



Township of
Leeds and the
Thousand Islands

Annual Municipal Report 2017

Township of Leeds and the Thousand Islands





PAINT YOUR PADDLE

On our cover:

As part of Canada's 150th birthday, the Township launched an art contest to celebrate the spectacular waterways in Leeds and the Thousand Islands.

150 canoe paddles were available for artists and creative people to design in a way that celebrates our local heritage, natural environment or community using any method or medium.

Contest winners were chosen by the public in an online vote on the Township's Facebook page [@Twp.Leeds1000Islands](#). The finished paddles were on display at many community events throughout 2017.

Dawne Fiegen was the winner of our Canada 150 Paint your Paddle Contest. Her paddle is featured on the cover.

You will find other entries featured throughout this publication.

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Our Canada 150 Celebrations

Canada 150 as Celebrated in Township of Leeds and the Thousand Islands

- Hosted six events and supported 23 other events in the community (winter carnivals, skating parties, village fairs and festivals)
- Provided red and white decorations, cotton candy, crafts, games, event tents, and music at public celebrations
- Installed 150 maple leaf stepping stones in parks and public spaces
- Distributed 150 canoe paddles to artists who work, live or play in TLTI
- Displayed a school house float at events and raffled it off to a child in our community who answered the question, "Why I'm proud to be a Canadian." The winning entry read "I'm proud to be Canadian because we get to live in a free country!"
- Published 365 TLTI Historical Facts on social media celebrating our local culture and heritage
- Supported legacy projects in our villages including flag pole installations and bell housing in Rockport
- Improved park facilities including accessible washrooms, new play equipment and naturalization projects
- Financially supported the Equine Extravaganza in Lansdowne



Message from the Mayor & CAO

2017 is the third year in the four-year term of the present Council and the TLTI Community Strategic Plan developed in 2015 has been the framework for the planning and service delivery for residents by Council and Staff.

Over 500 residents were engaged in the development of strategic and policy directions for the Township in 2015. This community participation has been a key driver for setting the agenda for Council and Staff.

The series of TLTI Annual Reports published and presented by the Township has chronicled the successes as well as the challenges that the Council and Staff have tackled and addressed during the past three years.

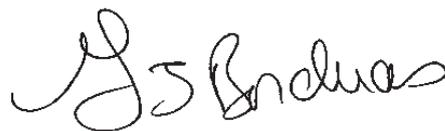
Both Council and Staff have focused priorities on the three main pillars of the TLTI Community Strategic Plan as follows:

- Sustaining the Natural Environment
- Sustaining Community Development
- Creating a More Sustainable Economy

On behalf of the Council and Staff, we are pleased to report on the progress of our collective efforts. Working cooperatively together with residents and community stakeholders has made our Township stronger and created more capabilities and opportunities for today and in the future.



Joseph Baptista
Mayor



G.J. (Greg) Borduas
Chief Administrative Officer



2014 - 2018 Municipal Council

Our Council welcomes public engagement and encourages residents to bring matters to their attention. Council gathers on the first Monday of the month to hear public input at the Committee of the Whole meeting. Council reconvenes on the second Monday of the month to make decisions based on the agenda items from the previous week.



Pictured above:

