

## **CITY OF BRAMPTON RECEIVES TOP HONOURS FROM ONTARIO'S AGGREGATE PRODUCERS**

**Brampton, February 18, 2010** – The City of Brampton was honored today for its commitment to transforming former gravel pits into beautiful parkland. The Ontario Stone, Sand & Gravel Association (OSSGA) presented Mayor Susan Fennell the Bronze Plaque Award - the Association's most prestigious honor – at its Annual General Meeting.

The Award was presented for Brampton's Esker Park System - 12 former gravel pits, which, over 40 years, have been transformed into a series of interconnected linear parks stretching over seven kilometres throughout the city.

"We are truly honored to receive this award," says Mayor Susan Fennell. "Environmental sustainability has always been a hallmark of the work we do at the City. The protection of our environment is important to our residents and that's why we've taken every opportunity to restore lands and return them to the community."

At least 80 million tonnes of high-quality sand and gravel have been extracted from the Brampton Esker area and used in such construction projects as the Gardiner Expressway, Ontario Place, The Queen Elizabeth Way, Pearson International Airport, the Toronto subway system and many other roads, streets and highways in the Greater Toronto Area.

Brampton is also the only community in Ontario to have received two Bronze Plaque Awards. The first was given 20 years ago for Professor's Lake – a former gravel pit that is now a sailing, fishing and recreation area in the City's west end.

### **About the Ontario Stone, Sand & Gravel Association**

OSSGA is a non-profit industry association representing over 250 sand, gravel, and crushed stone producers and suppliers of valuable industry products and services. Collectively, OSSGA members supply the majority of the approximately 172 million tonnes of aggregate consumed annually in the province to build and maintain Ontario's infrastructure needs. OSSGA works in partnership with government and the public to promote a safe and competitive aggregate industry contributing to the creation of strong communities in the province. For more information, visit [www.ontariossga.com](http://www.ontariossga.com).

The Bronze Plaque award has only been awarded to 18 other sites by the OSSGA in the province since its inception in 1975. The OSSGA ceremony symbolizes the rehabilitation efforts undertaken by the stone, sand and gravel industry to beautify the environment by creating green spaces that benefit communities throughout Ontario.

**About Brampton**

The 11th largest city in Canada, Brampton has a successful, well-diversified economy and is home to more than 8,200 businesses. The City continues to retain a Triple 'A' credit rating by Standard & Poor for the third consecutive year, reflecting its debt-free position, exceptional liquidity levels and excellent economy. The City's 2010 operating budget is \$408.2 million with a capital budget of \$241.4 million. Brampton celebrates its diverse population that represents people from more than 175 distinct ethnic backgrounds who speak over 70 different languages. Offering more than 6,000 acres of parkland, Brampton takes pride in being the Flower City of Canada and won the 2008 International Communities in Bloom competition. It is also the first city in the GTA and one of only 10 in North America to have been designated as an International Safe Community by the World Health Organization. For more information visit [www.brampton.ca](http://www.brampton.ca)

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