

Foundations Newsletter

*SERA Canada - The Right Path
Towards Responsible Aggregate*

Issue 2, January 2012



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Resolution Towards Responsible Aggregate

As we begin the New Year SERA-Canada is proud to share our resolution with all of our stakeholders. We proudly resolve to revise the SERA Standards through our Standards Development Panel, field test these revised standards and solicit broader input that will see a final standard in Ontario by early 2013. With our diverse Standards Development Panel hard at work we are well on the track to meet this goal.

This newsletter provides an update on the work of the SERA Board and the Standards Development Panel and we encourage you to share it with individuals or groups who are interested in the development of a responsible aggregate certification system in Canada.



Recycled Rock Session with Enviro Commissioner

SERA and the Canadian Urban Institute teamed up on October 27th to host their first 'State of the Debate' session. This sold out session sparked conversation about what role recycled aggregate can play in Ontario.

Read more on pg. 3



Update on SERA's Standards Development Panel

The work of SERA's Standards Development Panel is the 'meat and potatoes' of SERA's work. As we enter into 2012 SERA is proud to announce new additions to the Panel. Harold Sutherland Inc, an aggregate producer active in the Bruce and Grey Counties and Coalition of Concerned Citizens of Caledon (CCC), a community group years of first hand experience in advancing the concerns of local citizens regarding aggregates are our

most recent additions. We are also pleased to have Six Nations of the Grand River participate as observers in our process. As an observer Six Nations will provide expert guidance on First Nations issues while learning more about SERA's initiative and the extent to which it can benefit their communities.

This diverse group has begun a detailed walk-through of the Draft SERA Standards and has already produced

revised drafts to two of SERA's seven draft principles. The goal of this group is to find the "sweet spot" in which the standards represent world-class aggregate practices that are achievable by a range of aggregate operators. SERA staff will be soliciting broader input on these revised standards through 2012 with a field test early in the year.



SERA's Standards Development Panel

Chair: Brenda McCabe, Chair, Civil Engineering at the University of Toronto

Economic Caucus

- The Miller Group
- CONDRAIN Group
- Harold Sutherland Inc
- Dufferin Aggregates

ENGO/Community Caucus

- Friends of Rural Communities and the Environment (FORCE)
- Gravel Watch Ontario
- Environmental Defence
- Coalition of Concerned Citizens of Caledon

Planning Caucus

- Region of Waterloo
- Mark Dorfman (land use and environmental policy planner)

Observers

- Six Nations
- Ministry of Natural Resources

State of the Debate: Recycled Rock

Environmental Commissioner, Gord Miller joined SERA and a panel of experts for the first 'State of the Debate' session. Discussing the role of recycled aggregates in Ontario.



On October 27, 2011 SERA hosted its first "State-of-the-debate" session. Digging deeper into how recycled aggregate can help to reduce stress and conflict for stakeholders in Southern Ontario. This sold out session was a huge success, with its panel of expert speakers initiating exciting conversation. The presentations from this session have been posted online and are available at <http://www.seraCanada.ca/news-resources/recycled-rock-oct-20-2011/>

Our second State-of-the-debate session will be held in early 2012 in partnership with the Canadian Urban Institute. The session will put a spotlight on the issue of "beyond close to market" and explore the high-level "what ifs" that consider where and how Ontario will get reliable aggregates in the medium to longer term.

Équiterre Investigates Interest of Aggregate Certification in Quebec

On December 7, 2011 SERA and Équiterre announced a new collaboration that will investigate the degree of interest amongst stakeholders in Quebec in establishing a world-class voluntary certification system for that province. Read the release at http://www.seraCanada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/Equiterre-release_FINAL.pdf.

Équiterre's 15 year commitment to sustainable solutions for individuals, organizations and governments makes it a natural partner for this project, as does its background in green building practices. Its experience with the Centre for Sustainable Development taught it about the extensive use of aggregates in the construction industry. In collaboration with another ENGO SERA is now undertaking a similar scan in Alberta and BC.



Équiterre and SERA
collaborate on
aggregate certification
in Quebec



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Or contact us directly at info@sera.ca.

A. D. Latornell Conservation Symposium

The annual A. D. Latornell Conservation Symposium was held November 16, 17 and 18th at the Nottawasaga Inn, Alliston, ON. SERA presented a session on responsible aggregate practices with Brenda Axon, Conservation Halton and Allison Braithwaite, Walker Industries. The presentations highlighted responsible practices in aggregate extraction and rehabilitation as well as ways that certification systems like SERA and the Aggregate Forum of Ontario can help aggregate companies benefit from these practices.

SERA also participated in the Ontario Network of Ecosystem Services (ONES) forum held on November 15, 2011. This forum was a first for ONES, bringing together researchers and practitioners working on ecosystem services to discuss the state of ecosystem services in Ontario.

APRES Presentation

On Nov 24th, SERA's Executive Director, Lorne Johnson, was a keynote speaker at the founding conference of the United Kingdom's Action Programme for Responsible Sourcing Network (APRES). The conference brought together representatives from the construction industry, fair trade community and certification organizations with the aim of discussing barriers and opportunities to promoting more responsible sourcing in the UK's construction industry.

Meetings of SERA Founding Board

The SERA Founding Board has continued its work of creating, administering and promoting widespread support for responsibly sourced aggregate materials.

Since launching in June the SERA Board and staff have reached out to aggregate producers, municipalities, staff at provincial ministries and NGOs to share details about the organization and its work. This work has included invitations to participate formally in the revision of the SERA Draft Standards through the Standards Development Panel (SDP). A number of leading groups have taken up these invitations and the SDP is well on its way.

Under the strategic guidance of SERA's Treasurer, Peter Kendall, staff has been actively engaged in securing external funding from various granting agencies. To date funding has been secured from The Schad Foundation, EJLB Foundation and Holcim Canada. Work continues to raise the remainder of SERA's budget.