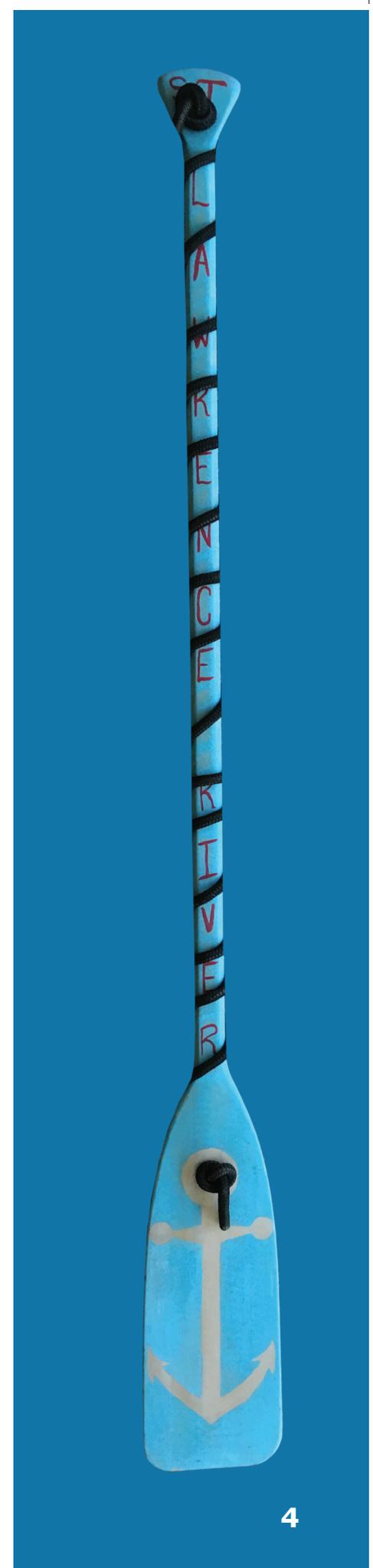
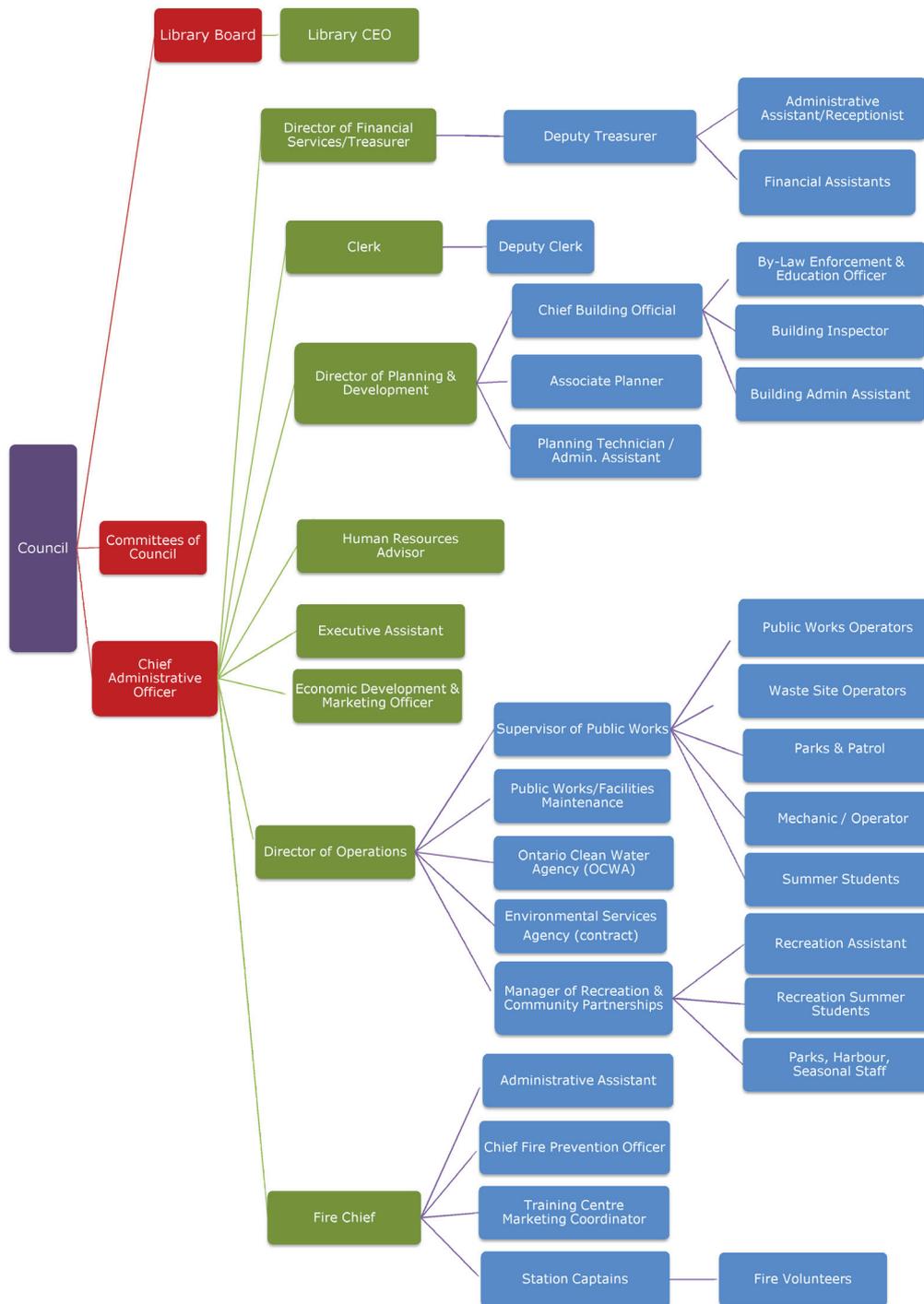
Back row l to r: John Paul Jackson, Liz Huff, Vicki Leakey, Gerry Last

