



# The Cornerstone

## Township Of O'Connor

APRIL 2024



**PLEASE NOTE** that the Township Office is closed Friday, March 29th for Good Friday and Monday, April 1st for Easter Monday.



### MUNICIPAL PROPERTY TAXES

The second installment of O'Connor Property Taxes is due Tuesday, April 30th. Please see your tax bill, which was sent out in February 2024, for the amount due. Payments of cash or cheque can be dropped off at the Township Office located at 330 Highway 595. Cheques may also be mailed to RR#1, Kakabeka Falls, ON., P0T 1W0. Alternative methods of payment include internet or telephone banking.

#### THE TOWNSHIP IS NO LONGER ACCEPTING E-TRANSFERS.

For more information, please visit the Township website or call the Township Office at 807-476-1451.



### DISPOSAL SITE SWITCHING TO SUMMER HOURS

**PLEASE NOTE:** Disposal site hours will switch to summer hours effective April 1st and will remain in effect until August 31st. See complete hours on this page.



### ROADS DEPARTMENT

#### - EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Township of O'Connor is currently looking to hire an individual for full-time employment as Equipment Operator #1 for the Roads Department. The individual would be required to work 40 hours per week and be on call in the event of inclement weather. For more information, please see details on the next page or contact the Township Office at 807-476-1451. Qualified applicants must submit a detailed resume with "Equipment Operator" written on the outside of the envelope by 4:00 p.m. on Monday, April 22, 2024 to:

Lorna Buob, Clerk-Treasurer

Township of O'Connor

R.R. #1, 330 Hwy 595 Kakabeka Falls, ON., P0T 1W0

We wish to thank all applicants for their interest. Only those candidates selected for an interview will be contacted. Personal information is collected under the authority of the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and will be used for employment purposes only. Council will review submitted resumes at their meeting to be held later that evening.



### FIRE PERMITS

#### Fire Permits required between Apr. 1st and Oct. 31st.

- Fire Permits are required for ALL outdoor burning, including fireworks and incinerators, with the exception of small campfires for cooking or warmth,
- Permits may be revoked at any time at the absolute discretion of the Township's Fire Chief Greg Biloski,
- Fire Permits are now valid for the entire fire season and can be obtained online through the following steps below:

STEP 1: Register online at: <https://oconnor.burnpermits.com/> (Keep your password). If you are already registered, please skip to Step 2 to log in.

STEP 2: Using the same login information from previous years, follow the steps at the above web address to apply for your burn permit.

STEP 3: Call **1-833-490-0299** each time before you burn. Calling this number before you burn is mandatory to ensure the Township is aware of all active burns, while providing you with the necessary risk level information.

If you are unable to register online for your yearly fire permit, you may call the Township Office at 807-476-1451 and staff will help get you registered so that each time you burn, you need only call the number in Step 3 above.

### Emergency Contacts:

Medical Emergencies: 911

Fire: 911 Police: 911

Police Non-Emergency 1-888-310-1122

### Municipal Office Hours:

Monday to Thursday:

9:00 am to Noon & 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Fridays: 9:00 am to Noon

**Office Phone:** 807-476-1451

**Fax:** 807-473-0891

**Garage:** 807-476-1453

**Community Centre:** 807-476-1452

**Website:** [www.oconnortownship.ca](http://www.oconnortownship.ca)

**E-mail:** [twpoconn@tbaytel.net](mailto:twpoconn@tbaytel.net)

**Find the Cornerstone on our website!**

### Disposal Site Hours:

**Summer Hours (Apr 1-Aug 31)**

**Tuesdays 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm**

**Saturdays 9:00 am to 3:00 pm**

**Winter Hours (Sept 1-Mar 31)**

**Tuesdays 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm**

**Saturdays 9:00 am to 3:00 pm**

### Volunteer Fire Department:

**Fire Chief Biloski** 807-621-5773

**Leanne Coderre, First Response**

807-475-5828

### Dog Control Officer:

**Margaret Foster**

807-632-1235

### Building Permits:

**Council, at their meeting, held March 25, 2024, approved By-law Number 2024-11,**

being a by-law respecting

Construction, Demolition, Inspections,

and to set out the rates for permits

within the Corporation of the Township

of O'Connor, stating that building

permits will be required for the

construction, erection, alteration, repair,

removal, relocation and change of use

of all buildings, decks or structures

within the Township of O'Connor, and

repealed the previous By-law Number

2016-12. Please note that the Building

Fees have changed. If you are building

anything larger than **161.2** square feet

or any building with heating and/or

plumbing, you are required to apply for

a building permit. For more information,

please call the Township Office or the

Township's **Chief Building Official:**

**Martin Tempelman** 807-630-9726

**Email:** [cbomartint@gmail.com](mailto:cbomartint@gmail.com)

Applications are available on the

Township Website or at the Township

Office.

### Oliver Paipoonge Library:

See page 9 for hours.

Email: [oplibrary@tbaytel.net](mailto:oplibrary@tbaytel.net)

<http://oliverpaipoonge.olsn.ca/>

### Thunder Bay District Health Unit:

807-625-5900 Toll Free: 888-294-6630

**Telehealth Ontario:** 1-866-797-0000

Call Ontario 2-1-1 to find programs and services in your area.



## The Township of O'Connor invites Applications for the Position of Equipment Operator #1 for the Public Works Roads Department

### DEPARTMENT: PUBLIC WORKS

#### SUMMARY OF POSITION:

- Operate various township equipment on an as required basis,
- Perform regular maintenance on all township equipment and undertake minor repairs,
- Fabrication, welding, etc. as assigned by Road Superintendent,
- Other duties as assigned by Road Superintendent.

#### REPORTING RELATIONSHIP:

- Reports to the Road Superintendent.

