

Conmee Community Newsletter

December 2025

**Conmee
Municipal Office**
475-5229
conmee@conmee.com

Hours:

Monday— Friday
9 am—4 pm

**Conmee
Landfill**

Summer Hours
(May 15th—Oct. 14th)
Wed: 3 pm - 7 pm
Sat: 9 am - 3 pm

Winter Hours
(Oct 15th — May 14th)
Wed: 1 pm - 5 pm
Sat: 9 am - 3 pm

**Conmee
Public Works**
475-5337

Emergency Numbers
Non-Emergency OPP
1-888-310-1122

Emergency
(fire, medical, OPP)
911

HYDRO OUTAGES
1-800-434-1235

MTO Highway Concerns
Emcon 1-888-636-8704

Mayor's Message

Hello once again,

As I sit here under a Snow Weather Watch typing this newsletter, I can't help but wonder, "Is this the snow that's going to stay?" We've had a few tastes of winter so far—nothing too bad—and the temperatures have been fairly decent. We're ready for the snow, and hopefully we're treated to a beautiful winter without too many troubles.

We've been busy finishing up year-end tasks and preparing for a new and exciting year full of projects. Renovations on the rink and rink shack will begin thanks to the funding we received from the NOHFC on October 31, 2025. New boards, bird netting, and a well-deserved facelift for the old rink shack are all on the list. We ran out of time this fall, but work will continue in the spring.

The office and Council will also be exploring numerous grant opportunities to support infrastructure improvements and upcoming needs. As Council enters the final year of its term, we're committed to keeping projects moving and ensuring a smooth transition for the next Council.

The DTR remains an ongoing matter, and we will continue to advocate for our residents and address the issues facing our community. We'll keep pushing for the safety of our township, particularly regarding challenges on the highway and intersections, as well as the impact on Public Works and our Volunteer Fire Department. I'll keep you informed as we learn more and as further discussions take place regarding the DTR.

In the Council agenda you'll see that administration is looking into the possibility of having our highway corridor designated as a Community Safety Zone. I fully support this, as it could help reduce speeds, though I know it may be challenging to get approval. Any request to higher levels of government is often a hard sell.

The MTO has already told Oliver Paipoonge that nothing could be done within their village to improve safety for pedestrians, children, and seniors, so we know the road ahead won't be easy. Still, it's worth trying.

I strongly believe that adding lights at all intersections should also be on our safety priority list. I continue hearing concerns about several intersections, and I'm familiar with the risks at those locations. These need to be addressed before a serious accident happens.

**Office is closed Wednesday, December 24 at 1:00 p.m. until Monday,
January 5 at 9:00 a.m. for Christmas Holidays.**

Staff will be checking emails and messages during the holidays.

Upcoming Council Meetings: December 16 — 6:00 pm

Location: Conmee Community Centre. Virtual attendance is available.

The Social Committee will be hosting a Christmas Vendors' Market this Saturday, November 29/25 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. We have a few tables booked, and this is the final week to catch any last-minute vendors. To reserve a table, please call the office at 807-475-5229. We'll once again have volunteers helping to maintain the rink as much as possible, and we are truly grateful. Without our volunteers, we couldn't enjoy this great space all year long. Thank you to all of you—you know who you are.

As volunteers come forward, we'll be able to offer more events. I'd love to see another winter boot-hockey or hockey tournament. The last one was a lot of fun, and hopefully this time it won't be the wet adventure it was before—though anything can happen! If anyone is interested in volunteering to help organize it, set up teams, or assist in any way, please contact me at 807-629-0055.

As I finish this passage, the snow is falling and schools are closed due to the weather. Overnight we've been covered in a fresh blanket of snow. Please drive carefully, give yourself extra time, and get those winter tires on—I know my own beast is getting new ones tomorrow.

Enjoy the winter season. Christmas is coming fast—only three more weeks of school. On December 6 at 7 p.m., the Christmas Parade will take place in Thunder Bay, and Conmee Emergency Services will be participating, depending on calls. I hope to see everyone there. If you're able to spare a few dollars for the wonderful charities involved, please consider it.

I know this can be a hard time of year. Groceries are extremely expensive, and the added stress of Christmas doesn't help. If you ever need a little extra support, please reach out to me. I know this community will step up. We will help however we can—food, clothing, or anything else that has become stressful. Call or text me at 807-629-0055. It will remain strictly confidential. Please don't let the season weigh you down.

If you have any other concerns, I'll do my best to help. Stay safe, and we'll catch up again next month.

Warm regards,
Mayor Sheila Maxwell

**EXCERPTS FROM
MINUTES—REGULAR
COUNCIL MEETING
October 14th and 28th**

Minutes were reviewed and approved:

Clerk's Report :

October 14: The Clerk provided updates on several grant applications submitted for the Fire Department, including FireSmart, Fire Protection, and Mental Health Supports for Public Safety Personnel.

The 2024 audit is underway, with BDO conducting site visits in late September and early October. Asset management work continues with PSD Citywide, including internal and public surveys.

