

**From:** [MPAC - InTouch](#)  
**To:** [Kelly Lush](#)  
**Subject:** March 2021 - InTouch  
**Date:** March-31-21 1:55:31 PM

## InTouch: MPAC's municipal stakeholder newsletter



[View online](#)

[La version française](#)

**March 2021**

### **Province-wide assessment update continues to be postponed**

As part of the Ontario Government's 2021 spring budget, the Minister of Finance announced the decision to postpone a province-wide property assessment update, due once again to the pandemic. Property assessments for the 2022 property tax year will continue to be based on the fully



phased-in January 1, 2016 assessed values.

The budget notes that consultations on the timing and valuation date for the next reassessment will be commencing shortly and that outcomes will be communicated this fall.



## Hearing from our Municipal Liaison Group

Late last month we met with our Municipal Liaison Group, which includes representatives from municipalities and associations across the province. We discussed our role in supporting municipalities as they consider the optional small business tax class that was made available in the 2020 Fall Economic Statement and sought input on our research into the potential for electronic delivery of the Assessment Roll.

We also asked for volunteers to join a working group that will provide input as we develop a Master Municipal Services Agreement to consolidate our existing municipal agreements into a single services agreement that will more clearly define the relationship between MPAC and Ontario municipalities. For more information on any of these initiatives, please reach out to your local Municipal & Stakeholder Relations Account Manager.

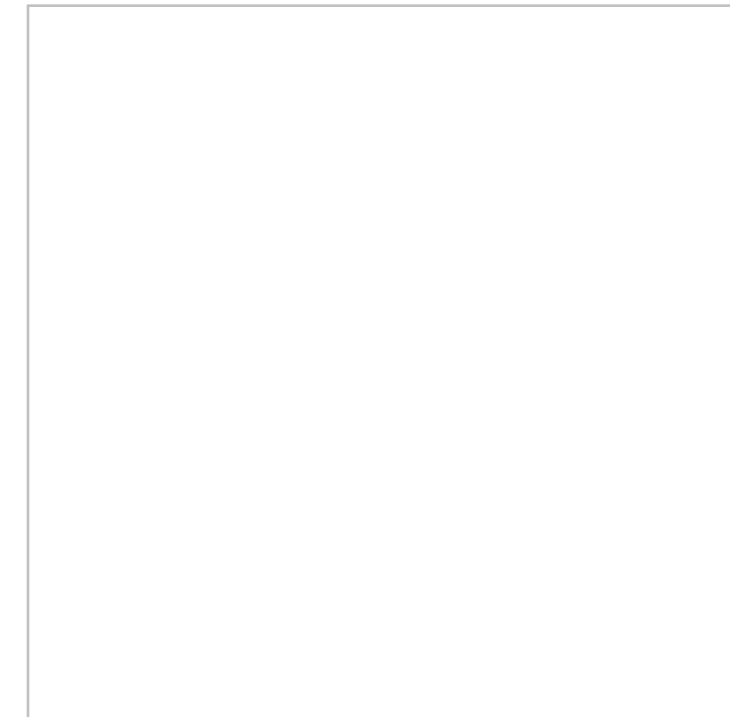
## Continuing to roll out the new Municipal Connect

This week, we onboarded our final group of municipal users to the new Municipal Connect. Next we will turn our attention to transitioning users in provincial government, school boards and municipal consultants to the new system.



A number of features for the new Municipal Connect are still in development and will be released over the coming weeks. While use of the new system is encouraged, you may need to utilize the previous version of Municipal Connect until all the new features are available in the new system. We are working towards decommissioning the old Municipal Connect on June 11, 2021.

We will be sharing updates to the new Municipal Connect regularly as we release features and implement enhancements.



## Supporting the standardization of building permits

MPAC has highlighted its support for developing a data exchange standard for the development process in Ontario. The proposed collaboration, led by One Ontario, to bring together government, the building sector, and software vendors, provides a platform to realize an open and public data standard to help drive efficiencies in the end-to-end development process.

Every year, we receive approximately 300,000 building permits from municipalities. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, we [supported municipalities in determining the capabilities required to deliver electronic copies of building plans for existing permits](#). This work helps us understand municipal revenue needs and the value that the digitization of building plans would provide.

"The delivery of electronic building plans and permits from municipalities can greatly decrease the time in which we can deliver new property values, and thus tax revenue, to our municipal partners," says **Carmelo Lipsi**, Vice-President and Chief Operating Officer at MPAC. "Standardizing the collection of this data, while also working with Ontario municipalities to embrace e-permitting solutions, will support them in realizing new revenues sooner than in the past."

We encourage technological innovation and support the development of an easier, more efficient process and more cost-effective exchange of data, and we are pleased to work with our sector partners on these initiatives. We believe that the development of an open data exchange standard with its resulting data being publicly owned and available is a worthy initiative that will support Ontario's municipalities.

## Notices in the mail for the Army, Navy & Air Force Veterans in Canada Exemption

Last December, the Ontario government amended the Assessment Act to exempt land used and occupied as a memorial home, clubhouse or athletic grounds by a unit of the Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans (ANAVETs) in Canada from property taxation.

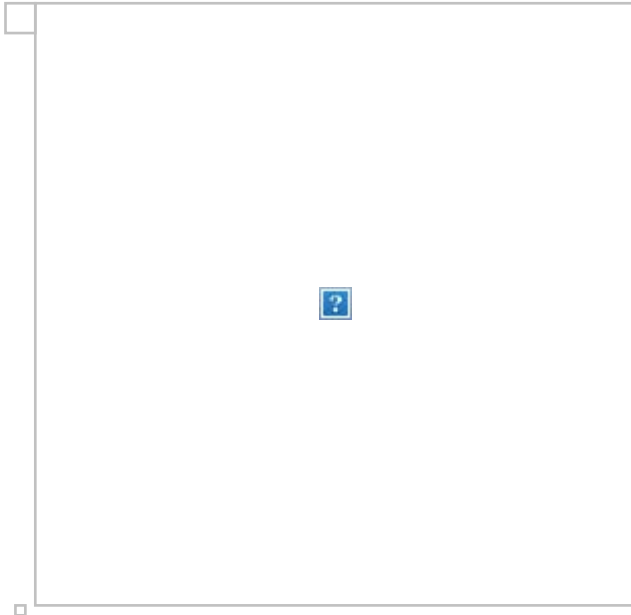
This month, MPAC mailed Special Amended Notices (SANs) to the taxable properties that are eligible for the exemption with an effective date of January 1, 2019. This is the same exemption provision that was introduced in the Fall of 2018 for properties used and occupied by an Ontario branch of the Royal Canadian Legion. In total, more than 400 Ontario Legions and 21 ANAVETS units will have their properties exempt from property taxes.

In the coming weeks, MPAC will be providing municipalities with information on applicable properties in their municipality as well as any assessment impacts. For more information, contact your local MSR representative.

## Upcoming webinar

### How MPAC Assesses Farm Properties

Join Mary Dawson-Cole, Regional Manager, and Karen Russell, Director, Valuation and Customer Relations, for this webinar to learn more about how MPAC values farmland properties in Ontario. We will outline the key market drivers, the sales investigation process, the components of a farm property assessment, available incentive programs, and details of the small-scale value add farm class.



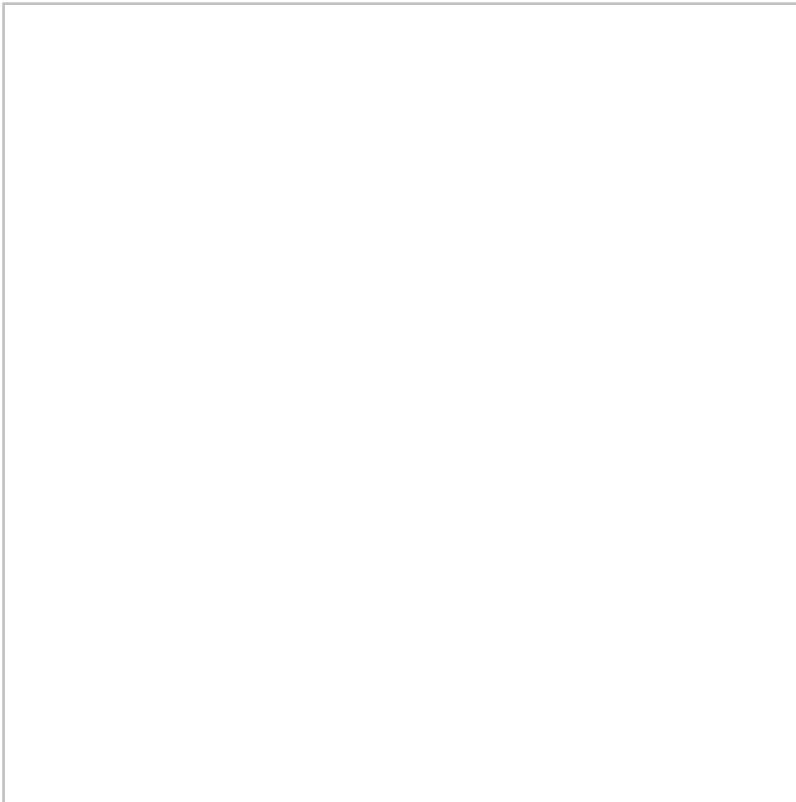
**Date: Thursday, April 8**  
**Time: 1 to 2 p.m. EDT**

[Register Now](#)

If you missed last month's webinar on Modernizing the Building Permit Process, [you can watch it here](#).

View the schedule of upcoming municipal webinars on [mpac.ca](http://mpac.ca) and view recordings of all past webinars on our [YouTube channel](#).





