

NEWSLETTER

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Council returns
for 2026-2030
term

A message from
Mayor
Deschamps

Mark your
calendars for Fall
events in TWPEC

New outdoor
accessible fitness
stations

Representatives from the Province, Township, agriculture and local industry gather in front of a map of the Edwardsburgh Land Bank following the August 19 announcement.

10,000 ACRES UNLOCKED IN HISTORIC LAND BANK AGREEMENT

A decades-long story is entering a new chapter in Edwardsburgh Cardinal.

On August 19, the Township welcomed Ontario's Acting Minister of Infrastructure Todd McCarthy and Leeds-Grenville-Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes MPP Steve Clark to announce an agreement that will return more than 7,600 acres of former Land Bank lands to productive use.

The announcement represents Phase 2 of the Township's Land Bank initiative and builds on the approximately 2,500 acres transferred earlier this year to support the future expansion of HFI Pyrotechnics.

Together, the two phases will unlock more than 10,000 acres of land that have sat largely unused for decades.

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Members of Council with Acting Minister of Infrastructure Todd McCarthy and MPP Steve Clark

Community News

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New opportunities for growth

The Phase 2 lands will support a range of future uses, including agriculture, housing, economic development and conservation. The Township also plans to develop a carefully planned commercial and industrial park, creating new opportunities to attract investment and well-paying jobs while supporting long-term economic growth.

The Province estimates that the Land Bank transfers could generate up to \$187 million in regional economic value over the next 10 years and create up to 600 new jobs.

The return of the lands will also create opportunities to strengthen local agriculture and protect natural areas, including potential new forests and trails.

"This phase will strengthen our agricultural sector while enabling a carefully planned commercial and industrial park that will attract investment, create well-paying jobs, and support long-term economic growth," said Mayor Tory Deschamps.



Mayor Deschamps addresses guests at the August 19 announcement

Years in the making

The August announcement follows years of work by the Township and Province to unlock the potential of the former Land Bank.

"We thank MPP Steve Clark, Minister Kinga Surma, Acting Minister Todd McCarthy, and their teams for their leadership and perseverance, and we commend Council and staff for their vision and dedication in bringing this purchase forward," said Mayor Deschamps.

"Together, this work helps protect our farming heritage while building a strong and sustainable future for generations to come."

COUNCIL RETURNS FOR 2026-2030 TERM

All five positions on Edwardsburgh Cardinal Municipal Council have been acclaimed for the 2026-2030 term following the close of nominations for the 2026 Municipal Election.

No additional nominations were filed by the 2 p.m. deadline on Friday, August 21. Under the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, when the number of certified candidates for an office is the same as the number to be elected, the Clerk declares those candidates elected by acclamation.

The following members of Council have been acclaimed for the 2026-2030 term:

- Mayor: Tory Deschamps
- Deputy Mayor: Stephen Dillabough
- Ward 1 Councillor: Joe Martelle
- Ward 2 Councillor: Waddy Smail
- Ward 3 Councillor: Chris Ward

All five members currently serve on Edwardsburgh Cardinal Municipal Council and will continue in their respective roles for the next term.

The 2026-2030 Council will hold its inaugural meeting on Monday, November 16, 2026.

School Board Trustee elections will continue

While all positions on Municipal Council have been acclaimed, voting will still take place in Edwardsburgh Cardinal for applicable School Board Trustee elections. The English Separate and French Separate School Board Trustee positions have also been acclaimed, while eligible electors will cast ballots for English Public or French Public School Board Trustee, as applicable.

Advance voting will be available electronically by internet or telephone from October 19 to 26, with in-person paper ballot voting available on Election Day, Monday, October 26.

Visit www.twpec.ca/elections to view the official list of certified candidates and find more information about the 2026 Municipal and School Board Election.

Eligible voters who are on the Voters' List will receive a Voter Information Letter (VIL) in the mail. If you have not received your letter by October 12, contact the Township to confirm or update your information.

