

Winter Newsletter 2026

7 Third Avenue - Po Box 217 - Whitney, Ontario

Tel: 613-637-2650, or visit www.southalgonquin.ca

THE TOWNSHIP OF SOUTH ALGONQUIN

Message from the Mayor

Warm greetings as we begin a new year. 2025 was marked by both challenges and meaningful successes.

Here are a few achievements the Township made in 2025:

The Official Plan has been approved by the Ministry and can be found on our website.

We are working with Circular Materials the organization responsible for Ontario's Blue Box program, to enhance your recycling program. As information becomes available, we will share it with you.

The Works Department successfully completed much-needed resurfacing on Major Lake and Hay Creek Roads.

New HVAC unit and generator were installed in Lester B Smith Community Center providing the community with heating and cooling centers in the case of weather events, power outages, or other emergency situations.

The Township is pleased to welcome Stephanie Russell as our new Community Development Intern. Her work will focus on advancing the goals and objectives of the Tourism & Economic Development Master Plan adopted in March 2025.

Council remains dedicated to working on and advocating for housing development in the Township and the goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan.

We are excited to have received almost \$350,000.00 in grants in 2025. Below is a list of all approved grants we received in 2025.

- Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation – Lester Smith Rink Resurfacing – \$200,000 – *Completion expected 2026*
- Office of the Fire Marshal & Emergency Management – Fire Prevention Grant 2024 (Cancer Prevention Equipment) – \$16,822.63 – *Completed*
- Community Futures Development Corporation – Local Initiatives Grant (Two 84" Smart TVs with wall mounts for both recreation center's) – \$3,500 – *Completed*
- Ministry of the Solicitor General & Emergency Management Ontario (EMO) – Community Emergency Preparedness Grant 2024 – \$32,780 – *Completed*. -Funded installation of an automatic generator and two heating/cooling pumps to convert the Lester Smith Building into an emergency shelter
- Employment & Social Development Canada (ESDC) – Summer Student Grant 2025 (1 student) – \$2,408 – *Completed*
- Canadian Heritage – Celebrate Canada 2025 – Canada Day Funding – \$3,020 – *Completed*
- Ministry for Seniors & Accessibility – Seniors Community Grant 2025 (Two bus excursions with meals) – \$10,892.50 – *Completed*
- Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation – Workplace Development Program 2025 (Community Intern Position) – \$35,000
- The Township, in conjunction with SABA, applied to and received from Employment & Social Development Canada (ESDC) – Enabling Accessibility Fund – for the Lester Smith Accessible Playground – \$121,749 – *Completion expected 2026*
- OMAFRA – Rural Ontario Development 2025 – Boat Launch & Trails Master Plan – \$25,000 – *In progress*
- Office of the Fire Marshal & Emergency Management (OFMEM) – Fire Prevention Grant 2026 (Decontamination showers at Whitney Fire Hall and washer/dryer at Madawaska Fire Hall) – \$36,223.56 – *In progress*

- Ministry of Transportation – Pothole Prevention & Repair Program 2026 –\$38,000 – *In progress*

I want to thank Council and Township staff for your hard work and dedication. If you would like to meet with me, please call or email me.

~ Ethel LaValley

Council:

MAYOR

Ethel LaValley: 613-332-8357
mayor@southalgonquin.ca

COUNCILLORS

Airy Ward (01)

Joan Kuiack: 613-637-5479
jkuiack@southalgonquin.ca

Airy Ward (01)

Laurie Sijdock: 613-334-1780
laurie@southalgonquin.ca

Dickens Ward (02)

Bill Rodnick: 613-756-7016
wrodnick@southalgonquin.ca

Lyell Ward (03)

Sandra Collins: 613-334-0478
sandracollins@southalgonquin.ca

Murchison Ward (04)

Joe Florent: 613-334-2637
joe@southalgonquin.ca

Sabine Ward (05)

Shawn Pigeon: 613-318-8375
shawnpigeon@southalgonquin.ca

Municipal Elections 2026

The 2026 Municipal Election will take place on October 26, 2026.

Make sure you're ready to vote! Confirm you're on the voters' list or register online at registertovoteon.ca.

Thinking of running for office?

Nominations open: May 1, 2026
Nomination deadline: August 21, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.

For updates and additional election information, visit southalgonquin.ca or contact Bryan Martin, CAO/Clerk-Treasurer at clerk@southalgonquin.ca or 613-334-5923.

The municipal office is open Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
The office is closed on all statutory holidays.

Municipal Office: 613-637-2650
Works Garage: 613-334-5447
To rent a facility for any event, including funerals, contact: 613-637-2650, ext. 200

Appointments

If you wish to speak to a specific staff member, we recommend you make an appointment ahead of time.

Administration News

Tax Billing

The interim tax bills will be mailed the first week of March. Installment due dates are March 31st and May 31st

Payment options

- Telephone banking
- E-services web portal
- Internet banking
- Your financial institution
- Mail

• In person – cash, cheque, money order, or credit card

Please note:

- *E transfers are no longer accepted*
- *Credit card payments are subject to a 2.4% transaction fee*

Interest Penalties

A 1.25% penalty will be added on the 1st day of each and every month. Remember to allow sufficient time for payments to be received by the 1st day of each month to avoid penalty.