Front row l to r: Jeff Lackie, Joe Baptista, Harold Emmons

In Memoriam

In late 2017, Councillor Harold Emmons passed away peacefully at his home with his family by his side. Councillor Emmons was an avid supporter of youth sports; he served as a school board trustee; he served three terms on Township Council; and he was a member of both the Grants and Municipal Heritage Committees. Our condolences to the Emmons family.

Organization Chart



Strategic Plan 2015 - 2019

Leeds and the Thousand Islands is situated in a very unique and special part of the world. Blessed with natural environmental assets, a rich and well-documented history, as well as a desire to remain a very special place, this close knit, friendly community is working together to ensure the Township will continue to be a rural community that is valued for its natural beauty; historical and heritage significance in the region; and the friendly, welcoming nature of the people living in the community.

Sustaining the Natural Environment

- Accessing the natural environment
- Protecting the natural environment
- Managing waste
- Advocating for the environment

Sustainable Community Development

- Creating a culture of customer service
- Enhancing the Township's built environment
- Partnership development
- Continuing to build community pride
- Advocating for the community

Creating a More Sustainable Economy

- Assessing investment readiness
- Preparing for investment
- Strategizing for the future
- Implementing actions



2017 Achievements

- Initiated trails strategy to address trail linkages, infrastructure, signage, marketing, and business development
- Continued partnership with Watersheds Canada regarding Township parks shoreline naturalization projects
- Focused on providing ongoing support for community clean-up as part of Pitch-In week
- Reviewed policies focusing on waterways and environmental protection
- Completed infrastructure projects: safe parking at Blue Mountain; and Marble Rock dam and portage

- Wrapped up the Age-Friendly Action Plan process
- Commenced Built Heritage Mapping
- Updated park washrooms and installed new play equipment
- Supported several Canada 150 celebrations
- Rallied youth engagement
- Called for the creation of a Broadband Committee

- Supported and partnered in the delivery of three business workshops
- Hosted a Tourism Summit with more than 100 participants
- Continued to work with and support the St. Lawrence Corridor Economic Development Commission
- Engaged in regional networking
- Streamlined internal processes to improve service

Community Grant Recipients & OLG Support

In 2017, a total of \$69,319 was granted to the following groups and non-profit organizations!

- Frontenac Arch Biosphere Network \$10,000 for the construction of 20 bike racks and benches
- Gananoque Pirate Invasion – Festival Board \$5,000 for items needed to assist with creating a self-sustaining event
- Lansdowne Association for Revitalization \$760 to support two issues of the Lansdowne Community Messenger
- Lansdowne Community Garden \$5,000 for the Canada 150 flash mob film
- Lansdowne Farmers Market \$5,000 for signage, marketing tools and promotion of local entertainment
- Leeds 1000 Islands Historical Society \$2,000 for train mural upgrades in Lansdowne
- Lyndhurst Santa Claus Parade \$1,500 to attract live bands
- Nickel Cup Regatta \$5,000 for continued growth
- Rockport Winter Carnival \$2,600 for a shuffle board
- Royal Canadian Legion \$5,000 for upgrades to washrooms
- Royal Canadian Legion \$204 for poppy donations
- Sweets Corners Elementary School \$10,000 for resurfacing of the outdoor track
- Thousand Islands Arts Association \$3,205 for signs, banners, tents, and marketing for the Rockport Art Fair
- Thousand Islands Elementary School \$10,000 for creation of a walking path along the perimeter of the school property to commemorate Canada 150 with heritage markers
- Thousand Islands Elementary School \$50 for annual wreath contribution
- Thousand Islands Writers Festival \$4,000

Thank you Ontario Lottery Gaming Corporation and Shorelines Casino for your continued support!