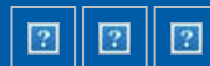
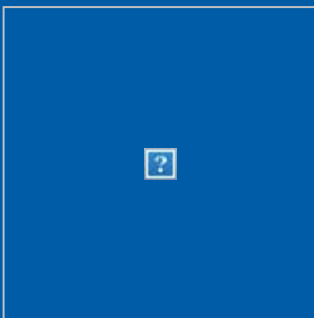
The Township of Puslinch was able to pivot their business practice during the pandemic and implement a full e-permitting solution, accept electronic plans and start readily sharing them with MPAC to ensure that new assessment was captured in a timely fashion.

MPAC's Account Manager worked with the municipality and their chosen vendor to ensure their process and technology worked well with our system for their building permit integration. This digital enhancement replaces the previous access to a "safe room" that was granted to MPAC to view building plans, , resulting in the Township receiving much needed growth in a timely fashion.

"Our move to electronic transfer was always the plan but COVID-19 put the plan into overdrive. Ensuring information was easily available with a few clicks was the only way to go – the industry is already doing work electronically and we were the hold up," noted Mary Hasan, the Township's Director of Finance/Treasurer. "This change will pay dividends in the near future as our municipality continues to grow and staff pressures increase."

MPAC Account Manager, Jon Hebden agrees, saying "the use of a digital e-permitting solution has made it easier for us to meet the municipality's service expectations by adding on new assessment as soon as possible."

**Do you have a great story about our partnerships in action? [Share it with us.](#)**

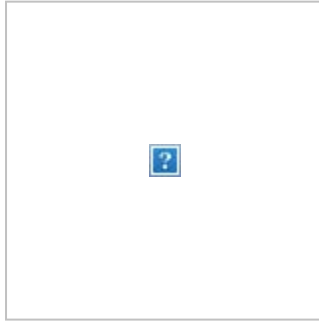


[Municipal Connect](#)  
[mpac.ca](http://mpac.ca)

[Unsubscribe klush@huronkinloss.com](mailto:klush@huronkinloss.com)

[Update Profile](#) | [Customer Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by [intouch@mpac.ca](mailto:intouch@mpac.ca) powered by



Try email marketing for free today!

## Kelly Lush

---

**From:** MPAC - InTouch <intouch@mpac.ca>  
**Sent:** March-31-21 1:55 PM  
**To:** Kelly Lush  
**Subject:** March 2021 - InTouch



[View online](#)

[La version française](#)

March 2021

### Province-wide assessment update continues to be postponed

As part of the Ontario Government's 2021 spring budget, the Minister of Finance

announced the decision to postpone a province-wide property assessment update, due once again to the pandemic. Property assessments for the 2022 property tax year will continue to be based on the fully phased-in January 1, 2016 assessed values.

The budget notes that consultations on the timing and valuation date for the next reassessment will be commencing shortly and that outcomes will be communicated this fall.

### Hearing from our Municipal Liaison Group

Late last month we met with our Municipal Liaison Group, which includes representatives from municipalities and associations across the province. We discussed our role in supporting municipalities as they consider the optional small business tax class that was made available in the 2020 Fall Economic Statement and sought input on our research into the potential for electronic delivery of the Assessment Roll.

We also asked for volunteers to join a working group that will provide input as we develop a Master Municipal Services Agreement to consolidate our existing municipal agreements into a single services agreement that will more clearly define the relationship between MPAC and Ontario municipalities. For more information on any of these initiatives, please reach out to your local Municipal & Stakeholder Relations Account Manager.

### Continuing to roll out the new Municipal Connect

This week, we onboarded our final group of municipal users to the new Municipal Connect.

Next we will turn our attention to transitioning users in provincial government, school boards and municipal consultants to the new system.

A number of features for the new Municipal Connect are still in development and will be released over the coming weeks. While use of the new system is encouraged, you may need to utilize the previous version of Municipal Connect until all the new features are available in the new system. We are working towards decommissioning the old Municipal Connect on June 11, 2021.

We will be sharing updates to the new Municipal Connect regularly as we release features and implement enhancements.

## Supporting the standardization of building permits

MPAC has highlighted its support for developing a data exchange standard for the development process in Ontario. The proposed collaboration, led by One Ontario, to bring together government, the building sector, and software vendors, provides a platform to realize an open and public data standard to help drive efficiencies in the end-to-end development process.

Every year, we receive approximately 300,000 building permits from municipalities. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, we [supported municipalities in determining the capabilities required to deliver electronic copies of building plans for existing permits.](#) This work helps us understand municipal revenue needs and the value that the digitization of building plans would provide.

"The delivery of electronic building plans and permits from municipalities can greatly decrease the time in which we can deliver new property values, and thus tax revenue, to our municipal partners," says **Carmelo Lipsi**, Vice-President and Chief Operating Officer at MPAC. "Standardizing the collection of this data, while also working with Ontario municipalities to embrace e-permitting solutions, will support them in realizing new revenues sooner than in the past."

We encourage technological innovation and support the development of an easier, more efficient process and more cost-effective exchange of data, and we are pleased to work with our sector partners on these initiatives. We believe that the development of an open data exchange standard with its resulting data being publicly owned and available is a worthy initiative that will support Ontario's municipalities.

## Notices in the mail for the Army, Navy & Air Force Veterans in Canada Exemption

Last December, the Ontario government amended the Assessment Act to exempt land used and occupied as a memorial home, clubhouse or athletic grounds by a unit of the Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans (ANAVETs) in Canada from property taxation.

This month, MPAC mailed Special Amended Notices (SANs) to the taxable properties that are eligible for the exemption with an effective date of January 1, 2019. This is the same exemption provision that was introduced in the Fall of 2018 for properties used and occupied by an Ontario branch of the Royal Canadian Legion. In total, more than 400 Ontario Legions and 21 ANAVETS units will have their properties exempt from property taxes.

In the coming weeks, MPAC will be providing municipalities with information on applicable properties in their municipality as well as any assessment impacts. For more information, contact your local MSR representative.

## Upcoming webinar

### How MPAC Assesses Farm Properties



Join Mary Dawson-Cole, Regional Manager, and Karen Russell, Director, Valuation and Customer Relations, for this webinar to learn more about how MPAC values farmland properties in Ontario. We will outline the key market drivers, the sales investigation process, the components of a farm property assessment, available incentive programs, and details of the small-scale value add farm class.

**Date: Thursday, April 8**  
**Time: 1 to 2 p.m. EDT**

[\*\*Register Now\*\*](#)

If you missed last month's webinar on Modernizing the Building Permit Process, [you can watch it here.](#)

View the schedule of upcoming municipal webinars on [mpac.ca](http://mpac.ca) and view recordings of all past webinars on our [YouTube channel](#).



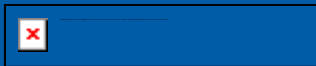
The Township of Puslinch was able to pivot their business practice during the pandemic and implement a full e-permitting solution, accept electronic plans and start readily sharing them with MPAC to ensure that new assessment was captured in a timely fashion.

MPAC's Account Manager worked with the municipality and their chosen vendor to ensure their process and technology worked well with our system for their building permit integration. This digital enhancement replaces the previous access to a "safe room" that was granted to MPAC to view building plans, , resulting in the Township receiving much needed growth in a timely fashion.

"Our move to electronic transfer was always the plan but COVID-19 put the plan into overdrive. Ensuring information was easily available with a few clicks was the only way to go – the industry is already doing work electronically and we were the hold up," noted Mary Hasan, the Township's Director of Finance/Treasurer. "This change will pay dividends in the near future as our municipality continues to grow and staff pressures increase."

MPAC Account Manager, Jon Hebden agrees, saying "the use of a digital e-permitting solution has made it easier for us to meet the municipality's service expectations by adding on new assessment as soon as possible."

**Do you have a great story about our partnerships in action? [Share it with us.](#)**



[Municipal Connect](#)  
[mpac.ca](http://mpac.ca)

Municipal Property Assessment Corporation | 1340 Pickering Parkway, Pickering, ON L1V 0C4  
Canada

[Unsubscribe klush@huronkinloss.com](mailto:klush@huronkinloss.com)

[Update Profile](#) | [Customer Contact Data Notice](#)

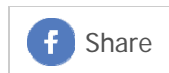
Sent by [intouch@mpac.ca](mailto:intouch@mpac.ca) powered by



**Kelly Lush**

---

**From:** Community Living Kincardine & District <aswan@clkd.ca>  
**Sent:** April-01-21 10:00 AM  
**To:** Kelly Lush  
**Subject:** CLKD's April 2021 newsletter is here!



April 2021 Newsletter

[View this email in your browser](#)



---

An Inclusive Caring Community, where all people belong and have equal opportunity to participate.

---

---

**And the Golden Sock Award Goes to...**



It was another extremely close race this year with a lot of amazing entries and participation from our local businesses and schools.

Over 540 people voted and the winner of this year's Golden Sock Award is... South Bruce OPP Kincardine Detachment!

The CLKD judging committee scores the submitted displays in the categories of colour, creativity and messaging, and the top two displays go "head to head" on facebook for the community to vote the winner.

The 2021 Lots of Socks Window Display competition saw more than 80 businesses hang up their socks to show their support of individuals living with Down Syndrome in our community and around the world.

Each year, Community Living Kincardine and District organizes the Annual "Lots of Socks" Window Display competition where businesses in and around the Municipality of Kincardine and the Township of Huron Kinloss decorate exterior facing windows in support of World Down Syndrome Day. The winner is presented with the coveted Golden Sock Award to display in their place of business for the year.