Load Restrictions

In accordance with the provisions of By-law No. 15-481, certain roadways will be posted and enforced for load restrictions. The reduced load period is deemed necessary to protect roadways from heavy load damage during the spring thaw. Reduced load restriction signs will be erected in the appropriate locations at the direction of the Works Superintendent or designate any time after March 1, 2026.

For further information please contact: Steven Ronholm - Public Works Superintendent at 613-334-5447 or email: works@southalgonquin.ca

Winter Parking on Township Roads

Within South Algonquin plow truck routes are approximately 260 km per round trip, this means that our drivers do their best, often in terrible weather to clean roads as quickly as possible so that residents can get where they need to go. Vehicles parked in the roadway not only impede their efficiency but also pose safety risks in navigating a large truck, plow and wing around the vehicles. During the designated winter season: November 1st to April 15th any vehicle parked within the road allowance will be towed by the nearest available towing company at the owner's expense. Residents should make arrangements to have their driveways cleared of snow to ensure that parking in the roadway is not necessary and that emergency services can access the property

Additional Playground Equipment

We are excited to announce that additional playground equipment will be installed in Whitney! Please help keep it in good condition: supervise children, use equipment as intended, and report any damage to the township office! Enjoy!

Service Ontario

Service Ontario will be available at the township office on scheduled dates. For up to date information or to book an appointment please visit the Service Canada website

<https://www.ontario.ca/locations/serviceontario/township-of-south-algonquin-whitney>

SPRING FORWARD
MARCH 8 2026

Dogs

We would like to remind owners per By-Law #12-430, no person who owns or harbors a dog within the township shall not permit such dog to become a nuisance. A dog shall be deemed a nuisance in the following circumstances:

- i) if the dog persistently cries, howls or barks.
- ii) if the dog causes damage to municipal property or private property.
- iii) if the dog interferes with dumps or scatters garbage or trash.
- iv) if the dog persistently chases or intimidates pedestrians using public or private paths, roads or sidewalks adjacent to the property where the dog is kept or harbored.

Furthermore, no owner shall, permit their dog to go onto or be on private property, other than the owner's property, even when on a leash, except with the consent of the owner or occupant of that private property. Residents of the Township who own or harbor dogs are required to purchase a DOG TAG for each dog they are responsible for. Valid for the lifetime of your dog.

Tags are available at the municipal office for \$10. Replacement tags are \$5.
 NOTE: If a captured dog is wearing a dog tag, one attempt will be made to return the dog to its owner before the dog(s) is taken to the Municipal Dog Pound in Bancroft. If the dog is not wearing a tag, it will be taken to the Municipal Dog Pound in Bancroft immediately. Fees apply to release the animal.

Dog Pound

Now the public can take found dogs directly to the pound in Bancroft. Located at 326 Monck Rd, Bancroft. Phone 613-332-2755. Website: municipaldogpound.com
 The Municipal Dog Pound is Open to the Public from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. (Monday to Saturday and is Closed Sunday to the Public).

Whitney Rec

Please follow us on Facebook for regular updates, new information, times of events and more details on each event. Also, information is posted on the outdoor sign at the Lester Smith building and posters throughout town.

<https://www.facebook.com/whitneyrec>

Join us to celebrate these events. If you would like to volunteer for any event, contact Theresa Kramer at 613 318-9305. We are also looking for more committee members.

March 14 St Patrick's

Dance at the Community Centre

April 4 Easter

Egg Hunt and Bake Sale

April 26

Earth Day clean up

May 9th

ATV Run

Whitney Seniors Activities

Sunday

1pm games

Monday

9am Coffee Time 1pm Darts + Cards

Tuesday

10:30am Muscle Mile 11am Chair Yoga 7pm Euchre

Wednesday

1pm Active Living chair yoga 2pm Coloring 7pm Private Rental

Thursday

9:30am Active Living Tai Chi 11am Ukulele

1pm Darts + Cards 7pm Info Night TBA

Friday

1pm Closed for cleaning

Monthly **BINGO** dates hosted by Whitney Seniors and held at Lester Smith building

Sunday March 29 at 1 pm
 Wednesday April 29 at 6:30
 Wednesday May 27 at 6:30

Monday March 16 Potluck dinner
6:00pm

MADAWASKA REC

Our Annual Pancake Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt will be in March. Stay tuned for the date.

The spring Bingo for St. Matthews is Sunday April 12th at the hall. Come over for an afternoon of fun!

The fundraiser for SFMH Foundation Trivia Night is Monday April 27th at 7pm at the Madawaska hall.

Please contact Sharon Florent(613-334-2520) to book your table.

Watch for posters of all of these events and others that may come along as the weather improves!

We're always looking for community-minded volunteers to join our Recreation Committee and fresh ideas to consider!

