

May 2025



Your monthly news & updates

Western Ontario Municipal Conference 2025

Registration Now Open

A promotional banner for the Western Ontario Municipal Conference 2025. The banner has a dark blue background on the left side with white text. On the right side, there is a photograph of several wind turbines in a green field under a blue sky with light clouds. The text on the left reads: "WESTERN ONTARIO" in small white letters, "WOWC" in large white letters, "WARDENS CAUCUS" in small white letters, "WESTERN ONTARIO MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE" in large white letters, "October 17, 2025 | London, ON" in white letters, and "Powering Ontario's Economic Engine" in small white letters. The photograph on the right shows a row of wind turbines in a green field under a blue sky with light clouds.

The Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus presents the *Western Ontario Municipal Conference 2025: Powering Ontario's Economic Engine*, with a goal of providing relevant, dynamic programming and opportunities to share

knowledge and best practices to enhance opportunities and successes, along with many opportunities for networking.

Friday, October 17th, 2025

8:30 am - 4:00 pm

Lamplighter Inn & Conference Centre, London, ON

A Welcome Reception will take place at the Lamplighter Inn & Conference Centre on Thursday, October 16th from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM, hosted by Middlesex County.

Join us for an evening of food, drinks, and entertainment, and enjoy the perfect opportunity to connect with fellow attendees before the main conference begins. No need to make dinner reservations—there will be plenty to eat and a great atmosphere for mingling and conversation.

Early bird pricing available until August 31, 2025.

Are you interested in sponsoring the WOMC or participating as an exhibitor? Please see the [2025 Sponsorship Package](#) for more information or contact: info@wowc.ca

[Register Here](#)

2025 Ontario Budget: Statement from WOWC Chair Mayor Amy Martin

The Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus (WOWC) welcomes the Province of Ontario's continued investment in infrastructure, housing, and health care through the 2025 Ontario Budget. These are foundational to our ability to grow sustainably and meet the needs of our residents.

As municipalities across Western Ontario work to deliver critical services the WOWC recognizes the importance of maintaining a collaborative and



solutions-focused relationship with the Province. While important challenges persist, particularly in addressing infrastructure needs, mental health supports, and housing services in rural areas—the WOWC stands ready to work with the Province as a committed and capable partner in delivering innovative, sustainable solutions that meet the evolving needs of our communities.

Our members know that in order to build a stronger Ontario, we need sustained infrastructure investment, modernized

funding frameworks, and permanent funding for rural homelessness prevention. These priorities are not wish-list items, they are essential for supporting housing supply, growing the workforce, and addressing mental health and addictions challenges in our communities.

The WOWC remains a committed partner in building a stronger Ontario—one that ensures every community is livable, connected, and positioned for inclusive economic growth. We commend the Province for making strategic investments that strengthen our ability as municipal partners to deliver on shared priorities and build a better, more prosperous Ontario for everyone.

Mayor Amy Martin, Norfolk County, Chair Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus

To view the full budget visit [2025 Ontario Budget: A Plan to Protect Ontario](#)

Teeny Tiny Summit- Strathroy- June 18th

Join us for a full day of local economic development learning and networking at the Teeny Tiny Summit in Strathroy-Caradoc located in southwestern Ontario.

Teeny Tiny Strathroy-Caradoc Summit

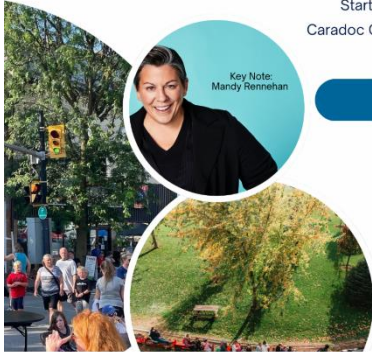
Key note: Mandy Rennehan; Public Speaker, Award Winning Author, HGTV Host and CEO of Freshco (NOT the Grocery Store!)

Tickets Options for full day, or afternoon keynote session only.

18th June, 2025

Start at 9:00am

Caradoc Community Centre



Key Note:
Mandy Rennehan

Secure
Your Seat!



