



"Searching the Right Way"

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A Message from your President

At this time we have little news to share. Our professional searching community continues to be burdened with vastly increased disbursement costs thanks to our current provincial government's mistaken policy of the benefit of 'private/public partnerships' which appear to actually only benefit no-one but the private corporation, in our case, Teranet. The users of the Toronto, Ottawa & most southern Ontario Land Registry offices continue to struggle with ancient malfunctioning equipment and a general office malaise caused by the retirement of most of the senior experienced staff and an overabundance of new inexperienced Service Ontario employees. The continuing cutbacks towards a department that in fact more than pays for itself in registration fees is irritating in the least and enormously stressful and frustrating most of the time. I cannot say that all the other Ontario LRO's suffer from the same fate but I can assume many are experiencing some of these issues although probably to a lesser degree. While we complain regularly to the supervisors and attend 'stakeholder' committee meetings, it is obvious that they are merely trying to make it look like they are listening but actually have little to no power to make any improvements.

Although we received a favourable opinion from the law firm that we hired to investigate the possibility of a class action suit against the government in view of its monopolistic private partner practices, it still would require a great deal of funds to pursue the case and as always, some risk. At this time the Board has determined that the best route in this upcoming election year is to try to get an investigative reporter involved as many of the Toronto papers are certainly interested in this type of journalism. We are currently preparing a precis to forward to various reporters to try to get one of them interested enough to write a piece. If any member has any connections in this regard we would be glad of the assistance.

PLEASE NOTE:

- 1) We are adding a 'consent form' to our membership application which will be used to allow our insurance provider to share any 'claim' information under our member's coverage with the Board. This information will be used strictly as a way of monitoring potential increases in our insurance premiums and will not be shared with members of the association.
- 2) For title-searching members: Most if not all of you will be aware that corrections & pre-approvals etc. are now being accepted by 'e-mail only' at many LRO's and by only 'fax submission' at others – we have attached for your convenience the list of these offices and a copy of the request form in 'word' format for your convenience.

As with previous years, on the business front:

REMINDER: Insurance renewal forms will have been emailed to you on separate cover several weeks ago. Please send in promptly along with your membership renewal to ensure continued coverage. They will invoice you upon receipt of their application form.

Administration – Carol Ford continues to handle all the administrative duties of the association. These include membership renewals, website updates & improvements, to name a few. Our membership dues will remain the same for this year as will the insurance premiums.

Website – Our website is still up and running. Please visit it at www.oapsor.ca. It has a copy of our latest membership application form and our current insurance provider application form. We continue to look for new ideas to make it more effective for our members so please send in your input. If you have or can find any pictures that are more relevant for highlighting the skills of our members on the website please feel free to forward to Carol or myself and we may be able to incorporate them into the site as somewhat more relevant than the ones we currently use.

AGM – We have not planned a general meeting at this time for this year as we all concur that it is an expense that does not warrant the cost given we have little new business to conduct or announce.

We continue to look for assistance when it comes to our executive and/or committees. The executive continues to increase lobbying efforts to preserve record searching access, and we very much want to continue to improve our website. But we cannot work effectively for our members if they will are unwilling to get involved in the decision making process. Please make your voices heard. With your involvement **OAPSOR** can service and support our members.

OAPSOR can give all of us a voice with the government and larger service providers, and it can also give us buying advantages as a group. If you feel that you want to contribute to helping our organization grow, please feel free to contact me. At the very least, take the time to be an active member of your organization.

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