

Newsletter Update 2025

Season's Greetings.

Council and staff have had a very busy year and made some tremendous progress in 2025. This year I will present my newsletter in a new format.

The first report of progress is accomplishments I am "proud" of.

With assistance from councilor Peppard we successfully reinstated paramedic services back into the District Budget for 2026. This initiative decreases response times for northeast Lake of Bays. We will see full-time year-round paramedic services starting July 1, 2026.

After attending a United-Way symposium on poverty and homelessness council approved this initiative. The Kiosks are in our libraries with touch screens full of information to help access assistance for programs to support social challenges facing Lake of Bays residents today.

I am also proud of the council budget. We can expect a 4.272% tax increase. This increase will create new service enhancements for our residents to improve efficiency. This rate increase in 2026 is the lowest tax rate in Muskoka and the lowest increase of **\$28.83 dollars per 300 k** assessment. The Lake of Bays portion of your taxes represents approximately one quarter of your taxes.

We are collaborating on a major construction partnership with the District of Muskoka for the entrance corridor of Baysville. This project was in answer to our C.I.P. residents' engagement discussions. This joint project is the first of its kind for a township. Streetscape improvements are being implemented to enhance public safety and make the Baysville corridor more attractive and safer for residents. It will enhance the area to attract tourists and help sustain businesses. Completion is scheduled for the summer 2026.

Finally, I am very proud of the improvements made at Norway point. This revitalization project developed over several years and will enhance an otherwise underutilized park. We have created a new family-friendly beach and picnic area for the residents of Lake of Bays.

My second list of accomplishments are all "feel good" projects that will pay dividends to our residents in the future.

The Dwight Library and community building expansion. After many, many years we will cut the ribbon for a renovated and upgraded building including the kitchen, a brand-new library expansion that will offer better access to information, entertainment and educational hands-on programming.

The brand new Baysville splash pad and play area is fantastic. This initiative included a shared financial contribution from the Babb family and the township and was part of last year's budget. Scheduled to open spring 2026.

Council purchased the Logging Chain Resort. This is important because this is a major initiative to enhance Dwight. Plans for this property could include a new fire/paramedic station along with aligning with our parks and open spaces master plan. Dwight could have a central area to hold events; public discussions will take place so the residents of Lake of Bays will have their say to determine the best use of this property.

My final section is entitled "challenges". We in Lake of Bays along with the District of Muskoka continue to face challenges like rising O.P.P. costs along with growing costs related to waste disposal. At the district level we continue to address both issues, however they are provincially controlled increases. I will continue to delegate and work to address these issues, but I felt you should be made aware of major contributors to your increase in the district portion of your taxes.

In Lake of Bays, we are fortunate to enjoy many wonderful advantages as we preserve our environment and continue to proactively develop. Thank you for your support for council as we negotiate 2026. I, along with council am grateful to live here and will continue to work to protect our resources and represent your best interests.

From the staff and council of the Township of Lake of Bays I want to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday and a successful 2026.

Terry Glover

Mayor

Township of Lake of Bays