October 28: The Clerk reported that Conmee Township was approved for \$15,000 in FireSmart Communities Transfer Payment Program funding to support the development of a Wildfire Protection Plan and hazard forest mapping. She advised that she will be consulting with the Fire Chief regarding proposals to engage a certified consultant for this work. The Clerk advised that construction has begun on the loading dock entry repairs.

Treasurer's Report:

October 14: The Treasurer reported that no arrears notices were mailed due to the Canada Post strike. The final property tax payment deadline is October 29, and arrears continue to decline. The 2024 audit is expected to be completed by mid-to-late November. ROMA registration will be completed before the early bird deadline.

Public Works Report:

October 28: The Public Works Manager reported that recent rainfall had delayed

grading operations on several roads to avoid creating muddy conditions. He confirmed that gravel hauling had continued on select roads and that six new entrances were completed. Approximately 2,800 tonnes of sand have been stockpiled, which is expected to meet the Township's winter maintenance needs for the next three years. He also reported on landfill maintenance, installation of new signage across the Township, and repairs to equipment, including battery replacements and light upgrades. The Public Works Manager noted ongoing discussions with OPG regarding potential access to surplus material and is awaiting confirmation on availability.

Fire Chief's Report:

October 14: The Fire Chief reported three calls in September: two medical and one motor vehicle collision. He attended FireCon and completed the Fire Investigator course, pending final evaluation. Two members completed Firefighter II training, and three new members are joining the department. Flow testing was completed on Pumpers 75 and 76, with repairs noted. The Chief and one member will attend wildland/urban interface training offered by Thunder Bay Fire.

The Chief discussed the need for improved water access and proposed a standpipe installation by OPG. He also emphasized the importance of shared services and district-wide wildland fire response. Council discussed the possibility of appointing the Fire Chief as a Municipal Law Enforcement Officer to issue fines under the burning and fireworks bylaws.

**2025 Council
Meeting Schedule
December 16**

**2026 Council
Meeting Schedule
January 13 and 27
February 10 and 24
March 10 and 24**

Council meetings occur every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Please visit www.conmee.com to see agendas, minutes, and more. If you do not have internet access, the office can print this information for you.

The Hon. Kevin Holland, MPP for Thunder Bay – Atikokan

★ Christmas Newsletter ★

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEARS!

Wishing you and your family a Merry Christmas and a joyful start to the New Year. May this season bring you rest, laughter, and time with the people who mean the most. All the best in the year ahead of us.



UPCOMING EVENTS

January 8th

MPP Holland's
New Year Levee

More details will be
posted on social media

NOVEMBER RECAP



CONMEE TOWNSHIP



COLLEGE / LAKEHEAD



SHUNIAH TOWNSHIP

In November, Thunder Bay – Atikokan received over \$3.5 million in new provincial funding, including \$147,000 for Conmee Township and \$240,000 for Shuniah Township to improve outdoor rinks and pavilions. An additional \$3 million was invested in Confederation College and Lakehead University to expand seats in their Construction and Nursing programs.

YEAR END REVIEW



Over
\$1.3 BILLION

in local provincial funding announced in 2025. The most our riding has ever seen in a year!



700+

all constituency activities in 2025.



40

local announcements made in 2025.



157

Minister visits since elected.

Constituency Office Contact

www.kevinhollandmpp.ca | kevin.holland@pc.ola.org | (807) 623-6702

CHIMNEY SAFETY TIPS

BRANCHES

Trim branches that hang above the chimney and clear any debris from your roof

FLUE

Always monitor flue temperature and keep air inlets open

ASHES

Let ashes completely cool and pour water on them before disposing

CHIMNEY

Install a screen cap over the top of the chimney—When it comes time to clean, call a certified specialist

HEARTH

Keep hearth clear of all obstructions, debris and decorations

FIREPLACE SCREEN

Keep closed in order to keep stray embers from escaping

ADDITIONAL REMINDERS

- ✓ Never leave a fireplace unattended
- ✓ Make sure your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms are properly working
- ✓ Have your chimney inspected every year
- ✓ Keep firewood at least 30ft. from your house
 - ✓ Use dry/seasoned hardwood
- ✓ Never burn trash or debris in your fireplace
- ✓ Always keep firewood at least 30 feet from your home

1.800.800.9410 | MyCalCas.com

 California Casualty
AUTO AND HOME INSURANCE

HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS FOR PETS

Poinsettias, holly, mistletoe, amaryllis, and lilies are commonly used to brighten the home. All are toxic to pets. Lilies are the most dangerous as a few bites can cause kidney failure in cats. Others are less toxic but can cause vomiting and diarrhea and should be kept out of reach.



Christmas Holiday Hours

Wednesday December 24	9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Thursday, December 25	CLOSED
Friday December 26	CLOSED
Monday December 29	CLOSED
Tuesday December 30	CLOSED
Wednesday December 31	CLOSED
Thursday January 1	CLOSED
Friday January 2	CLOSED
Monday January 5	9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

*We wish you a happy holiday
season and
A wonderful New Year!*



Sharing the Road with Tractor Trailers: Your Safety Depends on It

Every time we get behind the wheel, we share the road with vehicles of all sizes—including massive tractor trailers that can weigh up to 80,000 pounds. These trucks play a vital role in our economy, but they also require extra space, time, and awareness to operate safely.