#### RESPONSIBILITIES:

- When acting as a supervisor, is responsible for ensuring that the work is carried out in a safe and efficient manner,
- Responsible for the safe operation of vehicles and equipment,
- Responsible for reporting deficiencies in either roads or equipment and for making minor repairs or adjustments to equipment,
- Building and Recreation area maintenance
- Ability to work independently to carry out assignments.

#### WORKING RELATIONSHIPS:

- Take direction from the Road Superintendent,
- Interact continuously with co-workers,
- Interact on an occasional basis with ratepayers and members of the general public.

#### QUALIFICATIONS:

- Grade 12 or equivalent,
- Proficient in the operation of heavy equipment including a road grader,
- General knowledge of road maintenance and construction procedures,
- Valid Class "D" licence with "Z" endorsement,
- Ability to carry out mechanical repairs and maintenance,
- Ability to operate a snowplow truck with wing and sander.

#### WORKING CONDITIONS:

- Good physical condition to perform manual work,
- Outside work environment in all weather,
- Required to work irregular hours – evenings, weekends, holidays.



## LOAD RESTRICTIONS IN EFFECT (Half Loads)

Load restrictions have been applied to all Township of O'Connor roads starting Thursday, March 14, 2024 and will continue during the period designated by the Township of O'Connor. The Township of O'Connor reserves the right to extend the load restrictions due to the weather and/or road conditions after the MTO has lifted their restrictions. MTO has also placed load restrictions on Highways 595 & 588 effective March 11, 2024.



## COUNCIL MEETINGS

The next meetings of Council will be held in Council Chambers at 330 Highway 595:

**Monday, April 8th at 6:00 p.m.**

**- Budget Meeting for Fire Department**

**Monday, April 8th at 7:00 p.m. - Regular Meeting**

**Monday, April 22nd at 6:00 p.m.**

**- Budget Meeting for Road Department**

**Monday, April 22nd at 7:00 p.m. - Regular Meeting**

To view meeting agendas, please visit the Township Website at [www.oconnortownship.ca](http://www.oconnortownship.ca) to access them through the "Council" page.

Council welcomes your involvement.

**Mayor:** Jim Vezina, 807-577-6735

#### Councillors:

Alex Crane, 807-473-9420      John Sobolta, 807-624-8025

Brendan Rea, 807-708-5122      Carly Torkkeli, 807-620-2579

## OFFICIAL PLAN AMENDMENT DECISION

Council, at their meeting held on March 25, 2024 made a final decision on the Official Plan Amendment application #2023-01 submitted by Tim and Jennifer Silvaggio and represented by Stefan Huzan, Northern Planning. Council approved the application with a recorded vote at this meeting. A formal Notice will be posted on the Township's website and will be available at the Township Office upon completion.



## POSITION AVAILABLE: CHIEF BUILDING OFFICIAL

The Township of O'Connor is partnering with the Township of Conmee and the Municipality of Neebing to seek a Chief Building Official that will work in each municipality. The Chief Building Official is responsible for the management and enforcement of the Building Code Act, the Ontario Building Code and all other pertinent municipal and provincial regulatory requirements within each municipality. Although the municipalities are partnering in the hiring process, each municipality will be dealt with on an individual basis. This is a casual position in which the workload will depend on the number of permit applications received. Compensation for the work completed to be negotiated.

For more information, please refer to the Township's website at [www.oconnortownship.ca](http://www.oconnortownship.ca) under the Municipal Office heading in the Careers page.



## O'CONNOR EMERGENCY TEXT MESSAGING SERVICE

Please sign up for O'Connor's Emergency Text Messaging Service. It is free of charge to you and phone numbers are for this service only. Stay informed on road closures, emergencies, municipal events and updates happening in O'Connor Township. Instructions for the Township of O'Connor Emergency Text Messaging System can be found on the Township Website "Emergency Services." Please see the insert for instructions.

**PLEASE NOTE: The text messaging service is for outgoing messages only. If you wish to send us a message, please email us at [twpoconn@tbaytel.net](mailto:twpoconn@tbaytel.net). Please do not respond to the delivered text messages as these are not checked on a regular basis.**



## Volunteer Fire Department News

Since our last newsletter, the O'Connor Volunteer Fire Department received 0 Fire and 1 First Response call.

### FIRE SAFETY CHECKLIST

- \* Test your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors monthly to make sure they are in good working order.
- \* Make sure fire extinguishers are properly stored, easily accessible, charged and undamaged. Also make sure everyone in your household knows how and when to use it.
- \* Remove dead leaves and other debris around porches, decks, foundations, and stairs.
- \* Check electrical appliances for frayed cords.
- \* Review your Home Fire Escape Plan with the family, and talk to your neighbours to see how you can support one another in the event of an emergency.

For more information on fire safety, please check the Township website at [www.oconnortownship.ca](http://www.oconnortownship.ca) or ask the Township Office staff for available information pamphlets.

## BECOME A VOLUNTEER! WE NEED YOU!!

The Township of O'Connor is looking for volunteers for O'Connor's Volunteer Fire Department and First Response Team. Volunteer firefighter training occurs on a weekly ongoing basis and now is the perfect time to join our team. Our community needs more volunteers to ensure that in the event of an emergency, our residents will be taken care of as fast as possible.

For questions on volunteering for the O'Connor Volunteer Fire Department, First Response and/or Auxiliary, please call:

Fire Chief Greg Biloski at 807-621-5773

**Volunteer Fire Department**

Leanne Coderre at 807-475-5828

**Volunteer First Response**

Cheri Biloski at 807-621-5768

**Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary**

Applications to join the team can be found on the Township website at [www.oconnortownship.ca](http://www.oconnortownship.ca).

