



MAY 12, 2020

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ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

You are receiving this eblast as OPPI has switched its monthly *The Planner* newsletter to a weekly eblast. We will share the most important information and resources with members every Tuesday. If you have any questions, suggestions and ideas, please contact us at info@ontarioplanners.ca.

Here's What You Need to Know Right Now

Member Updates for the Week of May 12

Here is what OPPI members need to know this week:

- **Results of OPPI's Member Municipal Survey are now available.** Thank you to those members who took the time to pass along their feedback and thoughts. High level results can be found below in our Municipal Survey Results section. Detailed survey information is available on our [resource webpage](#) as well.
- **Thank you for attending the Understanding the Key Benefits of the Canada Emergency Response Plan**



with Pivotal Integrated HR Solutions webinar. OPPI has uploaded this webinar, along with the recent Bill 189 and LPAT Update WeirFoulds webinar, on our [Digital Learning](#) portal for members to view.

- **OPPI is pleased to announce another webinar with WeirFoulds LLP on June 4!** This annual webinar focuses on legislative and policy changes to the planning regime in Ontario. More information can be found below in our CPL section and members can [register here](#).
- **Later this month OPPI launches a new annual bi-weekly webinar series called Forum Friday.** We will discuss the topics that are top-of-mind for the membership, invite guest speakers, and answer your questions. Information can be found below in our Other OPPI News section. Stay tuned for future webinar topics and speakers.
- **REMINDER: OPPI develops O. Reg 149/20 timeline guides for members.** With great help from MMAH staff and several members of OPPI Council, two guides have been developed - a quick guide and a more detailed guide - outlining the impacts of O. Reg 149/20 to planning timelines. Please see more information below in our Member Resources section or visit our [resource webpage](#).
- **OPPI is closed on Friday and Monday for the upcoming Victoria Day long weekend.** We hope members enjoy the upcoming long weekend!
- **Keep your contact info up-to-date!** With many members working from home during this period, OPPI recommends that members keep their contact information and member profiles up-to-date to ensure you receive timely communications from OPPI.

OPPI wants to thank members for your assistance and patience during this time as we focus on providing the information you need to do your jobs. If you have any questions and suggestions about this weekly eblast, please contact OPPI at info@ontarioplanners.ca.

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OPPI Municipal Survey Results

Thank You to Members Who Filled Out OPPI's Municipal Survey



OPPI would like to share the results of our municipal survey that ran at the end of April. As members recall, many of the questions OPPI received focused on municipal processes, but we also want to learn about the practices related to these processes and how they may have changed because of COVID-19. Here is a high-level overview of the results:

- Over 60% of municipal planning departments have been declared an "essential service"
- Some special procedures have been put in place to manage applications, this includes accepting electronic submissions and payments, virtual meetings with proponents, notices published online, and much more
- Only 21% of municipalities have an "e-permitting" system to accept applications
- Technologies such as Zoom, Microsoft Teams, WebEx and others are being used as a solution for internal and external meetings
- 86% of respondents think more provincial guidelines on virtual public engagement will

A more detailed and informative breakdown of the survey results can be found on OPPI's [COVID-19 resource webpage](#). Thank you to those members who provided us with this great feedback.

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OPPI Continuous Professional Learning

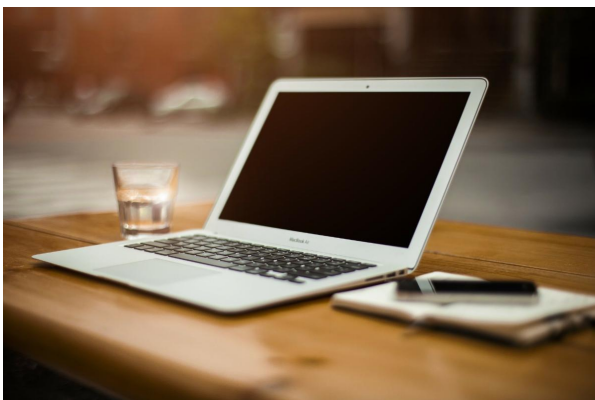
OPPI Launches Special RPP Interview Series on Recovering from the COVID-19 Crisis



COVID-19 is affecting every aspect of life in all communities across the province and the country and around the world. While many RPPs are playing important roles in responding to the immediate crisis, planner skills and expertise will be especially needed in guiding decisions throughout the recovery process and establishing measures that build resiliency for the future. In this series of special interviews, we asked RPPs what they are focusing on now as we look towards recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The first interview in this series comes to us from [Ashley Bilodeau, RPP, Manager of Development Services at the Town of Kirkland Lake](#).