Mayor's Office

A LETTER FROM MAYOR TORY DESCHAMPS



To the residents of Edwardsburgh Cardinal,

With the recent acclamation of our Council, I want to share a few thoughts as we begin another four years of service. Acclamation of 5 members of Council was a surprise for all of us. We've worked hard, really hard in the last 4 years. Hard to deliver, harder when we were told no and hardest when it came to life in our communities. We understand the the expectations of our residents and the responsibility that come along with those expectations. That's a responsibility we take very seriously.

Looking back, Steve, Joe, Waddy, Chris and I, are extremely proud of the work accomplished over the last term, and just as proud of how we did it. Council did exactly what we said we would do, and we did it with transparency, accountability, and with leadership that stayed steady, consistent, and refreshingly free of drama. This group has come a long way in four years, and we did it by working together as a Team! Council, staff, and residents.

And now, we get to build on that.

On the recreation front, things are already moving. Our new pickleball courts are buzzing, our pools have been fully refreshed and are extremely busy, and we're committed to continuing the renewal of our recreational assets across the township. These improvements matter because they bring people together, support healthy living, and strengthen our sense of community.

Infrastructure will remain a major focus. We've made meaningful progress on roads, bridges, and culverts, but we're also honest the infrastructure gap still exists. There's more to do, we all know that and we are fully committed to doing as much as we can. Asset management isn't glamorous, but it's essential, and we're going to keep pushing forward.

Economically, we're entering an exciting chapter. With the Edwardsburgh Landbank now secured, we have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to create an industrial park that attracts investment, creates good jobs, and drives long-term growth. This is about building a stronger future for TWPEC. Where residents benefit from new opportunities, expanded services, and a strong and growing local economy.

By the end of the next four years, we hope residents will see considerable advances across the township, improvements that make life better, safer, and more vibrant. Your Council is energized, aligned, and ready to get back to work.

Thank you for your continued trust and engagement. We look forward to serving you with the same consistency, transparency, and commitment that defined the last 4 years, with a bit of humour along the way, because let's face it, municipal government is far more enjoyable when we can share a few laughs and smile through it.

Thank You,

Mayor Tory Deschamps,
On behalf of the Council of Edwardsburgh Cardinal
Deputy Mayor Stephen Dillabough, Councillors Joe Martelle, Chris Ward and Waddy Smail,

Community News

LOCAL BUSINESSES SUPPORT RECREATION PROGRAMS

The Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal received a combined \$15,000 in donations from Giant Tiger, Greenfield Global and Ingredion this summer to help make recreation programming more affordable for local families.

Each business contributed \$5,000 to support children's recreation programs, including swimming lessons and summer day camp. The funding helps reduce costs for families and ensures more children have the opportunity to participate.

The Township thanks Giant Tiger, Greenfield Global and Ingredion for their continued investment in our community and support for accessible recreation opportunities for local children.



Thank you Greenfield Global



Thank you Ingredion!



Thank you Giant Tiger

ADULT FITNESS

Free, instructor-led fitness classes open to all fitness levels.

Drop in classes starting October 7:

South Edwardsburgh Community Centre
Wednesdays from 7 to 8 p.m.
(no class on November 11)



twpec.ca/AdultFitness

SENIOR FITNESS

Free, instructor-led fitness classes following the StrongerU program.

Drop in classes starting October 6 and 8:

- South Edwardsburgh Community Centre
Tuesday from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.
- Spencerville Townhall (Upstairs)
Thursdays from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.



twpec.ca/SeniorFitness

NEW TREES ARE TAKING ROOT



New trees are taking root in Edwardsburgh Cardinal through the Township's ongoing partnership with South Nation Conservation.

Larger-caliper trees were recently planted near the pickleball and tennis courts in Cardinal, with additional trees planted along the waterfront to replace diseased trees removed earlier this year. The new plantings include bur oak, catalpa, hackberry and red maple trees.

The planting is part of a three-year partnership with South Nation Conservation to replant trees throughout Edwardsburgh Cardinal and support healthy green spaces in our community.

Community News

CANAL BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT PROGRESS



twpec.ca/CanalProject

Work along the Cardinal Canal is progressing as the first phase of the Township's Canal Beautification Project nears completion.

Crews have removed overgrown brush, vines and select vegetation from the canal embankment to the water's edge, helping to restore the canal corridor and improve access for future maintenance. Topsoil and seeding will be completed in areas impacted by the work as this phase wraps up.