Private Road Grant Recipients

There are some roads in the Township that are not municipally owned or maintained. We assist eligible private road associations with maintenance and capital improvement costs through the Private Road Grant Program.

In 2017, \$23,650 was granted to the following road associations for improvements.

- Bass Lake Outlet
- Burma Lane
- Burns Lane
- Dark Island Lane
- Foster Bay Lane
- Gananoque Lake Lane
- Greenfield Lane
- Killenbeck Lane
- Lodge Lane
- Moorhead Lane
- Park Hill Lane
- Rollingbank Lane
- Sturtivan Lane
- Yardarm Lane

Heritage Celebration and Conservation Grant

For eligible residents who own heritage homes or buildings, we help preserve their unique features so they can be enjoyed for years to come.

In 2017, Erich Prohaska and Norman Pichette received a grant of \$2500 for the restoration of a designated building on their property.





PRIMARY GOVERNANCE
Municipal Act, 2001
Assessment Act
MIFPPA
Generally Accepted
Accounting Principles
Public Sector Accounting
Board
Township Bylaws

Treasury & Clerks Department Achievements

Clerks Department

- Council passed 66 by-laws in 2017
- Council held over 30 meetings which included Committee of the Whole, Council and Public meetings
- Multi-year records Management Project neared completion

Responsibilities

- Council Agenda Preparation
- Records Management
- Statutory Duties
- Vital Statistics
- Commissioner of Oaths
- Municipal Elections
- Municipal Lottery Licenses
- Legislative Advice to Council
- Maintain By-laws

Treasury Department

Administered the following:

- \$13,009,355 operating budget
- \$6,856,7000 capital budget
- \$558,235 water/wastewater operating budget
- Issued 19,536 property tax bills
- Issues 2,685 cheques

Responsibilities

- All Financial Transactions
- Annual Budget
- Tax Rate Calculations
- Property Tax Billing
- Water & Sewer Billing
- Accounts Payable
- Accounts Receivable
- Banking
- Tangible Capital Assets
- Frontline Customer Service
- Annual Audit
- Payroll Processing
- Benefits
- Government Remittances
- Insurance
- Grant Reporting
- Information Technology

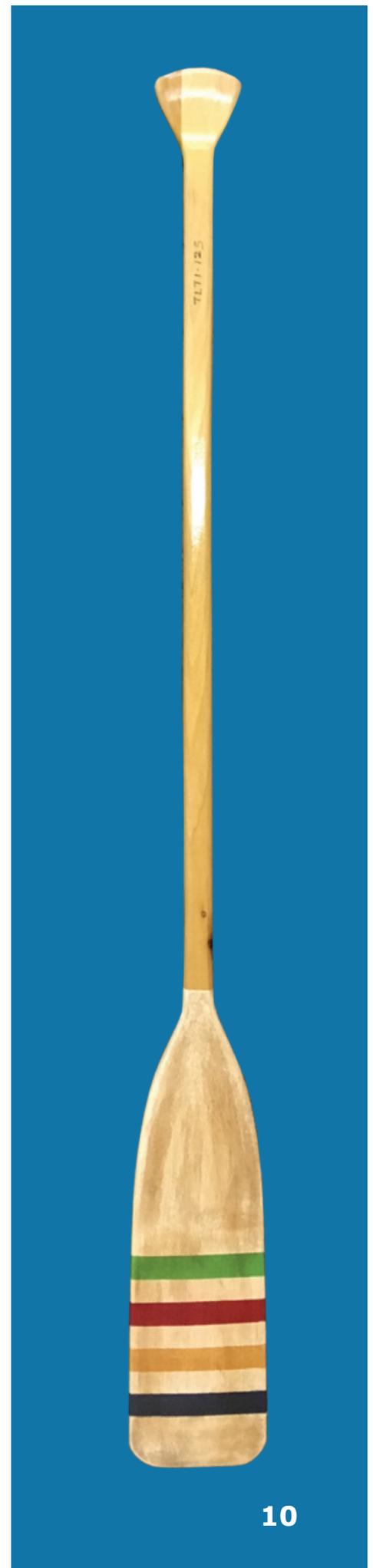
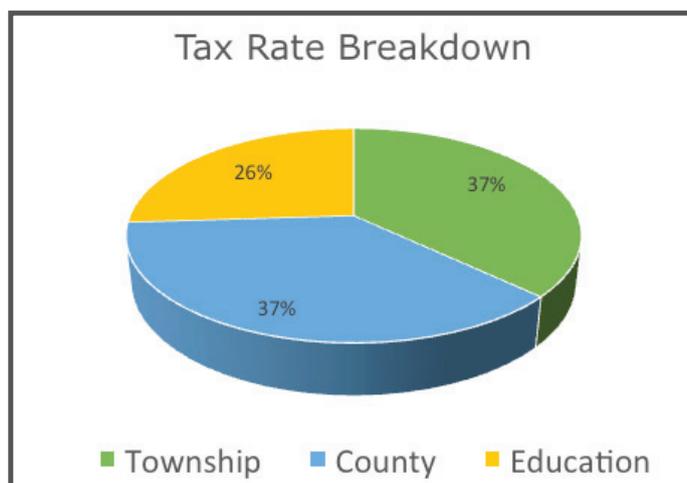
Property Taxes

