



Ontario Moose Association

10 Isherwood Avenue, Unit 25
Cambridge, Ontario N1R 8L5

January 26, 2025

To all OMA Lodges, Chapters, Moose Legions, Officers, Chairpersons, and members.

SUBJECT: 2025 Mid-Year Conference – March 27th to 30th, 2025

Our 2025 Mid-Year Conference is just around the corner. We will hold the conference in Pt. Edward Ontario (Sarnia) at the Four Points Sheraton on the weekend from March 27th to 30th, 2025. The host lodge will be **Sarnia Lodge 1046**. We are looking forward to some great fun and fellowship!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR THIS CONFERENCE:

1. **Pre-Registrations are open until Monday March 17th, 2025.** After that date there will be late fees applied to the registration and meals. A copy of the registration form is included with this notice OR you can complete the registration online at <https://forms.gle/KEfqAohkAZVXHg3c9>
2. The conference hotel is the **Four Points Sheraton Hotel & Conference Center**, 1498 Venetian Blvd, Point Edward, ON, N7T 7W6. You can call the hotel direct line to book your room at 519-336-8667. **Quote Group Code O9M** – (Ontario Moose Association)
 - a. **All room types are \$134 per night plus applicable taxes.**
 - b. **The cutoff date for room reservations at our rate is Wednesday, Feb 26th, 2025.** After this date we cannot guarantee that you will get the reduced room rate we negotiated for the conference.
3. We do not have a final approval from Moose International on our Agenda, so it is not yet being circulated, but please be aware of the following changes from last year:
 - a. We are conducting training sessions on the Thursday of the Conference.
 - b. The Academy of Friendship Session has been moved to Saturday morning.
 - c. There will be a split session on Saturday afternoon with the WOTM in one session and the Moose Legion in another.
 - d. The Heart of the Community presentations have been moved to Saturday at 3PM
 - e. We are introducing the Junior Moose Program initiative and their presentations. They will be raising funds for the “Ohana Landing” Transitional Youth facility in Sarnia.
4. **IN-PERSON MOOSE TRAINING** - Two training sessions will be offered on the Thursday of the conference weekend. The cost for each is \$25 per person for the training session, lunch will be available for a donation of \$10 per person at each location. Training sessions run from 9AM until 3PM approximately.
 - a. **2-Hott Training** will take place at Sarnia Lodge 1046
 - b. **Lodge Leadership Training** will take place in the Center/East Hall of the hotel.
 - c. **There is a separate registration form for training.** A copy is also attached to this notice. Payment can be made with your registration OR at the event – but we need to know in advance how many are attending so PLEASE register.
5. **HEART OF THE COMMUNITY EVENT** – Our Heart of the Community designated charity for this conference is the **SARNIA HUMANE SOCIETY**. They will accept both pet food donations and cash/cheque donations as you may wish. We will have a collection area on site by the main meeting room.



Please make your cheques out directly to the SARNIA HUMANE SOCIETY, earmarked for “PET PANTRY”. Cash donations received or cheques that are made out to the OMA will be consolidated and presented. This is a very worthwhile cause, and we look forward to everyone supporting them. Presentation will take place at the Hotel on Saturday at 3:00 PM.