Why it matters:

- * **Blind Spots:** Tractor trailers have large blind spots on all four sides. If you can't see the driver in their mirror, they likely can't see you.
- * **Stopping Distance:** A fully loaded truck needs much more distance to stop than a car. Cutting in front of one can be extremely dangerous.
- * **Wide Turns:** Trucks make wide right turns and need extra room. Never try to squeeze by on the right.
- * **Wind and Draft:** The air turbulence around a truck can affect your vehicle's stability, especially at high speeds.

Your safety tip: Always give trucks plenty of space, avoid lingering in blind spots, and be patient. A few extra seconds of caution can prevent a lifetime of consequences.

Let's all do our part to make the highways safer—for ourselves, and for the professional drivers who keep our world moving.

For non-emergency incidents on highways, please contact the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) at their non-emergency number: 1-888-310-1122.

WINTER SAFETY EMERGENCY CAR KIT



JUMPER CABLE & PHONE
CHARGER



FOOD & WATER



ICE SCRAPER & SHOVEL



EXTRA CLOTHING / BLANKETS



SAND / KITTY LITTER





SEMI TRUCKS CAN'T STOP LIKE CARS

Give Big Rigs Plenty of Room



An 80,000-pound, fully-loaded semi can weigh 20 times more than an average car or truck. Even with terrific braking systems, trucks simply can't stop as quickly as passenger vehicles.

DO THE MATH

Total stopping distance for a car or truck can be calculated as follows:

Perception

How far you travel before you understand what's happening



Reaction

How far you travel before your foot hits the brake



Braking

How far your car travels once the brakes engage before the car stops

Semis also have to factor **brake lag**, or the time it takes for all the brakes on a truck to fully engage.

TOTAL STOPPING DISTANCES

Comparison of Stopping Distances at 65 mph



Stopping distance can be greatly affected by road surfaces, weather conditions or debris. Give yourself even more room when driving around big rigs.

For further information on how to drive Truck Smart visit the following sites or email TruckSmart@utah.gov

zero
Fatalities
ZeroFatalities.com

UTDOT
Utah Department of Transportation
udot.utah.gov/trucksmart

UTPI
Utah Professional Insurance
UTPItrucking.com

Federal Motor Carrier
Safety Administration
fmsa.dot.gov

CVSA
Commercial Vehicle Safety Council
CVSA.org



VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Are you looking to join a group of individuals dedicated to offering compassionate care and support to people who are dying or grieving the loss of a loved one? Since 1987, our volunteers have been compassionate listeners with a caring attitude and a desire to give back to their community.

Often our volunteers form lasting friendships that provide them with personal growth and a very special sense of belonging.

STEPS TO BECOMING A HNW VOLUNTEER

1

Step 1

Submit an Application Form for review by our Volunteer Coordinator

2

Step 2

Complete Introductory Screening Interview to ensure you're a good fit

3

Step 3

Attend the provincially accredited training program.



807-626-5572



www.hospicenorthwest.ca

SCAN
ME



Volunteer Requirements

Hospice volunteers are required to adhere to the following:

- Must maintain confidentiality at all times
- Must be at least 18 years old
- Must complete the volunteer training program
- Must be able to commit a period of time to hospice volunteering (eg. 3 hours each week for at least one year)
- Must be available to meet with the Hospice Northwest staff for support, supervision and on-going education
- Must display palliative care traits that include being compassionate, non-judgmental, accepting, self-confident and sensitive to others' needs
- Access to the Internet is beneficial



**CONTACT US.
WE CAN HELP.**

Come Volunteer with Us!

By Melissa Hazen

Have you ever wondered what a hospice volunteer does?

As one of our grief clients puts it, "Hospice Northwest is like massage therapy for the heart!" Hospice volunteers provide compassionate support to people who are dying or grieving the loss of a loved one. Since we are a 'hospice without walls', this support can occur wherever the client resides, be it in personal homes, hospitals, long term care facilities or shelters for the vulnerably housed.

Our volunteers are truly present wherever and whenever they are needed most. Volunteer and client relationships are unique to the participants' needs, and support can be provided in a number of ways. HNW volunteers complete a provincially accredited training program, delivered through a variety of formats including online training modules and group sessions. These informative classes help our trainees understand the many issues people face at the end of life. Volunteers' time investment varies depending on the needs of the clients they are matched with and the availability of the volunteer. This could mean that a 30-minute telephone call is perfect for one client or an adventure to the local thrift store is the highlight of the week for another. HNW staff work hard to ensure that the volunteers' interests and schedules match well with the clients' needs.

Hospice Northwest volunteers are also offered ongoing training opportunities so that they feel prepared and confident to provide support to clients along their grief, palliative or caregiver journeys. The people we support come from different parts of the world and various cultural backgrounds. Our clients range in age, from small children to seniors, and come from all walks of life and living situations. We work hard to maintain a level of inclusivity and cultural awareness. Hospice Northwest is proud to offer a Community Outreach Program which focusses on the palliative and grief journeys of our communities' vulnerably housed.

