

Senior Moments

With the switch of our health unit region from Green, to Yellow, and now to Red, **Fit and Fabulous 1** has become available via **Zoom!** Registrants can receive a link to join the online meeting where they will see and hear Wendy Desrocher instruct her **fitness class for older adults**. Call 613-803-5728 or e-mail recreation@townshipleeds.on.ca.

Senior Support Services (CPHC) continues their **Senior Centre Without Walls** program. This is a **free phone program** for ages 55+; no internet or computer required! Join in on Monday Riddles/Short Stories/Fun Facts, Tuesday Trivia, Wednesday Bingo, Thursday Mindfulness or Friday Special Guest Series. To register, call 613-342-3693 ext. 2043 or e-mail jgodkin@cphcare.ca.

CPHC also has **Creating Connections** which is **free virtual programming** for adults ages 55+. It will run every morning Monday to Friday. Participants can enjoy coffee, tea and conversation followed by activities like virtual tours, trivia, fitness, mindfulness practices and more! Call 613-342-3693 ext. 2311 or e-mail kmurphy@cphcare.ca for more information or to register.

Youth Zone

May 1-7 is **Youth Week!** TLTI Council will be awarding **Youth Bursaries** to the three successful applicants of the Youth Bursary Program.

Do you still need to complete your **volunteer hours**? The Township might have a project that fits your interests. From park beautification to assisting with programs, we'll do our best to engage you!

Family Fun

PLAY Days is finally set to launch with the **first event happening on Saturday, April 17!** Events will take place all Spring and Summer long on most Wednesdays and Saturdays in different parks around the Township. Check out our Community Events Calendar at leeds1000islands.ca to see a full list of dates and click the link in the description to register for each specific day. Pre-registration is mandatory to make sure we are all safe and following pandemic protocols.



COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT



Business/Organization

Thousand Islands Sport Organization aspires to create organized leagues for ages 18-28 in Gananoque and the Thousand Islands. Their first league endeavour will be flag football with hopes of adding volleyball, basketball, hockey and soccer to their list over the next several years.

Public Space

The Friends of Rockport Customs invite all residents to drop by the newest park in the Township, the **Rockport Customs Park** at 27 Front St. in Rockport. Enjoy the benches and the view of the 1000 Islands. Everyone is welcome!

Volunteer

Judith Healy is a volunteer fitness instructor with Community and Primary Health Care (CPHC). She teaches a free seniors fitness class in the Lansdowne Community Hall on Thursday mornings!

Thank-you Judith and CPHC for helping remove barriers to accessing fitness!

THE TOWNSHIP TIMES

April and May 2021

General News

Vaccination updates for our area are available at healthunit.org and will continue to change as vaccinations roll out. As of March 22, frontline health care workers, retirement and congregate care setting employees, adults aged 75 or older, indigenous adults born in or before 1966, adult recipients of chronic home care, and essential caregivers to people in long-term care or retirement homes were eligible. **If you are eligible**, call 1-844-369-1234 between 8:30am and 4pm, 7 days a week or e-mail covid@healthunit.org to book an appointment.

You may also call the Provincial Vaccine Information Line at 1-888-999-6488 between 8am-8pm, 7 days a week.

Community and Business Services

Watch for your opportunity to **"Pitch-In"** and clean up in your community! The Township has PITCH-IN garbage bags and gloves available for people to clean up their communities as a part of PITCH-IN Canada. You can do a group clean up or go solo. The bags and gloves are available at the Township Office. Participants can take collected litter in PITCH-IN bags to Township Waste Sites until April 30.

Operations

Half load restrictions remain in place until the end of April to protect the structure of our roads as the frost comes out of the ground and surfaces get soft. The spring thaw is also peak season for potholes and road erosion. Operations crews are working hard to address road conditions!

Planning and Building

There are steps you can take to **prevent vermin and unwanted wild animals** on your property such as eliminating sources of food, water and shelter that they might find useful. You can also protect your home by sealing openings such as cracks under doors, drainpipes, and attic vents with the appropriate weather stripping or fine metal screening. If you are experiencing a vermin infestation, contact a licensed pest control company.

Library Services

Your library branches continue to make **curbside services** available with walk-ins pending pandemic restrictions! They also have other **exciting programs and services** available.

- Library Seed Bank - Seeds are available for all library members while supplies last
- Pizza Garden - You'll get the seeds needed to get started and instructions for making pizza at home
- Ontario Parks Day Passes - Take a hike on local trails and explore your provincial parks!

Fire Services

This time of year, **ice continues to thaw and weaken** on our lakes and rivers. Ensure you keep you, your family members and your pets **off the ice!**

To submit information or make a community spotlight nomination, contact recreation@townshipleeds.on.ca or 613-659-2415 ext. 228



Township of
Leeds and the
Thousand Islands

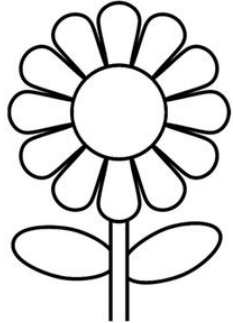
COMMUNITY EVENTS

Monday, April 12-16

Spring Break for the UCDSB

Monday, April 12-17

You can have a **small group hike** with the Thousand Islands Watershed Land Trust during April-Break. E-mail info@tiwlt.ca.



Saturday, April 17

Get in on the fun! The Township's **first official PLAY Day** is scheduled at Jerry Park and we are also celebrating Earth Day! Visit leeds1000islands.ca and search "PLAY Days" for information and to get registered.

Sunday, April 18-24

It's time to show appreciation for the incredible volunteers who make our world turn! Happy **Volunteer Week!**

Thursday, April 22

The Thousand Islands Watershed Land Trust will be doing **socially distanced family hikes** organized for small groups. E-mail info@tiwlt.ca.