**Your Volunteer time could make a difference  
in someone else's life.**



## EMERGENCY INFORMATION FORMS

As a small community, Staff and Council are always concerned for our residents' well-being. By filling out an Emergency Information Form, Staff will have the information they need to ensure that your needs are being met during an emergency or in the event of an emergency evacuation. All information is kept confidential and used only in the event of an emergency. Don't need help in an emergency, but want to help your community? This information is also on the form! See the enclosed insert to fill out or find the Emergency Information Form on our website under "Emergency Services."

**Email completed forms to [twpoconn@tbaytel.net](mailto:twpoconn@tbaytel.net), or drop off to the Township Office at 330 Highway 595.**

Thank you.



## MEET YOUR NEW VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT FIRE CHIEF GREG BILOSKI



### Congratulations Fire Chief Biloski!

Fire Chief Biloski started as a teenager on the O'Connor Volunteer Fire Department when he was 16 years old. He was promoted as Captain of the Department in 2010 and to Acting Deputy Fire Chief in 2022. On March 16th of this year, he was promoted to Fire Chief.

Thank you Greg for your ongoing commitment to the O'Connor Community and to the department.

### O'CONNOR FIRE DEPARTMENT AUXILIARY ANNUAL BBQ STEAK DRAW

Licence #M855405

Must be 18 or older to participate.

1st PRIZE - 30 Rib Steaks

2nd PRIZE - 20 Rib Steaks

3rd PRIZE - 10 Rib Steaks

Draw Date is Tuesday, June 18th, 2024  
at the O'Connor Fire Hall at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are 3 tickets for \$5.00.

Only 3000 tickets to be sold!

Get them before they sell out!

Tickets available at the O'Connor Township Office or from any of our amazing volunteers.

Get your tickets today and support O'Connor's Volunteer Fire Department!

### SMOKE DETECTORS & CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS SAVE LIVES

The O'Connor Fire Department has for purchase:

**Kidde Smoke Alarms.....\$25.00**

**Kidde Carbon Monoxide (CO) Alarms.....\$25.00**

**Kidde Combination Smoke/CO Alarms.....\$50.00**

These units can be picked up at the O'Connor Township Office during regular office hours.



# **ARE YOU READY FOR WILDFIRE SEASON**

## **THIS YEAR WILL BE PARTICULARLY DRY**

### **FOLLOW THESE WILDFIRE PREVENTION TIPS TO PROTECT YOURSELF**



Check the weather system for high winds before creating an outdoor fire.



Never leave any fire unattended.



Completely extinguish any outdoor fire you create with water and dirt.



Don't throw cigarettes or other smoking materials or matches on the ground or out of vehicles.



Be mindful when operating equipment outdoors that can create heat or sparks.



Speak up and alert authorities if you suspect someone is in danger of starting a wildfire.



Check for local bans or ordinances before you burn.



Keep a shovel close by, the burn site watered down, and your burn piles small and manageable.



Make sure burn barrels are metal, in good condition, properly vented, and have a metal top screen.



Stay with your fire until out, drown with water, turn over ashes with shovel, repeat several times, and check site regularly over several days.



Choose a burn site surrounded by gravel or dirt that has 3x the height of the pile for vertical clearance from tree limbs and structures.



Keep your yard and surrounding property clear of debris. Use flame resistant yard material like rock or flame resistant plants.



Store flammable materials appropriately. Clear property of dying trees and plants. Trim any overgrown grass or shrubs.



Work with the community to remove dead or dying trees. Clear brush from grounds. Prune trees 10 feet up from the ground.



When building or retrofitting, use non-combustible roofing like asphalt shingles, metal, slate or clay tile and concrete products. Avoid wood or shake shingles.



Choose fire resistant materials for your home like brick, cement or stucco. Tempered and double pane windows can also make a home more resistant to wildfire heat.

Create a defensible space around the area of your home. Reduce fuel ignition sources like trees, shrubbery or fencing. These items, close to your home, can be a fire hazard.

Have an emergency plan should you need to evacuate your home due to wildfire.



# Power Outage Safety

Power outages can happen at any time.  
Whether you're without power for  
minutes, hours, or days  
— stay safe with the tips below!

Keep your **emergency preparedness kit** stocked.  
Make sure you have portable sources of light  
(flashlights, candles, glow sticks), extra batteries, and  
non-perishable foods and lots of potable water.



There may be **downed/live power lines in your area**.  
Keep yourself and others at least 10 metres away (about  
the length of a school bus). **Be careful:** even wires that  
have been down for several days could still be live.

Stay **food safe!** Keep refrigerator doors closed during  
outages to preserve food. **Never** use charcoal or gas  
barbeques, camping stoves, or generators indoors.



**Know when to go.** If your home gets too cold or too  
hot and you are able to leave, head to an alternative  
location until it is safe to return. Take all household  
members (including pets) with you.



## DISPOSAL SITE

**DISPOSAL SITE HOURS** - Please note that the Disposal Site hours will be changing to summer hours beginning **April 1st until August 31st.**  
**Tuesdays 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm**  
**Saturdays 9:00 am to 3:00 pm**

### EARTH DAY 2024

Spring is on its way and what better way to think about what you can do to help the earth on Earth Day than by getting that composter going for your garden. Globally, there is growing consensus that we need to take action to address food loss and waste. Food that is produced but not eaten ends up in landfills and creates methane, a powerful greenhouse gas.

When food is wasted, all the resources used to produce it are also wasted. By reducing food loss and waste in Canada, we can also reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.

**There are many causes of food loss and waste. Some examples include:**

- stocking too much food that spoils before it can be sold or eaten,
- storage or packaging that is not able to stop food spoilage or contamination,
- disposing food scraps in the garbage instead of collection bins for organic waste.

### Ways of reducing your food waste:

- Reuse your leftovers. Throw stuff together for a nice stir-fry or casserole dish.
- Recycle your food waste by composting, turning your leftover fruit, vegetables and coffee grounds into soil for your all your growing needs.
- Prepare weekly meal plans to avoid and plan a list for the grocery store to avoid purchasing more food than you need.
- Choose paper or cardboard food packaging over plastic.
- If you have a bigger family, buy items in bulk and limit single use containers.
- Purchase reusable food containers and bags.
- Freeze your leftovers for another day, rather than throwing them away.

