



# from your Executive Director

By Bryan E. Smith

TOI Executive Director

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE that we are nearing the end of another year. This year has seemed like a "blur" to me and I'm looking forward to it being over and a much better year in 2021. It seems like just yesterday 2020 was starting and with everything that has happened it doesn't seem possible that the year is almost over!

I still do get a little excited this time of year when it's time to put up the Christmas decorations and it's nice to see the excitement in the children around the holiday season. Their enthusiasm is contagious and (for some reason) makes every year, even as an adult, seem to be just a bit different and more exciting than others.

As an association of township governments, you (we) stand ready to take the first step on the year-long journey as the year 2021 begins. There will be obstacles to overcome in the coming year, there always are, I just hope it's not another pandemic! But if all the various divisions of our organization do their share, that joint effort will ensure that anything can be accomplished. Set your goals for 2021 now and work together with other officials to reach them. You'll learn how rewarding and gratifying mutual success can feel. It's going to be a busy year and one of change, so it's time to prepare.

As we all pause to enjoy the holiday season, I hope you will take a few minutes to look back over 2020 and think of those things that you are thankful for and blessed with. I'm reminded of the old church hymn "Count Your Blessings" and how it tells us to name them one by one. I think you will be surprised that there are many.

From TOI Land, I wish you all a wonderful holiday season and a very happy new year!

*Bryan E. Smith*