Congratulations again to this year's **winner: South Bruce OPP Kincardine Detachment and Runner Up BDO Kincardine.**

**Honourable Mentions:**

St. Anthony's  
Robert Q Travel  
Kincardine Dentistry  
RBC  
CIBC  
Kincardine Tourism Office  
The Cooperators, Jennifer Cook and Associates  
Little Beginnings Daycare  
UBC Local 2222

A huge thank you to our models, our local volunteer photographer Jamie Edwards of [JME Photography](#), all of the participating businesses and everyone who took the time to follow our campaign and vote. It was another great year filled with fun, creativity and support!

---

## The World Celebrates Autism Awareness



April 2, 2021 is World Autism Day.

World Autism Day is one of only seven official health-specific United Nation Days acknowledged every year. The United Nations General Assembly unanimously declared April 2nd as World Autism Awareness Day to highlight the need to help improve the quality of life of those with autism so they can lead full and meaningful lives as an integral part of society. The day itself brings individual autism organizations together all around the world to share research, diagnoses, treatment, and acceptance for those with autism.



Around the world, countries recognize and celebrate Autism Awareness in their own way. Experiences for individuals all around the world living with autism can be very similar, and the main message surrounding Autism Awareness is to create a kinder and more inclusive world.

Click on the link below for an interactive world map featuring stories from around the world including how people with autism are coping with the global pandemic. <https://www.spectrumnews.org/opinion/cross-talk/around-the-world/>

Bryony Hockin, 26, shares their view below, on how social preparation for a neurotypical due to the pandemic, is similar to the daily social preparation of some people living with autism.

*"Neurotypicals are, for the first time, experiencing the overwhelming fear of uncertainty that I experience every day. The unanswered questions. Not knowing who to believe. Going outside now requires a checklist, a plan of action, a script and a ritual, something I've done since I was old enough to walk."*

We should celebrate the unique views autism brings everyday. Wouldn't the world be a better place if we considered what we learn from autism every day of the year?



### #Volunteers Bring Change

The current circumstances have highlighted how much of an impact our volunteers have, either because of what they are doing now in response to the pandemic, or how their absence from volunteering face to face has been felt.

Our amazing volunteers at CLKD have continued to generously give their time and efforts to support and help others despite these unprecedented times.

This past year brought so much change, but our volunteers have been finding new ways to stay connected. Their willingness to pivot to a virtual environment, whether it be that phone

call to check in, continuing to share their talents through virtual platforms, or sharing stories through social media, has played a huge part in preventing social isolation.



*"He's my musical buddy. We love to rock and roll together. He FaceTime's me every week and we rock out together on our guitars. He's an awesome musician, he teaches me a lot! Sometimes he drops off a delivery of cupcakes! He is a great friend."*

- Allan, pictured above FaceTiming with Tony.



*"Holly will call me on her way home from work...pretty much every day. She will give me ideas for knitting. Sometimes she drops off a little care package with yarn and candy. I loved the pretzels coated with yoghurt they were so good! I really miss hanging out with her."*

- Alyssa, pictured above chatting on the phone with Holly.

We would like to recognize the difference all of our volunteers have made, and continue to make, through the virtual role they play in response to COVID-19. Through their continued dedication and acts of kindness, our volunteers help us stay connected to each other, our hobbies and our community.

We appreciate everything you do and thank you for staying connected!

---

## Connecting with Postcards



As the world approached one year since the start of the pandemic, the appeal of virtual “happy hours” and other ways of staying connected via screens has faded for many people.

Canada Post recognized this screen fatigue and reacted by providing prepaid postcards to 13.5 million households within the country. This initiative provided an alternate way for people to connect with those they're missing — one postcard at a time.

There's a special feeling that comes with knowing someone took the time to write and send you a note in the mail so, when we heard about this initiative, we took advantage of these post cards and sent sweet notes and doodles to the people we were missing most.

*"I love writing letters especially to my brother Randy" - Rick*

*"I sent a post card to my Grandpa in Sarnia" - Alyssa*

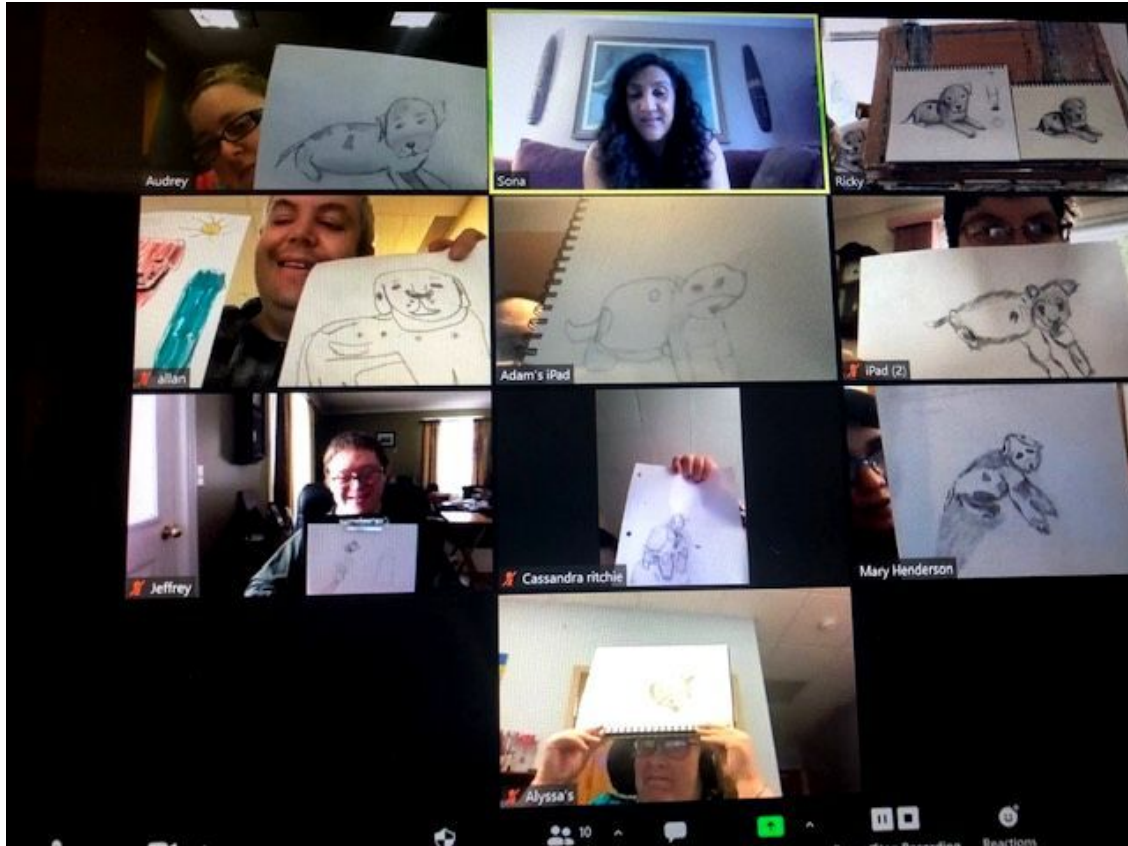
*"I took advantage of the Free Canada Post card to write my Aunt Mary" - Allan*

Lindsay, Sarah and Donald sent notes to their parents to let them know they are missed.

*"Last week, we received a very special postcard from Sarah. What a pleasant surprise! We really miss having her home, but the postcard brought a feeling of being closer. We put it on our fridge as a constant reminder of her." - The Plantt's*

Thank you to Canada Post for this lovely gesture.

## Art Class with Jessica Cormier



CPS participants enjoy a virtual art class with local artist Jessica Cormier

Jessica Cormier joined us on a Zoom chat to teach us how to sketch a dog. Everyone was excited to see, and chat with Jessica through this live virtual event.

Jessica had done a Facebook Live with us back in June, and one of the things that both Jessica and the participants were missing was the ability to chat with, and see each other. We found that using Zoom to run the art class made the activity much more interactive and fun for all!

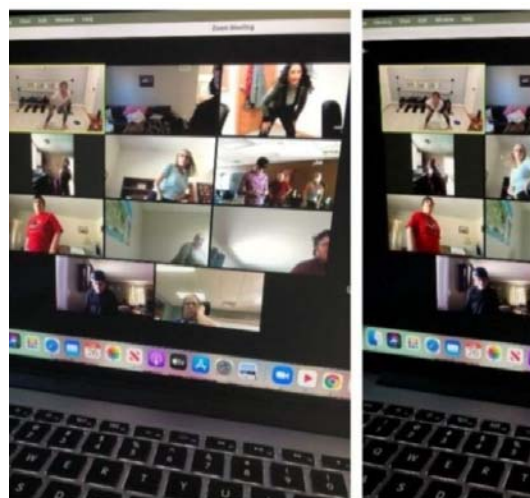
We all enjoyed learning how to do a step-by-step sketch of a cute dog. We started out using basic shapes like circles, ovals, and triangles, to start the sketch of our dog. At the end of our session, everyone's sketches looked great!

We would like to thank Jessica Cormier for sharing her time and encouraging us to be creative with our drawings. We look forward to having her back soon!

- The CPS Team



## "Fun Friday's" Had us Dancing!



The CPS team organized a "Fun Friday" virtual dance session with Jess Brown from HYPE performing Arts Academy.

We had about 10 people attend the event. Everyone came ready to move and "get their sweat on".

Jess started everyone off with a fitness style warm-up then taught us a fresh new dance to Bruno Mars' "Uptown Funk"; a song that everyone was very familiar with!

Jess taught the dance in a way that was very easy to follow; each move was to the count of 8 and once you got to the number 8, it was time to transition to the next step. This made it easy for us to catch on quickly.

