

# NEWSLETTER

## ISSUE #19 – May 2026

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## CELEBRATING PUBLIC WORKS

After a busy winter season, the Township’s Public Works team is shifting focus to spring and summer work across Edwardsburgh Cardinal. Public Works Week (May 17 to 23) is an opportunity to recognize the essential work they do to keep roads safe and services running year-round.

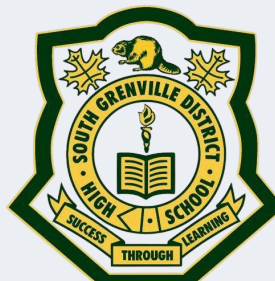
With the snow behind us, crews are now focused on seasonal work, including street sweeping to remove winter sand and debris, lawn restorations where plowing caused damage, and sidewalk repairs. Gravel roads will be graded and resurfaced to maintain safe driving conditions, while ditching, culvert flushing, and replacements help manage drainage and reduce the risk of flooding.

Roadside brushing and mowing will improve visibility along rural roads, and several asphalt resurfacing projects are planned, including Pittston Road East, Victoria Street, Middle Street, East Street, Meadowland Street, and Dishaw Street.

This work supports safe travel, protects infrastructure, and helps keep our community moving.



[twpec.ca/roads](http://twpec.ca/roads)



Newsletter created by SGDHS students Grant Emmell, Isla Shields, and Avery Griffin (SMCHS).



May 4 is Firefighter Appreciation Day.

*Thank you* to our firefighters for your dedication, bravery and sacrifice.



# Recreation



## SWIMMING LESSONS:

Swimming lessons are an essential life skill, helping individuals build confidence, stay active, and learn important water safety techniques that can save lives. At the Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal (TWPEC), we are proud to offer high-quality swimming programs designed to support swimmers of all ages and abilities.

Our lessons follow the Lifesaving Society program and are taught by qualified, experienced instructors who deliver structured lesson plans while keeping classes engaging through drills and games. Each lesson also includes a Water Smart component, reinforcing key safety messages both in and around the water. The Township takes pride in offering programs that meet and exceed Lifesaving Society standards. We provide flexible scheduling, including daytime and evening lessons at both of our facilities, as well as Saturday lessons in Johnstown.

In addition to group classes, we offer private lesson options for those looking for more individualized instruction. At TWPEC, we are committed to creating a safe, supportive, and enjoyable learning environment for every swimmer.

You can find more information like costs and how to register here:

<https://www.twpec.ca/swimminglessons>



## SUMMER SWIMMING LESSON REGISTRATION

Register in-person:

- Thursday, May 21, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Ingredion Centre
- Tuesday, May 26, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the South Edwardsburgh Community Centre



[twpec.ca/swimminglessons](https://www.twpec.ca/swimminglessons)

## A WALK WORTH FINDING

The boardwalk at the Port of Johnstown has provided public access to the St. Lawrence River since 2016, offering a 1 km route along the shoreline and extending out into the river.

Located at the west edge of the Bridgeview Restaurant parking lot, a pathway leads to a smooth wooden boardwalk accessible for strollers, walking aids, and casual walkers. In 2025, the pathway was paved, creating a continuous and more accessible route for visitors. This walk offers a unique experience where industry and nature meet. You can watch ships docking at the Port or passing under the 1.5 km international bridge to the United States, fish along the river, or spot wildlife such as red-winged blackbirds, turtles, and sandpipers along the shoreline.

The boardwalk is now open for the season and will remain open until late fall. A small gravel parking area is available across from the entrance. Dogs are welcome but must be kept on a leash. Please clean up after your pets.



## BOAT LAUNCH REGISTRATION

Annual registration is required for all users of the Cardinal boat launch.

A \$25 fee is required if you are not a resident of TWPEC.



Register online: [twpec.ca/BoatLaunch](https://www.twpec.ca/BoatLaunch)



## MAJOR MILESTONE: RETURNING LAND TO PRODUCTIVE USE



MPP Steve Clark, Members of Township Council and Staff, representatives from HFI Pyrotechnics and ownership group CIEL Capital

The Council of the Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal is proud to announce the completion of Phase 1 of the Edwardsburgh Cardinal land bank sale, marking a major milestone in returning this strategically important land to productive use and advancing long-term economic growth for our community.

This milestone reflects years of collaboration between the Township, the Province, and HFI, and represents an important step in unlocking the potential of the land bank.

