



Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) Rangers assist with suppressing the wildfire in Burnt River, August 2025.

Dear Residents,

As we begin the summer season, I want to acknowledge the growing impacts of climate change that we may all be feeling across our community. More frequent and more intense weather events are placing greater pressure on residents, businesses, infrastructure and municipal operations alike.

As we closed out 2025, the City faced an unprecedented potential deficit of \$44 million, including approximately \$36.6 million related to unforeseen weather response and clean-up expenses. Events included the March ice storm (and associated power outages, up to a month long in some communities), two significant forest fires in August, drought affecting farmers late summer and early fall, extreme winter events and record snow accumulation. We are grateful to the Province for providing \$25.6 million in relief for the ice storm, and we are equally proud that the City's disciplined approach to reserves in previous years allowed us to address a net deficit of \$18.4 million without a City-wide tax levy. At the same time, we cannot assume this level of funding will be available in the future and will be adopting new preparedness strategies to respond to and recover from future weather events.

You may notice an increase on the final tax bill, depending on where you reside. Rural properties serviced by OPP include a \$900,000 adjustment to address the 2024 provincial cost reconciliation and the 2025 deficit. Lindsay residents will share a \$600,000 increase for Lindsay Transit's 2025 deficit, primarily due to increased costs associated with expanded service routes and with forecasted revenue not increasing proportionately.

As this is an election year, we encourage all eligible residents to be informed, get involved, and to cast their vote online or by phone, between October 16 and 26.

Sincerely,

Ron Taylor  
Chief Administrative Officer

Summer 2026 Update

Kawartha  
Lakes   
2001 • 2026 **25**

# Investments in housing, local health care, community wellness, roads and more...



## New affordable housing for singles and families

Murray Street Affordable Housing in Fenelon Falls was completed in 2025 and welcomed residents to the **30-unit** building (new residents in their kitchen pictured here). **35 new units** are set for completion in Minden in 2026. These units are owned and managed by Kawartha Lakes Haliburton Housing Corporation.



## The Community Integrated Care Hub (the Hub) opened Spring 2026

The Hub includes a **12-bed emergency shelter with drop-in and program spaces**. It offers wrap-around supports so people can access what they need in one place, from basic needs like **showers, laundry, meals, and a safe overnight space, to connections with health and community supports**. The Hub is a partnership with the City, John Howard Society of the Kawarthas, and the Province, and supports Kawartha Lakes' 10-Year Deeply Affordable and Supportive Housing Strategy.



## Child care expansion

Within the last year, we've created **147 new spaces for children aged 0-5 with another 143 on the way, and 30 new spaces for children aged 6-12**. New providers include: Where We Grow in Lindsay and Compass Early Learning and Care in Kirkfield. **Over \$4 million in provincial and federal grant funding** was provided to child care operators in the last year to support expansion.



## Summit Wellness Centre (SWC) in the home stretch

The SWC is scheduled to open this summer, offering a host of new services to Kawartha Lakes. We can't wait to welcome the **Kawartha North Family Health Team, Coby Pharmacy, and the Coboconk & Area Food Bank** to the SWC, along with many other services like massage therapy, dental hygiene, mental health counselling, chiropractic care, and nutritional counselling to their new home.



## Thanks to the Kawartha Lakes Health Care Initiative (KLHCI)

In late 2025, we welcomed **Dr. Darkwa** who now practices in Bobcaygeon, and his wife **Dr. Sarfo** who will start in Bobcaygeon this summer (both pictured here). We also welcomed **Dr. Barratt** who is now practicing in Fenelon Falls. **Dr. Usman Khurshid, Dr. Kanayo Odunze and Dr. Uche Nkemdeme** will begin a walk-in full-time practice on May 1, 2026 in Lindsay.



## Major road and bridge projects under construction

In total, **\$44 million is being invested** in road lifecycle extension and reconstruction in 2026. For a full list of roads projects: [www.kawarthalakes.ca/roads](http://www.kawarthalakes.ca/roads)



## Celebrating 25 years

Kawartha Lakes is celebrating its 25th anniversary as a single tier City in 2026. Over the past 25 years, the community has grown through strong partnerships, local pride, and shared experiences. We're a true community of communities.