Everyone enjoyed learning this new dance and we all loved the fact that it got us up, and moving!

Big Thanks to Jess for taking the time to teach us this fun dance. We hope to continue dance monthly as a part of our virtual Fun Fridays!

- The CPS Team

## Donald's Family Tree



Donald standing proudly beside his family tree, a project he completed after an Expression Session about family through the CLKD CPS program.

During one of our recent Expression Sessions we focused our discussion on "Family". Everyone in the group created their own personal family tree and then shared them with the group. We learned a lot about each other and how our families shape who we are as unique individuals!

During the session Donald would say, "my Mom, my Dad" when showing his family tree. He talked about his sister Sheri and her husband Rob.

After the session, with the help of his support staff, Donald decided to create his own family tree to display in his home. To make the tree, Donald painted a tree trunk and traced his hands and used his painted handprints to make the leaves. He kept saying, "my family". He then put his name in the centre and his family members' names on the various leaves. Donald even added a colourful bird to his family tree. Support staff said he had so much fun, laughing and talking about his family as he built his tree and admired his work. This was especially meaningful during these challenging times when visits with family have been limited to keep everyone safe.

Donald was so proud of his creation that he couldn't wait to show everyone on our CPS group chat and tell us about his family. His tree is still proudly displayed in his dining room. Donald continues, even weeks after the session, to look at his tree and talk about his family with his housemates and support staff.

Donald is looking forward to in-person visits with his Mom and Dad soon.

- The CPS Team

## Pigmas, Piggentines and Lots of Decorating!



Staff and supported individuals at Community Living Kincardine and District never stop having fun! Throughout this pandemic we have put extra effort on the things that make us happy. We celebrate holidays big and small, decorate our spaces and remember to focus on the things that make us smile.

We have all heard of Valentine's Day, but have you heard of Piggentine's Day? No? Well, let us fill you in!

For this story, we must go all the way back to December and explain Pigmas, which is how Piggentine's Day was born.

You see, in December CLKD did an advent Calendar with different events hosted by the various people around the agency. We built snowmen, found inspiration, shared kindness, and even flashed back to our childhood. It was during our CLKD Advent that CLKD staff member Leisa brought us Pigmas!

One Thursday evening, we all left the office like any other day, and the next morning, by the magic of Christmas (and some hard work on Leisa's part) Pigmas had arrived! This beautiful Christmas themed set up appeared and 4 adorable little Guinea Pigs made a section of our office their home for the day.

Everyone in the office that day loved having these little friends join us. Whether it was taking a

moment to watch them munch on snacks or holding and petting them for a moment or two, there was no doubt in anyone's mind that these little Guinea Pigs brought an abundance of joy!

As winter arrived, and lockdown 2.0 was extended, Leisa was asked if she could provide some more Guinea Pig magic; this time with a Valentine's theme and a much bigger audience.

Let me tell you, Leisa and the Guinea Pigs delivered!

Piggie, Timber, Pipa and Livie joined us once again at the office on February 11th. Their area was decked out in all things Valentine's! Complete with a kissing booth, love shack, hearts, and all things pink and red – even their snacks were colour coordinated!

During their visit, they made their Zoom debut with the CPS team's Lunch and Laughter weekly lunch chat. We had a great turn out, and those that joined us were able to ask Leisa about Guinea Pigs and just what it takes to look after such an adorable, exotic pet!

We learned about their need for vitamin C, their love for hay, how tricky it can be to find a veterinarian to care for them and the different types of Guinea pigs there are. We also got to see different members of the staff hold them in their snuggle sacks – and even conquer their nervousness about handling them.

Some attending via zoom expressed how much they would love to have a pet like a Guinea Pig, and some made it very clear that they would not!

Without a doubt this was a very memorable day for many, and we cannot wait to have these ladies back again soon!

The Guinea pigs have been a welcomed source of excitement and a wonderful moral booster for us all.

Aside from "the pigs" visiting, we have also been embracing and celebrating the seasons by "sprucing up" our spaces. From window painting to decorating, our residential and office spaces have a lively feel around every corner. Despite what is going on outside of CLKD with the pandemic, we remain committed to keeping spirits high.

## Upcoming Events & Activities

---





## Autism Awareness Day

April 2, 2021

On this day, take time to learn more about Autism Spectrum Disorder and show support for people around the world living with Autism.



## National Volunteer Week (NVW)

April 18-24, 2021

A week to focus on the amazing people who volunteer their time to make a difference as an individual or as part of a larger collective. The theme for the 2021 NVW is "The value of one, the power of many." [Join us on facebook](#) as we recognize, celebrate and thank the volunteers that make a difference in our community throughout the week of April 18-24th.



## Community Living Month

May 2021

Community Living Month is an opportunity to celebrate our commitment to an inclusive and caring community where citizens of all abilities are welcome and valued.

# Online Resources in Response to COVID-19



## Live Streaming Concerts & Music Events!

[Billboard.com](#) is maintaining a list of all the Livestreams & Virtual Concerts to watch during the pandemic.

[Click here](#) to check out the complete list..



## FREE Virtual Experiences

While most people continue to stay home, the Canadian Red Cross has compiled a great list of FREE online entertainment and experiences that many of us are missing these days including the Met Opera, Live Animal Cams, Virtual Field Trips, Yoga and much, much more!

[Click here](#) to check out the complete list..

To learn more about CLKD's services and events, visit our website!



[Like CLKD on Facebook](#)



[Follow CLKD on Twitter](#)



[Watch CLKD on YouTube](#)



[Send us an email](#)

If this email has been forwarded to you, please consider subscribing to the Community Living Kincardine and District monthly e-newsletter by [signing up here](#).

**Our mailing address is:**

Community Living Kincardine &  
District  
286 Lambton St.  
Kincardine, On N2Z 2Z3  
Canada

[Add us to your address book](#)

*Copyright © 2021 Community Living Kincardine & District,  
All rights reserved.*

[unsubscribe from this list](#)

[update subscription preferences](#)





# Ontario Nuclear Collaboration

Report 2020

**BrucePower™**  
Innovation at work

**ONTARIOPOWER**  
GENERATION







# Table of Contents

<b>We're all in this Together .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>By the Numbers .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Ontario's Nuclear Fleet .....</b>	<b>6</b>
Bruce Power .....	6
Major Component Replacement Program .....	6
Ontario Power Generation .....	8
Darlington Refurbishment Project .....	8
<b>Areas of Nuclear Collaboration .....</b>	<b>10</b>
Pandemic Response Alignment .....	10
Bruce Power and OPG Collaborate on new Dosimetry Tool .....	10
Improved efficiencies through document and information sharing .....	10
Sharing Assets .....	11
Supply Chain .....	12
Waste Management .....	12
Labour, Training and Schedules .....	13
<b>The Future of Ontario .....</b>	<b>14</b>
Innovations .....	15
Labour, Training and Schedules .....	15



# We're all in this Together

More than a decade ago, when Bruce Power and OPG began planning our individual nuclear refurbishment programs, neither organization could have foreseen the world-wide disruption to lives that would be caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Like most companies around the world, we had to respond swiftly and effectively to ensure the health and safety of our workers while continuing safe power generation and maintaining momentum on critical projects underway.

The results of our actions were work environments with increased safety and health precautions and the continued and steady generation of electricity for the province. With Darlington Unit 1 setting a world record for continuous operations over 1,000 days and Bruce Power Unit 1 setting a site record of 694 days of continuous operations.

This agile and immediate response was enabled by our robust individual business continuity plans and by the on-going spirit of collaboration between our two organizations — a collaborative approach that has been central to our various efforts over the years and continues to drive success during our refurbishments.

In this report, along with highlighting our responses to the pandemic, we detail how Bruce Power and OPG continue to work in alignment to meet our commitments on the Major Component Replacement



Program and the Darlington Refurbishment Project through an established practice of knowledge-sharing, applying lessons learned and leveraging economies of scale. We also highlight our work in areas that will have a positive impact on the collective future of Ontarians. Notably, our individual agreements with BWXT Canada and ISOGEN to harvest Molybdenum-99 and Lutetium 177, life-saving radioisotopes used in diagnostic and medical treatments around the world each year, helping to detect illnesses such as cancer and heart disease.



### We're all in this Together.

This is a sentiment that has been echoed around the world as we all seek to recover from the dual health and economic crises brought on by COVID-19. It's also a sentiment that has been shared by our two organizations long before the pandemic and prior to our refurbishments.

Our economic development impacts are unparalleled in Ontario, so as we continue to implement Canada's second and third largest infrastructure projects, this economic engine will continue to support thousands of jobs across Ontario and produce billions of dollars in economic activity. These highly-skilled jobs in the STEM fields and trades are providing the people of Ontario with the ability to work in an innovative and technical field, tackling today's biggest challenges like climate change and decarbonization, right here at home.

As Ontario rebuilds its nuclear fleet in the years ahead, Bruce Power and OPG will continue to work together to support our communities and deliver on our

commitments on the Major Component Replacement Program and the Darlington Refurbishment Project, generating decades more of low-cost, reliable and clean energy for the province of Ontario.



**Ken Hartwick**  
OPG  
President and  
Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature of Ken Hartwick in black ink.



**Michael W. Rencheck**  
Bruce Power  
President and  
Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature of Michael W. Rencheck in black ink.



# By the Numbers

The COVID-19 pandemic was a call to community action for Bruce Power and OPG. In addition to the continued safe operations of our plants, ensuring the well-being of our host communities remained one of greatest priorities. Our organizations each responded with several individual initiatives, the impact of which has been far-reaching and has inspired on-going community support.

