

**Township of Southgate
Conference, Workshop/Seminar & Training Policy #2
Council and Staff Education Evaluation Report**

Participant's Name: Deputy Mayor Barbara Dobreen

Course/Workshop/Conference: 2023 OGRA Conference	Overall Evaluation:				
	Excellent	Good	X Average	Poor	

Association/Institution Provider: Ontario Good Roads Association	Name of Instructor: Various
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Dates Attended: (if online, indicate online) April 16 to 19, 2023

Purpose of Attending:
The annual Good Roads conference provides public works professionals, industry leaders and elected officials the opportunity to connect, learn and share best practices to make Ontario municipal infrastructure safer. OGRA provides an opportunity to learn and explore innovative technologies, solutions, education, and other initiatives that are intended to maintain our municipal assets/infrastructure.

Please summarize the content and the main points of the course: (Attach additional pages if necessary)
 Congratulations to Southgate Deputy Treasurer/Asset Manager Aakash Desai and Deputy Mayor of Chatsworth Terry Mackay on their election to the OGRA Board.
 It was a pleasure to attend the Association of Ontario Road Supervisors (AORS) AGM and recognize/congratulate Phil Wilson (former Southgate Roads/Fleet Manager) on his official retirement as Past President of the association. The speakers at AORS as well as others throughout the conference reminded delegates that a wave of retirements will be occurring over the next 5-10 years at an unprecedented rate. AORS is approaching schools with recruitment information to encourage high school students to consider a career within the municipal sector. Attraction and retention of younger employees will call on municipal governments to make their workplace as attractive as possible. Things to consider are remote and flexible workplaces, benefit packages, training, and advancement.
 The trade show featured many exhibitors that provide goods, services and technology to the municipal sector. I spoke to many vendors and specifically took the opportunity to visit the IESO booth and learned that the electrical grid presently doesn't have the capacity in Ontario to handle any more than two EV vehicles per street. I also spoke with Enbridge representatives about the lack of capacity to serve our EcoPark businesses.
 See attached for a brief summary of each of the sessions attended.

Will you use this information in your role? If yes, explain how:
 This conference is especially beneficial to municipal staff/public works professionals. Elected officials benefit from the opportunity to connect with staff and other municipal officials, and to learn about and understand innovative solutions to the common challenges across Ontario -- aging infrastructure and the infrastructure deficit; staff attraction and retention; etc. There was also a session by Fred Dean for elected officials (both new and returning) about their roles and responsibilities, staying in their lane, and legislated requirements.

Do you recommend that other Council Members/Staff attend this course? If so, who and why?:
 I would encourage more public works supervisors and team leaders to attend this conference.

Should similar course material be presented in-house? If yes, by whom?
 Not practical.

Signature:		Date:	April 28, 2023
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Fireside Chat between Premier Doug Ford and Scott Butler, Good Roads Director. Information shared was the state of the relationship with municipalities. Scott questioned the Premier on what is driving the decisions the Province has pushed through and the belief by municipalities that the Province is stepping into its business. The Premier continues to cite the housing crisis and how Team Ontario has cut almost \$700 million of red tape. Concerns were expressed about the \$40 billion infrastructure deficit and the vast number of services municipalities provide with a small purse. The Premier applauded his ministers on the work to help people find better jobs and bigger pay cheques; the importance of recruiting, training and retaining employees; introduction and funding of E-training with online and in person courses to address the labour shortage. And the introduction for basic dignity on the construction sites by mandating clean washrooms and doubling women only washrooms, proper PPE for women and jobs open to all.

Keynote Speaker, Brent Toderian - Better Streets & Roads For Your Community. With extensive experience in urban transportation projects Brent focuses on Better Streets (moving people) vs. Roads (moving vehicles) by creating walkable urban streets to slow traffic and force people to linger longer. He mentioned that Vancouver has no freeways within its urban boundary. He spoke about Complete Streets with realistic and attractive choices to walk, cycle, bus or drive. One thing he mentioned is that EV's will not solve the climate crisis. While 'Better City Streets' feature fewer cars, less driving, more choices, better community and safer streets, little attention was given to the challenges of rural roads and bridges where the majority of Ontario municipalities has a reliance on vehicular transportation to move people and goods.

Which Comes First: Emergency Preparedness or Disaster Recovery. Presented by Colliers Project Leaders. The panel discussed the importance of having an emergency response plan and shared lessons that allowed those in a crisis to quickly restore and rebuild. Important to identify your own community's risk level and what would be required to mitigate potential impacts and prepare the community for natural disasters in their unique region. There is an increased frequency and intensity of natural disasters. Case studies on the City of Merritt, where they were able to immediately establish a command centre and evacuate all people in record time during the 2021 flood event vs. the Town of Lytton who had no plan or emergency structure in place when the wildfires hit the community. Having, and practicing an emergency plan, will better prepare the EMT in restoring transportation and communication systems; respond to tree debris removal to get people and goods moving; and protect storm water systems, hydro, water, gas restoration.

