

For immediate release. June 30, 2010

## **Gravel Watch Ontario Releases Critique of SAROS Consolidated Report**

Gravel Watch Ontario today released *SAROS Predicts the Past: a Critique of the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) SAROS Consolidated Report*.

At the time of the MNR SAROS Consolidated Report's release in February 2010 Gravel Watch expressed its concern that the Report does not give a balanced summary of the 6 SAROS papers. Gravel Watch has released its critique of the Consolidated Report today to facilitate an informed discussion of the accuracy and adequacy of the Consolidated Report.

Ontario's Ministry of Natural Resources initiated a project called SAROS (State of the Aggregate Resource, Ontario Study) in January 2009. As a part of the SAROS project, MNR commissioned 6 research papers to assess the state of aggregate resources in Ontario. MNR summarized the results of these 6 papers in a publication called the Consolidated Report, which presents 26 key findings about aggregates in Ontario. This Report was released without publishing the 6 papers on which it was based. To date those reports have still not been released to the public.

The Consolidated Report was written and produced by MNR and not by the SAROS committees, of which Gravel Watch is a member.

To date the Consolidated Report is the primary output of the SAROS proceedings. Gravel Watch believes that accurate and complete information is key to appropriate decision making. In addition to the ongoing aggregate matters being debated in many communities across Ontario, the process of updating the 2005 Provincial Policy Statement is currently underway. Any consolidated report attempting to summarize the SAROS work needs to meet a high standard. It is an important document that needs to be accurate and balanced in its conclusions. It is for this reason that Gravel Watch released its Critique today.

To date the 6 SAROS research papers have not been released by MNR. It is over six months since the papers were completed in December 2009. It has not been possible for the public to validate the summary in the Consolidated Report, published over four months ago. Gravel Watch believes these time lags have had a negative impact on informed decision making and consequently that it must proceed to release its Critique.

Gravel Watch acts in the interests of residents and communities to protect the health, safety, quality of life of Ontarians and the natural environment in matters that relate to aggregate resources.

For background on SAROS see:

MNR's web page <http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/Aggregates/2ColumnSubPage/286708.html>

See also: Gravel Watch's web pages

<http://www.gravelwatch.org/orig-gw/saros/100630-gwo-release-critique.pdf>

<http://www.gravelwatch.org/orig-gw/saros/100630-gwo-critique-consolidated-rept.pdf>

<http://www.gravelwatch.org/saros.htm>

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