



Reform Gravel Mining Coalition

www.reformgravelmining.ca

Gravel mining causes serious negative impacts for communities and the environment

Water



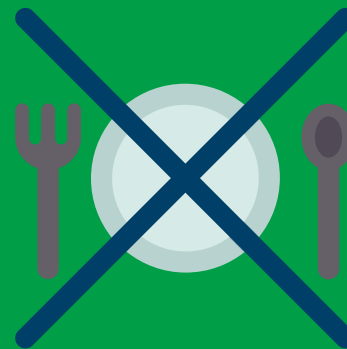
**Air
pollution**



**Loss of
species
habitat**



**Loss of
farmland**



**Noise
pollution**



**Road
safety**



RGMC is a coalition of Ontario residents' groups

- ▶ We help communities defend themselves against the impacts of gravel mining
- ▶ We raise public awareness about the impacts of gravel mining
- ▶ We advocate for legislative and regulatory reforms

A photograph of a large industrial facility, likely a refinery or chemical plant, with numerous tall distillation columns and storage tanks. Thick black smoke is being emitted from a stack on the left, rising into a hazy, orange-tinted sky. The foreground is partially obscured by dark, silhouetted trees and foliage.

Gravel mining contributes to climate chaos

The aggregate industry provides the raw materials for cement production, highway construction and urban sprawl—all significant contributors to greenhouse gas emissions in Ontario.

The cement industry produces 8% of global carbon emissions; as a country, it would be the third largest global emitter of CO₂.

Gravel and sand are non-renewable resources. A transition to alternative materials and lower consumption is necessary to meet climate goals.



Gravel mining causes serious negative impacts for communities and the environment:



"Aggregate operations can...**destroy woodlands, grasslands, wetlands or farmland**"



Gravel mining can "pose a **risk to local groundwater resources**"



"The ongoing operation of a pit or quarry, as well as the accompanying heavy-duty truck traffic, can also have a number of **negative impacts**—particularly when close to communities—including **noise, vibration** (from blasting) and **air pollution** (such as dust and particulate matter)."



Gravel mining violates First Nations jurisdiction and rights to consultation.

Government oversight of gravel mining is inadequate

In December 2023, the Auditor General of Ontario published the Value-for-Money Audit of the Management of Aggregate Resources. The report confirms:

- The management of aggregate resources is in crisis
- The province is failing to protect residents and municipalities from the negative impacts of gravel mining

Auditor General's Main findings:

- **Violations are widespread in the aggregate industry**
- **The MNRF is failing to adequately inspect aggregate operations & enforce aggregate regulations**
- **Industry self-reporting is failing**
- **There is no guarantee of rehabilitation of pits and quarries**

There is no need for new gravel mining approvals

The government already authorizes companies to extract at least 13 times more aggregate than the province uses every year on average.

In Huron County, the Maitland Valley Watershed is already suffering the cumulative, negative impacts of over 50 sand and gravel pits.

In Wilmot, residents are suffering negative health impacts due to 8 pits in close proximity. Companies only extract 10% of the licensed amount, yet the government is approving new pits.

David & Goliath struggles

- 70% of gravel mined in Ontario is by multinational companies
- Application process is skewed to favour proponents
- OSSGA industry lobbying group has deep pockets, resources and experience
- There is significant industry capture of experts

- In Burlington, residents are fighting an unjust zombie application for a massive mega-quarry that they already defeated in 2012.
- In Saugeen, residents are being forced to fight 3 new gravel pit applications at once in order to protect their precious river.

RGMC Structure

Steering Committee

An horizontal, supportive space comprised of community leaders representing local groups.

Supporters

- 4,000 contacts/subscribers
- 239 donors

Staff

- Mike Balkwill – Campaign Director (.5 FTE)
- Sam Demby – Communications (.5 FTE)
- Susan Lloyd Swail – Program and Outreach (.5 FTE)