As the series of interviews grows, members will be able to find a complete list of interviews on our [Planning Exchange Blog](#). If members have any questions or would like to get involved, please contact OPPI's Editor, Carolyn Camilleri, at editor@ontarioplanners.ca.

OPPI and WeirFoulds LLP Annual Seminar - Update on Ontario's Planning System



OPPI and WeirFoulds LLP invite members to join our expert panel on June 4, 2020, from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m., for an informative session on the Provincial Policy Statement, 2020, the new Community Benefits Charge regime under Bill 108, as well as any updates on the *Coronavirus Support and Protection Act, 2020* and *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act*.

Our panel will discuss the impact these legislative and policy changes will have on the planning regime in Ontario. Members are invited to submit questions to our presenters in advance of the session and as you register. The presentation will be followed by a Q&A forum.

Speakers:

- Denise Baker, WeirFoulds LLP

- Jason Bevan, RPP, City of Mississauga
- Raj Kehar, WeirFoulds LLP
- Daryl Keleher, RPP, Altus Group

Please click on the **Register Today** button below to register for this event and submit your questions in advance.

REGISTER TODAY

2020 OALA AGM and Conference Goes Digital



The 2020 OALA AGM and Conference goes digital as a result of COVID-19. The focus of this year's conference is 20/20 Vision: Improvement + Clarity. Landscape architecture has always been and will continue to be about vision. We see and respond to landscape. We imagine what could be: normal evolves, clarity resolves. Do we resolve to improve our vision?

Is our vision clear to others? How we see and respond to landscape, what we envision through design, affects the quality, value and associated experience of places. There is always room for improvement; that much is clear.

OALA is hosting several webinars as part of their conference, including their keynote speaker, Michael von Hausen, President of MVH Urban Planning & Design. Members are encouraged to register to be able to participate in the webinars on offer. For more information on the 2020 AGM and Conference, and to register, please visit the [OALA Conference website](#).

As of early May, OPPI continues its planning work for OPPI20. OPPI will have more to share with members in the coming weeks so stay tuned for OPPI20 updates.

Watch Recent OPPI Webinars on Digital Learning

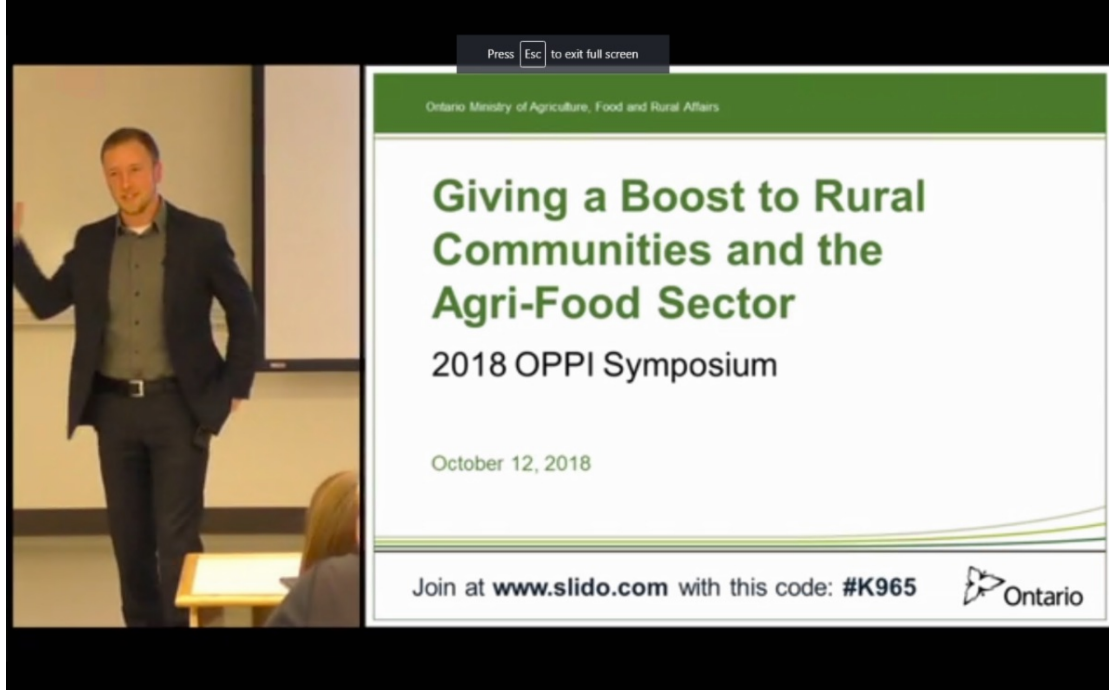
Members who missed, or would like to view again, recent OPPI webinars can now do so on OPPI's [Digital Learning](#). The webinars recently uploaded include:

