

## 2026 Prestige Award Recipient



### **Lori J. McDonald, CMO**

*Director of Corporate Services/Clerk, Town of Bracebridge*

Lori McDonald is an exemplary municipal professional who continually demonstrates excellence in all aspects of her work. She is a champion of continuous learning and professional development, setting a high-quality benchmark for others in the Ontario municipal sector. Lori has been the clerk with the Town of Bracebridge for 20 years, where her role has continued to evolve. Throughout this time, Lori has maintained a high level of professionalism and expertise while meeting increasing demands and legislative changes. Her

commitment to professional growth for herself, her teams, her community, and others is what allows her to succeed and serve with grace, determination and integrity.

At the Town of Bracebridge, Lori oversees a department of 15 staff. Through her leadership, her staff have been able to grow their knowledge and skillsets within their individual roles and together as a team, as she allows staff to participate in many professional development opportunities, providing them with the tools and confidence to step up to the plate and take on new challenges. She is a supportive mentor who encourages her colleagues to carve out their own career paths within the municipal sector, demonstrating how to be an effective leader. As Lori has endless credentials based on her own continuing education plus many years of municipal and provincial professional experience, she is the unofficial mentor for clerks all over the District of Muskoka. She openly offers support and advice based on her experiences and makes herself available to lend a helping hand or a listening ear when needed.

Lori has a very strong understanding of legislation – how to read it, how to interpret it, how to translate it into a manageable understanding for others and, most importantly, how to advocate for meaningful legislative amendments for municipal reforms directly impacting local service delivery. One of Lori's passions is elections – she teaches her fellow clerks how to understand and interpret the *Municipal Elections Act* and uses her expertise to support her municipality and others in developing meaningful policies and procedures to ensure smooth and successful local elections.

As a long-time AMCTO member, Lori has participated in many working groups, professional development sessions and advisory boards. She contributes to the Association and the sector by organizing opportunities to speak to fellow members and other key sector stakeholders. Through her efforts, the Muskoka clerks have advocated for important community reforms and broader issues to support all staff across the Ontario municipal sector.

***Congratulations and thank you, Lori!***