RGMC Member Groups

Action Milton

**Stop Muskoka Pit
(Bracebridge)**

**Save the Burnt
Lands (Ottawa)
Alvar**

**Citizens for Safe
Groundwater
(Wilmot)**

CORE Burlington

**Forks of the Credit
Preservation Group
(Caledon)**

**Friends of Ball's Bridge
& Little Lakes (Huron)**

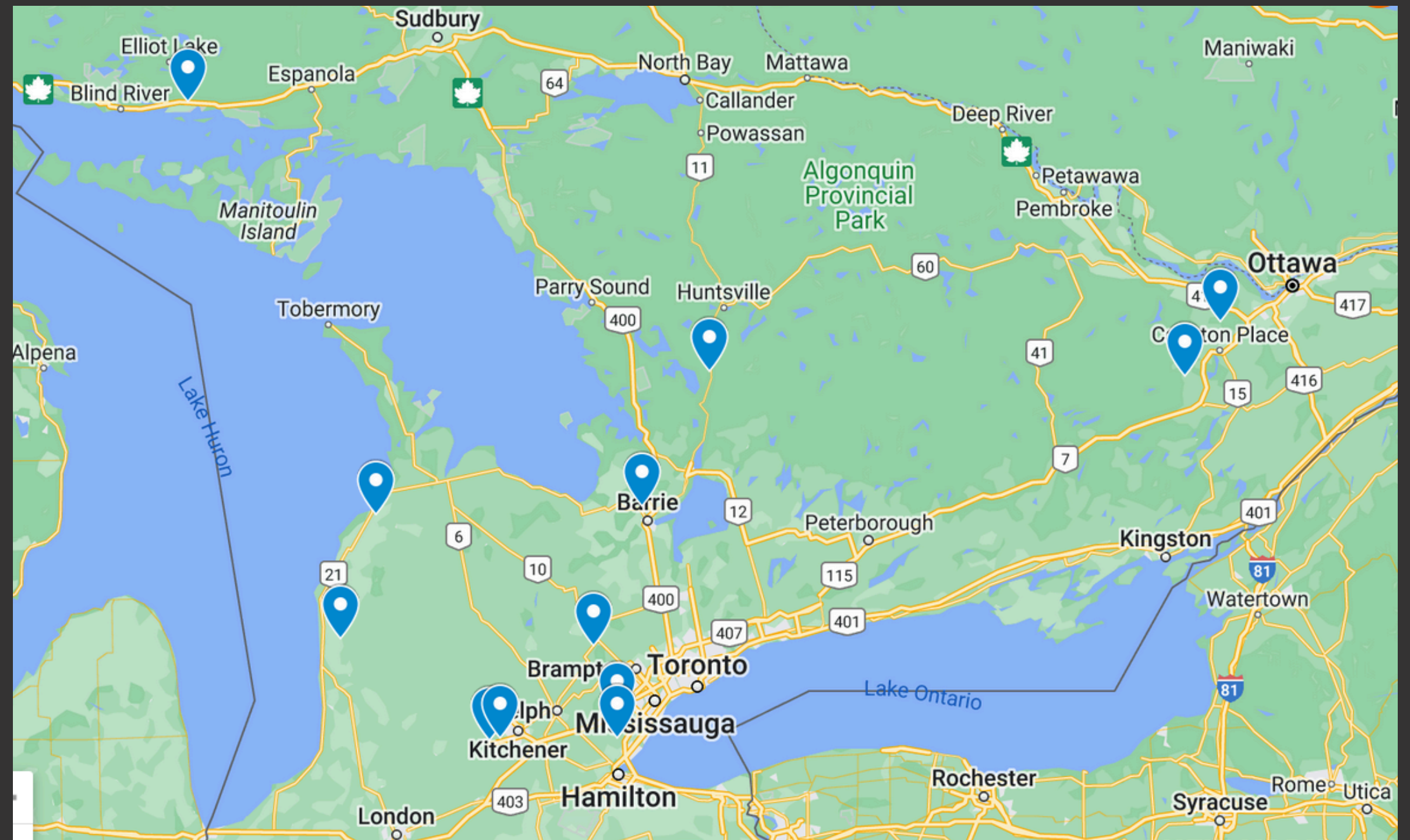
**Friends of Lanark
Highlands**

**North Shore
Environmental
Resource Advocates**

**Saugeen Preservation
Society**

Springwater

**Stop Petersburg Sand
Pit**



THE HIGH ROAD

A Municipal Action Plan to Win a New Standard for Gravel Mining in Ontario

Prepared by: Reform Gravel Mining Coalition





Table of Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| Introduction | 3 |
| Acknowledgements | 5 |
| The RoadMAP | 6 |
| Municipal Action Plan | 8 |
| 1) <u>Get the Lay of the Land</u> | 8 |
| A) Worksheet: Is the ICBL Right For Your Group? | 9 |
| B) Assess Your Municipal Aggregate Policy | 11 |
| 2) <u>Pull the Emergency Brake</u> | 15 |
| A) How to Bring an ICBL Resolution to Council | 16 |
| B) Talking Points for Councillors | 18 |
| C) Draft ICBL Resolution | 22 |
| D) Case Study: How Caledon Passed an ICBL | 24 |
| E) Monitoring Your Council's Policy Review | 26 |
| 3) <u>Take the High Road</u> | 27 |
| A) How Bill 23 Affects the OLT's Awarding of Costs | 28 |
| B) Draft Letter to Council RE: OLT Costs | 29 |
| C) Draft Letter to the AMO | 30 |
| 4) <u>Onto the Provincial Horizon</u> | 31 |
| A) How to Bring a Resolution for a Provincial Moratorium to Council | 32 |
| Footnotes | 34 |
| Appendix | 35 |
| Notes | 36 |

Key

Throughout the handbook we use the following icons to indicate different types of documents:

 followed by *Appendix #__* indicates that hyperlinks to a printable, PDF version of this document can be found in the appendix on page 35 at the end of the handbook.

 *Worksheet* indicates a document with questions to be filled out with group members.



The Reform Gravel Mining Coalition (RGMC) is calling on the Ontario government to introduce an **immediate moratorium** on new aggregate application approvals, in order to implement the recommendations presented by the Auditor General.

TAPMO Municipalities that have already passed a resolution demanding the province impose a moratorium:

- Caledon
- Halton Hills
- Milton
- Brock
- Guelph/Eramosa
- Puslinch
- Springwater
- Woolwich
- Zorra
- Wilmot
- Oro Medonte

It is time for Ontario to pause new gravel mining approvals until the province can better protect residents and municipalities.

More information: https://www.reformgravelmining.ca/auditor_general_s_report

Thank you!

www.reformgravelmining.ca

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