

President's Message

So this is the last of my remarks that I will be sending as OPWA President, for this newsletter. My role in this capacity is soon to end. Hard to believe that almost an entire year has come and gone. My end of term will be officially marked on January 20th at the 2022 AGM when the gavel is exchanged from me to **President-Elect Don Kudo, County of Wellington**.



In these remaining days leading into the Holiday Season, I hope each of you will take the opportunity to slow down, or better yet, put your busy work schedule 'on pause' in order to enjoy the Holiday spirit, take part in local events within your community, and fingers crossed, enjoy time with friends and family (...please remember to recognize safe Public Health measures).

I realize this year has been challenging for us to connect the way we humans are programmed...by social and physical interaction. Actually, it has been nearly impossible to connect in that manner. If I was to describe the current temperament of the Chapter's Executive, one might suggest to "*release the hounds*". The Chapter is eager to return to the good ole days of providing educational and networking opportunities for its membership in-person. We are planning for 2022 with those intentions in mind, and we hope the gradual trend back to normalcy permits this to happen for the Chapter with much greater realization than we had in 2021.

Regardless of the many obstacles the Chapter has kept active. In October, the Right of Way (ROW) Committee welcomed hundreds of attendees to its repeated virtual conference. Again, we hope to host this conference next year in person – wouldn't that be great! OPWA finished the year off with its free monthly webinars under the **OPW Connects Program**. Thank you to the following organizations who presented during this time: **University of Ottawa, City of London, R.V. Anderson Assoc., and MTE Consultants**.

The Chapter and its two Branches continue to welcome new members to OPWA. We are honoured to have these new members join us, and OPWA will continue to seek opportunities that help demonstrate the value of being an OPWA member. Thank you for joining OPWA – the more the merrier just like Christmas cookies and eggnog! If you know a work colleague or a friend who will benefit by being a member of OPWA, have them contact us at <http://ontario.cpwa.net/>

So with that, on behalf of the OPWA Board of Directors, I would like to wish all of you a safe and enjoyable Holiday Season & a Merry Christmas. **Remember...take a moment to enjoy the moment!**

Enrico P. Stradiotto
2021 OPWA President

Ontario Public Works Awards



Project of the Year Awards and **Individual Awards** will be presented at the **National Public Works Week** annual event in May 2022. We anticipate and hope that participants will be able to gather in-person. Stay tuned for updates.

Please visit the OPWA Awards webpage at [//ontario.cpwa.net/](http://ontario.cpwa.net/) for more information about our Awards program.

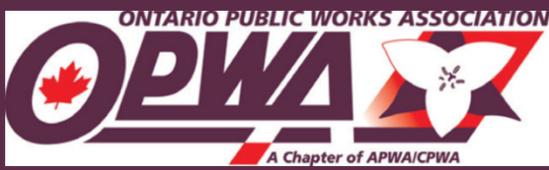


Spotlight on Brian Barber, Executive Director

Many of you have had the opportunity to interact with Brian Barber, our Executive Director over the last number of years, but we thought that it would be good to tell you a little about him. After graduating in Civil Engineering at McGill University, Brian joined MacLaren Engineers in Toronto in 1988, but within a year left to become employee #22 as part of a newly founded engineering company, MacViro Consultants.



In the subsequent years, Brian was involved in many large municipal infrastructure projects within the GTA, as well as waste management master plans as the landfill design engineer. When MacViro joined Genivar in 2006, Brian had progressed to the Vice President of Municipal Infrastructure in Ontario. In 2009, Brian was promoted to the Senior Vice President of Ontario for WSP (Genivar) and became responsible for all operations and engineering disciplines. His focus over the following number of years was to help transform a rapidly growing company with strategic planning, integration of acquisitions, operational and financial performance, and inspirational leadership. Brian retired in 2016, and after taking a year off, felt that he still had something to give back to the industry and joined the Ontario Public Works Association in the part time role as Executive Director in January of 2017. Brian is passionate about people and our public works industry and has a tremendous amount of experience to assist the association in our day-to-day operations as well as long term goals. He is always willing to listen and mentor both the young and old and is a strong believer in developing strong professional relationships. Please feel free to reach out to Brian at any time if you are interested in learning more about our association, or if you want to get more involved.



Inside Public Works

Winter 2021

New Members

Saeed Alsakka, Colliers Project Leaders
Tim Anderson, City of Port Colborne
Chris Bolton, County of Wellington
Trevor Carney, County of Wellington
John Chubby, County of Wellington
Nick Colucci, Town of Erin
Richard Daniel, Niagara Region
Anita de Haan, County of Wellington
Kimberley Doyle, RJ Burnside & Assoc.
Mark England, County of Wellington
Laura M. Faubert, Greenius
Brent Giles, Greenius
Maurice Gormley, County of Wellington
Chris King, City of Hamilton
Harry Krinas, City of Hamilton
Patricia Leishman, City of Hamilton
Scott MacDougall, County of Wellington
Chris Nepszy, City of Windsor
Joe O'Donnell, County of Wellington
Mushfiqur Rahman, City of Hamilton
Mena Rizk, University of Toronto
Doug Shaw, County of Wellington
Das Soligo, County of Wellington
Kelly Vrooman, County of Wellington
Travis Walker, County of Wellington
Cathy Wiebe, County of Wellington
Greg W. Wuisman, City of Hamilton

BE A MEMBER !