Some examples of the roles our Hospice volunteers can play include: going for walks with clients, taking clients to appointments, listening to music, engaging in hobbies, reading together, going on excursions or enjoying pleasant conversations. Sometimes it can be just a simple gift of quiet presence at a dying person's bedside.

Currently, Hospice Northwest has 89 active volunteers in Thunder Bay and region who have supported 563 clients so far this year alone.

You may be wondering, "Am I a good candidate for hospice training?"

Anyone who has a few extra hours a month to share and a desire to make a difference in the lives of those in need of compassion would make an excellent volunteer candidate. Our next training program starts in November and is self-paced, with support from the volunteer coordinator. If you or someone you know is looking for a worthwhile volunteer opportunity with high impact potential, we would love to hear from you. Visit our website www.hospicenorthwest.ca to apply online: <https://www.hospicenorthwest.ca/volunteer/volunteer-application-form/> or, email Melissa@Hospicenorthwest.ca or call 807-626-5572 for more information



Christmas Snack Mix

The holidays are busy, and baking from scratch isn't always possible. But this white chocolate Christmas Snack Mix? It's ready in about 15 minutes!

It's sweet, festive, and hard to resist! Plus, you can easily switch up the ingredients—just keep the amounts close to the same.

Ingredients

Here's what you'll need to make this Christmas Snack Mix:

- **Chex Cereal:** Use rice, honey-nut, or corn—whichever you prefer!
- **Pretzels:** Mini twists or rods add salty crunch. Break in half for even distribution.
- **Cap'n Crunch:** Go with plain (no berries) for sweetness and crunch.
- **Cheerios:** Plain or Honey-Nut—both work great!
- **M&M's:** Red and green add a festive look, but any colors are fine.
- **White Chocolate Chips:** Melt with a bit of oil for smooth coating.
- **Sprinkles (Optional):** Adds a fun, festive touch!

How To Make Christmas Snack Mix

1. **Prep Pan:** Line a large baking sheet with parchment paper.
2. **Combine Ingredients:** In a big bowl, mix the cereals, pretzels, and candies.
3. **Melt Chocolate:** Microwave white chocolate and oil in a bowl, stirring every 30 seconds until smooth.
4. **Coat Mix:** Pour melted chocolate over the mix and gently stir to coat.
5. **Spread & Set:** Spread the mix on the baking sheet in one layer; add sprinkles if you like. Let it set at room temperature or in the fridge for 10-20 minutes.
6. **Serve:** Once firm, break into pieces and enjoy!



All I Want for Christmas is my Two Front Teeth

All I want for Christmas is my two front teeth,
My two front teeth, see my two front teeth.
Gee, if I could only have my two front teeth,
Then I could wish you "Merry Christmas."

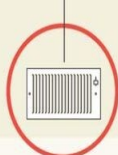
It seems so long since I could say,
"Sister Susie sitting on a thistle."
Gosh, oh gee, how happy I'd be
If I could only whistle.

All I want for Christmas is my two front teeth,
My two front teeth, see my two front teeth
Gee, if I could only have my two front teeth,
Then I could wish you "Merry Christmas."

Holiday Tree Safety Tips

Ensure a merry and bright holiday season by safely maintaining your tree with the following tips.

Keep away from heat:
Make sure your tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like an air duct, fireplace or space heater.



Examine cords:
Examine extension cords and lights for signs of damage. Frayed electric cords should be discarded.



Keep it watered:
Fill the water reservoir daily and check the condition of the trunk bark and branches for moisture. Shedding or dry needles could mean the tree is drying out, increasing overall fire risks.



Inspect lights:
Carefully inspect all electrical decorations before you use them. Cracked or damaged sockets and/or loose or exposed wires can cause serious shock or start a fire.

Trim the stump:
Trim the tree's stump by at least two inches on freshly cut trees. Allow it to absorb water for 24 hours before bringing it inside.

Source: National Fire Protection Association



CRIBBAGE

BEGINNERS WELCOME!

EVERY TUESDAY 1 P.M.

ROSSLYN COMMUNITY CENTER

3405 ROSSLYN ROAD



Come and join the fun and friendship!



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Carving 10-3	Craft Room 10-3	Craft Room 10-3	Craft Room 10-3	Craft Room 10-3
Disking 1-2	Weaving 10-3	Beginners Carving 10-3	Yoga 10-11	
	Knitting 10-3	Quilting 10-3	Weaving 10-3	
	Good Company Choir 1-2:30	Cribbage 1-3	Knitting 10-3	

Next Dementia Café is Friday October 24 – Contact Shawn or Elaine for more information at 807-473-5528

Are you interested in learning to Carve? Rural 60 Plus will be holding an information session this Fall. Watch our website and Newsletter for more details.

Craft Sale, Saturday, November 15, from 10 AM to 1 PM. Tables are available for \$15. Call or email the Rural 60 Plus Centre to reserve.