For more information on recycling and disposing of your items and hazardous waste in our Township, please visit our Waste Disposal Guide on the Township Website at [twpoconn@tbaytel.net](mailto:twpoconn@tbaytel.net) under the Disposal Site page.

**Please remember** to sort your garbage items, recycling all necessary items and ensuring that your garbage bags do not contain glass or animal excrement/diapers. **The glass can harm our workers when the truck compacts the bags** and the excrement makes a mess of the compactor. If you are unsure where to put these items, please ask the Disposal Site Caretaker. There is a designated area for glass only, and bags containing excrement get deposited in the main pit.

If you are unsure how to recycle your items, please call Erin at the Township Office at 807-476-1451 for guidance.



## O'CONNOR COMMUNITY CENTRE

### PLEASE NOTE CHANGES IN HALL RENTAL FEES

Book your next special occasion at the O'Connor Community Centre. Maximum capacity in the Community Centre is 162 people. If a liquor license is required, the Centre's capacity is 132 people. Please call the Township Office at 807-476-1451 for more information or to book your event.

### O'Connor Hall Rental Fees:

- ⇒ Social with Liquor - \$ 250.00
- ⇒ Hall Rental No Liquor - \$ 125.00
- ⇒ Use of basement Kitchen - \$ 75.00

**Please note a \$50 damage deposit may be required.**



## Dogs Running at Large

The staff of the Township of O'Connor would like to give a friendly reminder to check your dog's leashes and collars inspecting for cracks, tears and breaks, and batteries in your battery operated dog leashes. If you are having trouble with dogs running at large, please contact the Township's Dog Control Officer, Margaret Foster at 807-632-1235.



### DONATE YOUR:

- ⇒ POP CANS
- ⇒ BEER CANS
- ⇒ LIQUOR BOTTLES
- ⇒ BEER BOTTLES

### FOR THE O'CONNOR VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT!

**HELP OUR LOCAL FIRE DEPARTMENT RAISE MONEY BY PUTTING YOUR CANS AND BOTTLES IN THE SPECIALIZED BINS FOR O'CONNOR!**

The O'Connor Fire Department Auxiliary has pop & beer can, beer & liquor bottle bins at the O'Connor Disposal Site, the O'Connor Fire Hall, Kakabeka Falls Public School and Green Acres Variety. Using these bins, rather than the regular recycling bins, helps raise money for the O'Connor Volunteer Fire Department equipment thus reducing the tax dollars needed during budget time.

### FEELING EXTRA CHARITABLE??

Remove your pop can tabs and drop them off at the Township of O'Connor Office for the March of Dimes.

The Township of O'Connor  
 will be recognizing  
**World Autism Awareness Day**  
 by raising the Flag  
 Tuesday, April 2nd.

### O'CONNOR TOQUES LIQUIDATION \$10 EACH

Stop by the Township Office to buy a toque. Orange, blue or white available. Cash or cheque payments only. Cheques should be made out to "The O'Connor Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary."



# APRIL 2024



NorWest Community  
Health Centres  
Centres de santé  
communautaire NorWest

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
1 Chair Yoga @ O'Connor C.C. & CHW drop in appts	2 Fly the C.O.O.P Walking Group <b>Diabetes Educator</b>	3 Chair Yoga @ KB Legion	4 Fly the C.O.O.P Walking Group <b>LifeLabs</b> <b>Walk-In Clinic</b> 8:30am-4:30pm	5
8 Chair Yoga @ O'Connor C.C. & CHW drop in appts	9 Fly the C.O.O.P Walking Group	10 Chair Yoga @ KB Legion	11 Fly the C.O.O.P Walking Group <b>LifeLabs</b> <b>Mobile Clinic - Upsala</b> 10am-3:30pm <b>Diabetes Educator</b>	12 <b>Walk-In Clinic</b> 8:30am-4:30pm
15 Chair Yoga @ O'Connor C.C. & CHW drop in appts	16 Fly the C.O.O.P Walking Group <b>Diabetes Educator</b>	17 Chair Yoga @ KB Legion	18 Fly the C.O.O.P Walking Group <b>LifeLabs</b> <b>Diabetes Educator</b> <b>Walk-In Clinic</b> 8:30am-4:30pm	19
22 Chair Yoga @ O'Connor C.C. & CHW drop in appts <b>Mobile Clinic - Armstrong</b> 1pm-6pm	23 Fly the C.O.O.P Walking Group <b>Diabetes Educator</b> <b>Mobile Clinic - Armstrong</b> 8:30am-1:30pm	24 Chair Yoga @ KB Legion	25 Fly the C.O.O.P Walking Group <b>LifeLabs</b> <b>Walk-In Clinic</b> 8:30am-4:30pm	26
29 Chair Yoga @ O'Connor C.C. & CHW drop in appts	30 Fly the C.O.O.P Walking Group			

## Kakabeka Site

4785 ON-11 Unit B,  
Kakabeka Falls,  
ON P0T 1W0  
(807) 473-5528

## PROGRAM INFO.

Call Shaun at (807) 473-5528  
ext.1 to register for all programs

**Fly the C.O.O.P Walking Group**  
Meet at Kakabeka Falls Legion Hall  
10am-11am

**CHW Drop in Appointments**  
Available until 3pm

**Chair Yoga**  
Hosted at O'Connor Community  
Centre OR Kakabeka Falls Legion  
Hall at 10:30am  
Chair Yoga is also hosted *virtually*  
at 10:30am



## Follow us!

NorWest Community  
Health Centres -  
Kakabeka Falls Clinic

[www.norwestchc.org](http://www.norwestchc.org)

## WELL WATER SAFETY

Regular testing of your well is important to make sure your water is safe for you and your family to drink. Bacteria such as E. coli can contaminate your well making it unsafe to drink. The risk is higher if you have animals in the area – especially on farms with livestock and other animals – but the bacteria can also occur naturally in the soil.