Next, the Canal Beautification Ad Hoc Steering Committee will help guide future improvements by providing advice and recommendations on beautification opportunities, public amenities and long-term maintenance of the canal.

FALL FUN IN TWPEC

There is lots happening in Edwardsburgh Cardinal this September!

Kick off the month with Labourfest, September 4 to 7 in Cardinal. Hosted by the Cardinal Festival Committee, the Labour Day weekend celebration includes live music, a show and shine, parade, kids and family activities, canine water sports, tournaments, wrestling, a soap box derby and more. On Sunday evening, head to the waterfront for live music followed by fireworks at dusk.

The following weekend, the 171st Spencerville Fair returns September 10 to 13, with four days of agricultural exhibits and competitions, livestock shows, midway rides, live entertainment, the parade, tractor and truck pulls, demolition derby, vendors and family activities.

Visit the Township's Community Calendar to find upcoming events throughout Edwardsburgh Cardinal.



calendar.twpec.ca

Hosting a community event? Local organizations can submit events to the Community Calendar to help spread the word about what's happening across the Township.

SPENCERVILLE FRIENDS
OF THE LIBRARY

Book SALE

**SATURDAY
OCTOBER 3RD, 2026
10:30 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M.**

5 HENDERSON STREET,
SPENCERVILLE



**FILL A
BAG
FOR \$1**

Friends of the Cardinal Branch



Fall Native Plant Sale

& Yard Sale

Saturday September 26

9am-1pm
Cardinal Branch



PLANTS, TRINKETS, TREASURES AND MORE

PROCEEDS TO SUPPORT LIBRARY PROGRAMS

Last Chance
nominations close September 4

2026 COMMUNITY AWARDS

Help us recognize the people, businesses, and organizations that make Edwardsburgh Cardinal a great place to live, work, and play.



twpec.ca/awards

Community News

ACCESSIBLE OUTDOOR FITNESS EQUIPMENT ENHANCES ACTIVE LIVING FOR EVERYONE



Members of Council are joined by community members and provincial representatives and staff at the South Edwardsburgh Community Centre to officially open the accessible fitness stations

Residents of all ages and abilities are invited to enjoy the Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal's new outdoor fitness equipment, officially opened during a ribbon-cutting ceremony in Johnstown on August 10.

Supported by \$57,935 in funding from the Government of Ontario through the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility's Enhancing Access to Spaces for Everyone (EASE) Grant Program, the project includes accessible outdoor fitness equipment along the Cardinal waterfront trail and at the South Edwardsburgh Community Centre in Johnstown, where a new accessible pathway connects Albert Street to the Community Centre.

"The Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal is grateful for the \$58,000 in EASE Grant funding provided through the support of MPP Steve Clark and Minister of Seniors and Accessibility Raymond Cho," said Mayor Tory Deschamps. "The new accessible pathway and equipment strengthen our dedication to active living for everyone, and we look forward to expanding inclusive recreation options in the future."

Earlier in the day, Mayor Deschamps joined MPP Steve Clark at the Johnstown fitness station to recognize the Province's investment in the project

and thank Raymond Cho, Minister for Seniors and Accessibility, and the Ministry for their support.

"Ontario is making important investments to improve accessibility in communities across the province, and we're seeing the benefits right here in Edwardsburgh Cardinal," said Steve Clark, MPP for Leeds-Grenville-Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes. "Through the EASE program, our government is investing \$167,459 in accessibility projects across the region. I'm proud to see the value of this project in Edwardsburgh Cardinal, helping ensure that more residents can stay active where they live."

The evening ribbon-cutting ceremony brought together members of Council, community members and representatives from the South Edwardsburgh Recreation Association (SERA) and Royal Canadian Legion Branch 105, both of which supported the Township's EASE Grant application.

The Township thanks the Government of Ontario, SERA and Royal Canadian Legion Branch 105 for their support of the project.

Tell us what you think

Have you tried the new equipment? Residents are invited to complete a short survey about the new facilities. Feedback will help the Township evaluate the project's impact and guide future accessibility initiatives.



New accessible fitness station at Cardinal's waterfront



twpec.ca/OutdoorFitness