- The Bill 189 Coronavirus Support and Protection Act, 2020 and LPAT Update: All in an Hour
- Understanding the Key Benefits of the Canada Emergency Response Plan with Pivotal Integrated HR Solutions

OPPI would like to once again thank Denise Baker, Raj Kehar from WeirFoulds, Mike Salveta from Pivotal Integrated HR Solutions and Webcast Guru for their assistance with these member webinars.



ICYMI: Assessing Community Readiness: Implementing An Agricultural System in the Greater Golden Horseshoe and Beyond



As members start to think about what recovery could look like, resiliency and readiness will be the central themes for many communities now and post-pandemic.

OPPI would like to share previous webinars and Conference sessions to access during this pandemic period like the [Assessing Community Readiness: Implement AG System in GGH & Beyond](#) session from OPPI18.

Agriculture provides 1 in 9 jobs (Statistics Canada) in the Greater Golden Horseshoe today. This session focuses on how the Greater Golden Horseshoe's agricultural systems approach can be implemented in your community. Presenters identify a suite of economic development tools that can be used to help create a thriving agri-food sector. Community readiness varies from one community to another. They will also identify tools that can be used to assess readiness and match community capacity with actions. Communities that use innovative planning and economic development approaches and resources are highlighted.

Log in to our Digital Learning portal to view this and many other webinars, listen to podcasts...and so much more!

[VISIT DIGITAL LEARNING AND WATCH NOW](#)

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Legislative Corner Updates

Regulations Open for Comment

Ontario's Environmental Registry website has posted an [important notice](#) temporarily exempting ministries from the minimum 30-day consultation requirements to post proposals for acts, regulations, policies and instruments to the Environmental Registry. OPPI will continue to monitor the registry website and provide items open for comment, when available.

We know members are busy working through other priorities, but for those who can provide comments the following regulatory items are open for public comment (deadlines in brackets):

- [Proposed agricultural land use amendment for Hearst and Kapuskasing \(May 15, 2020\)](#)
- [Proposed amendments to Ontario Regulation 244/97 and the Aggregate Resources of Ontario Provincial Standards under the Aggregate Resources Act \(May 15, 2020\)](#)
- [New Statement of Environmental Values for Ministry of Infrastructure \(May 25, 2020\)](#)
- [Proposal to identify and protect a corridor of land for future electricity infrastructure in the Greater Toronto Area \(June 8, 2020\)](#)

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Frequently Asked Questions

Each week we will share questions received from the membership with answers (if we have them). When we don't have the answer, we will open it up to you to share any best practices and solutions you've found that work. We will share all of these answers, solutions and everything else with members and a complete list can be found on our [resource webpage](#) in the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section.

Q: Why Have I Received A Membership Renewal Notice From OPPI?

A: During this COVID-19 public health situation, we recognize members may be focused on other priorities. However, as the voice of the planning profession and membership association, OPPI is continuing on with the business of the Institute. As per our by-laws, each year we are required to notify members about the renewal period closing and to wrap up any non-payment of membership fees. This is an action we must take to ensure the public's confidence in the planning profession.



