 and 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 or 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 through the OSSGA [website](#)
- 4. Name each file: yourCompany_sitename_awardname.

INQUIRIES

Applications and inquiries may be directed to:

Alexandria Fisher Senior Director, Environment & Sustainability Cell: (416) 315-3916 Email: alexandria@ossга.com	Mailing Address: Ontario Stone, Sand & Gravel Association (OSSGA) 365 Brunel Road, Suite 2 Mississauga, ON L4Z 1Z5
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