Thursday, April 22

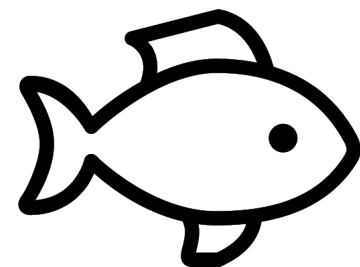
There will be a **virtual open house** for families with students in grade 6 who may attend Rideau District in the future. Call 613-359-5391 to be included in the MS Teams meeting.

Saturday, April 24

It's time to clean up the **Lyndhurst Cemetery**. The clean-up will be from 10am-12pm. Call Jack Harvey 613-928-2989.

Saturday, April 24

The Annual Fire Department **Bull Head Fish Fry** is back for 2021! This will be a drive-through from 4pm-8pm at the fair grounds in Lansdowne. The cost is \$15 for your order of bull heads, salad and pie. First come, first served!



Monday, April 31

UCDSB PD Day

Saturday, May 1-7

It's **Youth Week!** Watch for the announcement of our Youth Bursary Winners as the Township celebrates outstanding youth and recognizes their contributions to their communities.

Friday May 14 - October

The 1000 Islands History Museum has a new exhibit on loan from Canada's Museums of Science and Innovation called **"To What Degree? Canada in a Changing Climate"**. Explore individual and community resilience through extreme weather events resulting from our changing climate.

Sunday, May 16-22

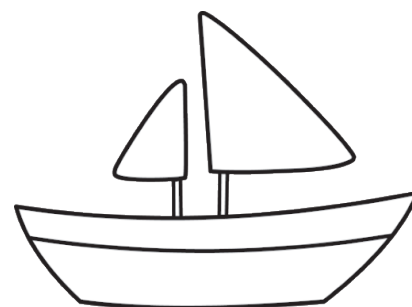
Public Works crews keep communities operating across North America. Let's give them a tip of the hat for **National Public Works Week**.

Saturday, May 22-24

Join the Thousand Islands Watershed Land Trust in **planting a beautiful garden or a tree** at the Glen Elbe Centre. E-mail info@tiwlt.ca.

Saturday, May 22

Township **Parks and the Harbour are open!** All sites have now been inspected and are safe to enjoy. Remember to maintain your distance from people outside of your bubble!



STRATEGIC PLANNING

Strategic planning is one of the most important tools that a municipality can use to bring together council, staff, residents, and local businesses to **develop a common vision and direction**. It provides clear goals, priorities, and standards to ensure the Township maintains that direction.

StrategyCorp Inc has been contracted to facilitate the strategic planning process. This process began in March with one-on-one interviews with members of Council. Information gained from these interviews will be used to develop the basis for a Council Workshop happening on March 30.

The next milestone is the **public consultation process**. This is where you come in! Opportunities such as stakeholder sessions, online and paper surveys, and drop-in sessions (as permitted by COVID-19 restrictions) will **begin April 26, 2021**. To follow the planning process, visit leeds1000islands.ca and check "Reports Studies and Plans" for the "Strategic Plan" page.

The goal is to have the final Strategic Plan adopted by Council mid-summer so staff can develop their 2022 work plans and budget this fall with strategic priorities in mind.

PROPERTY TAX Q & A

How is my tax bill calculated?

Property taxes are calculated by multiplying the value of the property as determined by the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) by the tax rate. The total tax rate includes the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville tax rate, the Education tax rate as set by the Province of Ontario, and the Township of Leeds and the Thousand Islands tax rate.

What do my taxes pay for?

Approximately \$0.38 of every residential tax dollar helps to fund the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville who, as the upper tier municipality, are responsible for county roads, social services including housing, Ontario Works, and child and youth programs. Approximately \$0.16 of every residential tax dollar is for education funding. Approximately \$0.46 of every residential tax dollar remains in the Township to fund fire services, police services, roads, parks, local libraries and so much more.

Why did the property tax rate increase for 2021?

The gross 2021 municipal budget is \$14 million, compared with \$15 million in 2020, a reduction of approximately \$1 million. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has significantly decreased the revenue budget, mainly a loss of revenue from the Casino. The 2021 budget spending was reduced by \$1 million including a freeze on non-union and Council salaries, and the tax rate was increased to raise additional property tax revenue to balance the budget. Leeds and the Thousand Islands had the lowest 2020 property tax rate in the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville.

What are reserve funds?

Reserve funds are funds that are saved in order to pay for future expenditures. Capital budget requirements vary from year to year, and reserve funds help to smooth the impact to the levy requirement and lessen the need to borrow. Reserve funds ensure the Township has the money to replace assets and infrastructure when they reach the end of their useful life and cover one-time or unexpected expenses. For example, when staff are planning one-time projects like a study or master plan, which can be required by law, staff can propose to pay for that expense from a reserve fund so that it does not increase the operating budget in one year and cause a property tax increase. Reserve funds are one financial tool that help plan for the future and help avoid spikes in the annual operating budgets.

Why are reserve funds important?

Reserve funds are important to achieving financial sustainability over the longer term. Reserve funds help fund capital projects like fixing roads and improving facilities. They also help avoid increases to the property tax rate due to one-time or unforeseen costs. The Township has made transfers to reserve funds a priority through the annual budget process because staff and Council recognize the importance of managing assets effectively to deliver core municipal services – which means having the money to pay for trucks, equipment, road work, facility repairs and other work needed to ensure continuity of services.

Save the Date

- Church of Redeemer's 125th Anniversary in Rockport - June 5