The Thunder Bay District Health Unit (TBDHU) recommends testing at least three times per year for a drilled well: once after the spring melt and two more times during the spring/summer. If you have a dug well, you should test four times per year. You should also do additional testing after heavy rains or flooding on your property when there is a greater risk of surface water washing into your well (drilled or dug).

Water sample bottles can be picked up during regular business hours at the Township of O'Connor Township Office and dropped off at the Public Health Laboratory located at 336 South Syndicate Avenue.

Don't  
Forget!

## RURAL CUPBOARD FOOD BANK

**Neighbours Helping Neighbours**  
Conmee Municipal Complex  
19 Holland Rd, Kakabeka Falls P0T1W0  
807-285-0836

**Next Food Bank is**  
**Wednesday, April 17, 2024**  
**Registration 9 am to 11 am**  
**Drive-thru pick up**

## RURAL CUPBOARD FOOD BANK INCOME TAX RECEIPTS

If you have not received your Rural Cupboard Food Bank Income Tax Receipt, please contact us at 807-285-0836.

We sincerely thank all those that continue to support us.  
Your donations enable the food bank to remain open.



## O'CONNOR COMMUNITY CLUB

The O'Connor Community Club Mom's Pantry Fundraiser orders will be ready for pick up Wednesday, April 3rd between 4:30 and 5:30 pm at the Township Office. If you are unable to attend at this time, please call Lorna at 807-476-1451 to make other arrangements. The next Community Club meeting will be Tuesday, May 7th at 7:00 pm in Council Chambers at 330 Highway 595.

### ATTENTION PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS!!!

The O'Connor Community Club needs new members to help organize children's events! Please join us at our next meeting or contact Lorna or Linda at 807-476-1451 for more information.

All are welcome to attend. Regular meetings are flexible to adhere to members availability. We are always looking for new members, event ideas or activities to organize! Please join us to that social events continue to happen in O'Connor.

## Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program

*Provides FREE dental services to eligible seniors*

### You may be eligible if you:

- Are 65 or older
- Are a resident of Ontario
- Have no access to any other form of dental benefits (e.g. private insurance or other government program)
- Have an annual net income of \$22,200 or less for a single person OR a combined net income of \$37,100 or less for a couple

For more information:  
Visit [TBDHU.com/SeniorsDental](http://TBDHU.com/SeniorsDental)

To apply online:  
Visit [ontario.ca/SeniorsDental](http://ontario.ca/SeniorsDental)

For assistance or to book an appointment:  
Call (807) 625-5984 or toll-free: 1-888-294-6630



Thunder Bay District Health Unit



When you don't know where to turn.™

211 helps people find the community and social services they need.

**Free. Confidential.**

**Live Answer 24/7.**



**Call 2-1-1**



**Visit 211North.ca**



LAKEHEAD REGION  
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY



Warmer weather means more people will be out visiting our Conservation Areas and exploring nature. Please be mindful of trail conditions and the weather. Trails may be slippery due to wet, muddy, icy, and snowy conditions, so be prepared for your visit and wear appropriate footwear. Additionally, LRCA staff do not monitor ice conditions, so proceed with caution and at your own risk. The LRCA is glad to be hosting several public events during 2024, including our 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Day on Thursday, July 18, 2024, from 3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. right here at our Administrative Office at 130 Conservation Road in Thunder Bay. Keep an eye on our website for more information about upcoming events and registration openings.

The Tree Seedling Program returns in 2024, in partnership with Hill's Greenhouses! Orders will open on Friday, April 5 at 4:30 p.m. and will be accepted online only. Bundles of 25 one-year-old seedlings are available at a cost of \$12 per bundle. Species for 2024 include Jack Pine, White Spruce and Black Spruce. Visit [www.store.lakeheadca.com](http://www.store.lakeheadca.com) on April 5<sup>th</sup> to place your order! All proceeds from the sale of tree seedlings are in support of the LRCA's environmental education program.

The 2024 Explore Card Parking Pass is now on-sale! Explore Card Parking Passes permit day-use/parking at our ten Conservation Areas for one calendar year. Visit as often as you like. Enjoy one calendar year of recreation activities! For the low price of \$40.00 +HST, it's convenient for frequent users. All Explore Card revenue goes directly towards the upkeep and maintenance of our Conservation Areas.

## BLESSING BOX: DONATIONS NEEDED

The blessing box is being filled at least once a week, but needs everyone's help in keeping it stocked. If you are able to donate, please contact Shelley at 807-629-2851. Some products that can be added to the Blessing Box this season are:

Mixed nuts	Spices	Pasta
Granola bars	(ie. salt, pepper,	Rice
Fruit roll ups	garlic powder,	Cereal
Dried fruit	sage,	Oatmeal
White sugar	poultry seasoning,	Bread
Brown sugar	lemon pepper,	Bagels
Flour	basil, etc.)	English muffins
		Pancake mix

Toiletries are also a great donation, items such as:

Deodorant	Feminine products
Tooth brushes	Diapers
Toothpaste	Bar soap



# CRIBBAGE

BEGINNERS WELCOME!

**EVERY TUESDAY 1 P.M.**

ROSSLYN COMMUNITY CENTER

3405 ROSSLYN ROAD



Come and join the fun and friendship!

## Canasta- Hand and Foot Version

Every Thursday from 1:00 to 3:00  
at Rosslyn Library.  
Beginners welcome.