5 Pineview Road, Kakabeka Falls, Ontario, Canada P7K 0G8
Phone: (807) 475-5779 Email: rural60@tbaytel.net
Website: www.rural60plus.ca

KAKABEKA FALLS LEGION BRANCH 225

DECEMBER EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	TIME
Saturday, Dec 6th	Dance with Quest	7 pm - 10 pm
Sunday, Dec. 7th	Country Christmas - Just 4 U Band Donations at the door - Proceeds to the Rural Cupboard Food Bank	2 pm - 4 pm
Saturday, Dec 13th	Executive Meeting	2 pm - 3 pm
Saturday, Dec 13th	General Meeting	3 pm
Sunday, Dec 14th	Breakfast	8:30 - 11 am
Saturday, Dec 20th	Dance with Quest	7 pm - 10 pm
Sunday, Dec 21st	Christmas Dinner Adults \$40 and 12 & under \$20.00	5 pm - 7 pm

The Legion is still looking for more volunteers - if you can give even 1 hour, that would be so appreciated. Many hands will make the projects much easier to complete.

To book an event please call Alice at 807-577-0418

Murillo Library

Monday 10 – 8:00 pm
Wednesday 10 – 8:00 pm
Saturday 9 to 12:00
935-2729

Email:

oliverpaipoongelibrary@gmail.com

Website:

<http://oliverpaipoonge.olsn.ca>

Rosslyn Library

Tuesday 10 – 8:00 pm
Thursday 10 to 8:00 pm
Saturday 1 to 4:00
939-2312

*Thank you to everyone for your
kind wishes and gestures leading
up to my retirement!*

*It has been an honour and a
pleasure to serve you through the
years. I'm sure I will run into you
in the community, can't wait to
catch up when I do! Best wishes
for the holiday season,
Maxine McCulloch*



Christmas Hours

Both library branches
will be closed for
beginning Wednesday
Dec. 24th and reopening
on Saturday January 3rd.
*The library staff and
board wish you and
your family a safe and
happy holiday.*

WANTED:

Our library is looking
for donations of cloth
shopping bags and
children's puzzles. If
you have any of these
items to spare, they
can be dropped off at
either library branch.

Conmee Township Christmas Merchandise

Perfect gifts for the holiday season!

Township of Conmee History Books:

Hard Copy—\$15.00 tax included

Soft Copy—\$10.00 tax included

Hats: \$20.00 each tax included

Travel Mugs: \$15.00 each tax included

Fabric Bags: \$5.00 each tax included

Get yours today (while supplies last) and celebrate local pride this Christmas!



RURAL CUPBOARD FOOD BANK

Neighbours Helping Neighbours

Conmee Municipal Complex

19 Holland Rd, Kakabeka Falls P0T1W0

807-285-0836

We sincerely thank all those that continue to support the food bank.

Your donations enable the food bank to remain open.

Next Food Bank

Wednesday, December 10, 2025

Registration 9 am to 11 am

Drive-Thru Pick-up

Rural Seniors, Couples and Singles can call 211 to register for Christmas Cheer Hamper and pickup will be at RCFB on distribution day

Please note: the Food Bank runs second Wednesday of month in December

RURAL CUPBOARD FOODBANK DROP OFF LOCATIONS

Oliver Paipoonge:	Murillo & Rosslyn Libraries (during open hours)
Nolalu:	Hoppers Variety
Gillies:	Whitefish School (Sept to June)
O'Connor:	O'Connor Municipal Office
Neebing:	Neebing Municipal Building

Note: Rural Cupboard Foodbank needs recyclable bags.

A BIG THANK YOU to Neebing Recreational Committee for the donation from their Harvest Dinner and ongoing support.

Traditional Christmas Dinner at Kakabeka Legion in support of Rural Cupboard Food Bank will be December 21st, 5 pm. Tickets \$40 per adult and children 12 and under \$20, available at the Legion ahead of time or at the door at day of dinner.

**FILL THE CRUISER
ODENA, KAKABEKA VILLAGE
DECEMBER 6th, 10am-7pm
All goods and financial donations go to
Rural Cupboard Food Bank**

