

2025 OMAA Spring Workshop Program-at-a-Glance

Midterm Check-In: Pause, Reflect, Propel

JW Marriott The Rosseau Muskoka	
Wednesday 14 May 2025	
900—400	Exhibit Hall Setup
900—400	Commanding Presence Public Speaking Workshop (separate event)
11am start	Golf Tournament <i>Sponsored by PH&N Institutional (Investment partner for ONE Investment).</i>
1:30 pm start	Huckleberry Rock Lookout Trail Hike & Port Carling Pitstop <i>Sponsored by McQueen Galloway Associates</i>
330—700	Registration Pick up your badge and gift. Buy a raffle ticket—proceeds go to Feed Ontario. <i>Sponsored by KPMG</i>
430—800	Exhibit Hall
515—600	Aspiring CAOs and First Timers Meet Up
600—700	Mix and Mingle <i>Mocktails and Cocktails sponsored by First Ontario Credit Union</i>
700—800	Dinner (buffet)
800—900	Keynote: Stuart Knight, Rock it by Talking it <i>Sponsored by</i>
900	Hospitality Suite Sponsored by Intact Public Entities Cornhole Tournament Practise Round
Thursday 15 May 2025	
700—745	Hike Club Meet up in the lobby and walk the Fish Rock Loop together
730—830	Breakfast
800—1030	Registration <i>sponsored by KPMG</i>
830--840	Opening Remarks – Laurie Kennard
840—925	Rapid Fire and Inspire <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kingsley Bot & AI Business Case, Daniel Kostopoulos, CAO Township of King 2. Felix Laroche, Jakarto 3. Rapid deployment of Accessory Dwelling Units, Sonya Skinner, CAO Collingwood 4. Hold
925—940	Annual General Meeting – Laurie Kennard
940—1015	Coffee Break
1015—1115	Resilient Leadership <i>Rebecca Wilson, Mindfulness Teacher, Arborvida</i> Explore the true meaning of resilience and how it can help leaders navigate growing complexity, rapid change, and high-pressure environments. Learn to recognize common misconceptions, uncover the “hard” and “soft” sides of resilience, and

	develop strategies to build resilience that supports both you and your team. Walk away with actionable tools to enhance your adaptability and effectiveness.
1115—1200	“They did what?” Council-Staff Relations at a Tipping Point? Sabine Matheson, Mary Ellen Bench, and Stacy Hushion, StrategyCorp The political environment outside our borders and in Ontario has become more challenging than ever, and in many municipalities, social tensions and polarization are translating into growing friction between Council and staff. As members of Council and staff come and go, it’s only natural that the dynamics of their interpersonal relations are always evolving. But with the ceiling of “just how bad can the conduct get” seeming to get worse all the time, the professionalism of how we govern has never been more important than today. This session will examine Bill 241, role of governance tools, the Implications of the DEI counter-revolution on local political dynamics, plus optimizing the relationship with Integrity Commissioners.
1200—130	Refuel & Connect: Lunch, Networking, and Engagement <i>sponsored by Municipal Retirees Organization Ontario (MROO)</i> Take an extended break to enjoy lunch, catch up on emails, connect with exhibitors, and engage in meaningful conversations with fellow attendees.
130—200	IESO Energy Procurement and Municipal Siting Best Practises Carla Nell, Vice-President of Corporate Relations, Engagement & Strategy TBC
200—230	AMO Policy Update Lindsay Jones, Director of Policy
230—315	Coffee Break
315—345	From Lille to Waterloo: comparing local governance in France and Ontario Mathieu Goetzke, Acting CAO Region of Waterloo What can Ontario municipalities learn from their French counterparts? This session explores key differences and similarities in local governance between France and Ontario, focusing on planning, citizen engagement, and decision-making processes.
345—430	Legal Update John Mascarin, AirdBerlis
430	Walk and Talk Sessions (small group chat on the topic of your choice) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Govt Relations: How can municipalities establish positive working relationships with their MPP and MP offices? Mental Health: dealing with difficult people; policies for dealing with difficult people i.e. RZone and banning residents. Budget Pressures: strategies around resilience and dealing with service cuts or saving money via service reviews, etc. Rural Growth Pressures: How can small communities manage growth while avoiding being blamed for slow (resistant to) growth and development.
700—900	Awards Dinner and Social
900	Hospitality Suite <i>Sponsored by Geoff Penal Group CIBC Wood Gundy</i> Cornhole Tournament

Friday 16 May 2025

745—900	Breakfast
900—925	Prize Draw – OMAA Chair Michael DiLullo Tournament Winners Trophy Presentation Walk and Talk Summaries
925—955	<i>Changes to the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (MCEA) process, and potential new Municipal Project Assessment Process (MPAP)</i> <i>Paul Knowles, MCEA Advisor, Municipal Engineers Association</i>
955—1010	Break
1010—1045	Maximizing Impact: Making Your Advocacy Meetings Count (TBC) Marcia Wallace, CAO, Prince Edward County and Not all advocacy meetings are created equal—some leave a lasting impression, while others fall flat. Learn how to craft a compelling message, support your Mayor and Council in being heard, and ensure your advocacy efforts resonate with decision-makers. Gain practical strategies to make your delegation more impactful.
1045—1120	CAO and Deputy CAO: Getting the Relationship Right Speakers TBC The dynamic between the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) and Deputy CAO is critical to the success of any municipal administration. A strong partnership fosters organizational stability, ensures strategic alignment, and supports effective leadership succession. However, navigating the balance of authority, responsibility, and collaboration can present challenges. This session will explore best practices for defining roles, building trust, and fostering a productive working relationship between the CAO and Deputy CAO.
1120	Wrap up and Final Prize Draw -- <i>Michael DiLullo</i>