Property tax is a municipal taxation system by which municipalities “tax” their residents to pay for the services the municipality provides. The property tax burden is shared amongst residents proportionately based on the values of their properties (homes, businesses, land).

The Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) sets the assessment or values of each of the properties in the Township. The Township does not have control over the assessed values of the properties.

Assessment Roll for Land in Leeds and the Thousand Islands		
Property Type	Value in Dollars	
	2017	2016
Residential	1,854,370,910	1,830,931,635
Farm	68,232,275	56,655,000
Commercial	137,442,148	50,219,635
Pipeline	26,389,250	25,437,000
Industrial	4,376,644	5,621,200
Managed Forest	4,311,675	3,068,400
Multi-residential	1,429,750	1,351,000

The Township’s tax rate is only one piece of the total tax bill. The total tax rate charged to residents is made up of the Township tax rate, County tax rate and Education tax rate. Compared to 2016, 2017 saw a decrease in both the Township and County portion and an increase of 6% being paid to the School Boards.





PRIMARY GOVERNANCE
Planning Act
Provincial Policy Statement
Official Plan
Source Water Protection Plan
Ontario Building Code
Ontario Heritage Act

Planning & Development Department Achievements

Property Standards

Council approved a new property standards by-law which outlines the expectations around tidiness, cleanliness, and landscaping.

Report it!

In 2017, in-time electronic reporting of by-law infractions was implemented on the website. This facilitated a response to urgent, off-hour complaints. Staff received 280 by-law infraction inquiries and conducted 232 investigations.

Alternative Housing

Council approved and initiated a zoning by-law amendment to allow small dwellings (no minimum size except as required by the building code), tiny dwellings (dwellings on wheels) and second units.

Building and Development News

The building department introduced a bi-annual newsletter to:

- Share Building Code changes
- Address common building issues

Staff opened 251 new permit files and conducted 1,079 inspections

Official Plan Consultation

Consultation on the Township's Official Plan occurred in 2017 with the final Plan to be adopted in July 2018:

- Held five Visioning workshops
- Completed agency input session
- Issued an online Visioning survey
- Hosted public open houses

Visit www.leeds1000islands.ca/officialplanreview for news and progress

Economic Development Achievements

- Organized a Tourism Summit with over 100 participants in attendance
- Co-hosted the first annual Realtor's Breakfast
- Launched the updated Investment Readiness page on the Township website
- Partnered with Gananoque and secured a Rural Economic Development (RED) grant to allow a 2-year focus on Investment Attraction
- Co-hosted a Heritage Sign unveiling event with the Municipal Heritage Committee
- Fostered partnerships with neighboring municipalities through the establishment of the St. Lawrence Corridor Economic Development Commission
- Supported relaunch of Lansdowne's Farmers Market with community grant, extended programming, and promotional marketing
- Entered into an agreement to host Le Boat vessels at the Seeley's Bay harbour
- Presented a session on Age-Friendly Planning at the Ontario East Municipal Conference
- Constructed the Turkey Fair Community Building
- Acquired the Rockport Customs House property
- Presented at both the Economic Developers Association of Canada (EDAC) and the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) annual conferences





PRIMARY GOVERNANCE
Minimum Maintenance
Standards
Highway Traffic Act
Drainage Act
Waste Diversion Act
Clean Water Act
Ontario Green Energy Act

Public Works Achievements

- Over \$500,000 applied to hard surfacing on roads
- Upgraded maintenance fleet to improve response time and maintenance costs
- Improved bridge inspections and maintenance programming to increase lifespan of infrastructure
- Completed major upgrade on Rockport-Escott Road
- Developed the design concept for the Lansdowne Community Centre
- Completed annual monitoring reports for all six landfill sites
- Responded to the flooding and high water experienced throughout 2017. In partnership with emergency services crews addressed issues on both interior waterways and the St. Lawrence River.