Finalized on April 1, 2026, the transaction involved approximately 2,500 acres of provincially owned land in Edwardsburgh Cardinal. The Township supported the transfer of land from Infrastructure Ontario to HFI Pyrotechnics to enable the company to meet regulatory buffer requirements for future expansion at its Hands Road site. This transaction returns a significant portion of the Land Bank in Edwardsburgh Cardinal to productive use.

The transaction was a collaborative effort between the Province, the Township, and HFI Pyrotechnics, and was completed with no cost to taxpayers.

The Township extends its sincere appreciation to the Acting Minister of Infrastructure, the Honourable Todd McCarthy, and to the many officials and staff within the Ministry who played a direct role in finalizing this agreement. Their collaboration and responsiveness were essential in ensuring that the Township's vision for the land bank could move forward.

A special acknowledgement is extended to MPP Steve Clark, whose support at every stage was instrumental. His advocacy, determination, and consistent engagement were key factors in ensuring the land was returned to local use and that the Province recognized the importance of enabling Phase 1 of the land bank project. The Township notes that without his sustained efforts, this outcome would not have been possible.

continued on page 4

# Community News



The Township also recognizes the long-standing partnership with CIEL and HFI, whose commitment to Edwardsburgh Cardinal continues to strengthen the local economy. Their investment, leadership, and dedication to creating high-quality employment opportunities have made them valued partners in the Township's economic development efforts. Their role in Phase 1 reflects their ongoing belief in the future of TWPEC and in the potential of the land bank.



President of HFI Pyrotechnics Inc., Rhiannon Iles addressed media in Council Chambers on April 27

HFI Pyrotechnics is a Canadian manufacturer of specialized pyrotechnic products for defence and search and rescue applications, serving clients in Canada and internationally.

The company has experienced significant recent growth, increasing its workforce from 95 to approximately 125 employees since November 2025. It anticipates hiring an additional 10 to 20 employees in the coming months, along with additional on-site contractors, as it continues to respond to increased demand and investment in Canada's defence sector.



Acting Minister of Infrastructure Todd McCarthy, MPP Steve Clark, and members of the media attended the announcement on April 27

Mayor Tory Deschamps highlighted the significance of today's announcement, stating:

"Today's announcement marks a major milestone in our Council's commitment to ensuring Edwardsburgh Cardinal remains the industrial and economic driver for Eastern Ontario. Returning this land to productive public use is a tremendous achievement, one built on years of determination, strategic planning, and a clear vision for growth. It builds on the work of past Councils and reinforces our responsibility to protect and strengthen opportunity in this region for generations to come. Council is incredibly proud of yet another defining moment in TWPEC history. Residents can expect a further announcement in the coming months regarding the remainder of the land bank lands."



Mayor Tory Deschamps and members of Council announced the completion of the land transfer

MPP Steve Clark acknowledged the efforts of all involved:

"Today's announcement is the result of years of advocacy by Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal council, staff, and me with our government and demonstrates why we've worked so hard to unlock the Edwardsburgh Land Bank," said Steve Clark, MPP for Leeds-Grenville-Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes. "These 2,487 acres are now property of HFI Pyrotechnics and will ensure the company can expand to grow our local economy and produce critical supplies for Canada's Armed Forces. I want to thank Ministers Surma and McCarthy for their support and congratulate everyone involved."

# Community News



## BUILDING SAFETY MONTH

May is Building Safety Month, an opportunity to recognize the importance of safe construction and the role building departments play in protecting our communities.

In Edwardsburgh Cardinal, the Building Department works with homeowners, builders, and contractors to review plans, issue permits, and conduct inspections. Together, this helps ensure buildings are safe, structurally sound, and meet the Ontario Building Code.

If you're planning a project, you may need a building permit for things like decks, additions, structural changes, plumbing, or finishing a basement. If you're unsure, it's always best to check before you start.

