



FLH - May 2024

NEWSLETTER

Auditor General sheds some light on the flawed aggregate industry

If you haven't read the December 2023 Auditor General's Report on the management of aggregate resources in Ontario, it is a definite eye opener! They identified 6 areas of immediate concern, where the Ministry is falling short in balancing its competing roles of licensing and compliance. **1. Inspections** - A serious shortage of experienced inspectors, a total of 34 designated inspectors Ministry wide for all of Ontario. Between 2018 and 2022 inspection rates decreased by 64% and only 34% of licensed sites were inspected over the last 5 years. **2. Non-Compliance and Enforcement** - Non-compliance remains high, while accountability remains low. 3400 violations were identified in a 5 year period, only 26 were referred to the enforcement branch (less than 1%) and only 2 fines were issued. **3. Final Rehabilitation** - 1524 sites have been dormant for 10+ years, representing over 25000 hectares of land with no process in place to ensure rehabilitation. **4. Supply & Demand** - The Ministry has not provided accurate and up to date information. In 2016 a study of the Greater Golden Horseshoe region, estimated that they had reserves of 3337 million tonnes of aggregate, a 30 year supply! **5. Recycled Aggregate** - there is currently no incentive to recycle materials due to the extremely low cost of virgin material, \$0.23 a tonne here in Ontario. The UK collects \$3.20 a tonne (14 times higher) and their use of recycled material has climbed to 25% as opposed to our 7%. **6. Databases** - are outdated and there is no centralized database to access all information.

To read the full Auditor Generals Report please click on the live link

[Auditor Generals Report on Aggregate](#)

FLH hosts an Information Session on April 19th and exhibits at Earthfest on April 20th



Great success on both fronts. Approx 70 people attended the information session on Friday night - great to see everyone who made it out to mingle!

Although, Earthfest's weather was chilly, FLH was there to inform people of the pit proposal, answer any questions and direct them to our website for the most up to date information. A day gathering more like-minded supporters.



Rural Economic Development Strategy Feedback

The province is seeking input from people across Ontario.

Have your say! Stress your desire for a sustainable future based on our beloved Highlands Environment!

- 1.** What is the most pressing economic obstacle or opportunity in your community or across rural Ontario? Why?
- 2.** How can communities and government work together to improve local economies or better support local businesses?
- 3.** What changes has your community experienced in the last few years that have presented opportunities for economic growth? And how can the province help you to take advantage of those opportunities? ***Submit your feedback to OMAFRA via email or visit the live online link below:***

E: ruralplan@ontario.ca

[Online Survey](#)

UPCOMING FLH EVENTS

PROVINCIAL DAY OF ACTION

Reform Gravel Mining Coalition has designated Saturday, June 8th as a day of action to protect Ontario from Gravel Mining.

FLH will be hosting a Nature Hike on Sat. June 8th in honour and support of this day and would like to invite you to Wheeler's Pancake House at 11 am to walk the beautiful trails this area has to offer.

Memberships and Donations

Should you wish to become a member or donate to the Friends of Lanark Highlands, please send us an email. All monies raised go towards studies, experts, advice and the long battle ahead of us.

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friendsoflanarkhighlands.org