Responsibilities

- 330 km of Municipal Roads
- Gravel Road Maintenance
- Hard Top Maintenance
- Winter Maintenance
- Horticultural Maintenance
- Signage
- Municipal Drains
- Water and Wastewater
- Two Wells, Standpipe, Lagoon
- Energy Management
- Three Open Landfill Sites
- Source Water Protection
- Facilities Management
- Kendrick's Park
- Centennial Park
- Jerry Park
- Bay of St. Lawrence Park
- Haskin's Point
- Furnace Falls Park
- Boat Ramps

Recreation Department Achievements

Programs

- Facilitated a fully subscribed summer of swimming lessons
- Completed a “Reap What You Sow” cooking program in partnership with Healthy Kids Community Challenge and Wendy’s Country Market
- Facilitated over 40 fitness, sports and recreation programs for youth and adults including a hiking and snowshoeing program

Facilities

- Renovated Lansdowne Community Building to include two sets of accessible changerooms and washrooms
- Designed and adopted Lansdowne Community Centre expansion plans

Parks

- Resurfaced and painted the Jerry Park courts and installed an accessible games table
- Resurfaced and painted the Centennial Park courts, improved washroom facilities and installed play equipment
- Hosted tree plantings in both Furnace Falls Park and Bay of St. Lawrence Park in partnership with Watersheds Canada and TD Tree Days
- Upgraded the electrical service at Seeley’s Bay Harbour
- Commenced park planning for Furnace Falls Park and Bay of St. Lawrence

Trails

- Commissioned a Trails Strategy in partnership with Economic Development Committee

Community Involvement

- Staff supported 12 community events and hosted five community functions

Special Projects

- Designed and issued two bi-annual Community Recreation Guides in partnership with the Town of Gananoque
- Coordinated the Canada 150 Paint Your Paddle Art Contest





Fire Services Department Achievements

The Potential: The Township is home to major highways, pipelines, railways and the Thousand Islands International Bridge. Although these resources are significant assets to our community, they do pose challenges for first responders, given the volume of traffic flowing through our region on a daily basis.

The Reality: On March 14, 2017 Leeds Thousand Islands (LTI) Fire Service was dispatched to a multi vehicle accident on Highway 401 involving transport trailers and passenger vehicles. The accident was considered “provincially significant” due to the spill of approximately 8000 litres of Fluorosilicic Acid.

The Reach: LTI Fire Service led the debriefing following the incident which drew representatives from Ottawa Hazmat, OPP, Emergency Management Ontario, Ministry of the Environment, Office of the Fire Marshall, and County Emergency Medical Services.

Working Together: In 2017, over 120 First Responders and volunteers, from both Canada and the U.S., joined Leeds Fire for a Joint Emergency Services Marine Training exercise on the St. Lawrence River.

Safety is Priority #1 To be in compliance with National Fire Protection Association standards, departments have updated Self Contained Breathing Apparatuses, bunker gear, boots and helmets.

2017 by the Numbers:

- 86 fire inspections conducted
- 60 alarm/false alarm calls
- 55 medical assists
- 49 vehicle collisions/extractions
- 41 incidents on the 401
- 24 structure fires
- 24 public service calls
- 10 public hazard calls
- 23 fires (grass, brush)
- 9 outdoor burning violations
- 6 spills and leaks
- 1 water rescue

PRIMARY GOVERNANCE

Ontario Fire Code
Fire Protection and
Protection Act
Municipal Act, 2001
Township Bylaws

Fire Prevention & Training Achievements

Fire Prevention

Leeds Thousand Islands Fire Service has adopted an aggressive stance on the prevention of fire related emergencies and overall life-safety initiatives. Through enforcement and public education programs, our mandate is to ensure the safety and well-being of both our seasonal and year-round residents. Our on-going efforts to invest in new techniques and technologies, partnerships with local business and community groups, and professional development, allow us to identify and mitigate possible hazards, not only to our residents, but also our firefighting personnel.

