



## OPPI SYMPOSIUM 2010

### MEDIA ADVISORY

#### **Ontario Professional Planners Institute (OPPI) Symposium on October 28 & 29, 2010 The Delta Guelph Hotel & Conference Centre**

The Ontario Professional Planners Institute's symposium will examine the many issues associated with food and how this relates to the planning profession and other key stakeholders interested in fostering healthy and sustainable communities. This two-day event will address the issues from both an urban and rural planning perspective. Speakers come from a wide variety of backgrounds and are knowledgeable about planning for food. Over 250 planning professionals and other stakeholders will attend.

*Ontario's planning profession continues to explore initiatives and policies for sustaining food production and creating viable regional food systems in Ontario's communities. Identifying tools and advocating for these will be at the forefront of the discussion.* says OPPI President, Sue Cumming, MCIP RPP

*This symposium is important.* says Symposium Chair, Wayne Caldwell, MCIP, RPP. *Planners are part of creating and fostering healthy communities. To do this, we need to have a healthy food system. We believe that this is the largest gathering of planners in Canadian history coming together to focus on the theme of planning for food.*

The keynote speech will be made by Samina Raja. Dr. Raja is the lead author of *A Planners' Guide to Community and Regional Food Planning: Transforming Food Environments, Building Healthy Communities*, published by the American Planning Association. She will share her knowledge of community and regional food planning and why this topic is important for planners who want to build healthy communities. A key part of her address will be the results of a recent survey that was conducted to better

understand how Ontario planners play a role in building healthy communities through community and regional food planning.

Another highlight of the symposium is an awards ceremony on Thursday night that will feature Anna Maria Tremonti from CBC's *The Current* who will announce this year's Excellence in Planning Award winners. The Awards recognize: excellence in all aspects of the profession; a strong awareness of the planning profession among related professions, all levels of government, potential private and public sector clients, and the general public; and professional planners providing excellence to the community.

Detailed symposium information is posted at: [www.ontarioplanners.on.ca](http://www.ontarioplanners.on.ca)

*The Ontario Professional Planners Institute (OPPI) is the recognized voice of the Province's planning profession. Its more than 3,000 members work in government, private practice, universities, and non-profit agencies in the fields of urban and rural development, urban design, environmental planning, transportation, health and social services, heritage conservation, housing, and economic development. For further information, go to: [www.ontarioplanners.on.ca](http://www.ontarioplanners.on.ca)*

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