



September 8, 2020

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Here's What You Need to Know Right Now

Member Updates for the Weeks of September 8 and 15

Here is what OPPI members need to know:

- **OPPI President's Annual Report Message - 2020: A Year of Pivoting.** It's an understatement to say that 2020 has been a challenging year. The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted nearly every aspect of our lives and made us question how we do things. Read OPPI President Justine Giancola's [annual report](#) message to the membership below in our OPPI Annual Report Message section.
- **Calling All Student Members to Submit Presentation Proposals for OPPI20!** Submit your presentation proposals by September 14, 2020, to be considered for this year's virtual conference. Please see more information on student proposals below in our OPPI20 section.
- **OPPI is holding its September Council meeting on September 14 & 15.** OPPI



Council and staff will take part in an all-day Indigenous cultural training session that was originally scheduled in March. More information on this meeting can be found below in our Other OPPI News section.

- **Are you preparing for the upcoming RPP Exam?** On September 16, Southwest District is hosting a Zoom Q&A session for all interested members to attend and ask a panel of new RPPs questions about the process and their experience. More information and details can be found below in our Member Resources section.
- **Thank you for attending our Forum Friday webinars!** OPPI would like to thank members for attending our Forum Friday webinar series over the summer. OPPI would also like to thank all of our moderators and panelists for providing stimulating conversation on a variety of timely planning topics. All Forum Friday recordings are available on Digital Learning to watch.
- **The bi-weekly Planner eblast will transition back to a monthly eblast beginning November 2.** The move back to a monthly eblast will complete the transition of this member eblast during the pandemic. If the public health situation changes, OPPI will revert back to a weekly/bi-weekly eblast to support members. If members have any questions about this switch, please contact OPPI at communications@ontarioplanners.ca.

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OPPI Annual Report Message

2020: A Year of Pivoting



It's an understatement to say that 2020 has been a challenging year. The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted nearly every aspect of our lives and made us question how we do things. It has shed light on many inadequacies that exist and has exacerbated existing inequalities for those most marginalized and vulnerable in our society. It has also shown us that we need each other, that six feet of distance is not enough to keep us apart and that both as individuals and as communities, we are incredibly adaptable.

For the planning profession, it has presented an opportunity to redefine the role of planners in Ontario, to remain resilient, and be a vital part of the solution in recovery and re-connecting Ontario's communities. Planners are change agents. We know change is inevitable and times of significant disruption are excellent opportunities to develop new behaviours and sustainable ways of life. We are living a historic moment of change, and we, as professional planners, have an important role in guiding that change to ensure it benefits those that need it the most and sets up future generations for success.

Since the start of this year, we have learned a lot about ourselves and those around us, yet we know there is so much more to learn. This year's conference will look and feel a little different, but will be a critical time to come together, network, listen, learn and lead. Please join the conversation on September 23rd & 30th and October 7th & 14th, for [OPPI20](#), our virtual conference.

I would also like to invite you to participate in OPPI's [Annual General Meeting](#) on October 7, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. to reflect on the year, where we have come from and where we are going as a profession.

These are challenging times. Let's come together to support each other so that we can come out of this stronger, more compassionate, and with new, sustainable behaviours that will leave a positive imprint on the planning profession and in communities across Ontario.

I look forward to seeing you online at OPPI's 2020 Annual General Meeting to reflect on 2020, a year of change.

Justine Giancola, RPP, MCIP
President, Ontario Professional Planners Institute

Please visit the OPPI website to view the full [Annual Report](#) including [agenda](#), [minutes from 2019's AGM](#) and the [Financial Summary](#).

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OPPI20

Register for OPPI20 with Our Special Corporate Package Rate

Want to attend OPPI20 as a team? Consider registering for our corporate packages.

If your organization has six or more interested registrants, you can purchase our special Corporate Package. There are two to choose from:

- Organizations with 6 - 10 registrations - register and pay for 6 people and get 4 registrations for free!
- Organizations with 11 - 15 registrations - register and pay for 11 people and get 4 registrants for free!

Save some time and take advantage of our corporate package rates. Please visit our [registration webpage](#) for pricing and please contact oppi@absolutevents.com to register for a corporate package.



