

Summary Ontario QSO Party 2020

Contesting in 2020 will be something we all remember for a very long time. Of course, the biggest impact has to be COVID-19, and everyone being locked down for several months at this point. Several contests made announcements that the multi-op and Rover categories would be suspended for 2020. For the Ontario QSO Party, there were no rule changes. Rather, we wanted to let everyone use good judgment, and decide what worked for their particular circumstances, keeping social distancing in mind. Yes – the multi-op and Rover categories were affected – with few entries, but people were also able to get creative, and create solutions that worked for everyone. With that in mind, we did have two MM entries, several MS entries, and one Rover! These stations were able to meet the competing demands of social-distancing as well as participating in the operating categories. Great job!

In looking at the results, the biggest news has to be the record number of entries we had this year – 370! This is the largest number of entries we have had, and it was wonderful to see all the activity on the bands. In looking at the results, there were several comments of “You should activate all counties!” We have been making progress over the years, but it should be noted – easier said than done. Ontario is huge, and there are many parts of the province where it can be a challenge to find a station that is HF capable, then convincing them to get on for the Ontario QSO Party.

Due to the record number of entries, there were many first-timers that submitted logs, and we wanted to see which counties were active, and which ones were missing. After doing some investigative work, we found that ALL 50 counties were active this year! This is simply amazing and wonderful!

It should be noted a few counties only had one station active, and they only showed up in a few logs of other participants – they did not submit a log. So – on one hand – all counties were active. At the same time, we did not receive logs for every county. This does give us a starting point for next years OQP – to see if we can get a few more counties active.

THANK YOU for getting on, and being part of OQP 2020. We do appreciate everyone for getting on, and making even a few QSO's.

We also wish to thank the many folks at Contest Club Ontario who work behind the scenes to promote the Ontario QSO Party, receive and score the logs, and deliver the final results. We also wish to thank the plaque sponsors for helping make the Ontario QSO Party what it is. Participating is great – having a plaque to hang on the wall makes it extra special.

One last house-keeping item. Normally, plaques are handed out at the CCO Annual General Meeting at the end of August. For those not in attendance, we typically mail them out a few weeks after the meeting. We very much hope to be able to do that this year, but at this point, having a large gathering is somewhat up in the air. We expect limited participation at best, cancellation at worst, and the possibility of a virtual meeting without the opportunity to “hand out the hardware”. Simply put – we don’t have a final answer at this point. For our plaque winners though, fear not. We WILL get your plaques to you. You worked hard, we appreciate the effort, and we will make arrangements at the appropriate time to ensure they get delivered.

Thanks again for being part of OQP 2020, and we hope to see you all again next year when the snow melts and summer is just around the corner.

CONTEST RECORDS:

2020 was a record breaking year indeed!

With the increased participation, many records fell by the wayside, in a variety of categories and modes, and from many different parts of Ontario and around the world. It was truly wonderful to see the participation in this years OQP. Rather than highlight a few of the new records, please take a moment to check them out - there are a LOT of them!

Tom, VE3CX