Kakabeka Community

Holiday **BAKE SALE**

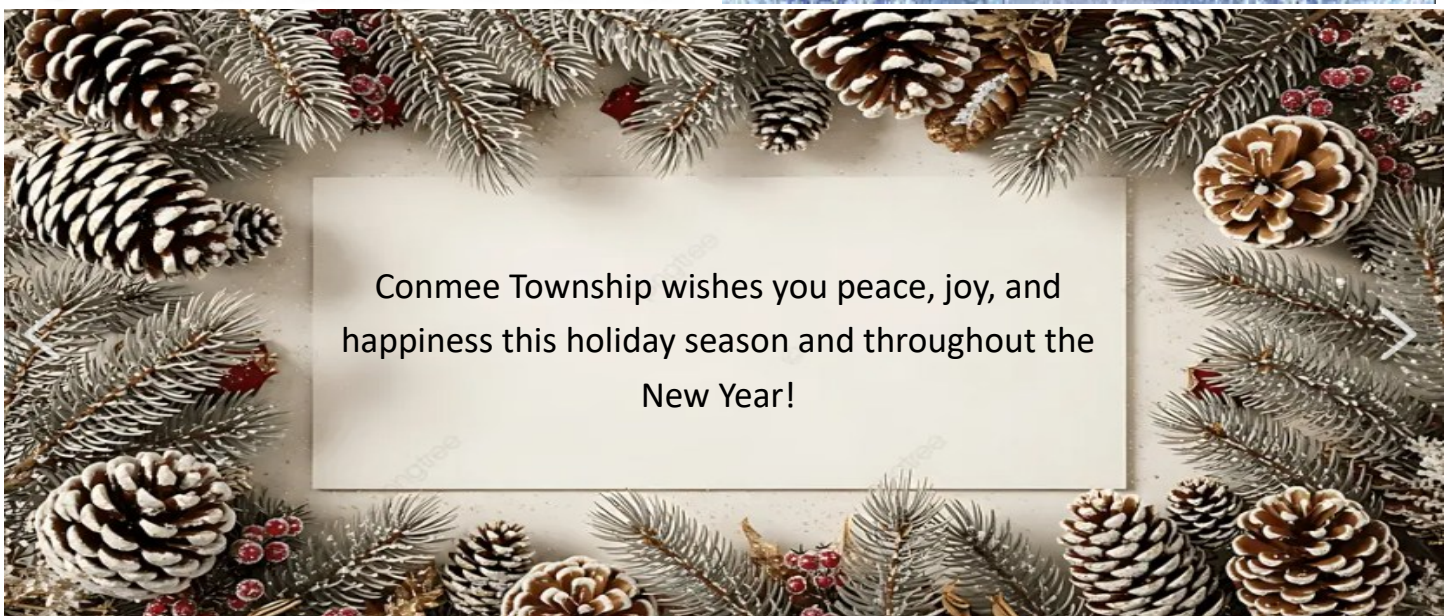
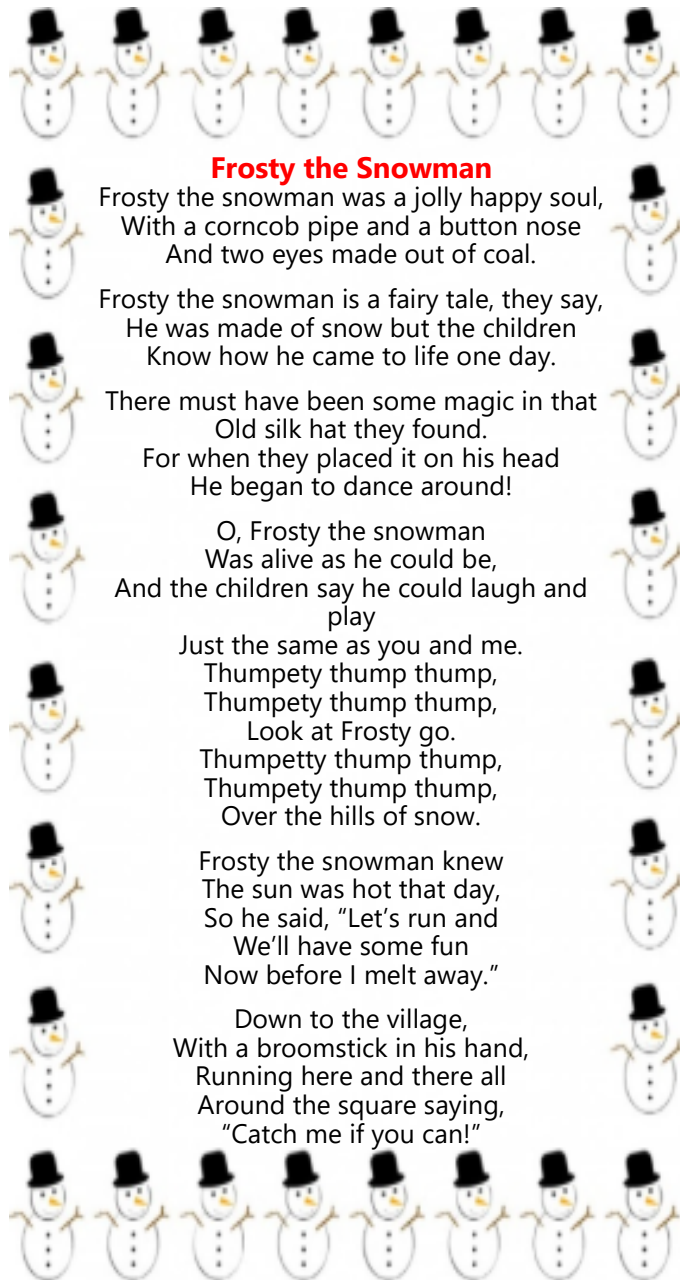
Families and Community Members Welcome
Stock up on HOLIDAY BAKING!



Thursday December 11th
4 — 7 PM

Proceeds to support the
purchase of new Winter
Outdoor Play Equipment!

Kakabeka School Gym








Planning to vote in the next municipal or provincial election in Ontario?

Now you can get on the
voters list for both municipal
and provincial elections,
all in one place!

Visit RegisterToVoteON.ca for information on
eligibility, registration and how to check, update
or add your information to the voters list.