6. **MARCH OF CHEQUES and MOOSE CHARITIES DONATIONS** - All Lodges & Chapters are encouraged to support our three major initiatives: the **Moosehaven AAA Project, OMA Childfind/Junior Moose** and **Canada Home Endowment**. All donations gratefully accepted. Please make cheques payable to OMA earmarked for the appropriate initiative.
 - a. Moosehaven AAA Project and Canada Home Endowment should be made out directly to Moose Charities if possible.
 - b. Donations to Childfind, Junior Moose, Canada Home Wishlist or any other charity should be made out to the Ontario Moose Association, earmarked to the appropriate entity.
 - c. WOTM are required to make donations to the Mooseheart Music Dept. which will be accepted at the AoF session on Saturday morning.
 - d. Any WOTM Chapter that has not yet made their donations to the Grand Regent’s Project (new bedroom furniture for Mooseheart) can do so at the Saturday PM WOTM Session. All cheques should be made out to Moose Charities and earmarked for the specific project.
7. **ELIMINATION DRAW TICKETS** – Ticket Sellers: Please sell your tickets and bring them to the convention registration desk to be collected. Your support is greatly appreciated! Fellow Chris Hodgson from Sarnia Lodge 1046 will be our coordinating this endeavour this year. We are looking for a volunteer chairperson for future Elimination Draws.
8. **THURSDAY NIGHT MEET & GREET** – Starting at 7PM, we will be conducting a “Meet and Greet” in the Center/East Hall at the hotel in honour of our Official Visitor and Moose International attendees as we have done at our previous events. There is no charge to attend, anyone registered for the conference is welcome. Looking forward to lots of participation and mingling!
9. **PAST PRESIDENT’S DINNER** – Tables will be set aside at the Lodge of the OMA Past Presidents to gather. This will happen concurrently with the Lodge dinner taking place. Tickets for the event can be purchased in the registration package or at the lodge directly. Past Presidents will receive one complimentary ticket in their registration package.
10. **SATURDAY NIGHT BANQUET THEME** – As in other years we select a theme for our Convention Awards Banquet. Our theme of the night for this year is **“Wild, Wild, West!”**. Please honor the theme by showing up in your best Western Attire and we’ll all party like it’s 1825!
11. **WOTM ACADEMY OF FRIENDSHIP CONFERRAL** – On the Saturday morning of the Conference at 8:30 AM, the WOTM will conduct their Academy of Friendship Ceremony. This event is only open to WOTM who have achieved the AoF degree, or who have a call card from WOTM.
12. **COVID-19 SAFETY PROTOCOLS** – There will be no specific requirements for wearing masks or other COVID-19 protocols at the hotel or at Sarnia Lodge 1046. **While that is the case, we expect everyone to be courteous and respectful to those that choose to still wear masks or wish to stay socially distant.** Sanitizing stations will be strategically located around the hotel and in the meeting rooms.

If you are not feeling well – please do NOT attend the conference.



13. **INFORMATION FOR THE CONFERENCE BOOKLET**- Advertising space in the conference booklet is available for \$50 full page, \$25 half page, \$15 quarter page. Information on Moose Legion, WOTM or Lodge activities will be inserted free of charge.
- Please send information in Word or PDF format to the OMA Secretary no later than WEDNESDAY, March 12th, 2025.
 - If you are sending photos, please make sure they are a high-resolution photo.
14. **SARNIA LODGE 1046 HOST EVENTS** – The team from Sarnia Lodge 1046 are ready to welcome you into their Lodge home and the Sarnia Community! Shuttles will be available, arrive and depart at the front entrance of the hotel. A shuttle schedule will be posted at the registration desk. Please take an opportunity to enjoy their lodge and all it has to offer.

THURSDAY, March 27th

LODGE OPENS NOON –
Lunch available – menu to follow
Dinner is available at the Lodge from 5-7 PM.

FRIDAY, March 28th

LODGE OPENS NOON
Lunch available – menu to follow
Dinner is available at the Lodge from 5-7 PM (President's dinner at same time at Lodge)
Charity Meat Draw and Free Trivia from 5-7 PM
Live Band starting at 8PM – **Totally Acoustic!**

SATURDAY, March 29th

LODGE OPENS NOON
Lunch available – menu to follow

SUNDAY, March 30th

LODGE OPEN FOR BREAKFAST at 9AM

PLEASE SUPPORT SARNIA LODGE 1046 as they support your OMA CONFERENCE!

Thank you for your efforts in support of the Moose Fraternity. If you have any questions or require further information, please let me know. I can be reached by phone at 519-240-2244 or by email donb@ontariomoose.ca .

Fraternally yours,

D.A. (Don Berrill) CD
OMA Secretary.