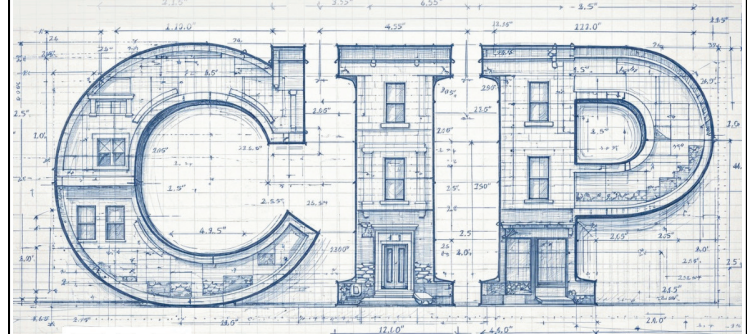
Information on when a permit is required and how to apply is available at [twpec.ca/build](http://twpec.ca/build). Our team is available to answer questions and help guide you through the process. By planning ahead and working together, we can help your project move forward safely and smoothly.

[www.twpec.ca/build](http://www.twpec.ca/build)

# MAY IS BUILDING SAFETY MONTH



FINANCIAL INCENTIVES TO SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES  
AND ENCOURAGE NEW HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES



Learn more: [twpec.ca/CIP](http://twpec.ca/CIP)

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Find and advertise  
community events  
on our website.



[calendar.twpec.ca](http://calendar.twpec.ca)

## HYDRANT FLUSHING

Flushing and valve maintenance in  
Cardinal and New Wexford is taking  
place April 20 to June 26.

You may notice temporary changes in  
water pressure or discolouration. If this  
happens, we recommend running your  
cold water tap until it clears before use.



[twpec.ca/HydrantFlushing](http://twpec.ca/HydrantFlushing)



# Community News



## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS WEEK

Emergency Preparedness Week (May 3 to 9) is a reminder that emergencies can happen at any time and being prepared can make all the difference.

In Edwardsburgh Cardinal, our Emergency Management Program Committee works year-round to plan for and respond to emergencies. While the Township has plans in place, individual preparedness is just as important.

Residents are encouraged to take a few simple steps:

- Know the risks in our area, such as flooding or winter storms
- Make a plan so your household knows what to do and where to go
- Build a 72-hour emergency kit with essentials like water, food, medications, and a flashlight

In an emergency, the Township's website is the primary source for official updates and instructions. Information may also be shared through social media, radio, and other channels, but residents are encouraged to check the website for the most current information.

Taking time now to prepare helps protect you, your family, and your community when it matters most.

[www.twpec.ca/emergencypreparedness](http://www.twpec.ca/emergencypreparedness)

May 3 to 9, 2026

Emergency Preparedness Week

[canada.ca/get-prepared](http://canada.ca/get-prepared)



Canada

## THE SPENCERVILLE MILL

When you are crossing the bridge that brings you into the village of Spencerville, to your left and across from the Drummonds Gas Station, you will notice the Spencerville Mill and Museum.

This hidden gem of our community was and remains a very important community focal point. The current grist Mill was built in 1864 but is not the original Mill to the site that it now sits on. Several Mills predated the current structure that were lost to fire. The current building was built by Mercy and Robert Fairbairn and operated as a grist Mill. Eventually it would be sold to the Barnard family, who would run the Mill for three generations. Due to technological advancements, the Mill would find itself outdated and would be closed in 1972. Laying abandoned for many years, the Mill would be purchased by South Nation Conservation who would then form the Spencerville Mill Foundation who are the current owners and operators of the Spencerville Mill and Museum.

The Mill looks forward to welcoming you this season. Hosting many events, including the ever-popular Father-Daughter Ball which took place on May 2nd. Paddle down the South Nation in the annual Canoe Poker Run on May 23rd. Do you have a creative mind? Join in on the Mom and Me: Painting – Petals and Purrs and Wet Felting Workshops which will take place on May 31st and June 18th respectively. Perfecting your swing? Check out the Lyle Henderson Memorial Heritage Golf Tournament taking place at the Prescott Golf Club on June 6th.

Lifelong learners rejoice in the return of the Mill's History Talks series. On May 7th, Susan Smith joins the Mill to talk about the History of the Thousand Islands. Dr. Rod Phillips visits us on June 11th to discuss the History of Alcohol and on June 30th, Dr. Matthew J. Bellamy returns to discuss the History of Sports. All talks are scheduled for 6pm.

Tours commence on July 2nd. As a unique venue, the Mill is also available to rent for a wedding or special event. Find out more about events and rentals on their website: [www.spencervillemill.ca](http://www.spencervillemill.ca)

This summer, come see what the Spencerville Mill has to offer as the hidden gem of the village. Attend a talk, join an event, and experience its rich history for yourself.