

The Gravenhurst CONNECTION

The Town of Gravenhurst Quarterly Newsletter

March 2025



Mayor Heidi Lorenz, Councillor Erin Strength, town staff, and Gravenhurst Lions Club members unveiled a new AED device at the Lions Pavilion at Muskoka Wharf on Feb. 21. The club sponsored the automated external defibrillator. These devices can be used on an individual experiencing cardiac arrest. Thanks to the club for its generosity.



Earth Day

How are you celebrating? Here are some ideas:

CLEAN MUSKOKA TOGETHER

Volunteer to tackle litter by registering for the District of Muskoka's neighbourhood clean-up program.
Muskoka.on.ca

COMPOST GIVEAWAY

Muskoka Wharf starting at 10 am on April 22

NATIVE TREE & SHRUB SALE

Improve your property with trees & shrubs suitable to our local environment.
Gravenhurst.ca/TreeOrders

Recreation Programs

The Town of Gravenhurst is home to a wide range of recreational, arts and cultural programs for youth, adults and seniors.



Join us for public skating programs at the Graeme Murray Arena until April. Only \$2 each at the door.



This spring check out Lacrosse, Parent & Tot Gym Stars, FitKids Challenge, Dodgeball, Get Your Bounce On!, Nordic Pole Walking & more!



Ready for summer? Register now for Challenger Soccer Camp in July (Ages 3-5 & 6-14)

GET MOVING. GET INVOLVED. RIGHT HERE IN GRAVENHURST!

Visit our website to see current programs and registration details.

Gravenhurst.ca/Recreation

What's On!



MAR 29 Elton Rohn presented by Peter's Players

APR 01 Fine Films Gravenhurst presents *Sing Sing*

APR 04 Too Late to Stop Now Music of Van Morrison

APR 11 Menopause The Musical

APR 17 Environment Canada's David Phillips

APR 25 The Celine Experience by January Butler



Message from the Mayor

This is our second edition of The Gravenhurst Connection. Thank you to everyone for their feedback regarding the January edition.

As you will see in this latest update, we have lots to share with you.

Please note you can access municipal information at any time by visiting Gravenhurst.ca.

Take care and keep an eye out for our next newsletter in June.

Heidi Lorenz, Mayor.

Updates at a Glance

Council endorses Municipal Service Delivery Review

How the Town of Gravenhurst will deliver services to the community is poised to change in the coming years.

On Feb. 11, council received the Municipal Service Delivery Review for information and endorsed, in principle, using the findings a guide for future decision making about staffing resources and the organizational structure of the town.

In June 2024, the town retained StrategyCorp to conduct the review.

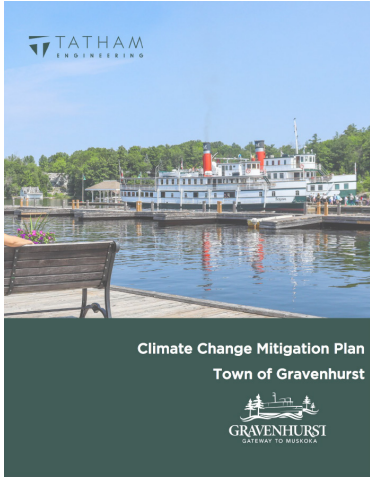
Overall, approximately nineteen potential opportunities were identified to improve service delivery. Consultants earmarked what they call their 'Top 10'.

The review recommends phasing in changes over roughly the next decade.

See Gravenhurst.ca to learn more.



Climate change mitigation plan sets the stage for emissions reductions



Gravenhurst council members, at their Jan. 21 meeting, endorsed the town’s Corporate Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Regional Climate Change Mitigation Plan.

Prepared with assistance from Tatham Engineering, the plan contains emission reduction targets for the years ahead, specifically:

- A short-term target of a 30 percent to 40 percent reduction from 2018 levels for all corporate emissions by 2030.
- A long-term target of net zero by 2050.
- Development of a net-zero building policy and a net-zero new fleet policy.

To be successful, the plan calls for significant investments in the coming years, including municipal facility retrofits and a shift to EVs for the town’s fleet.

“This plan is a valuable document that will serve as a roadmap for future decision making,” Mayor Heidi Lorenz said. “Investments in new technology will be key if we are to meet short and long-term targets.”

The town’s mitigation plan dovetails with the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Plan, which is a Muskoka-wide plan to reduce, minimize, or eliminate the adverse effects of climate change.

As part of the regional plan, lower-tier municipalities have developed plans that relate specifically to their communities.

Learn more at Gravenhurst.ca.



Council Highlights

JANUARY: 2026 Municipal Election Report

The report includes plans for the administration of the next municipal election on Oct 26, 2026, including the continued use of internet and telephone voting.

FEBRUARY: Terence Haight grants and CIP grants

Funding was approved on the recommendation of the Community Grants Committee. See Gravenhurst.ca for details.

FEBRUARY: Tender awarded for new sand dome

SST Group of Construction Companies Ltd. has been hired to build a sand dome (at a cost of \$382,181 exluding HST) to replace the structure that collapsed due to the significant amount of snow on it.

Stay in touch with us!

Visit our website for more Council highlights and all your Town of Gravenhurst updates.



You can watch Council meetings on our YouTube channel. Visit our website: Gravenhurst.ca/Livestream



IS THERE A
FIRE
IN YOU?

Answer the Call! If you’re interested in protecting your community, submit your application to become a part-time firefighter with the Town of Gravenhurst!

Gravenhurst.ca/JoinGFD



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