

The Gravenhurst CONNECTION

The Town of Gravenhurst Quarterly Newsletter

March 2026



Council members and Community Grants Committee chair Jeff Watson with this year's Terence Haight Financial Assistance Program grant recipients. To learn more, see the news release at Gravenhurst.ca.

What's On!



Upcoming Shows
Book your tickets now!

- APR **11** ACROBAT
The U2 Tribute Show

- APR **18** Donovan Woods

- APR **24** Doris & Ivy in the Home by Norm Foster

- MAY **01** Dreamer: Supertramp Tribute

- MAY **02** Great Canadian Comedy Caravan Tour

Recreation Programs

The Town of Gravenhurst is home to a wide range of recreation programs & workshops for all ages.

- NEW: Mini & Junior Makers
- Gymnastics
- Cooking & Baking for Kids
- Lacrosse
- Workshops for Truffle Making, Stained Glass, Herbal Scrub, Cooking, and more!

Get moving, learn new skills & meet new people. Visit the website to REGISTER NOW for spring programs.

Gravenhurst.ca/Recreation



Growing Food, Connections & Opportunity

Located on the east side of the Gravenhurst Centennial Centre, the community garden consists of 30 raised box plots, available at three height levels.

- 4x4 plots at the Gravenhurst Centennial Centre
- \$17.70 +HST for the season
- No experience necessary—get support from our volunteer gardener!

Register:
Gravenhurst.ca/CommunityGardens



Gravenhurst Opera House 125th Anniversary, March 12, 2026

Updates at a Glance

New online portal for planning applications

The town has a new online portal that people can use to submit planning applications. Learn more at Gravenhurst.ca.

Got your short-term rental licence for 2026?

If you operate a short-term rental you require a licence. Visit Gravenhurst.ca to learn more.

We're back at the Gravenhurst Farmers' Market

Town staff will be running a municipal information table at the market again this year. The market runs Wednesdays, 9 am to 2 pm, June 3 to October 7, at Gull Lake Rotary Park. Stop by and visit with the team.

Message from the Mayor

Welcome to the latest edition of The Gravenhurst Connection. We are now in the early days of spring. Like so many people I chat with I am looking forward to the change in weather. The prospect of warmer days has me thinking about the Gravenhurst Farmers' Market and all the other great spring and summer activities that are coming our way.

In addition to this quarterly printed newsletter you can also stay in touch by signing up for our monthly digital newsletter at Gravenhurst.ca.

Take care and talk again soon.

Heidi Lorenz, Mayor



Gravenhurst Votes now live on website



Gravenhurst Votes, the town's municipal election webpage, is now live at Gravenhurst.ca.

"The webpage is your primary source for all things related to the municipal election," Director of Legislative Services Kayla Thibeault said.

Election day in Gravenhurst, and all of Ontario, is October 26, 2026. Voters will be able to cast their ballot by telephone or

the internet. More information about the voting process will be available in the months ahead. Please watch the webpage and the town's social media channels for details.

The election webpage includes the following:

- ✓ **Voter information**
- ✓ **Candidate information**
- ✓ **General information**

If people can't find what they are looking for on the webpage, please e-mail the town at elections@gravenhurst.ca or telephone the Election Help Desk at 705-687-3412, ext. 2242.

The next council term will run from Nov. 15, 2026, until Nov. 14, 2030.

Earn money, gain experience: Gravenhurst now hiring students for the summer



Are you a student in high school or at the post-secondary level and looking for a summer job?

The Town of Gravenhurst might be the place for you. The town has a variety of jobs available through its annual Summer Student Program.

"A summer job with the Town of Gravenhurst is a great way to develop skills, work with talented and fun people, and earn money," said Selby McIsaac, a human resources coordinator

for the town. "Additionally, summer employment with us is a terrific way to learn about the municipal sector and determine if it might be a long-term career path."

Learn more at Gravenhurst.ca/SummerJobs



The Ontario government is providing the Town of Gravenhurst with up to \$780,000 to help pay for emergency response and cleanup costs due to extreme snowfall that occurred in November 2024. Graydon Smith, associate minister of municipal affairs and housing, made the announcement March 11 at the Gravenhurst municipal office.

Council Highlights

DECEMBER: Accessibility Update

Council received the 2025 Annual Accessibility Status Report for information. The report provides an update on the progress made implementing the town's Multi-Year Accessibility Plan.

JANUARY: GAP fee waiver approved

Council agreed to waive the municipal fees that Gravenhurst Against Poverty (GAP) faced for its Coldest Night of the Year fundraiser on February 28.

FEBRUARY: Gravenhurst invests in community organizations and businesses

Council approved a series of grants through the Terence Haight Financial Assistance Program and the Community Improvement Plan (CIP) Program. Learn more at Gravenhurst.ca.

Stay in Touch!

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



You can watch Council meetings on our YouTube channel at Gravenhurst.ca/Livestream

Grants & Awards



GHS Bursary applications now available

\$2,000 to a graduating Gravenhurst High School Student to help with the costs of post-secondary education

Apply: Gravenhurst.ca/GHSbursary

Deadline: Friday, May 29



Ontario Senior of the Year Award nominations open

Nominees, after the age of 65, must have enriched the social, cultural, or civic life of the community.

Nominate: Gravenhurst.ca/SeniorAward

Deadline: Friday, April 10 at 4:00 pm

Contact Council

Heidi Lorenz Mayor
705.687.3412 Ext. 2222
Heidi.Lorenz@GravenhurstCouncil.ca

Sandy Cairns District Councillor
705.687.3412 Ext. 2298
Sandy.Cairns@GravenhurstCouncil.ca

Peter Johnston District Councillor
705.687.3412 Ext. 2295
Peter.Johnston@GravenhurstCouncil.ca

Erin Strength District Councillor
705.687.3412 Ext. 2221
Erin.Strength@GravenhurstCouncil.ca

Penny Varney Councillor, Ward 1
705.687.3412 Ext. 2253
Penny.Varney@GravenhurstCouncil.ca

Jo Morphy Councillor, Ward 2
705.687.3412 Ext. 2244
Jo.Morphy@GravenhurstCouncil.ca

Michelle Robinson Councillor, Ward 3
705.687.3412 Ext. 2247
Michelle.Robinson@GravenhurstCouncil.ca

Randy Jorgensen Councillor, Ward 4 Deputy Mayor
705.687.3412 Ext. 2249
Randy.Jorgensen@GravenhurstCouncil.ca

Christina Hunter Councillor, Ward 5
705.687.3412 Ext. 2223
Christina.Hunter@GravenhurstCouncil.ca