OPPI is starting to close the renewal period for 2020 and we're reaching out to any outstanding members to make them aware of this. If members have received a notice from OPPI, it is because their membership has not been renewed or an invoice has not been paid.

If members affected by the COVID-19 pandemic are facing hardship and require additional time to complete renewals, please contact OPPI's Registrar at standards@ontarioplanners.ca.

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Member Resources

Each week we will share resources with members for your benefit and interest. If you have any resources, best practices or guides you would like to share with members, please contact OPPI at info@ontarioplanners.ca and we will feature it in this weekly newsletter and add it to our resource list.

Ombudsman Ontario Report on the Township of Russell April 2nd Special Meeting By Electronic Participation



The Ombudsman received a complaint about a special meeting held by the Township of Russell on April 2 by electronic participation due to COVID-19. The complaint alleged that the meeting agenda did not provide a link to the website where the meeting would be broadcast. The Ombudsman found that council for the Township did not violate the open meeting rules. The Township provided notice to the public that the meeting would be held via electronic participation and posted a link to the broadcast on its website and on social media prior to holding the meeting.

The Ombudsman commended the Township of Russell for taking additional steps to ensure that information about how to observe and participate in electronic meetings was widely available to the public. The Ombudsman urged all municipalities to do as much as possible to facilitate access by the public to any meetings held electronically during a declaration of emergency. This was the first time the Ombudsman conducted an investigation into a municipal meeting following the passage of the *Municipal Emergency Act, 2020*, which allows for additional flexibility in holding electronic meetings during an emergency, such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

- [Investigation into a complaint about a special meeting held by the Township of Russell on April 2, 2020 by electronic participation report](#)

Members can also visit OPPI's [COVID-19 resource webpage](#) for a complete list of resources and information, including this guide.

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Other OPPI News

OPPI Announces New Forum Friday Webinar Series



Starting May 22nd, from 12:15 - 1:15 p.m., OPPI launches its Forum Friday webinar series.

On a bi-weekly basis, OPPI hosts eight timely and relevant webinars for members on the topics you want to hear more about. We will bring in guest speakers to discuss topics and issues, and it will be hosted by a member of OPPI Council and/or staff.

For our very first webinar to kick off our first season of Forum Friday, OPPI has invited several members from the Regional Planning Commissioners of Ontario (RPCO) for a roundtable discussion on the state of planning as it stands during COVID-19, what are some of the challenges faced, what is working well and where are there opportunities to enhance planning as a result of the pandemic.

More information on how to register will be made available to members in the coming days, so please stay tuned for this.

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Share Your Home Office Setup/Happy Place with OPPI

Each week we want to share a little bit of good news with members. OPPI is asking members to snap photos of their work space (at home or elsewhere) or of their happy place and provide a sentence or two describing what makes your space or happy place so great. Please email your photos and information to communications@ontarioplanners.ca and we will share it each week. Selected members will receive some OPPI swag as a thank you once the office reopens.

This week's photos come from OPPI's Professional Learning & Events Coordinator, Miriam Salazar Véjar. *"My home office is next to the patio deck. It has plenty of light and a view which helps energize me. To avoid connectivity issues, I no longer use online music streaming services, I have gone old school with my music entertainment centre and CDs and I'm loving it! I brought the Keep Calm and Carry On poster with me from Chile and it cannot be more accurate given the times we are living in! I always have company when I work as my cats, Josephine, Hurrem and Mycroft visit me frequently to take naps, request petting or food."*



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OPPI Job Postings

Targeted to planners, search the [OPPI Job Ads](#) to save you time and effort when looking for a new position. Please see the current active postings below:

- Junior and/or Intermediate Urban Planner/Designer - RG Consulting Inc. (full time)
- Intermediate Planner (Community Planning) - Halton Region (full time)
- Intermediate Planner - Toronto Lands Corporation (full time)
- Senior Planner - Development - City of Burlington (full time)
- Planner - Municipality of Hastings Highlands (full time)
- Township Planner - Township of Amaranth (full time)
- Land Use Planner/Project Manager (full time)

FOLLOW OPPI ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow OPPI for updates and information related to COVID-19.



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