The Enchanting Benefits of Playing Canasta  
With every meld and discard, players engage  
their cognitive faculties, sharpening their  
minds like a wizard's wand. Canasta becomes  
a mental puzzle, challenging players to  
analyze, plan, and adapt their strategies to  
outwit their opponents.

## Murillo Library

Monday 10 – 8:00 pm  
Wednesday 10 – 8:00 pm  
Saturday 9 – 12 pm  
935-2729



**Murillo Library  
Will be closed on  
Easter Monday  
April 1<sup>st</sup>.**

Thank you to the Rosslyn  
Women's Institute for their  
donation from the  
proceeds of their  
Valentine Dessert Tea.  
We will be purchasing new  
adult and children's books for  
Rosslyn Library with the  
donation!

Looking for used books?  
Both Rosslyn and Murillo  
Library have a large  
selection of used books for  
sale for 50 cents each.



## Rosslyn Library

Tuesday 10 – 8:00 pm  
Thursday 10 to 8:00 pm  
Saturday 1 – 4:00 pm  
939-2312



Use your library card to  
'check out' tennis and  
pickleball equipment at  
Rosslyn Library.



**Story Time with Kelsea**  
Every Thursday at 11:00 am  
at Rosslyn Library



Planning a day trip to one of our local  
provincial parks? Use your library card  
to borrow a free day pass!

## An EarlyON Storytime Adventure



Tuesday, April 16  
1:00pm-2:00pm

The Rural Family Centre is taking storytime on  
the road to the Rosslyn Library! We will be  
meeting at the library to enjoy some engaging  
tales, free play and crafts!

All ages welcome, no pre-registration necessary!

Call the Rural Family Centre at 935-3009 or ask  
a staff member at the library for more  
information!

## Seniors Carpet Bowling

Rosslyn Community Centre

Sponsored by Rosslyn Library



**every  
Thursday**

**1:30 -4:00 pm**

Call the library at 939-2312 for  
more information.

**Please bring indoor shoes!**

### Seniors!

**Enjoy a fun game of  
carpet bowling!**

Relaxed & gentle pace of exercise  
Free

Socializing & Fun times  
Refreshments

Special days with prizes and snacks

**Beginners welcome!!**



## Solar Eclipse - April 8th

Please take caution during the solar eclipse on April 8th, expected to occur just after 2:00 pm. Looking directly at the uncovered sun without protection can cause retinal burns, blurred vision, or loss of eyesight. There are no pain sensors in your retinas to tell you that your eyes are being damaged. Once symptoms begin, the damage is usually too late to reverse.



For more information, visit **Solar Eclipse Safety** or visit the Canadian Space Agency's website at <https://www.asc-csa.gc.ca/eng/astronomy/eclipses/total-solar-eclipse.asp>



**Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association**

**Species at Risk Farm Incentive Program (SARFIP)**

**SARFIP**  
Species at Risk Farm Incentive Program

**Opening April 1st, 2024**

Provides cost-share funding to agricultural landowners to undertake habitat creation, enhancement and protection best management practices (BMPs) that support Species at Risk. Visit <https://ontariosoilcrop.org/cost-share-programs> for more information.




**Farmer Wellness Initiative**

The Farmer Wellness Initiative provides Ontario farmers and their families with free, unlimited mental health counselling, specific to the unique challenges that can be experienced by the agricultural community.

Operated by TELUS Health, you can call, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year to be connected to support, available in both English and French.

CALL NOW: 1-866-267-6255

**THE HYMERS FALL FAIR IS LOOKING FOR CATTLE SHOW SPONSORS**

**EMAIL US AT [INFO@HYMERSFAIR.COM](mailto:info@hymersfair.com)**

PIC-COLLAGE

## Thunder Bay Community Pasture NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

8:00 p.m.

Rural 60 Centre, 5 Pineview Road, Kakabeka Falls  
off Hwy. 11-17

For more information, contact Diana Bockus  
Secretary/Treasurer  
[dlbockus@tbaytel.net](mailto:dlbockus@tbaytel.net)

807-475-8761

Everyone is welcome to attend



**SPEAKERS, EXHIBITORS, NETWORKING, EQUIPMENT DEMONSTRATIONS, DRAWS, AND MORE!**

**April 2**  
Youth Night- The Wealthy Farmer

**April 3 & 4**  
10:00 AM to 4:00 PM daily  
Doors open at 9:00 AM  
April 3 7:00 PM Beef Night

**Royal Canadian Legion**  
4556 Highway 11/17  
Kakabeka Falls

[f @thunderbayosia](https://www.facebook.com/thunderbayosia)  
[northwest.scia@gmail.com](mailto:northwest.scia@gmail.com)

**THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS**



Admission per household	\$15
Adult Membership per household	\$99
Early Hot Buffet Lunch	\$25
Adults per person, per day	\$25
Kids 10 & under per person, per day	\$8

## SPRINGTIME WORD SCRAMBLER

(answers on page 12)

1. UEISHSNN \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
2. ANGRDE \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
3. HESSORW \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
4. NERHTDU \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
5. PULSDED \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
6. BAUELRML \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
7. THNENLIGGI \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
8. RWORS \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
9. OOCMTSP \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
10. RESWOLF \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
11. DUDYM \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
12. EREGN ASGRS \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
13. NWID \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
14. LOBMOS \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
15. STENSCI \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

## CREAMY TACO SOUP

Submitted by Cheri Biloski

### Ingredients

1 lb ground beef, turkey, or chicken  
 1 Tbsp oil of your choice  
 1 small onion, diced  
 2-3 cloves of garlic, minced  
 1 (10 oz) can diced tomatoes (undrained) or 1 large tomato, chopped  
 1 (8 oz) package cream cheese or 1 cup heavy cream  
 2 Tbsp taco seasoning  
 Salt and pepper to taste  
 1 small green bell pepper, diced (optional)

### Directions

Add oil to a large pot over medium-high heat. Add meat, onion, and garlic and stir for 7-8 minutes or until meat is browned though. Add diced tomatoes, cream cheese, taco seasoning, and salt and pepper to the pot. Add bell pepper if desired. Stir for 4-5 minutes or until tomatoes are soft and tender and cream cheese is mixed through. Add in beef broth and reduce heat to medium-low. Simmer 15-20 minutes or until desired thickness is achieved. Serve in small soup bowls as is or add toppings of your choice, such as freshly sliced avocado, sour cream, shredded cheese, freshly minced cilantro, jalapeno, or a drizzle of lime.

