

## Wednesday, April 29

1:00 – 7:00pm

Registration Open, sponsored by Mosey & Mosey

2:00pm – 4:00pm

### **1. Discover Parry Sound: A Walking Tour of the Waterfront & Downtown**

Join us for a guided walking tour of Parry Sound’s beautiful waterfront and historic downtown! Discover the rich history that shaped the community, explore the exciting plans for its future, and meet local entrepreneurs who are building vibrant businesses in the heart of Ontario’s cottage country.

### **2. Planning Canada’s Next Deep Geological Repository: Your Voice Matters, sponsored by the Nuclear Waste Management Organization**

The Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) is beginning the process to identify a site for Canada’s second deep geological repository – a facility designed for the safe, long-term storage of intermediate and high-level nuclear waste.

We know that strong communities are built on trust, transparency, and collaboration. That’s why we’re committed to listening to local voices from the very start. Over the next two years, we’ll be engaging with municipalities, Indigenous communities, industry, and other stakeholders to shape the site selection process. Your input will help guide how this project moves forward.

*Why should small urban municipalities get involved?*

Municipalities play a vital role in shaping decisions that affect land use, infrastructure, and economic development. Your perspective matters. Join this workshop to learn more about Canada’s second deep geological repository, review the draft site selection plan, and share your feedback. Together, we can ensure this process reflects the priorities and values of communities.

5:00pm – 7:00pm

Welcome Reception, hosted by Town of Parry Sound,  
Lobby of the Stockey Center

## Thursday, April 30

7:30am – 4:30pm	Registration Open, sponsored by Mosey & Mosey
7:30 – 9:00am	Breakfast
7:30 – 4:00pm	Trade Show Open
<b>8:15am – 9:45am</b>	<b>Plenary Program</b>
8:15am – 8:35am	<b>Conference Opening: Town of Parry Sound</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Jamie McGarvey, Mayor, Town of Parry Sound and Chair, OSUM</li> <li>○ Chief Shane Tabobondung, Wasauksing First Nation</li> </ul>
8:35am – 8:45am	<b>OSUM Chair Remarks</b> <b>Jamie McGarvey, Mayor, Town of Parry Sound</b>
8:45am – 9:00am	<b>Chief Shane Tabobondung, Wasauksing First Nation</b>
9:00am – 9:45am	<b>Opening Keynote: Althia Raj, sponsored by Uber</b>
9:45am – 9:55am	<b>The Hon. Graydon Smith, Associate Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing</b>
9:55am – 10:05am	<b>Robin Jones, AMO President</b>
10:05am – 10:30am	Coffee Break with Exhibitors, sponsored by Hydro One
<b>10:30am – 12:00pm</b>	<b>Plenary Program</b>
10:30am – 10:45am	<b>AMO Advocacy Update</b>
	<u>Speaker:</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Karen Nesbitt, Director of Policy, AMO</li> </ul>
10:45am – 10:55am	<b>ROMA Chair, Christa Lowry</b>
10:55am – 11:15am	<b>Navigating the Future of Public Health in Ontario</b>

As Ontario undergoes a significant shift toward a more integrated, 'connected' healthcare system, the public health sector faces a critical turning point. Join Dr. Eileen de Villa for important considerations and her insight into key strategic and operational considerations for successfully navigating current reforms—as municipalities can balance provincial standards with local needs and fostering the inter-sectoral partnerships necessary to improve population health outcomes and ensure long-term system sustainability.

Speaker: Dr. Eileen de Villa, former Medical Officer of Health City of Toronto, Adjunct Professor at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto, Bruce Public Health Unit, Special Advisor

11:15am - 11:45am

### **Navigating Public Health Mergers**

Ontario's public health landscape is undergoing a critical transformation... This panel brings together leading voices to discuss their experiences and key considerations in merging of public health units. Join us as we explore how to make these structural shifts all in the aim to improve population health outcomes and create a more resilient, public health system for all Ontarians.

- Moderator: Cheraldean Duhaney, Councillor, Town of Bradford West

Panelists:

- Nathan Townend, Deputy Mayor, Loyalist Township, and Warden, County of Lennox and Addington
- Bonnie Clark, Deputy Mayor, Township of Otonabee-South Monaghan, and Warden, Peterborough County

11:45am – 12:15pm

### **Municipal Governance and Leadership in Ontario: Insights into AMO's *Leading with Respect Strategy* and New Council Education: Why it Matters**

Panelists:

- Brenda Orchard, President, CAMA and CAO, Lennox and Addington
- Petra Wolfbeiss, Director of Membership, AMO

12:15pm – 1:30pm

Lunch and Dessert with Exhibitors, sponsored by IPE

**1:30pm – 3:00pm**

### **Plenary Program**

1:30pm – 2:25pm

### **AMO IRAP: Opportunities for Local Reconciliation**

AMO's Indigenous Reconciliation Action Plan provides a framework for municipalities to strengthen local relationships and advance reconciliation. This session explores the Plan's goals through a best-practice case study of the [Muskoka Area Indigenous Leadership Table \(MAILT\)](#). Hear directly from municipal and First Nations leaders on how they built trust, achieved significant wins, and established a roadmap for collaboration.