Emergency Services Training Centre (ESTC)

- Received a \$5,000 grant from Enbridge Gas for the purchase of training materials
- Enrolled over 800 students and attendees in over 61 courses/events
- Hosted Eastern Ontario Annual Rodeo and Chili cook off with 30 participants
- Co-hosted annual Women in Fire with OFM and Ottawa Fire with 20 participants
- Implemented off-site delivery of training programs

Looking ahead in 2018...

- 25% growth expected for the Training Centre
- Double the number of courses offered
- Host six courses through Public Services Health & Safety Association
- Host first Big Rig Rescue International course
- Host Truck Rodeo and Women in Fire
- Contract instructors from 15 fire departments including Ottawa Fire and Kingston Fire, as well as two police departments





PRIMARY GOVERNANCE
Public Libraries Act
Municipal Act, 2001
Township By-laws

Library Services Achievements

“Leeds and the Thousand Islands Public Library, connecting people, places and possibilities”

Mission

The Leeds and the Thousand Islands Public Library empowers the community through freely shared resources.

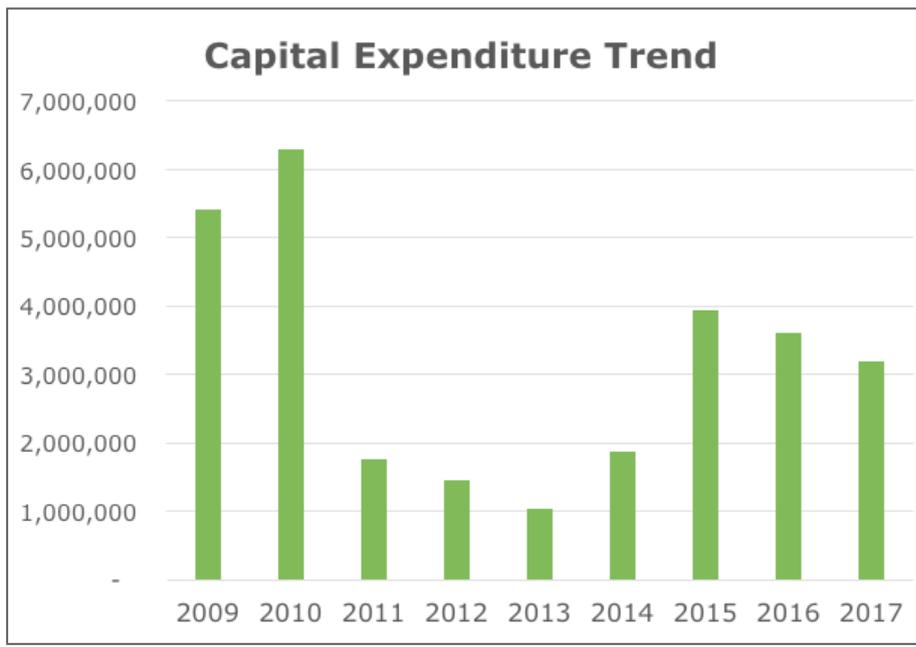
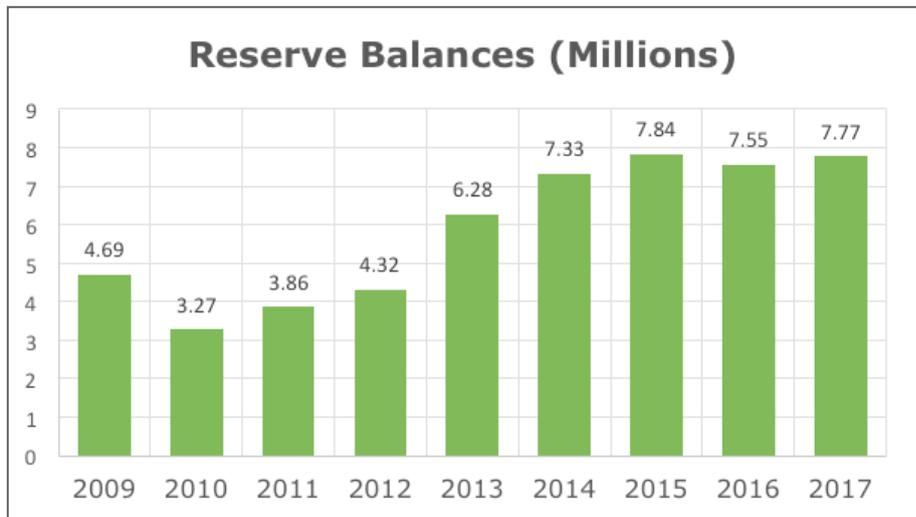
Vision

