

Working for Municipalities

ONTARIO GOOD ROADS ASSOCIATION

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August 30, 2016

City of Hamilton
City Hall, 71 Main St. West
Hamilton ON L8P 4Y5

Attention: Mayor & Members of Council

Re: OGRA Conference, February 26 – March 1, 2017, Fairmont Royal York Hotel

OGRA has received numerous letters from municipalities endorsing a resolution from the Township of South-West Oxford regarding ROMA's decision to end the OGRA/ROMA Combined Conference partnership. OGRA would like to take a moment to set the record straight.

The OGRA Board of Directors was surprised and disappointed by ROMA's unilateral decision to revert back to running a separate conference, thus ending a very productive, 17 year partnership that served Ontario municipalities well. The Combined Conference was a major success that strengthened both organizations. OGRA remains open to re-establish the Combined Conference partnership with ROMA because that is the best way for both organizations to serve their municipal members.

That said, we also want to take a moment to assure you that the 2017 OGRA Conference will continue to offer a diverse cutting edge program for our delegates. We can confirm that:

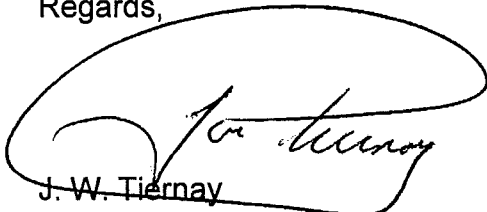
- A number of world class keynote speakers have confirmed their attendance;
- The concurrent sessions will cover the wide spectrum of municipal issues and will continue to be both thought-provoking and applicable to OGRA's municipal members;
- For the third consecutive year, OGRA will convene the Small Town Forum;
- OGRA's Emerging Municipal Leaders Forum will also be held for the third straight year;
- OGRA intends to hold a Ministers' Forum and are in discussions with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs regarding the scheduling of delegations during the

- conference. The fact that the OGRA Conference will be held later in February when the legislature is sitting, will no doubt facilitate Provincial participation;
- The trade show will be substantially enhanced;
- Additional meals will be included in the basic registration fee; and
- Registration fees will be unchanged from 2016 rates.

Should you or any members of your council have any questions, I would encourage to you contact us.

On behalf of the OGRA Board of Directors, we hope to see you at the 2017 OGRA Conference in Toronto, February 26th – March 1st, 2017.

Regards,



J. W. Tiernay
Executive Director