- Moderator: Melanie Pilon, Mayor, Wawa and Chair, AMO Indigenous Advisory Council

Panelists:

- Chief Shane Tabobondung, Wasauksing First Nation
- Jeff Lehman, District Chair, The District of Muskoka

2:25pm – 2:35pm	<b>Rob Cerjanec, MPP, Town of Ajax, Ontario Liberal Party</b>
2:35pm – 2:45pm	<b>Ryan Harris, Director of Customer Care, Hydro One</b>
2:45pm – 3:15pm	Coffee Break with Exhibitors, sponsored by Hydro One
<b>3:15pm – 4:30pm</b>	<b>Plenary Program</b>
3:15pm – 3:25pm	<b>Mike Schreiner, Leader, Green Party of Ontario</b>
3:25pm – 3:55pm	<b>Strengthening Municipal Communications in A Changing Information Environment</b>
	<p>Declining civic knowledge weakened local journalism, and social media’s role in amplifying misinformation, mistrust, and incivility have fundamentally changed how residents receive information and engage with local decision-making processes.</p> <p>Drawing on AMO’s Healthy Democracy and Workforce Development projects, this session will examine practical strategies to help small urban municipalities strengthen their role as trusted local information sources. Attendees will explore how to effectively communicate service and Council decisions, build media partnerships and learn communication strategies that reinforce public trust and credibility.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>Moderator:</u> Lynn Dollin, Mayor, Town of Innisfil</li></ul> <p><u>Panelists:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ John Hammill, Regional Publisher &amp; General Manager, Village Media</li><li>○ Kate Ingram, Manager of Communications, Municipality of Port Hope</li></ul>
3:55pm – 4:30pm	<b>Bram Abramson, Commissioner, CRTC</b>
4:30pm	Closing

## Friday May 1

7:30 – 9:00am

Breakfast, sponsored by IPE

**8:20am – 10:10am**

**Plenary Program**

8:20am-8:30am

**Jamie West, MPP, Sudbury, NDP party of Ontario, Shadow Minister of Labour**

8:30am – 8:40am

**New Insights – Municipalities Under Pressure One Year Later: An Update on the Growing Human and Financial Cost of Ontario’s Homelessness Crisis**

AMO’s groundbreaking study on homelessness, released in 2025, made it clear that Ontario’s homelessness crisis is at a tipping point. It revealed the unprecedented and growing costs of homelessness to individuals, families, communities, and governments and charted a collective path forward. New research found that homelessness continues to worsen and is moving from a crisis to an intractable situation. AMO will provide an update, insights and outline actions taken arising from the report and those that OSUM members could do to support AMO’s evidence-informed advocacy to tackle homelessness and address the root causes.

Speaker:

- Michael Jacek, Senior Advisor, Association of Municipalities of Ontario

8:40am – 9:25am

**Building Inclusive Communities: Balancing Growth with Social Responsibility**

Small towns and cities are growing across Ontario leveraging new economic development opportunities and the appeal of living in small urban communities. This does not happen without growing pains as the character of the municipality changes and the risk of displacing existing residents’ manifests itself. This session tackles the complex intersection of rapid development, housing costs, and rising homelessness. Learn from municipal leaders about innovative approaches to managing growth in a socially responsible way for inclusive communities.

- Moderator: Jamie McGarvey, Mayor, Parry Sound

Panelists:

- Lynn Dollin, Mayor, Innisfil

- Tammy MacKenzie, Chief Administrative Officer, District of Parry Sound Social Services Administration Board
- Danielle Neilson, Director, Social Services (Acting), St. Thomas-Elgin Social Services

9:25am-9:55am

**Ontario’s Public Libraries—Community Innovators, Builders, and Municipal Partners**

- Moderator: Deb Doherty, Councillor, Town of Collingwood

Panelists:

- Meagan Wilkinson, CEO, Orillia Public Library
- Erin Scuccimarrì, CEO, Innisfil ideaLAB & Library

Ontario’s public libraries are playing innovative and complementary roles in the civic life of municipalities. They are willing leaders and partners in playing roles in the social fabric of municipalities from the health of community members to the health of local democracies. Learn from a couple public library leaders doing important work in municipalities and explore the opportunities for possible collaboration.

9:55am – 10:10am

**Christina Pavone, Director, Business Services, AMO**

10:10am – 10:25am      Coffee Break

**10:25 am – 12:15pm      Plenary Program**

10:25am – 11:25am

**Strong Mayor Powers – Building Homes or Demolishing Democracy?**

Almost half of all municipalities in Ontario now have strong mayor powers. Although purportedly enacted to advance new housing and infrastructure to support housing, have these powers really led to new construction starts? John Mascarin will review of the strong mayor powers and how they are being used. He will also provide some tips to stay out of traps when using strong mayor powers.

Speaker:

- John Mascarin, Partner, Aird Berlis

11:25am – 12:10pm

**New Approaches to Pay for Growth Infrastructure**

Municipalities have plans to invest more than \$250 billion in infrastructure over the next 10 years, and 80% of financing for this infrastructure will predominately come from development charges and property taxes. This session will explore how municipalities across Ontario and Canada are using alternative project financing approaches, such as blended finance, portfolio bundling and municipal services corporations to get housing enabling infrastructure built in their communities.

- Moderator: Bob Kwapis, Councillor, Town of Newmarket

Panelists:

- Patrick Kelly, CFO/Treasurer, Township of Mapleton
- Dima Zreik, Director of Investments, Canada Infrastructure Bank Fund
- Claudia Dessanti, Senior Manager of Partnerships and Strategy, Building Ontario

12:10pm

**Call to 2027**

12:15pm

**Conference Closing and Wrap Up Prize**

12:15pm

Grab and Go Lunch