

# Acton Quarry receives the world's first Responsible Aggregate Certificate

In a world first, Dufferin Aggregates Acton Quarry has been certified as socially and environmentally responsible.

At a reception Monday, Feb. 22, Cornerstone Standards Council (CSC) presented Dufferin Aggregates, a division of CRH Canada Group Inc., with its very first certificate of conformance. Stone, sand and gravel from the quarry will now carry the Cornerstone Standards Council (CSC) label and, for the first time ever, buyers will be able to purchase aggregate materials knowing they come from an operation that protects the environment, engages openly with the community and operates following industry best practices.

CSC is a non-profit organization that creates, administers, and promotes widespread support for voluntary certification of responsibly sourced aggregate materials. The need for CSC's certification system follows years of costly and time-consuming battles that have pitted local communities against pit and quarry operators and offered little balance between the need for aggregates and the needs of the community or the environment. A central component of CSC's certification is improved transparency and engagement to address the issues and concerns of individuals and organizations that might be impacted by the aggregate site. By achieving certification, the Acton Quarry has set a precedent for what responsible

**Baudouin Nizet, President & CEO of CRH Canada Group Inc. (Dufferin Aggregates) and Mayor of Halton Hills Rick Bonnette (right) celebrate the Acton Quarry receiving Ontario's first responsible aggregate certificate.**

*Photo by  
Jeremy Curry*



practice looks like, including early and inclusive engagement with the community. For aggregate operators, CSC's certification promises a less contentious licensing process and a new way to earn community support.

The certificate was presented at a reception attended by Premier Kathleen Wynne and Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette, Monday night at the Ontario Good Roads/Rural Ontario Municipal Association Conference in Toronto. Halton Chair Gary Carr and Halton Hills Councillors Clark Somerville and Bryan Lewis also attended.

For CRH Canada the certificate is recognition for a commitment to a higher standard of practice.

CRH Canada and Dufferin Aggregates are

extremely proud that our Acton Quarry has been officially recognized as the world's first certified responsible aggregate site, and hope that this achievement will be a catalyst for the industry. This certification is a testament to our commitment to address the demand for aggregates that consider community and environmental needs. Now any purchaser of aggregates, be it the public or the private sector, will have the confidence in knowing that they are buying responsibly sourced building materials, said Baudouin Nizet, President & CEO, CRH Canada Group Inc.

Speaking at the reception, Bonnette said, the Acton quarry was first established in the early 1900s and has been an important contributor to

the local economy and social fabric of the town for more than 100 years. Dufferin Aggregates, a division of CRH Canada, began operating the quarry in 2001. Bonnette recalled when Dufferin Aggregates began their multi-year community consultation to extend the quarry, they willingly agreed to participate in Halton's Joint Agency Review Team. J.A.R.T is a successful process used in Halton Region to ensure the effective review of aggregate applications.

Dufferin Aggregates willingly undertook this process as a member of our community, said the mayor. They listened to the concerns of the community and responded by planning an environmentally and socially responsible operation that is delivering significant environmental, economic and social benefits to the town.

A testament to the success of Dufferin Aggregates participation and good faith in the process was that all agencies, including the Town, unanimously approved their final quarry expansion proposal, Bonnette added.

The mayor emphasized that it is a process that the Town of Halton Hills has encouraged the Province to adopt for all aggregate applications. This first certificate from the Cornerstone Standards Council is an important step in recognizing responsible aggregate producers and encouraging other producers to rise to the same level...

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