Contact us on Facebook at "Madawaska M & L rec committee"

Meetings are the second Tuesday of each month @7pm at Madawaska Community Hall. If you would like to attend at any time please let us know one week in advance.



Library Newsletter

What's New

·2026 Ontario Parks Day Passes have arrived and are available at both branches.

·Canada Reads 2026 Shortlist titles will be coming soon to both locations.

Volunteer Opportunities

The Township of South Algonquin is seeking new Library Board Trustees. If you care about the future of our libraries and want to give back locally, this is a meaningful way to share your skills and help guide library services. For more information, visit the Whitney Branch.

High school students looking to complete community service hours are also encouraged to volunteer. It's a great opportunity to build experience, meet new people, and support a community resource used by all ages.

More Than Just Books

Your library offers far more than reading material. Explore digital collections, borrow technology, attend community programs, or check out passes for parks and museums. From seed swaps and author talks to printing services and learning opportunities, the library connects you with ideas, tools, and inspiration.

Open Hours:

Madawaska Branch: Tuesdays 10am -3pm, Thursdays 12:00pm - 7:00pm, and Saturdays 10am - 2pm

Whitney Branch: Wednesdays 10am -3pm & Thursdays 12:00pm - 7:00pm, and Saturdays 10am - 2pm

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/TownshipofSouthAlgonquinPublicLibrary>

Instagram [south_algonquin_public_library](https://www.instagram.com/south_algonquin_public_library)

Website <https://www.southalgonquin.ca/library/>



Water Samples

NEW Public Health Ontario (PHO) [Online Water Testing Portal](https://www.pho.ca/en/online-water-testing-portal). PHO has developed an online Water Testing Portal for private drinking water, that allows clients to enter their submitter and sample details into an online, electronic, requisition and receive their drinking water test reports electronically through the portal. This portal must be used to complete your water sample details. Your water sample can then be dropped off at Lorraine's Pharmasave in Barry's Bay. Drop off times: September to April: Tuesdays before 2:00p.m. Courier picks up samples Tuesday after 2:00p.m. May to August: Tuesdays and Thursdays before 2:00p.m. Courier picks up samples Tuesday and Thursday after 2:00p.m.

Landfill Sites - Operation Schedule

AIRY: 462 Nipissing Road, Whitney
 LYELL: 6319 Highway 523, Madawaska
 NOVEMBER 1, 2025 to MARCH 31, 2026
 Wednesday 1:00p.m. to 4:00p.m.
 Saturday 8:00a.m. to 12:00p.m.(noon)
 Spring/Summer Waste Collection Calendar will be circulated with the Interim Tax Bills

Seniors Active Living Program

The Seniors Active Living Program invites adults aged 55+ living in South Algonquin to stay active, engaged, and connected through fitness, arts, games, and social activities. Programs are offered at the Whitney Seniors Center, Whitney Lester Smith Building and the Madawaska Complex. All South Algonquin residents are welcome to join.

Together is better.

Gloria Beauclair

Seniors Active Living Coordinator

Events

Monday -9:30-10:30am

Aerobics

Lester Smith Building

1:00-3:00PM

Puzzles & Darts

Whitney Seniors center

Tuesday - 10:30AM-2:30PM

Madawaska Seniors Social Gathering

Wednesday - 9:30-10:30am

Aerobics

Lester Smith Building

1:00 -2:00PM

Chair Yoga

Whitney Senior Centre

2:00-4:00PM

Zen Coloring

Whitney Senior Centre

Thursday 10:00-11:00AM

Tai Chi Walking

Whitney Senior Centre

11:00-12:00PM

Ukulele

Whitney Senior Center

1:00-3:00PM

Puzzles * Cards * Darts

Whitney Senior Center

Friday - 9:30-10:30am

Aerobics

Lester Smith Building

For More information or to register call
Gloria -905-351-4657

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Chief /Community Emergency Management Coordinator Aurel Thom:
 613-334-9697
firechief@southalgonquin.ca
 Deputy Chief, Marvin Siydock:
 705-457-7699

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY CALL 9-1-1

Jan 1st is a new year so burn permits have to be renewed, and are good for the entire year free of charge. This will also let the Fire Department inform you, via text or email, as soon as the fire rating has changed. Especially if we go to a complete ban! Please go to Township Website or <https://safd.burnpermits.com/> to get yours.

As of January 1, 2026 Carbon monoxide detectors are **mandatory** near all sleeping areas in residential homes and in the service rooms, and adjacent sleeping areas. Carbon monoxide alarms can be hardwired, battery-operated or plugged into the wall.



FUEL-BURNING APPLIANCES NEED TO BE SERVICED



Stay Safe from Carbon Monoxide

- 1 Get an annual inspection of all fuel-burning appliances in your home. Find a registered contractor at Cosafety.ca.
- 2 Check that outside vents and chimneys are not blocked.
- 3 Install carbon monoxide alarms and **test them monthly**.

For more information contact your local fire department.

