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Aggregates & Roadbuilding Magazine serves the entire Canadian aggregate and roadbuilding industry by providing readers with up-to-date news and information, features on aggregate plants, case stories on quarry and highway construction operations, in-depth coverage on vital topics affecting the industry including taxation, land use, trucking and other regulatory issues, updates on new products and equipment and maintenance tips as well as personnel changes, manufacturer/supplier news, convention/trade show coverage and other items of interest to Canadian aggregate producers and roadbuilding contractors.

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## Green Gravel – NIMBY by another name?

On August 30, 2007 the Ontario Greenbelt Alliance issued a press release and position paper to all provincial party leaders entitled "Green Gravel: Priorities for Aggregate Reform in Ontario". While the paper recognizes the importance of aggregates to society, it also calls for significant increases in the regulation of the aggregate industry within the Greenbelt, ostensibly on the grounds of environmental protection. The Ontario Stone, Sand & Gravel Association (OSSGA) quickly responded with a September 4th letter to Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty and other ministers, detailing the Association's areas of agreement and more particularly, disagreement, with the paper's comments.

By issuing the position paper, members of the Alliance may have passed up a golden opportunity to work in a collaborative rather adversarial manner with an industry that is making huge strides. In this very issue, we report on three Ontario producers; Capital Paving, CBM Aggregates and Dufferin Aggregates, which have been recognised for their outstanding industry advancement and environmental protection efforts.

One does wonder about the distorting prism through which the industry is apparently viewed by Alliance members and the resulting determination to ignore these and other success stories. On August 22nd, just a week before the paper was issued, a number of key Alliance members visited the Vineland Quarry operation of Walker Industries Holdings Ltd, a site that has received special recognition from both the Niagara Escarpment Commission and the OSSGA for progressive rehabilitation. The Alliance paper may have already been completed by then, but it certainly contains little if any recognition of the industry's increased rehabilitation efforts.

Yes of course, the aggregate industry can do better on many fronts, but history tells us that clear dialogue and mutual respect are much more likely to resolve challenging land use issues than adversarial hyperbole that, in many cases, does not withstand even the most basic scrutiny. Once again, the tired old format of conflict looks set to trump collaboration with the attendant waste of time, money and energy that could instead be spent developing mutually beneficial solutions.

Perhaps the real motives of the Alliance lie elsewhere. Its membership includes familiar objector groups opposing quarry and pit licensing applications. Draw your own conclusions, but from here green gravel looks a lot like NIMBY in a green cloak.

**Andy Bateman, Engineering Editor**

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**Cover Photo**

A Metso HP400 cone crusher is part of the crushing and screening system being used by Polaris Minerals at its Orca Quarry on Broughton Strait at the northern end of Vancouver Island.

*Cover photo by Andy Bateman, Engineering Editor*