Keynote: Kenn Beer of Safe System Solutions - Revolutionizing Road Safety. Past studies assessed road user behaviour and the cause of crashes and whether road design, type/size of vehicle and speed could have prevented the crash and/or reduce the death and severity of injury. Humans make mistakes. How can we minimize the outcomes of those mistakes by improving the road and street networks.

Roberto Impero, SMA Road Safety. Roberto spoke about crash cushions that his Father invented. These cushions are proven to prevent death and injury as a result of vehicles impacting guard rails and other obstacles. The Panel that followed included James Smith, Jason Young and Mark Wilson and spoke to Vision Zero – a view from the perspective of the driver; 2+1 roads where a passing lane alternates rather than twinning the road; Forensics to analyze road network screening; cause and effect; investing in staff training; assessing deficiencies with stop distances; foliage maintenance at intersections; rumble strips to alert a driver and thereby avoid a cross over collision. Examine what works elsewhere and look to make it work in our own municipalities. Everyone is responsible -- from the designer to the driver.

Building a Better Workforce - Nature of work is changing and we need to look for creative ways to attract employees. There is a battle for talent. Planning staff are at a premium and with Bill 23 municipalities are now competing for consultants to fill the gap left by no longer being permitted to negotiate this expertise from the conservation authority. Professionals demand a flexible work environment. What will the workplace look like going forward? 4-day work weeks; remote workspace; showing appreciation for the value employees bring to the municipality; making the total compensation package attractive. Hire students and give them quality work to make them interested in pursuing a municipal career.

What to Expect When You're Elected: Setting the Stage for Success for New Councillors – Fred Dean is a staple trainer at municipal conferences, especially immediately following an election. Attending his "So You Want to Run for Council" and his "What to Expect When You're Elected" is always of benefit to new and returning council members. He provided an overview of Council roles and responsibilities (stay in your lane) and that taking on administration can see an elected official lose their seat; joint and several liability; risk management and cybercrime; conflict of interest. He spoke about the key elements and importance of succession planning – training, coaching, investing in employees. Staff are running full out and staff burnout is a real risk. Knowing the rules of procedures is critical to understanding your role. The procedure bylaw should be reviewed thoroughly early in each new term of Council.

Hon. Kinga Sura, Minister of Infrastructure. Spoke to the role the provincial government is playing in the municipal infrastructure sector.

Enhancing Municipal Asset Management Through Innovations and Levels of Service. Christopher Chen, Asset Management Ontario. Innovations in pavement technology, creating better streets and roads, rural road safety, resident engagement. Utilizing levels of service (LOS) to support better outcomes. LOS is set to an acceptable level of risk and affordability. LiDAR uses light photons to provide real time data in either 3D and 2D images and can collect single or multi lane data during the day or night. The more data collected, the better the assessment to estimate product quantity and quality for repair calculations. LiDAR can be used for ditch assessment by measuring depth, identifying standing water, is GPS linked. It also assists with project planning by providing surface profiles. LOS + Cost + Risk – does the plan deliver best value for dollars over time?

Pierre Ranger – Let's Remember Adam Campaign – Stop Arm Cameras on Buses An emotional presentation by Pierre Ranger, Adam's brother, who had just started school and was killed getting off a bus when a vehicle failed to stop. His brother Alex was just inches away from grabbing him when Adam was struck. Pierre is now focusing on automated enforcement through mandating the installation of smart cameras on all school buses that photograph vehicles that pass school buses illegally, and have tickets mailed to the owners. "Once people start getting tickets and it starts affecting them in the pocketbook then they might learn to stop," he said.

Mike Schreiner, Leader of the Green Party of Ontario – outlined his concerns with the current approach of the PC government and shared his party's plan to do things differently through building strong, resilient communities, addressing mental health and poverty. The solution to the housing crisis and infrastructure deficit is not urban sprawl which costs 2.5 times more than building in and up within a smaller area of land.

Hon. Greg Rickford, Minister of Northern Development and Indigenous Affairs. Corridor of Prosperity into the Ring of Fire – fortify road access to more remote indigenous communities. Some remote areas have limited access and then only seasonally. Winter roads are essential in providing vital health services. Connecting corridors will provide better access and improve the way we move people, product and services across Ontario.

The Final Word Panel – Similar to the ROMA's Mike Smitherman question box, The Final Word provides invited delegates to get their questions answered by a panel in the fields of administration, planning, law, construction, drainage, public works and more. Questions are submitted in advance as well as from the conference floor. Some of the questions included action against CN regarding its obligation under the Drainage Act. Road culverts and the Drainage Act – protecting landowners from water encroaching on their property from another property by managing the flow of water. Bill 5 and Codes of Conduct. Private member bills have little success in getting through. Already passed first reading and open to further consultation.