



BRIEFING NOTE

Caledon Interim Control By-law

This planning report compares Official Plan aggregate policies from the Top Ten Aggregate Producing Municipalities in Ontario (TAPMO) to understand the effectiveness and strength of the Town of Caledon Official Plan policies in relation to the other major aggregate producing municipalities within province. Listed from the largest to smallest producers, the other TAPMO are Ottawa, Hamilton, Kawartha Lakes, North Dumfries, Burlington, Halton Hills, Zorra, Puslinch, Severn, Clarington and Caledon based on *Aggregate Resources Statistics in Ontario 2020 Report*.

In summary, the top ten aggregate producing municipalities in Ontario have varying levels of policy strength in relation to aggregate extraction without a single municipality scoring exceptionally well in environmental policy (above 65%).

However, out of all eleven municipal Official Plans assessed, the **Town of Caledon scores the weakest in protecting the interests of residents due to a general lack of policy content**, and a highly permissive policy context, with minimal in description, tests, and terminology.

What this means is that residents of Caledon are not adequately protected by the Official Plan against quarry development, which tend to be quite invasive e.g. blasting, truck traffic, natural heritage impacts, etc.

Given the role that Caledon plays as a major aggregate producer, and given the potential for future applications, it's essential that Caledon establishes its policy basis from a place of greater detail, analysis and strength for reviewing and assessing aggregate applications.

Therefore, the Town should initiate and complete this work through their OP Review and in the interim, the Town should adopt an Interim Control By-Law to allow sufficient time to complete the above-noted policy review study.

Suggestions to enhance aggregate policies in the Town of Caledon are replacing the predominant permissive policy context with prescriptive policy regime and including tests such as demonstrating a net gain in environmental conditions, assessing the cumulative effects from the application, applying the precautionary principle to the review of the application and providing clear requirements for requisite environmental studies. Additionally, applying integrated watershed management to the review of applications will support all the above while working from the watershed perspective.

We recommend reviewing the City of Hamilton's Official Plan as a starting point in this direction, as it better protects the interests of residents and the environment.