

The Corporation of the Township of Brock

Councillor Conference Report

Report Prepared by: Regional Councillor Jubb

Date: 5 Apr 2023

Conference Name- OGRA

Conference Date and Location- 16-19 Apr, 2023 in Toronto, ON

About the OGRA annual conference-

I had the pleasure of attending the Ontario Good Roads Association 2023 Conference. Again, this year, it was an extremely valuable information and learning experience which saw over 1,000 municipal elected officials and public works staff from all over the province attend. I attended many sessions throughout the four-day period. As always, I find that the networking is of utmost importance. Whether it is talking to Ministers, Mayors, other council members or senior staff, I learned so much of how business is done throughout the province, at the municipal level and are all issues that are front and center in Brock. Again, it is very rare to have the access to so much knowledge in one room. Educationally, I will highlight some of the key sessions I attended and some important conversations I had throughout the two days.

Overview of many sessions attended and key learnings-

Keynote: Brent Toderian - Better Streets & Roads For Your Community

Brent has over 30 years of experience working on urban design and transportation projects in cities around the world, including Vancouver and Calgary. He is also the founder of the urbanism consultancy, TODERIAN UrbanWORKS, and a sought-after speaker and commentator on urban issues.

Keynote: Sunil Johal - Navigating Complexity: Policy Making for an Evolving World

The policy environment in Canada is undergoing a fundamental shift. Longer-term challenges, such as climate change, and trends, such as increasing digitization of the economy and society, have converged

with the once-in-a-century health, social, and economic impacts of a global pandemic to reframe the priorities of citizens and the ways Canadian institutions can and should operate.

This presentation will explore how and why Canadian policy makers should consider, experiment with, and adopt new approaches to policy development, implementation, and service delivery to ensure policy frameworks are flexible and robust enough for an increasingly unpredictable world.

Panel: Keeping Up With Queen's Park

Changes from Queen's Park have characterized the provincial-municipal relationship over the past eight months. The province has taken a fast and furious approach thus far, and there's no signs of slowing down. Hear from a panel of political insiders on what's behind all these changes, how to effectively engage with the province, and what comes next.

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Rural Road Safety

Learn about the latest strategies, technologies, and initiatives that are being implemented to enhance safety on rural roads. The session will cover a wide range of topics related to rural road safety. From road design and maintenance to traffic management, education and awareness programs, and emergency response, you will gain a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and solutions involved in keeping rural roads safe. Hear about new approaches and tools that are being used to reduce accidents and fatalities, and the latest research on rural road safety trends and patterns.

Road Authorities and Railway Crossings

Railway crossings are a critical intersection between roadways and railways that pose unique safety challenges. Our expert speakers will provide insights into the latest practices and strategies for managing railway crossings, including risk assessments, infrastructure improvements, and communication protocols. You will learn about the regulatory and legal frameworks that guide the management of railway crossings, as well as the roles and

responsibilities of various stakeholders, including road authorities and railway companies. By participating in this session, you will gain valuable insights and tools to help you make informed decisions and effectively manage risks at railway crossings.

Keynote: Kenn Beer - Revolutionizing Road Safety

The biggest misconception associated with road safety is that driver behaviour is to blame for the death and serious injury on our roads. While past crash causation studies focused on road user behaviour, and pinpoint the cause of crashes on road users, contemporary practice is to understand where the road design, vehicle and speed could have prevented the crash, and more importantly the severity outcome of the crash. This approach understands the human-machine-environment system, and recognizes that humans make mistakes on the road, but this does not need to lead to death and serious injury.

Road safety engineering and road safety auditing are world leading practices that investigate the systemic failures of the road and street network that lead to serious crashes. This presentation will focus on best practice processes from around the world in engineering the road environment to reduce crash likelihood and minimize the severity of any crashes that still occur.

Decarbonizing Municipal Vehicles and The Roads They Run On - Presented by Enbridge

Interested in learning about the latest innovations in decarbonizing vehicles and even the materials used to make roads? Come hear from leading organizations about the progress they have made with compressed natural gas, renewable natural gas, hydrogen, the benefits they're seeing, and their views on the future of decarbonized fleets and road products.

Municipalities and Climate Change: Strategies and Tools

As the impacts of climate change continue to intensify across Ontario, municipalities are facing increasing challenges in managing their assets and reducing emissions. This panel brings together experts from AECOM and the City of Brantford to discuss strategies and tools for mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change.

Pierre Ranger, Let's Remember Adam Campaign

The Let's Remember Adam STOP FOR THE SCHOOL BUS campaign began after the tragic death of Adam Ranger on February 11th, 2000. Adam was just 5 years old when he was struck and killed by a vehicle directly in front of his family home while exiting his stopped school bus with its overhead red lights flashing and its stop arm extended. Since that horrible day, the Let's Remember Adam campaign and the Ranger family have made it their goal to remind and teach drivers why it's so important to STOP FOR THE SCHOOL BUS, what you can lose if someone does not STOP and to continue working towards making school buses themselves safer for everyone.

Summary-

All and all, I cannot stress how important OGRA is to serving members of council. Programming is very different, year by year, and is intended specifically for elected officials and public works staff. It is important to note that this does come as a cost to the taxpayer, however, I firmly believe the knowledge obtained saves the municipality in the long run. We are not reinventing the wheels in many issues and the information learned can save many hours of staff time and resources.

Recommendations- Move that this report be received for information.

Regional Councillor Jubb

Reviewed by,

IngridSvelnis
Chief Administrative Officer