Leeds and the Thousand Islands Public Library will enrich lives by adding value to the community.

Achievements

- 4,847 participants registered for library programs
- We welcomed almost 500 new members
- Patrons visited us 43,743 times last year
- Users read 5,200 e-books
- 77,000 hardcopy materials were borrowed, a savings of \$2,080,000 to our community vs personal purchases
- Guests were provided free internet access over 47,000 times
- The library catalogue was searched 10,500 times
- The library provided virtual gaming for youth 6,500 times
- Staff answered 1,300+ questions
- Shared 2,800 materials with neighbouring Ontario libraries
- Volunteers donated almost 400 hours in 2017
- In partnership with the Township of Leeds and the Thousand Islands, items from our Library of Things were borrowed 9,700 times
- iPads and tablets were added to the list of available items to borrow as well as cake pans and games.

Financial Highlights



Community Engagement

Get your news...

- At www.leeds1000islands.ca subscribe to news and events that matter to you. Use our powerful keyword search from the home page and access more than 430 pages of information. In 2017, users accessed our website over 45 thousand times
- Listen for Township News daily at 8.30 a.m. seven days a week on myFM 99.9
- Like Us on Facebook! Popularity of the Township Facebook page continues to grow. In 2017 we saw an additional 730 likes; an increase of 780% since we started tracking online traffic in 2013
- Follow us on Twitter. We have 540 followers on Twitter, we'd love to have more!
- The Township publishes regular council and committee agendas, minutes and video. Search 'Agendas and Minutes' on our website for more information
- Community Recreation Guide – we send out 15,000 guides each year to Township and Gananoque residents
- We share local community group monthly and bi-monthly newsletters

Share the news...

- Have your say in front of Council. Request a delegation on matters that matter to you and your neighbours
- Publish your event on our self-serve Community Events Calendar
- Advertise your event on our digital sign

2018 At-A-Glance

- February 2-4** Frost Fest | Seeley's Bay
February 7-11 Winter Carnival | Rockport
February 11 Story Fest with Dr. James Raffin | Seeley's Bay
March 3 Tapping Out Maple Festival | Horton Homestead
Sugar Bush, Lansdowne
April 12 Mayor's Lunch | Lansdowne
April 22-29 Pitch-In Week | Community Clean-Up
May 19 LAFR Annual Plant Sale | Lansdowne Fair Grounds
May 19 Sidewalk/Plant/Yard Sale | Lyndhurst
May 19-21 Spring Art Show | Rockport
June 1 Country Market Opens | 3-6:30 p.m. | Lansdowne Fair
Grounds
June 2 1000 Islands Parkway Challenge | Rockport
June 2 Red Canoe Fest | Seeley's Bay
June 9 Senior's Expo | Lansdowne Community Centre
June 16 School House Jam | Rockport
June 23 3rd Annual Textile Festival | Lansdowne Community
Centre
July 1 Canada Day Celebrations | Seeley's Bay
July 20-22 154th Lansdowne Fair | Lansdowne Fair Ground
August 8 Ice Cream Social | Lyndhurst
September 15 Turkey Fair | Lyndhurst
September 30 Art & Culture Tour | Lyndhurst
October 4 Volunteer Gala | TBD
October 22 Municipal Election
November 17 Santa Claus Parade | Lyndhurst
November 18 Santa Claus Parade | Lansdowne
November 23 Light up the Gates | Rockport
November 24 Christmas House Tour | Rockport
November 30 Tree Lighting | Seeley's Bay
November TBD TLTI Economic Development Summit
December 6 Tree Lighting | Lansdowne Community Centre
December 2 Community Carol Singing | Lyndhurst