**As at September 30, 2020**

## Ontario Power Generation

### Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) donations

- 1 million surgical masks
- 75,000 N95 masks
- 17,500 Tyvek protective suits
- 9,000 cloth masks
- 10 Power Assisted Air Purification Respirators to Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre;
- 22,000 face shields (built in partnership with others)

### Emergency support

- \$500,000 to Feed Ontario to help launch their province-wide emergency food box program
- \$250,000 to the Regional Food Distribution Association of Northwestern Ontario to distribute emergency food support to First Nations
- \$150,000 to Feed the Need to buy and distribute food to organizations across Durham Region;



- \$150,000 to 15 other partner and neighbour First Nation communities
- \$250,000 to Jack.org to promote the *Be There* mental health online program to youth (year-long campaign)
- \$200,000 to TVO to promote online children's education programming to help engage and educate kids at home, during the pandemic
- \$10,000 to support teacher recruitment and training for First Nations communities
- \$200,000 to the Prosperity Project, as lead sponsor of the campaign encouraging women, who have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 job losses, and girls to consider careers in STEM and the skilled trades





## Bruce Power

### Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) donations

- 2.5 million pieces of PPE to front line workers
- 21,550 pieces of PPE for recovery centres in Grey and Bruce Counties.
- Enough isotopes in 2020 to sterilize between 20-25 billion pairs of surgical gloves or COVID swabs

### Emergency support

- \$120,000, raised by employees, present and past, to support 38 local food banks
- \$1 million to food banks in the Grey-Bruce County region
- 3,000+ care packages distributed within the Grey-Bruce County region
- 50,000 litres of hand sanitizer distributed to local businesses, community organizations, food banks and Indigenous communities
- \$400,000 from Bruce Power and the Power Workers' Union to the University Health

Network to accelerate research in COVID-19 prevention, diagnostics, anti-viral therapies and cures.

- 190,000 community updates issued, in partnership with local health units, to raise awareness and stop the spread of the virus.
- Formed the 101-member Retooling and Economic Recovery Council (RERC), of which OPG is a member. RERC is committed to leveraging the province's robust nuclear supply chain to continue to assist in Ontario's fight against COVID-19 and to aid in economic recovery.

Bruce Power's role in helping Ontario during the fight against the COVID-19 health crisis was recognized by Canadian Manufacturing magazine as the Services award winner of the Responding to COVID-19: Industry Leadership Honours.

# Ontario's Nuclear Fleet

## Bruce Power

Bruce Power is a Canadian-owned public-private partnership of TC Energy, Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement Systems (OMERS), the Power Workers' Union and The Society of United Professionals. The company employs more than 4,000 people and, over the past 15 years, has been one of the largest investors in Ontario's electricity infrastructure, providing billions in private dollars to the Bruce Power site — which continues to be owned by the province.

## Major Component Replacement Program

In December 2015, Bruce Power reached an agreement with the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) to advance a long-term investment program which would refurbish its nuclear fleet and help secure the site's operation until 2064. Bruce Power's Life-Extension Program started in 2016, enabling the completion of asset management and maintenance outages. The program has been executed on plan with over \$2 billion invested, creating and sustaining 22,000 jobs annually and contributing over \$4 billion per year to provincial GDP. 90% of Bruce Power's spend on this project is in Ontario and 98% in Canada, making it truly a Canadian-led infrastructure project. Over 250 supply chain companies across Ontario and hundreds more across Canada are supported through this initiative.



As part of the Life-Extension Program, Bruce Power began its intensive Major Component Replacement (MCR) Program in January 2020. This program focuses on the replacement of key reactor components in Units 3 to 8 and enables the completion of asset management and outage maintenance on a range of nuclear and non-nuclear





systems during the shutdown period. A number of key vendor partners were awarded contracts to complete various scopes of work including Black & McDonald, SGRT — a joint venture formed among AECOM, Aecon and Framatome, Shoreline Power Group - a consortium of Aecon, AECOM and SNC-Lavalin, and Nuvia Canada Inc.



The first MCR in Unit 6 is scheduled to be completed in 48 months with each subsequent refurbishment taking less time and costing less money.



## Ontario Power Generation

Ontario Power Generation produces about half of the electricity Ontarians rely on every day. Our power is clean, reliable and costs an average of 40 per cent less than other generators. With operations that span the province from Cornwall to Kenora, we value the safety and health of our communities and 9,000+ employees above all else.

### Darlington Refurbishment Project

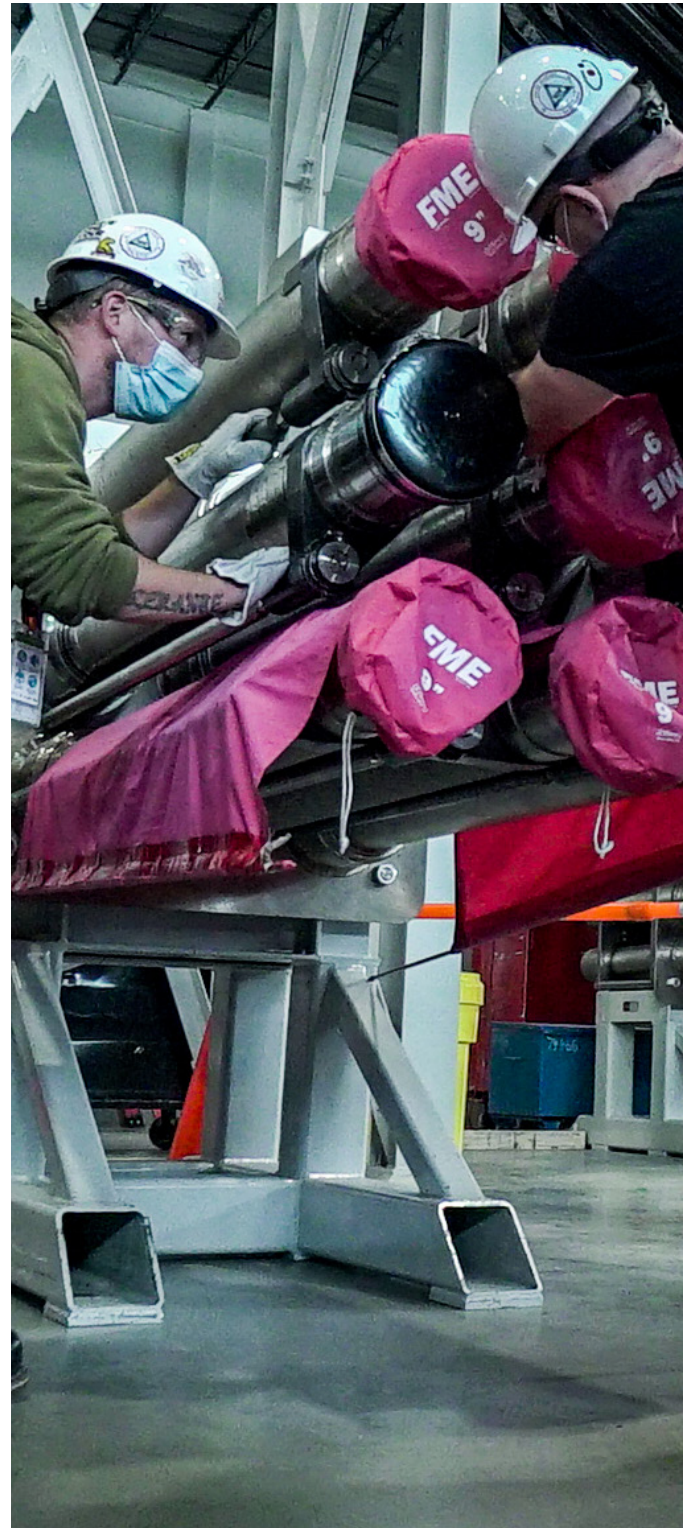
One of Canada's largest clean energy projects, the Darlington Refurbishment Project will extend the operating life of OPG's Darlington Nuclear Generating Station and generate another 30-plus years of clean energy for the province. The four-unit refurbishment is a \$12.8 billion project that is expected to generate nearly \$90 billion in economic benefits for Ontario by its completion in 2026 and from a clean energy perspective take the equivalent of two million cars off Ontario's roads, per year.

OPG has been executing a large number of refurbishment related projects since 2010. Since 2016, with our project partners, OPG has shut down Unit 2, refurbished the reactor and returned it to commercial service on June 4, 2020 - on time and on budget. Following a brief delay due to the global pandemic, OPG took Darlington Unit 3 offline on July 30, 2020 and began the first stages of reactor disassembly on September 3, 2020.

The four-unit Darlington Refurbishment Project is scheduled for completion by 2026.







# Areas of Nuclear Collaboration

## **Pandemic Response Alignment**

When COVID-19 brought global activity to a pause in March 2020, Bruce Power and OPG were at critical points in our individual refurbishment programs. OPG was nearing the completion of refurbishment of Darlington Unit 2 and Bruce Power had just begun execution of its Major Component Replacement (MCR) Program on Unit 6. In order to mitigate the pandemic's impact on these projects, our two companies established several virtual forums for knowledge-sharing and alignment.

One of these initiatives was a joint committee with Commercial Management and Supply Chain team members, which met on a biweekly basis between March and June to review common supplier concerns, discuss mitigating strategies and help ensure our pool of nuclear suppliers were engaged and supported by both organizations during the early months of the pandemic.

Topics at these meetings included suspension of non-critical construction, at-risk suppliers and the implementation of increased health and safety measures across the projects.

At the beginning of June, the focus of these meetings shifted to return-to-work plans and best practices for restarting suspended work.