 **Register
to Vote**

 @RegisterToVoteON
 @RegisterToVoteON
 @RegisterON

RegisterToVoteON.ca
info@registerstovoteon.ca
1.866.242.3025





Are You a Diverse Candidate Considering Running for 2026 Municipal Elections?

Join this *FREE* Workshop to Gain Useful Insights and Strategies

The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) is offering a series of workshops for people thinking about running for municipal office in the October 2026 elections.

Focused specifically on diverse candidates, this free 90-minute workshop provides useful insights and strategies to support you in getting your name on the ballot.

Facilitated by former municipal Councillors Steve Anderson and Jasvinder Sandhu, you will be taken through:

- what to expect running as a diverse candidate
- critical strategies for successfully campaigning for municipal office
- understand what it takes to become a candidate
- identifying your target audience
- developing effective messaging and branding
- utilizing community engagement practices to enhance visibility and support
- And more!

Registration is free.

Dates:

- December 3, 2025 - 10:00am - 11:30am
- February 4, 2026 - 10:30am - 12:00pm
- April 8, 2026 - 10:00am - 11:30am

Location: Virtual

To register for the free workshop, please visit the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) website

Interested in a Food Cycler Unit?

We've ordered some Food Cycler Units. If you've already contacted the office and had your name added to the waitlist, we will notify you once they arrive.

If you're interested in purchasing one, we have ordered extra units.

- Eco 3: \$200.00 (tax incl.) - ideal for households of 1—3 people
- Eco 5: \$300.00 (tax incl.) - ideal for households of 3 or more people.

Contact the office at (807) 475-5229 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday to Friday or email adminassist@conmee.com

Rural Dementia Cafe



Join us for a monthly gathering in a supportive space for individuals affected by memory concerns or dementia, along with their families, caregivers and friends. We will have music, games and snacks in a safe and welcoming environment where all are welcome.

- September 26, 2025
- October 24, 2025
- November 28, 2025
- December 12, 2025

1:00 PM- 3:00 PM

- January 23, 2026
- February 27, 2026
- March 27, 2026

For more information:

Contact Shaun or Elaine at (807)-473-5528
Location: 60+ in Kakabeka Falls (5 Pineview Road)

NorWest CHC in partnership with:



The 12 Days of Christmas Safety

Keep your tree away from fireplaces, radiators and other heat sources



3

Make sure your tree has a stable platform so it doesn't tip over



4

Keep lit candles away from real trees, wreaths, boughs and garlands



1

Keep poisonous sweets and chocolates away from your pets



2

Choose an artificial tree that is labelled flame resistant



5

If you have a real tree, make sure you water it regularly



6

Check your lights for fraying, bare spots and kinks in the wire



7

Turn off all tree lights and decorations when not in use



8

Use an appropriate ladder or step ladder when putting up decorations



9

No matter how tempting it may be NEVER drink and drive!



10

When preparing the food, make sure you avoid cross contamination and clean your surfaces and utensils



11

Make sure you reheat your leftovers to at least 74 degrees to avoid food poisoning



12

Merry Christmas



Municipality Newsletters- December 2025 Edition

The Ontario Ministry of Environment Conservation and Parks (MECP) has announced plans to create a provincial board-governed agency, the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA), to provide leadership, governance, and strategic direction to Conservation Authorities (CAs). The details are outlined in Schedule 3 of Bill 68, Plan to Protect Ontario Act (Budget Measures), 2025 (No. 2).

Additionally, the Province has posted on the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) ERO#025-1257 inviting comments for 45 days on the "Proposed boundaries for regional consolidation of Ontario's conservation authorities" related to the proposed new regional boundaries and geographical jurisdiction of each regional CA.

The proposed jurisdictional changes will result in the 36 Conservation Authorities across the province of Ontario be amalgamated to 7 regional Conservation Authorities. The proposal has the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA) being a part of the proposed Huron-Superior Regional Conservation Authority, through an amalgamation with 72 additional municipalities and six Southern Ontario Conservation Authorities, including Grey Sauble, Saugeen, Maitland Valley, Ausable Bayfield, Nottawasaga Valley and Lake Simcoe Conservation Authorities. If approved, the new structure is expected to roll out between late 2026 and into 2027.

The LRCA Board of Directors opposes the proposed LRCA amalgamation with the Huron-Superior Regional Conservation Authority and will be recommending that the LRCA become its own region representing northwestern Ontario. We encourage the public to review the ERO posting and provide comments indicating their support of the LRCA Board's recommendation. It will be important that residents in the Lakehead Watershed are heard regarding this potential merger with Southern Ontario that will result in a loss of northern and local direction and prioritization of local issues. Comments can be made on the ERO at the following link, until December 22: <https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/025-1257>.

With the holiday shopping season upon us, it is a great time to purchase an Explore Card Parking Pass. The 2026 Explore Card Parking Pass is now on-sale. Explore Card Parking Passes permit day-use/parking at our ten Conservation Areas for one calendar year. Visit as often as you like. Enjoy one calendar year of recreation activities! For the low price of \$40.00 +HST, it's convenient for frequent users, and a great stocking stuffer for the outdoor enthusiasts in your life! All Explore Card revenue goes directly towards the upkeep and maintenance of our Conservation Areas.