*EARTH DAY is*  
*MONDAY, APRIL 22ND*

## GROW YOUR GARDEN

R	C	A	R	R	O	T	S	Q	U	A	S	H	S
A	H	O	R	S	E	R	A	D	I	S	H	S	E
S	T	C	P	S	Z	S	L	H	Z	O	B	R	O
P	N	R	E	N	U	B	E	S	R	I	R	E	T
B	R	C	A	O	C	B	T	H	O	S	O	B	A
E	S	G	S	I	C	R	T	A	B	B	C	M	M
R	N	R	E	L	H	A	U	L	E	E	C	U	O
R	O	A	O	L	I	B	C	L	A	E	O	C	T
I	I	P	T	A	N	U	E	O	N	T	L	U	U
E	N	E	A	C	I	H	O	T	S	S	I	C	R
S	O	S	T	S	S	R	S	S	O	K	R	A	N
E	A	T	O	R	A	D	I	S	H	E	S	R	I
S	O	S	P	I	N	A	C	H	E	L	A	K	P
A	S	C	G	A	R	L	I	C	S	R	H	L	S

BEETS  
 RHUBARB  
 ONIONS  
 RASPBERRIES  
 HORSE RADISH  
 RADISHES  
 GARLIC  
 LETTUCE  
 ZUCCHINI  
 POTATOES  
 TOMATOES  
 SHALLOTS  
 SPINACH  
 SQUASH  
 CUCUMBERS  
 GRAPES  
 BEANS  
 SCALLIONS  
 BROCCOLI  
 CARROTS  
 PEAS  
 TURNIPS  
 KALE  
 OKRA



Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/6913097/>





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807-475-9687



## Answers to Word Scramble:

- SUNSHINE
- GARDEN
- SHOWERS
- THUNDER
- PUDDLES
- UMBRELLA
- LIGHTENING
- WORMS
- COMPOST
- FLOWERS
- MUDDY
- GREEN GRASS
- WIND
- BLOOMS
- INSECTS



**Tree Services (Year Round):**

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**Winter Services Also Include:**

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\* Experienced & Insured Services \*

**For a free estimate please call, text or email:**

**Grant Miller: (807)-630-5359**

**Email: [woodsmillertreeworks@gmail.com](mailto:woodsmillertreeworks@gmail.com)**

**Find us on Facebook @ WOODS MILLER TREE WORKS**

**Website: [woodsmillertreeworks.ca](http://woodsmillertreeworks.ca)**



# Coumee Catering

By  
Chef Jay

Are you looking for the perfect menu for your event, large or small? With years of experience in the culinary field, both in restaurant service and in catering large and small events, Chef Jay will have the ideal solution to your culinary conundrum. Working with any budget, he will turn out a menu and meal that will have your guests happy, full and talking for weeks.

**Services Offered**

Menu Planning and Development  
Table Service  
Buffet Service  
Full setup, tear down  
and clean up

807-632-7981

[Jay.lavallee@live.com](mailto:Jay.lavallee@live.com)



## Kakabeka Falls

### & Rural District RCL Branch #225

Kakabeka Legion, 4556 Highway 11-17, Kakabeka Falls

**Friday, April 12th**

- Dance with Quest - 7:00 - 10:00 pm

**Sunday, April 14th**

- Buffet Breakfast 8:30 am until 11:00 am

**Sunday, April 21st**

- Jam Session - 7:00 – 9:30 pm

**Saturday, April 27th**

- Craft Sale - 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

**Sunday, April 29th**

- Afternoon of Music - 2:00 - 4:00 pm

Call the Legion hotline for any changes at 807-473-9122.



TAKE OFF POUNDS  
SERIOUSLY

TOPS can help you reach your weight-loss goals by providing you the support, tools, and accountability needed to be successful.

**First meeting is FREE.**

**TUESDAYS**

**10:00 am** - Baptist Community Church,  
corner of Mudlake and Oliver Roads, Murillo

**10:15 am** - Hope Christian Reform Church,  
1315 Crawford Avenue, Thunder Bay

**5:30 pm** - Blake Community Hall,  
71 Blake Hall Road, Neebing

**WEDNESDAYS**

**11:00 am** - O'Connor Community Centre  
330 Highway 595, O'Connor

For more information, please contact 807-577-5924.

## RURAL 60 PLUS

5 Pineview Road, Kakabeka Falls  
807-475-5779, [www.rural60plus.ca](http://www.rural60plus.ca), [rural60@tbaytel.net](mailto:rural60@tbaytel.net)

**MONDAYS**

Carving – 10am to 3pm  
Disking – 1pm to 3pm

**TUESDAYS**

Weaving – 10am to 3pm  
Knitting – 10am to 3pm  
Good Company Choir - 1pm to 3pm

**WEDNESDAYS**

Quilting – 10am to 3pm  
Beginners Carving 10am to 3pm  
Cribbage – 1pm to 3pm

**THURSDAYS**

Yoga—10 to 11am  
Weaving – 10am to 3pm  
Knitting – 10am to 3pm

**MONDAY TO FRIDAY**

Craft Room is open 10am to 3pm



## O'Connor Free Methodist Church

293 Sitch Road

We have in person worship services  
Sunday mornings at 10:45 a.m.