## **Bruce Power and OPG Collaborate on new Dosimetry Tool**

Managing worker radiation dose is vital to ensuring worker safety at our nuclear power plants. To monitor worker dose limits during parallel refurbishments at Bruce Power and OPG, our two organizations have worked together to develop a dosimetry tracking tool to monitor workers' one- and five-year dose histories across both sites, and in accordance with governing privacy requirements.

The new tool will provide the most up-to-date and accurate reporting of dose accumulation while continue to keep workers safe.

The tracking tool was rolled out in June and the confidential dose information is being stored in a secured digital location with limited access, and oversight provided by Bruce Power and OPG.

## **Improved efficiencies through document and information sharing**

Continual improvement and process efficiencies continue to be a focal point between Bruce Power and OPG.

Through Executive weekly calls between Bruce Power and OPG, information was effectively and efficiently shared to address and mitigate any concerns or risks to the project schedules.

Both companies were able to leverage one another to improve efficiencies across our individual projects.





Collective interactions during 2020, (as of September 30):

- Documents requested by Bruce Power: 135. Out of these requested documents 108 were disclosed by OPG. 27 Documents are pending or non-releasable.
- Documents requested by OPG: 85. Out of these requested documents 52 were disclosed by Bruce Power. 33 documents are pending or non-releasable.
- Via weekly calls between the OPG and Bruce Power Project teams, information was effectively and efficiently shared, including lessons learned and addressing threats to the projects.

## Sharing Assets

In the spirit of collaboration, Bruce Power and OPG have gone beyond sharing lessons learned and documents and established a process to share critical resources, subject matter experts, tooling and equipment.

In 2020, Bruce Power and OPG developed a Secondment Program between two of our primary contractors CanAtom Power Group

(supporting Darlington Refurbishment) and Shoreline (supporting Bruce Power, MCR Program).

The Secondment Program was used earlier in 2020 when Shoreline leveraged the knowledge from the CanAtom Power Group to support Bruce Power's MCR Program. Leaning on previous experience and lessons learned through Darlington, employees of CanAtom were temporarily transferred over to Shoreline to share expertise and lessons learned to work alongside and support Bruce Power's MCR feeder platform installation, fuel channel installation, tool testing and other refurbishment critical tasks.

Shared tooling was also jointly developed to optimize feeder replacement. Since the original development of the tooling set, Bruce Power took the initiative to make further enhancements to the tools which resulted in a 50 per cent reduction to welding time, reduced cutting and fitting process time, and provide visual control of the welding process through the addition of cameras.

A Welding Centre of Excellence was established in 2020 to improve the welding programs at both sites. As a critical process used during both refurbishment programs, it was essential to establish a solid program that focused on commonalities between projects so Welders had an understanding of excellences for both sites. Through this program, Welders are qualified at the centre prior to executing work for each refurbishment and understand the tooling, supplies and procedures that are specific to each project. The Centre of Excellence program provides the hands on learning for this group to practice and ensure readiness prior to execution.

Another efficiency realized through our sharing of assets was demonstrated through the exchange of operating experience on reactor tooling to progressively improve the tooling unit over unit. This ultimately reduced the total duration of each unit's refurbishment and improved overall tool performance.

This was demonstrated through the successful refurbishment of Darlington Unit 2 and applying the lessons learned with Bruce Power to support Unit 6 Major Component Replacement.

These arrangements have proven key to reducing duplication of effort and increasing cost and time efficiencies for both projects.

OPG and Bruce Power agreed to share in the latest enhancement costs and coordinate their efforts for the upcoming planned outages, leveraging economies of scale and resulting in significant costs savings for both companies.

These joint collaborative arrangements have

proven to be a success to reduce duplication of effort and increase cost and time efficiencies for both projects.

Moving forward in 2021, Bruce Power will provide both technical support and the feeder replacement tooling set needed to support for the planned Pickering outages throughout the year.

## Supply Chain

Supply Chain departments from both OPG and Bruce Power have worked in close collaboration on a number of large open market sourcing competitions as well as in the sharing of information about scopes of work, forecasts and Operating Experience. The collaboration programs cut across nuclear and conventional materials and services and are intended to drive value for the rate payers of Ontario by ensuring safety, reliability, quality and sustainable commercial terms for major materials and services procurement at both companies. The largest of these opportunities currently include contaminated laundry, high voltage electrical services, valves, and turbine and generator program collaborations.

## Waste Management

OPG and Bruce Power have been working together on a number of waste management initiatives to ensure efficiencies between our organizations.

- Under our Heavy Water Management collaboration, OPG loaned 80 mega grams of primary heat transport heavy water from Bruce Power's MCR to OPG's Darlington Station to support operations to mitigate impact to their nuclear operations.



- Through the companies engineering collaboration, it was determined that MCR waste can be stored in OPG's existing Waste Storage Buildings, thereby, avoiding the need to build another storage building; maximizing the use of OPG's facility ultimately reducing the waste management environmental footprint and lowering the overall caretaking cost for Bruce Power.
- Bruce Power and OPG continue to work collaboratively to ensure Ontario's supply and inventory of heavy water is optimally managed to provide an adequate supply and storage capacity during the MCR and Darlington Refurbishment Projects.
- OPG and Bruce Power collaborated on the development of a Hybrid Construction Island concept that will enable Bruce Power to store their removed Unit 6 steam generators at OPG's Waste Storage Building. By using OPG's facility, our organizations will reduce efforts caused by multiple vendor/owner hand-offs and increase cost-savings.

## Labour, Training and Schedules

To ensure workers on both refurbishments have the necessary credentials to work safely and effectively between sites, Bruce Power and OPG are driving initiatives to share training credentials and reduce the duplication of training time, effort and cost.

One example of these initiatives is the Job Ready Dispatch Program, which was launched by the organizations in January 2020. As of October, the program facilitated a total of 20 training courses for which credits were transferred between sites, allowing both companies to take advantage of overlap between training and avoid a significant

amount of cost. OPG and Bruce Power are expanding this cost avoidance by working with third-party training vendors so the training they are already delivering to trades will be credited as part of this program, if applicable and to the correct standards. The program is expected to avoid millions in training costs at both sites each year.

Additionally, as part of ongoing energy sector collaboration, OPG, Bruce Power and the Electrical Power Systems Construction Association (EPSCA) started to review the industry-wide demand for trades in 2018 and have started to work with trade unions to ensure skilled tradespeople are available for nuclear work programs, including refurbishment and MCR. To date, work has largely focused on ensuring boilermaker capacity as this group is considered to be the skilled trade of highest demand. In 2019, OPG and Bruce Power worked with the boilermakers union on the development of a pre-apprentice program, which resulted in over 100 new apprentices entering the union to support nuclear work.

Bruce Power and OPG are working together in partnership with the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) to ensure optimal scheduling of outages between Bruce Power and OPG to safeguard against any reliability issues and help manage costs for the Ontario consumer.

This coordination has helped address future scheduling concerns that might have arisen during peak refurbishment outages and are critical in maintaining system reliability to keep costs down.

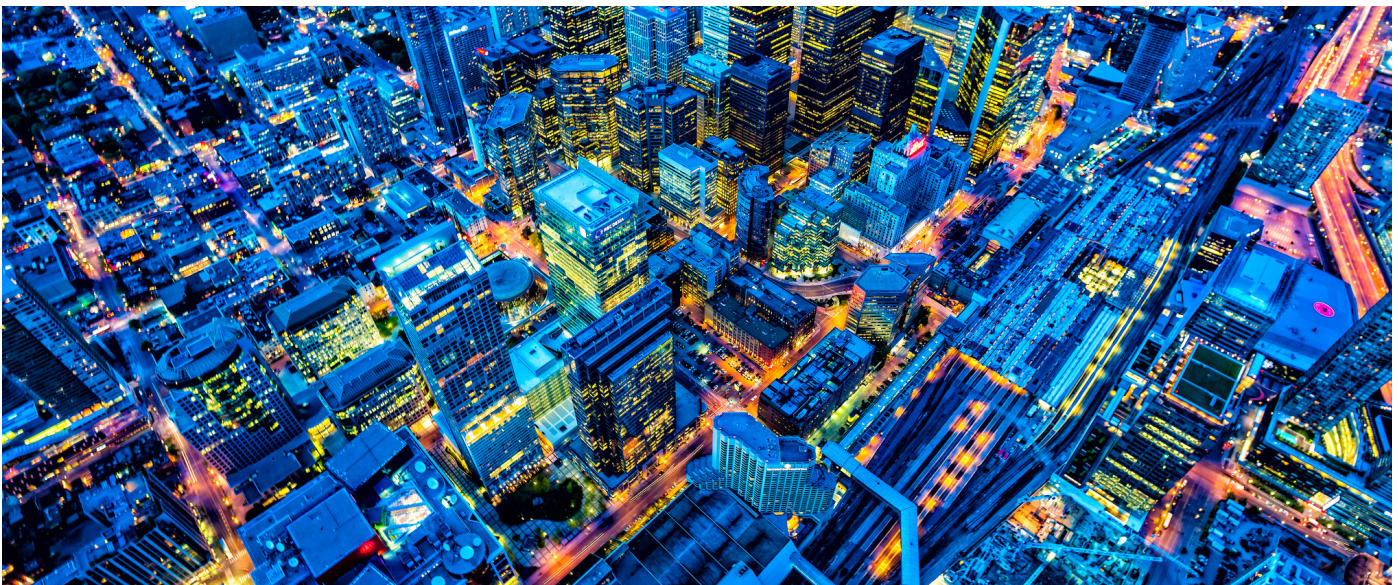
# The Future of Ontario

Throughout the unprecedented circumstances of this past year, Bruce Power and OPG have remained focused and aligned in our commitment to the future of Ontario. In addition to our refurbishment programs that will generate decades more of clean and reliable energy for the province, we continue to work on innovative initiatives leading toward a brighter tomorrow for all.