The event will be held the Caradoc Community Centre on June 18, 2025, starting at 8:30 am and concluding at 4:00 pm featuring keynote speaker Mandy Rennehan and many local speakers.

Register today by clicking this [link](#).

The agenda and registration details can be found [here](#).

Get excited for keynote speaker, Mandy Rennehan! Known as 'The Blue Collar CEO,' Mandy is a public speaker, award winning author, HGTV Host and CEO of FreshCo, a

full-service reconstruction and retail maintenance firm operating across Canada and the eastern United States. Rennehan is a passionate advocate for women in the trades and is involved in a variety of groundbreaking mentorship initiatives for girls and women seeking meaningful careers.

Lambton County finalizes property purchase for future housing development

The County of Lambton's Housing Services Department has finalized the purchase of the St. Bartholomew's Church property on Cathcart Blvd. within the City of Sarnia.



The property was purchased for \$1.95 million, using funds from the Affordable Housing Reserve. County Council has been working to build this reserve since 2022 to help fund projects like this property purchase.

The intended future use of the property is a housing development which will provide affordable and/or supportive housing. Planning is still in the early stages, with pre-development activities underway to develop

a shovel-ready project.

Further information can be found in the [report presented to County Council on Wednesday, May 7](#).

Local Diploma Programs and Financial Assistance Aim to Attract Future Early Childhood Educators



Bruce County is proud to collaborate with Georgian College and Fanshawe College to support the recruitment and retention of a high-quality early years workforce.

Georgian College in Owen Sound offers a full-time, in-person Early Childhood Education (ECE) diploma program. Plus, a

bursary is available to eligible, local students.

Bruce County subsidizes a bursary supporting students pursuing a career as Early Childhood Educators (ECEs) through Georgian College. This initiative helps meet the growing demand for childcare services across our communities by making education more accessible to future ECEs.

Eligible students may receive up to \$2,000 per academic year, with the potential for renewal provided students remain in good academic standing. To be eligible, students must demonstrate financial need, be in good academic standing and have a home address in Bruce County at the time of selection.

Fanshawe College offers an Early Childhood Education (ECE) diploma program from a satellite campus situated in Port Elgin. In addition, financial support is available for local students.

Bruce County subsidizes tuition support to eligible students, covering up to half of tuition costs for Fanshawe's ECE diploma program offered in Port Elgin.

[Learn more](#)



Modelling Tool

AMO is pleased to share a new [modelling tool](#), developed by Oxford Economics, to assist municipalities in estimating tariff costs on capital construction projects.

This tool was developed through close consultation with municipal public works department heads and treasurers, incorporating their valuable feedback.

When used alongside our recently released [report](#) on the impacts of



Ontario Building Destination Wasaga

Ontario is investing nearly \$38 million to build Destination Wasaga, a premier tourist destination that includes beaches, a revitalized downtown area and important historic sites, in partnership with the Town of Wasaga Beach.

“Wasaga Beach is a world-class tourist destination, with the longest freshwater beach in the world and an incredible history, including at Nancy Island,” said Premier Doug

tariffs on municipal construction costs, this tool will enable municipalities to:

- Better inform council decisions on capital projects;
- Understand and explain price fluctuations; and,
- Support procurement negotiations with vendors.

To support municipal use of the tool, Oxford Economics has developed a supplemental [guide](#) and a [video tutorial](#) to help your teams get started.

Ford. “We’re helping bring this important part of Ontario’s history back to life and we’re working with the municipality to revitalize the downtown, create jobs and welcome tourists from across Ontario and around the world.”

These investments, including from the [2025 Ontario Budget: A Plan to Protect Ontario](#), will help protect and expand the number of jobs in the local tourism sector and boost economic growth across Simcoe County.

Ontario will soon begin the process of transferring a portion of the provincially owned beachfront in Wasaga Beach Provincial Park to the town in order to support its integration into the broader development of Destination Wasaga, under the condition that the beach remains public.

Community Futures - Helping Businesses Grow



Discover how Community Futures can supercharge your business goals! Our team of experts is eager to tailor support and resources to match your unique aspirations.

Let's sit down together, explore possibilities, and create a roadmap to success!

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