

10.0 Minerals and Mineral Aggregates

10.1 Background

As part of the Official Plan process to date, the provincial Ministry of Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry (MDMNR) provided the Town with information on aggregate resources, mineral deposit sites, abandoned mines information system inventory sites, mining land status and mineral potential.

This information indicates that there aren't any primary, secondary or tertiary sand or gravel deposits in Gananoque. There are three documented mineral deposit sites (clay, quartzite building stone and granite building stone) and two abandoned mine information system points (former and abandoned granite quarries) in Gananoque. Granite is a commodity designated under the *Aggregate Resource Act*.

MDMNR identified an area of significant mineral potential for wollastonite in the northwestern edge of Gananoque. Wollastonite is an industrial mineral comprised of calcium, silicon and oxygen. Wollastonite is used to improve the performance of plastics, paints and coatings, construction materials, ceramic and metallurgical applications.

10.2 The Land Use Planning Framework

10.2.1 The Planning Act

The *Planning Act* requires that planning authorities have regard to the conservation and management of natural resources and the mineral resource base when exercising their authority under the Act.

10.2.2 The Provincial Policy Statement

Policy 2.4.1 states that minerals and petroleum resources shall be protected for long term use.

Policy 2.4.2.2 states that known mineral deposits, known petroleum resources and significant areas of mineral potential shall be identified and development and activities in these resources or on adjacent lands which would preclude or hinder the establishment of new operations or access to the resources shall only be permitted if the resource use would not be feasible, or the proposed land use or development serves a greater long-term public interest and issues of public health, public safety and environmental impact are addressed.

10.2.3 The Official Plan

The Official Plan does not currently include any designations or policies that recognize the identified area of significant mineral potential or known mineral deposits.

10.3 Conclusion

The Official Plan should be revised to identify the mineral deposit occurrences and area of significant mineral potential and incorporate policies that protect the resources and guide development on, abutting and adjacent to these resources.