The next evolution in nuclear power is the Small Modular Reactor (SMR). These nuclear fission reactors are designed to be smaller than traditional reactors, yet will be built in larger numbers than most of the world's current nuclear fleet. A key action in Canada's efforts to combat climate change, SMRs can replace diesel and provide safe, reliable and low-carbon baseload power to remote, off-grid communities, mines and heavy industry.

OPG's new partnership with Ottawa-based Global First Power and Ultra Safe Nuclear Corporation (USNC) will build, own, and operate a proposed Micro Modular Reactor™ at the Chalk River Laboratories site, northwest of Ottawa. This ground-breaking joint venture, equally owned by OPG and USNC, represents the first commercial partnership on an SMR in Canada.

Bruce Power is a founding partner of the Nuclear Innovation Institute (NII), which seeks to accelerate the pace of innovation in the Canadian nuclear industry, embracing new thinking, new technologies and new business opportunities that can drive the shift to a low-carbon future. In August, the NII launched the Centre for Next Generation Nuclear Technologies to identify post-COVID economic, environmental and health-care opportunities. The new centre will focus on next generation nuclear technologies by advancing the existing expertise of suppliers, regulators and operators to support future economic, environmental and export opportunities.





## Innovations

Innovations in nuclear energy will help support new technologies like SMRs, cancer-fighting isotopes and hydrogen development by using infrastructure investments that will drive the economy now and power the world of the future. It will also look at how the current Bruce Power site output can be further enhanced with new technologies and as foundational enablers.

Our initiatives go beyond nuclear to support people in Ontario and around the world.

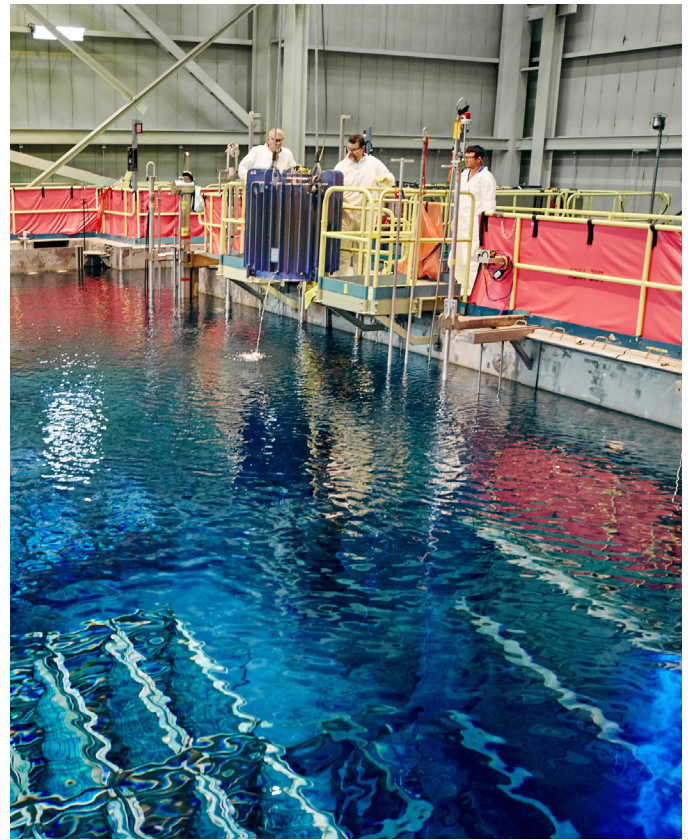
We have also entered into individual agreements to harvest Molybdenum-99 and Cobalt-60, helping to keep millions of people around the world healthy and safe. These life-saving isotopes are used to provide essential health care services such as cancer treatment, sterilization of medical devices and equipment, and self-powered luminescent emergency lighting.

## Medical Innovation

Ontario's reliable supply of Cobalt-60 provided by Bruce Power and Ontario Power Generation (OPG) has been critical through 2020 as health-care systems across the world have been under significant pressure due to COVID-19.

Due to high demand, the need for single-use medical equipment has increased over the course of the pandemic and subsequent health crisis.

While other sterilization methods take up to seven days before products are available for use, gamma irradiation technology using Cobalt-60 can process such materials



within a day. Cobalt-60 irradiation sterilizes equipment faster and in larger volumes than other forms of sterilization, ensuring more supplies can get to the front-line health-care workers and hospitals, even as demand for these items has increased.

Both Bruce Power and OPG will continue to play a critical role in ensuring the lights stay on for Ontario's hospitals, operating rooms and life-saving equipment, while also providing a reliable source of Cobalt-60 to keep medical equipment clean and first responders safe.

Individually, our organizations are driving innovations that will help ensure a more sustainable future for all. Together, we're continuing to deliver on our commitments to the province.



**Bruce Power**

P.O. Box 1540 Tiverton, Ontario, Canada N0G 2T0  
brucepower.com  
1-866-748-4787

**Ontario Power Generation**

700 University Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5G 1X6  
opg.com  
1-877-592-2555



**From:** KUNTZ Fred -SRNUCLEAR <fred.kuntz@opg.com>  
**Sent:** April-09-21 4:30 PM  
**To:** KUNTZ Fred -SRNUCLEAR  
**Subject:** OPG in Bruce County – Community Update – April 2021

---

## **OPG in Bruce County – Community Update – April 2021**

**Thank you, Your Worship:** Ontario Power Generation (OPG) wishes to thank [Kincardine Mayor Anne Eadie](#) for her years of dedication to local public service, including as a member of Bruce County council, and previously as a councillor in Huron-Kinloss. Mayor Eadie, who resigned effective today, has been a steadfast advocate for the benefits of clean nuclear energy while leading a community that hosts one of the largest nuclear sites in the world, including through her work with the Canadian Association of Nuclear Host Communities. Her countless contributions to the wider Bruce area, such as her tireless support for watershed conservation and environmental protection, leave a legacy of positive benefits for our region. We extend our best wishes to Anne and family, for health and happiness on the road ahead. We also offer best wishes to Deputy Mayor Randy Roppel and Kincardine councillors and staff, for progress and prosperity as they continue to serve this vibrant nuclear community.

**Embracing the 3 Rs:** At the Western Waste Management Facility (WWMF), the focus continues to be on good environmental practices – Reduce, Reuse and Recycle – to minimize volumes of nuclear materials in storage. We consider this commitment to the environment to be a vitally important part of [good stewardship](#). Recent and ongoing initiatives include:

- A planned outage of our incinerator this month, for maintenance and further upgrades, adding to major improvements to the machinery in 2020. The upgrades will improve efficiency in the clean operation of this vital tool to reduce stored volumes – which in turn reduces our environmental footprint, by reducing the need to build new storage capacity.
- Continued research into advanced methods of sorting and segregating materials, to maximize the amount that can be free-released or recycled. Supported through collaboration with the WWMF, this research takes place at a laboratory in Hamilton, in a partnership between McMaster University and OPG subsidiary Laurentis Energy Partners. Innovations that emerge may also be applicable to the wider nuclear industry.
- Advances in welding procedures, approved by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, that have enabled a reduction in the amount of welding material used to seal Dry Storage Containers of used fuel. This is ultimately good for the environment, reducing the amount of material destined for disposal, and also introduces costs savings that, however small, still contribute to OPG's over-all drive for efficiencies to mitigate costs for electricity ratepayers.

**Good as gold:** OPG was excited to be recognized with Gold Certification – the highest level – from the Wildlife Habitat Council, for [habitat protection](#) at the WWMF and Bruce site. Over the years,

OPG's environmental staff and partners have launched numerous biodiversity programs, ranging from habitat restoration for turtles and ducks, to managing invasive species, to providing awareness and community engagement programs to Bruce County residents. "We are proud of this achievement, reflecting OPG's commitment to biodiversity at the Western facility," said Jason Van Wart, OPG's Vice President of Nuclear Waste Management and Commercial Services. "It's consistent with OPG's history of protecting the environment at its operations throughout the province."

**Public accountability:** OPG's Nuclear Waste Management division issues quarterly Performance Reports, as part of our commitment to transparency and public information. These reports include metrics on safety, environmental and operational performance, as well as news about special milestones, achievements and local community activities. You can find the 2020 Q4 performance report, plus earlier editions, posted online at [www.opg.com/reporting/reporting-regulatory](http://www.opg.com/reporting/reporting-regulatory) (just scroll down the page to the NWM Performance Reports, to download the PDF).

**Better together:** Each year, OPG and Bruce Power issue a report on how they achieve success by working closely together. Collaboration between the two companies helps us both to identify efficiencies and innovation to lower cost for ratepayers, share lessons learned on refurbishments, and leverage economies of scale to ensure these large clean-energy projects remain on time and budget. You can find the [2020 Ontario Nuclear Collaboration Report](#) posted at each of our websites.

As always, if you have questions or comments, please reach out by email or phone.