Are You Speaking at OPPI20? Attend Our Upcoming Speaker Information Sessions

OPPI is offering you the opportunity to sit in on an information session this September to better familiarize yourselves with the ChimeLive platform. We anticipate these sessions will cover:

- Accessing the platform
- Preparation for your session
- A detailed look at the features available to you
- Time at the end for Q&As to answer any outstanding questions you may have



These information sessions will occur on **Monday,**

September 14th from 1:00-3:00 PM, and

Tuesday, September 15th, from 10:00 AM-12:00 PM. and we ask that you please register at least one speaker from your session to participate. To confirm your participation, please share the name(s) of participants from your session, and the date you wish to attend to oppi@absolutevents.com by September 10th.

Calling Student Members to Submit OPPI20 Presentation Proposals



Calling all OPPI student members interested in presenting at [OPPI20](#). **Submit your presentation proposals by September 14, 2020, to be considered for this year's virtual conference.**

Because we recognize your research may not align with the conference themes, student proposals can be submitted on any topic you may be researching or have recently completed research on.

Share your research and interests with your colleagues and peers. Add to the collective expertise and knowledge of the OPPI membership by presenting at OPPI20.

To submit a proposal to speak at the Conference, please email oppi@absolutevents.com and include a title, a brief description of what you intend to present on during your session, and 1-2 learning objectives (i.e. "by the end of this session, participants will have learned...") Please note that most of the space held for students are 20-minute "Lightning Talks."

Wherever you are, make sure you **do stay connected** with your fave planning peers, and up-to-speed with planning best practices, at **the year's biggest event: [OPPI20](#).**

This conference is interactive and informative, with four half-days of [quality sessions](#) to keep you engaged and an online socializing program to keep you entertained.

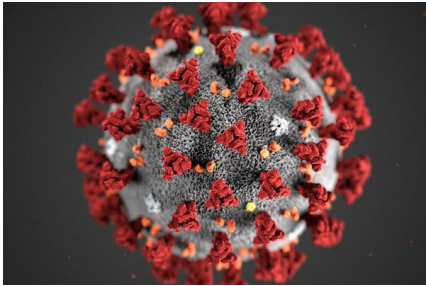
September 23, September 30, October 7 and October 14

#OPPI20 #AlwaysON

REGISTER NOW

OPPI Continuous Professional Learning

Have You Read Our COVID-19 Blog Series?



While many RPPs have important roles in responding to the pandemic, planner skills and expertise will be especially needed in guiding decisions throughout the recovery process and establishing measures that build resiliency for the future.

We asked RPPs what they are focusing on now as we look towards recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Here's a curation of member blog posts for your to-read list:

COVID-19 RPP Interview Series:

- [Ashley Bilodeau, RPP, Manager of Development Services at the Town of Kirkland Lake](#)
- [Scott Taylor, RPP, Senior Planner at the County of Grey](#)
- [Marcia Wallace, RPP, Chief Administrative Officer for Prince Edward County](#)
- [Nicole Hanson, RPP, and Sam Jones - Lessons from COVID-19 for Cemetery Planning in Ontario](#)

Additional COVID blog posts to read:

- [After isolation: urban planning and the COVID-19 pandemic by Sean Hertel, RPP and Dr. Roger Keil](#)
- [Discovering my neighbourhood during COVID-19 by Justin Sharp, RPP](#)

Green Building Festival Goes Virtual: Oct 14-16, 2020



GBF20 programming literally starts from the ground up, exploring the best bioregional practices, “growing” building materials with negative carbon footprints, bio-transformational design and building principles, Integrated Project Delivery for green credentials, and the biomorphic Future City.

A virtual delegate pass is only \$50CDN. Visit www.GBF20.com to learn more.

Participation may entitle OPPI members to claim up to seven learning units under the Continuous Professional Learning (CPL) Program. For more information, please consult the [CPL Program Guide](#).

Thank You For Attending Our Forum Friday Webinars!

OPPI would like to thank members for attending our ninth and final Forum Friday webinar on August 28th.