The services will also appear

**“live” on our Facebook page at 10:45 a.m.**

if you would like to worship with us  
from your own home.

**Facebook: O'Connor Free Methodist Church**

Pastor Chris Fiorito

Cell 624-6579

Church 577-2363

Email: [pastor\\_chris@live.com](mailto:pastor_chris@live.com)

Please email, call, or text  
if you have any inquiries.

[www.oconnorfreemethodist.org](http://www.oconnorfreemethodist.org)

Come As You Are, Everyone Welcome!

## Pinegrove United Church

100 Hwy 130, Rosslyn, ON

**In person worship 10:30 am each Sunday.**

See website at [www.PinegroveUC.org](http://www.PinegroveUC.org)

Join live stream worship any Sunday at 10:30 am at  
[www.trinityunited.church/livestream](http://www.trinityunited.church/livestream).

For Pastoral Care, call Church office at 807-939-1364, or  
email [pinegrove@tbaytel.net](mailto:pinegrove@tbaytel.net)

## Redeemer Lutheran Church

13 Marion Street, Kakabeka Falls, ON

For information, please contact Pastor Dan Barr  
807-473-9164 or check the website at [www.redeemerlcc.ca](http://www.redeemerlcc.ca)

## St. James' Anglican Church

10505 John Street Rd., Murillo, ON

Please visit our website at [countrywarmthinchrist.ca](http://countrywarmthinchrist.ca)  
to view online services every Sunday or join in person.

Rector: Reverend Jonathan Blanchard  
807-939-1103 [parish.rector@tbaytel.net](mailto:parish.rector@tbaytel.net)

## St. Mark's Anglican Church

5 St. Mark's St., Rosslyn, ON

Please visit our website at [countrywarmthinchrist.ca](http://countrywarmthinchrist.ca)  
to view online services every Sunday or join in person.

Rector: Reverend Jonathan Blanchard  
807-939-1103 [parish.rector@tbaytel.net](mailto:parish.rector@tbaytel.net)

## St. Theresa's Roman Catholic Church

10 Porter St., Kakabeka Falls, ON

For information, please contact  
Parish Priest: Fr. Randal Morrisseau at 807-935-2898  
(Rectory)

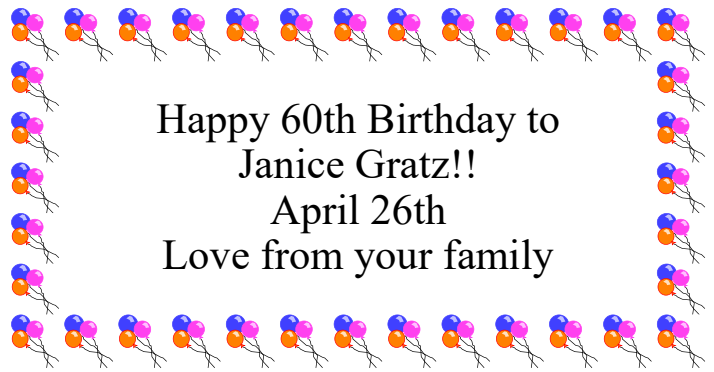
[www.directorydotb.ca/augustine/#2](http://www.directorydotb.ca/augustine/#2)



## O'Connor's History Book

**“First Hundred Years Of Country Living  
At Its Best” makes a great Christmas gift!!**

The Township of O'Connor has copies of the O'Connor  
History Book which commemorate the “First 100 years of  
O'Connor's Country Living At Its Best.” Copies of the  
hardcover book can be purchased for \$40 at the  
O'Connor Township Office during regular office hours.



## FOR HIRE PIANO TUNING, MUSIC LESSONS & TUTORING

I have a PhD in musicology and am newly residing in  
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## O'Connor-Conmee Fellowship Baptist Church

3 Holomego Rd.

Come join the Sunday morning service at 10:45am

Pastor Clayton Theriault

Phone number (807) 631-2411

Email [ocbc3h.pastor@gmail.com](mailto:ocbc3h.pastor@gmail.com)



## Cornerstone Advertising

The following fee structure for advertising in the  
Cornerstone has been set by Council;

### PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGES IN THE AD FEES

- **1/4 Page Ad** - \$ 15.00
- **Half Page Ad** - \$ 30.00
- **Full Page Ad** - \$ 50.00
- **Personal, Announcement and Classified Ads** (ie.  
Garage Sale, Parties, Funerals or Celebrations)  
- \$ 7.50
- **Death Announcements** - Free of Charge for the  
Township of O'Connor past or present residents.  
(This does not include funeral advertisements)
- **Cornerstone mailing for non-residents - Annual  
Fee** - \$ 35.00

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT IS THE 20TH OF EACH MONTH.



## Commemorative Plaques

***Celebrate a family member, friend or loved one  
and order a plaque TODAY!***

The Township of O'Connor offers plaques to observe  
special anniversaries of 50 years or longer and birthday  
celebrations of 75 years or older for present and past  
residents of the Township. If you know anyone who will  
be celebrating either of these special events, please  
contact the Township Office three weeks prior to the date  
and a plaque will be ordered at no charge.



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# O'CONNOR COMMUNITY CLOTHING DRIVE

IN HONOUR OF EARTH DAY 2024



IN SUPPORT OF

COMMUNITY CLOTHING ASSISTANCE IN THUNDER BAY

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT

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THE O'CONNOR TOWNSHIP OFFICE  
(DURING REGULAR OFFICE HOURS)  
AT 330 HIGHWAY 595

BEGINNING MONDAY, APRIL 8<sup>TH</sup>  
UNTIL FRIDAY, APRIL 26<sup>TH</sup> AT NOON.

PLEASE NO UNDERGARMENTS OF ANY KIND  
(UNLESS ITEMS ARE BRAND NEW)  
FOR QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL ERIN  
AT 807-629-8792 OR 807-476-1451.