

The Ontario Headwaters Institute

COMMUNITY ADVOCATE AWARD, 2026

The Ontario Headwaters Institute expresses our deep thanks and extends a Watershed Droplet in appreciation of the commitment to watershed security of

Tony Sevelka

His rural home and lifestyle threatened by an 800-acre below-the-water-table blasting quarry abutting his property, proposed to operate under a licence with no expiry date, no restriction on extraction depth nor blasting frequency and with perpetual dewatering, Tony Sevelka went to work. A professionally designated forensic real estate appraiser, Tony immersed himself in the science and policy of aggregate extraction, including on-site operations and both below-the-water-table and off-site impacts. Through this work, he became a recognized and published researcher on blasting quarries.

Blasting quarries pose safety risks for workers and neighbouring properties; increase dust, air quality concerns, noise, vibrations, flyrock debris and public health impacts; and create significant risks to groundwater, receiving surface waters, and local wells. They also contribute to reduced nearby property values, compounding the social and economic burdens placed on rural communities. In addition to his published research, Tony shared his expertise with local organizations, the public, and numerous agencies.

We are pleased to honour Tony's efforts to protect the local watershed, downstream areas, and local quality of life with a Watershed Guardian Community Advocate Award, 2026.

Ontario 
Headwaters

Andrew McCammon
Executive Director

www.ontarioheadwaters.ca

**Water is Life.
Let's act like it.**