Know someone who may be interested in joining OPWA?

Have them contact OPWA.

New members get a **50% discount** for the initial year of membership!

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS !

Looking to connect with Public Works across Ontario, then join one of our committees:

- Awards
- Education
- Membership
- Communications
- Special Functions
- Diversity & Inclusion
- Young Professionals

If interested, please contact us: info@opwa.ca

OPWA Events for 2022

Annual Summit Expedition at Osler Bluffs
February 3, 2022

National Public Works Week
May 15-21, 2022

International Women's Day
March 10, 2022

Monthly Webinars
Resume in January 2022

OPWA continues to monitor the COVID situation to determine the most safe and suitable experience for members during these challenging times.

Please stay posted to our Events webpage and all upcoming communications for updates.

SAVE
THE
DATE

OPWA Annual General Meeting 2022

January 20th, 2022 at 12:00 PM

- Please register on-line at the OPWA Events webpage

With guest speaker Dr. Rebecca Sutherns

"...insightful" "...high energy" "...a strategist and trusted advisor"



33RD ANNUAL OPWA SUMMIT EXPEDITION

Ski and Snowboard Day

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3 2022

OSLER BLUFF SKI CLUB

795534 The Blue Mountains Clearview Townline, Blue Mountains Ontario L9Y 0R7

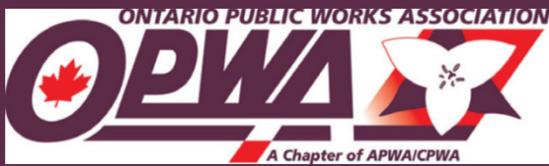
HOW TO REGISTER

- Please register online at: <http://ontario.cpwa.net/EventDetails/28216>
- **Registration open until January 24, 2022**
- For all donations and sponsorship, please complete online form on CPWA site above or contact Brian.
- **Note that all attendees will be required to register by name in advance (i.e. no "guest") and provide ID at sign in**

OSLER BLUFF CLUB SPONSOR

MIKE ROBBINS

"FIRST CLASS AS LONG AS IT LASTS"



Inside Public Works

Winter 2021

CPWA Update – Angela Storey, City of Hamilton

Greetings OPWA members!

I'd like to take the opportunity to re-introduce you to the work of the **Canadian Public Works Association (CPWA)**. The CPWA was founded in 1986 to enhance the services of the American Public Works Association (APWA) to the Canadian public works community. Since that time, CPWA has become *"the voice of public works in Canada."*



There are eight chapters in Canada that offer members the opportunity to attend conferences, educational programs, equipment shows and social events, as well as the chance to network with their colleagues and peers in a professional setting. In addition to the OPWA here in Ontario, the other Canadian chapters hail from Alberta (includes Northwest Territories), Atlantic Provinces (includes New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island), British Columbia (includes Yukon), Manitoba (includes Nunavut), Newfoundland-Labrador, Quebec and Saskatchewan.

The OPWA Executive Committee has a position for a CPWA representative that sits on the CPWA Board of Directors. The main function of the CPWA Board is to provide Advocacy and Outreach related to Public Works in Canada. Recognizing the importance of a unified voice for public works, the eight-member CPWA Board of Directors advocates for public works at the federal level and promotes infrastructure as one of the economic drivers for the nation. In addition to identifying the top public works priorities for Canadian public works professionals, the CPWA Board collaborates with other stakeholders to highlight issues of mutual concern, build relationships with government agencies and Parliament to provide input on policies and programs affecting public works, and work within their chapters to advocate for CPWA's public policy priorities.

At this time, I would like to thank **Chris Hamel from GM BluePlan** for his time and dedication to the CPWA Board which concluded in August during APWA's PWX. As incoming CPWA representative, I am looking forward to representing the OPWA for the next two years. More information about CPWA and our ongoing initiatives will be shared in future OPWA newsletters.

Right of Way Management Scholarships

The Right of Way Management Committee recently awarded four \$1000 scholarships to four students pursuing a college or university course related to Right of Way Management. **Congratulations to Rachelle Yakob, Charles Gilmer, Amir Roozbeh and Sukhbeer Singh Badwal!** Going forward, the Right of Way Management Committee will award three \$1000 scholarships per year, one for a High School student going into college/university, one for a College student and one for a University student. Applications for 2022 competition will close June 2022. Watch for details in January on the Right of Way Management Web site (www.rowmanagment.ca) and the OPWA website (www.Ontario.cpwa.net).



*Best of the Holiday Season
from the OPWA Board of Directors.*



*Wishing you a safe &
healthy start for 2022!*



Inside Public Works

Winter 2021

Thank You Sponsors!

To our annual sponsors and their support in 2021.

SPONSORSHIP

Want to help support OPWA?
If interested, please contact Brian Barber: info@opwa.ca

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