## **Fred Kuntz**

Senior Manager, Corporate Relations and Projects | Bruce County

**Ontario Power Generation**

M. (519) 540 8410 | W. (519) 361-6414 ext. 3456 | [fred.kuntz@opg.com](mailto:fred.kuntz@opg.com)

P.O. Box 7000, 177 Tie Road, Kincardine, ON N0G 2T0

---

**THIS MESSAGE IS ONLY INTENDED FOR THE USE OF THE INTENDED RECIPIENT(S) AND MAY CONTAIN INFORMATION THAT IS PRIVILEGED, PROPRIETARY AND/OR CONFIDENTIAL. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any review,**



**retransmission, dissemination, distribution, copying, conversion to hard copy or other use of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient and have received this message in error, please notify me by return e-mail and delete this message from your system. Ontario Power Generation Inc.**

**Kelly Lush**

---

**From:** Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation <coastalcentre@lakehuron.ca>  
**Sent:** April-01-21 9:05 AM  
**To:** Kelly Lush  
**Subject:** April Coastal E-Newsletter



## **Beach Clean-ups**

### **Small Group Style**

Spring is here! That means spring cleaning along the Lake Huron Shoreline. Beach clean-ups will look different this year but you can still do your part! The Coastal Centre is encouraging small group and individual clean-ups. For example, a 2 minute cleanup on a lunch break or during a morning walk. If you don't live near a beach, no worries! Cleanup a side walk, country road, wetland area, forest trail, or community park. You can even lead a private clean-up instead of joining a group when registering on the Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup website.



---

## **General Guide to a Safe Beach Clean-up**

We can still make a difference while adhering to public health guidelines! During your clean-up the Coastal Centre encourages you to follow these general rules:

- Short clean-ups (E.g. during lunch breaks, during walks)
- Scope out your cleanup area and choose a time of day that will not be crowded
- Protect yourself by bringing a mask, hand sanitizer, and gloves
- Sanitize your gear after

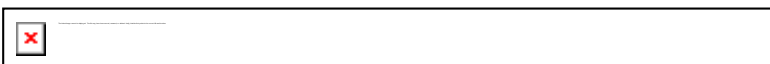
- Ensure your cleanup site is open to the public under provincial guidelines

### Safe Clean-up Checklist

---

## Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup

Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup (GCSC) is a conservation initiative in partnership with Ocean Wise and World Wildlife Fund. They work with individuals and groups across Canada to minimize plastic and garbage pollution on shorelines and in communities. Data collected from a Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup contributes to the world's largest international coastal cleanup initiative, headed by The Ocean Conservancy. The goal of this initiative is to remove and analyze trash to better understand common garbage types and where they are sourced from. Having that data available and public will help hold corporations and consumers accountable. Additionally, GCSC hopes that engaging people with the environment in a positive way will ignite a passion to protect these natural spaces in the future. Click the logo below to visit their website for educational resources, current data and more information.



---

## Geoff Peach Scholarship Fund

The Coastal Centre was founded by two passionate and knowledgeable individuals driven to protect and preserve Lake Huron's coast and waters. Patrick Donnelly (M.Sc., RPP) who is an important member of our team, and Geoff Peach, who was an environmental advocate whose actions and influence spanned 3 decades along the Lake Huron coast.



The Geoff Peach Memorial Scholarship Fund was created to continue Geoff's work and that of the Coastal Centre. It is available to university graduate students (Masters and PhD) with conservation and environmental research interests along Lake Huron on topics such as: Biodiversity, Coastal Processes, Dune Conservation, Water Quality, or Plastic Pollution.

Zach Anderson is the recipient of this year's Geoff Peach scholarship! His research will help us understand and further protect temperate migratory

songbirds in the Georgian Bay region. Read on to learn more about Zach and his research.

---

## Importance of Temperate Migratory Birds During a Climate Crisis

Spring time is bird migration season! Migratory bird research is critical now more than ever with our changing climate. Tracking the movement of migratory birds provides us with information about the stability of the environment. Birds will choose a habitat that provides them with the best chance of survival. Some species may be unable to adapt to changing environmental conditions which causes them to relocate to a more suitable environment. Relocation trends can inform conservation groups to analyze the sustainability of the habitats birds have fled from.

[Learn More About Migratory Birds and Climate Change](#)

Here are some common birds to look for on the Georgian Bay right now!

[Improve Your Bird Identification Skills!](#)

Keep up to date with the Bruce Peninsula Bird Observatory for information on current bird sightings!

[Bruce Peninsula Bird Observatory](#)

---

## Geoff Peach 2021 Scholarship Recipient

*Meet Zach Anderson*

"My name is Zach Anderson, and I am a Master of Biology student at the University of Western Ontario."

"My proposed research focuses on better understanding the movement behaviours of different songbird age classes in southeastern Georgian Bay and how they use this unique landscape. My study is being completed during the post-breeding period for temperate songbirds. This is the period when adults are done raising young and juveniles are now completing their first flights, prior to fall migration."



"Outside of my educational and professional careers, I have several interests that keep me busy. I am an avid bird watcher and I get out any chance I can get to catch glimpses of the beautiful species we see in Ontario. I am also an avid fisherman and one my favourite things to do is go fishing with my father, which is quality time that I could never put a price on. I also participate in intramural sports with friends such as hockey at Fleming College, softball in the summer, and volleyball whenever possible. I also really enjoy spending time with my friends and family, grabbing a beer on a patio, and generally just enjoying the outdoors."

"All these experiences have formed together to make me who I am today. A passionate naturalist with a love for the natural world and everything in it. An easy-going friend who can make you laugh and can also teach you about all the things I enjoy."

### *Age Differences in Movement and Island Habitat Use by Migratory Songbirds in Southeastern Georgian Bay*

This scholarship will assist in research on temperate migratory birds in the Southern Georgian Bay region. The

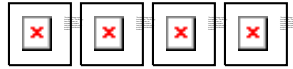


focus of this research is to better understand the diversity of temperate migratory songbird species in relation to abiotic and biotic factors, as well as determine if movements change between juvenile and adult song birds during the post-fledging stage. Post-fledging, meaning the period between nesting and migration, is an important yet understudied life stage of temperate migratory birds. This is often the period when birds are newly independent from parental care causing them to move to sustainable habitats if resources are insufficient. Analyzing local travel patterns will give us an understanding of what resources are lacking in certain areas. Data collected from this research will aid in current and future conservation efforts within the Georgian Bay region to preserve and increase biodiversity for temperate migratory songbirds.

**Keep an eye in on our future E-newsletters and on social media to follow Zach's research.**

*The Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation is a registered charity founded in 1998 with the goals of protecting and restoring Lake Huron's coastal environment. We are the voice for Lake Huron.*

DONATE TODAY!



[www.lakehuron.ca](http://www.lakehuron.ca)

The Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation | PO Box 477, Goderich, Ontario N7A 4C7  
Canada [www.lakehuron.ca](http://www.lakehuron.ca)

[Unsubscribe klush@huronkinloss.com](mailto:klush@huronkinloss.com)

[Update Profile](#) | [Customer Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by [coastalcentre@lakehuron.ca](mailto:coastalcentre@lakehuron.ca) powered by





**Kelly Lush**

---

**From:** Regional Tourism Organization 7 <info@rto7.ca>  
**Sent:** April-09-21 4:00 PM  
**To:** Kelly Lush  
**Subject:** RTO7 April News & Updates

---

[View this email in your browser](#)

---



**April 11, 2021**

---

## **News & Updates**

---

### **Impact of COVID-19 on the Canadian Economy and Consumer Sentiment - as of March 26, 2021**

To better understand the impact of COVID-19 on the economy, the consumer mindset and to inform marketing recovery strategies, Destination Ontario has accessed various economic and public attitude and behaviour studies.

For your information, presented here are key findings from the research. This information should be treated as a snapshot in time.

---

View the pdf [here](#). Review past reports on [RTO7.ca](#).

---

## **Make Use of the Tourism Operator Support on [BruceGreySimcoe.com](#)**

Now, more than ever, it's important that people know about your tourism business. Check out the **FREE** opportunities below for tourism operators in our region:

- **Add/update your listing** on [BruceGreySimcoe.com](#)
- Add your events, virtual or in-person, on our **Festivals & Events listings**
- Add your packages, tours and promotions to our **Promotions page** (must have an active and live operator listing on the website).

Once your operator listing is live, your events and promotions will appear on your page. Need help or have questions? Email [info@brucegreysimcoe.com](mailto:info@brucegreysimcoe.com)

---

## **Industry Events**

Did you know? RTO7 has a variety of webinars and online events listed on the **events listing** on our Facebook page for tourism operators just like you. Topics range from the Employment Standards Act, how to use social media to promote your business, online tourism conferences, setting up a Google My Business listing, how to start a small business and so much more, including managing and recovering from COVID-19. The majority of them are FREE. This list is continually updated so be sure to visit our **Facebook page** to learn more.

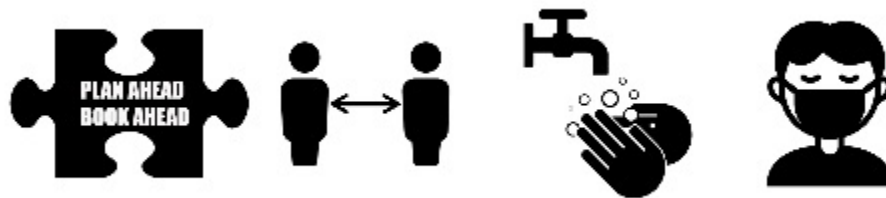
Have an event you want us to share on this list? Mention @rto7connection in your event post and we'll be able to easily add it to our list!

---

## Here to Help Video Series

Looking for business support and need to talk it through? RTO7 has created a series of videos featuring organizations from across the region who can help. Check out the Here to Help Video series on our **YouTube channel** to find out who to contact in your area.

---



*Copyright © 2021 Regional Tourism Organization 7, All rights reserved.*

You are receiving this email either because you subscribed to our newsletter, you have an operator listing on **BruceGreySimcoe.com** or you are involved in the tourism industry in the counties of Bruce, Grey and Simcoe.

**Our mailing address is:**

P.O. Box 973  
Thornbury, ON N0H 2P0  
705-888-8728

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can **update your preferences** or **unsubscribe from this list**.