OPPI would also like to thank our moderator OPPI Council Director Kelly Weste, RPP, and panelists John Michael McGrath, Andrea Miller, RPP, and Leela Viswanathan, RPP.

If members missed this or any other webinar, or you would like to review it again, the recordings are available on OPPI's [Digital Learning](#) site, and on our [Planners Connect](#) member engagement platform to continue webinar conversations.

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Legislative Corner Updates

Amendment #1 to the Growth Plan Has Come Into Effect



On August 28, 2020, Amendment #1 to [A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe](#) was brought into effect. This follows a 45-day consultation period which was open from June 16 to July 31, 2020. The amendment includes changes to the Growth Plan's population and employment forecasts, extends the horizon year for planning, and includes other policy changes which

aim to increase housing supply, attract business investment, and better align growth with infrastructure. Members can refer to the entry on the [Environmental Registry of Ontario website](#) for a summary of the amendment.

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 changes to environmental approvals for municipal sewage collection works \(September 6, 2020\)](#)
- [Proposal to extend the current moratorium on water bottling permits \(September 27, 2020\)](#)
- [Proposed regulation amendment to establish a second local forest management corporation for the Temagami Crown Forest Management Unit under the Ontario Forest Tenure Modernization Act, 2011 \(October 5, 2020\)](#)
- [Proposed amendments to the Director's Technical Rules made under section 107 of the Clean Water Act, 2006 \(November 9, 2020\)](#)

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Preparing for the Upcoming RPP Exam? Join OPPI for a Q&A on September 16



Are you planning on writing your RPP exam soon, or interested in learning more about the process to get started?

On September 16 at 9:00am, OPPI's Southwest District invites all students, members from all districts, and non-member colleagues for a live Zoom Q&A session.

If you are preparing for the upcoming RPP exam and you are looking for information on the process from planners who recently wrote it, join some of our newest RPPs in a live chat to discuss preparation for the exam and get answers to your questions.

Panelists include:

- Stephanie Mirtitsch, RPP (MHBC)
- Julie Welch, RPP (OMAFRA)
- Eric Miles, RPP (MHBC)
- Jennifer Burns, RPP (Huron County)

OPPI's Southwest District invites you to submit your questions in advance of the session (before September 14) by email to learning@ontarioplanners.ca. The zoom link will be provided on September 15 to all registered participants. Register today and save your spot for this important conversation.

REGISTER TODAY

Continue the Dialogue Through Discussion Posts



Discussion posts are the best way to share your questions, insights and expertise. Since Planners Connect launched several discussion threads have appeared with more coming each week.

As we get closer to OPPI20, and into the fall season, start a conversation about a topic you want to learn more about in our Open Forum. If you have a burning question you need to ask, or are looking to share information you've come across, or anything else, log in to Planners Connect today and share your thoughts.

Find out what's happening on Planners Connect. If you haven't logged on yet, visit plannersconnect.ontarioplanners.ca/home and click on the blue "Sign In" button. Enter your OPPI Member Portal login details to access Planners Connect. Don't forget to read our [Getting Started Guide](#) as you log on.

Beyond Blame: Leadership, Collaboration and Compassion in the Time of COVID-19



OPPI would like to thank George McKibbin for sharing an article he co-wrote with John Forester for Socio-Ecological Practice Research to share with members.

As the COVID-19 pandemic confronts us with our interdependence and vulnerability, we can respond in distinctly different ways. Our fears may prompt blame and its rationalization, but our fears may also motivate inquiry and learning. Compassion and collaboration hang in the balance—shaped in part, we shall argue, by political leadership, scientific expertise, and emergent social solidarity. Blaming others may side-step responsibility, but it will not encourage or target actions in response to suffering. But admitting ignorance and the need to learn, supporting widespread testing, and following best available public health advice might cultivate broader public action and confidence—as evidenced both in exemplary public leadership and in shared actions of mutual aid like social distancing.

We argue that public leadership can model and encourage—or discourage!—compassionate and collaborative action, and we examine a striking natural experiment: the parallel COVID-19 briefings of the public by President Trump's White House Task Force and New York State's Governor Andrew Cuomo. Although many of our arguments may have widespread applicability, this essay's principal perspective is primarily based upon our experiences in North America, and it is therefore American-centric to a large extent.