Exhibits including 'County to Kawartha' and 'Art in the Halls' are on display at City Hall throughout the year. The exhibits feature artwork, textiles, photos, and stories from Kawartha Lakes. 'That's a Wrap,' the traffic control box art program, is also back with 'People of Kawartha Lakes'. Find more info and events online: [www.kawarthalakes.ca/anniversary](http://www.kawarthalakes.ca/anniversary)

## Tax tips

### Go Paperless

Sign up for paperless billing and never worry about postal strikes, extra fees or service interruptions. Be signed up by November 30, 2026 for one of 25 chances to win \$100. Learn how safe and easy it is to go paperless. [www.kawarthalakes.ca/paperless](http://www.kawarthalakes.ca/paperless)



**Please note:** Post dated cheques are no longer being accepted. **Did you know?** You can pay online through your bank for property and utility bills! Avoid late charges and postage.

### Low-Income Seniors and Disabled Persons Property Owner Rebates

Property Tax Assistance Program: depending on your income, you may be eligible for a rebate of up to \$350. Application deadline is June 30, 2026. [www.kawarthalakes.ca/taxes](http://www.kawarthalakes.ca/taxes)

### Utility Billing Water Relief Program

Depending on your income, you may be eligible for a credit equal to 20% of the metered water charges billed in the previous year. The application deadline is September 30, 2026. [www.kawarthalakes.ca/utilitybilling](http://www.kawarthalakes.ca/utilitybilling)



## Environmental corner

### Organics Program updates for urban settlement areas, effective June 15

- Organics collection moves to your regular waste collection day
- No organics permitted in garbage bags
- Garbage bag limit of one bag per household

In 2025, you diverted **1,171 tonnes of organics!** This is about the same as taking the garbage from 4,000 residents out of the landfill, and turning it into compost. [www.kawarthalakes.ca/organics](http://www.kawarthalakes.ca/organics)

### Round Up dates and locations for 2026

- **June 20:** Carden Recreation Centre, 258 Lake Dalrymple Rd, Sebright
- **July 25:** Rolling Hills Public School, 694 Hwy 7A/Hwy 35, Manvers
- **August 15:** Bobcaygeon Public School, 30 Balaclava St., Bobcaygeon
- **August 29:** Coboconk Roads Depot, 2863 Kawartha Lakes Road 48, Coboconk



At the 2025 Round Up Days, you kept **32 tonnes of hazardous waste, electronics, bulky plastics, and textiles out of our landfill!** That's about the weight of two fully loaded garbage trucks. [www.kawarthalakes.ca/roundupdays](http://www.kawarthalakes.ca/roundupdays)



# 2026 Municipal Election



Get ready to vote in the 2026 Municipal Election for Mayor, Councillors, and School Board Trustees. Your election package and access code will be mailed to you in early October. The Inaugural Meeting of the new Council will take place on November 16, 2026.

## How to vote

Voting Period: October 16 at 9am to October 26 at 8pm

- Visit [www.kawarthalakes.ca/election](http://www.kawarthalakes.ca/election)
- Vote online or by telephone
- Vote from anywhere you have a connection, using your own device
- In-person voting assistance is available at Municipal Service Centres and select Kawartha Lakes Library branches

## Candidates:

Nominations to become a candidate for the election are open by appointment only until August 21 at 2pm. After August 24, a list of certified candidates can be found at: [www.kawarthalakes.ca/candidateslist](http://www.kawarthalakes.ca/candidateslist)

Election signs are permitted on:

- select public roadsides and highways from August 27 to October 31
- private property from now until October 31



Council and City Staff congratulate Paralympic Gold Medalist Jon Thurston, a Dunsford resident and member of Canada's wheelchair curling team at the 2026 Paralympic Winter Games.

## Are you on the Voters' List?

Visit [www.RegisterToVoteOn.ca](http://www.RegisterToVoteOn.ca) to:

- Confirm or update your details
- Add your name to an address
- Remove a property, a deceased elector, or your personal information

For assistance, you can make updates to the voters' list in person after September 1.

Register To Vote is owned and managed by Elections Ontario, and updating information on this site will also update information on the Provincial voters' list. For questions, please contact Elections Ontario's Help Centre at 1-866-242-3025 or [info@RegisterToVoteON.ca](mailto:info@RegisterToVoteON.ca)



Register  
to Vote

RegisterToVoteON.ca  
1.866.242.3025



## More information

- email [election@kawarthalakes.ca](mailto:election@kawarthalakes.ca)
- call 705-324-9411 extension 1888
- visit [www.kawarthalakes.ca/election](http://www.kawarthalakes.ca/election)

Meet us online for community engagement  
[www.jumpinkawarthalakes.ca](http://www.jumpinkawarthalakes.ca)

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