To read this article, please [click here](#). This article is also found on OPPI's COVID-19 resource webpage. Members can visit OPPI's [COVID-19 resource webpage](#) for a complete list of resources and information.

Check Out OPPI's Indigenous Resource List



OPPI's Indigenous Planning Perspectives Task Force Report recommends "that OPPI facilitate access to resources and learning on Indigenous topics." One method OPPI is undertaking to facilitate access is through the creation of a curated list of resources.

The resource list provides suggestions and access to some resources to encourage learning on Indigenous topics. It is not intended to be comprehensive and should be seen as a starting point for planning practitioners and other related professions in their respective learning journeys.

The resource list is revised quarterly, to reflect the availability of new or updated resources and you are encouraged to [provide suggestions](#) for additional resources to include on the list. It can be accessed on the [OPPI website](#).

Featured Resource

For the past several years, it has been commonplace to begin meetings, special ceremonies,

and even school days, with a brief statement acknowledging the original inhabitants of the land we're on.

But what are land acknowledgements? Why do we do them, why do they matter, and what do they have to do with us?

This month's featured resource is an article by Indigenous author Selena Mills that explores what land acknowledgements are and why they matter in contemporary society. To read more, [click here](#).

For more resources on Indigenous histories, culture and perspectives, please be sure to consult OPPI's [Indigenous Planning Perspectives Task Force Resource List](#). If you have any additional resources you would like OPPI to share through its Resource List, please contact OPPI's Education Manager, [Ryan Des Roches](#).

Upcoming Member Events

OPPI will return to a district eblast format as more events are scheduled. We will notify members about the return to this format and the frequency when we have more information. If you need to contact OPPI about District events, please write to learning@ontarioplanners.ca. For now, we will highlight events in the Planner.

Please see the list below for current upcoming events. Members can always visit [OPPI's events webpage](#) for more information and a complete listing.

- [RPP Exam Preparation Q&A \(September 16\)](#)
- [OPPI20 Conference \(September 23\)](#)
- [OPPI20 Conference \(September 30\)](#)
- [OPPI20 Conference \(October 7\)](#)
- [OPPI20 Conference \(October 14\)](#)

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Other OPPI News

September Council Meeting Preview

OPPI Council is meeting for two days - September 14 and 15th. The first day will see Council and OPPI staff participating in a day-long Indigenous cultural virtual training session, rescheduled from March of this year, as part of addressing one of the [recommendations](#) in the [Indigenous Planning Perspectives Task Force Report](#).

On September 15, OPPI Council will meet to discuss a number of strategic issues. Council will receive an update on OPPI's Resiliency Plan that is being used to guide the Institute over the next 18-24 months. Council will also receive an update on OPPI20 and will discuss their responsibilities ahead of the upcoming conference. OPPI's 2021 Financial Plan will be presented at this meeting for Council to approve.

OPPI Council meets several times a year. Council approved agendas and minutes are

available upon request to the [OPPI office](#). The goal is to engage members in shaping the direction and initiatives of OPPI and continue to deliver on our INSPIRE OPPI Strategic Plan 2020. Members are encouraged to speak up and get involved and stay in touch throughout the year through OPPI's many communications channels.

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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:

- Manager of Development Planning - Town of Georgina (full time)
- Director of Planning and Development - Municipality of Clarington (full time)
- Planner I - Town of Wasaga Beach (contract)
- Land Use Planner/Project Manager (full time)
- Senior Planning Consultant - MORGAN Planning and Development Inc. (contract)
- Intermediate/Senior Level Urban and Rural Planner - Strik, Baldinelli, Moniz Ltd. (full time)
- Principal Planner, Strategic Initiatives - City of Pickering (full time)
- Planner 1 - Town of Wasaga Beach (full time)
- Planner - Thames Valley District School Board (full time)
- Senior Planner - Town of Erin (full time)
- Land Use Planner - Intermediate - Novatech Engineering Consultants Limited (full time)
- Land Use Planner - Graduate - Novatech Engineering Consultants Limited (full time)
- Chief Planning Officer - Metrolinx (full time)
- ...and many more!

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