Our extremely popular Explore calendars have arrived, and best of all, they are FREE! We will have a limited number of calendars available at our office, otherwise, they can be picked up at select local businesses including Safeway, 55+ Centres in Thunder Bay, local Municipal offices and more. Limited quantities available.

Please be advised that the LRCA Administrative Office will be closed from December 24, 2025, until January 5, 2026.

Get out and Explore!



LAKEHEAD REGION
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

DEC 2025

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
1 Chair Yoga @ O'Connor C.C 10:00 am	2 Fly the C.O.O.P Walking Group	3 Walk-In Clinic 4:30pm - 7:30pm	4 Fly the C.O.O.P Walking Group LifeLabs	5
8 Chair Yoga @ Virtual Only 10:00 am Good Food Box Order Deadline Mobile Clinic - Armstrong 1pm-6pm	9 Fly the C.O.O.P Walking Group Mobile Clinic - Armstrong 8:30am-1:30pm	10 NP available for those who do not have MD or NP Walk-In Clinic 4:30pm - 7:30pm	11 Fly the C.O.O.P Walking Group LifeLabs	12 *NEW Program* Rural Dementia Cafe 1-3pm
15 Chair Yoga @ O'Connor C.C 10:00 am	16 Fly the C.O.O.P Walking Group	17 NP available for those who do not have MD or NP Good Food Box Pickup at KB Clinic Walk-In Clinic 4:30pm - 7:30pm	18 Fly the C.O.O.P Walking Group Mobile Clinic - Upsala 10am-3:30pm LifeLabs	19
22 Chair Yoga @ O'Connor C.C 10:00 am	23 Fly the C.O.O.P Walking Group Walk-In Clinic 4:30pm - 7:30pm	24	25 Closed for Christmas Day	26 Closed for Boxing Day
29 Chair Yoga @ O'Connor C.C 10:00 am	30 Fly the C.O.O.P Walking Group Walk-In Clinic 4:30pm - 7:30pm	31		

4785 ON-11 Unit B,
Kakabeka Falls,
ON P0T 1W0
(807) 473-5528

PROGRAM INFO

Call KB Clinic Reception at (807) 473-5528 or email Shaun at speirce@norwestchc.org to register for all programs

Fly the C.O.O.P Walking Group

Meet at the Kakabeka Legion @ 10am or a ride is provided at Evergreen Parking Lot at 9:45am

Chair Yoga In Person & Virtual
Hosted at O'Connor & Kam C. Centre at 10am.

Good Food Box Program
Monthly access to a box of affordable fruit and vegetables. For more information visit www.goodfoodboxtb.org or call 473-5528 for more info

Rural Dementia Cafe @ Rural 60+ Centre.
Come socialize and meet new people, make friends and lifelong connections



Follow us!

NorWest Community Health Centres - Kakabeka Falls Clinic

www.norwestchc.org

WILD FRIENDS DURING COLD WEATHER
guardiansofrescue.org

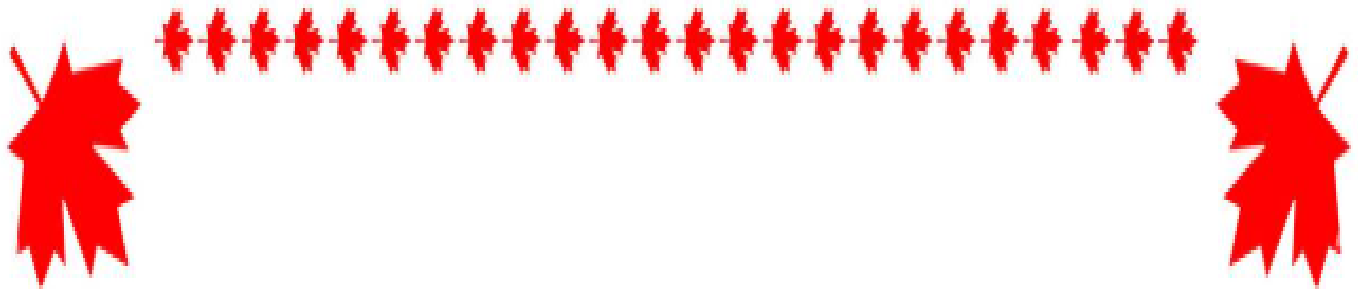
- Uncooked oats
- Cereal
- Cooked rice (ideally brown)
- Soaked dog kibble
- Wet dog or cat food
- Fresh coconut in the shell
- Baked potatoes
- Suet blocks / bird cake
- Raw peanuts / walnuts / others
- Raw sunflower seeds
- Wild birdseed

AND MORE WINTER WEATHER TIPS

IF IT'S TOO COLD FOR YOU IT'S TOO COLD FOR YOUR PETS

please BRING THEM INSIDE





Electronic Voting Survey for Residents

The Township of Conmee is exploring options to make voting in the 2026 Municipal and School Board Election more convenient and accessible for all residents. One option under consideration is **electronic voting, at a cost of \$1,983.00**, which would allow eligible voters to cast their ballot **online or by telephone** from the comfort of their home.

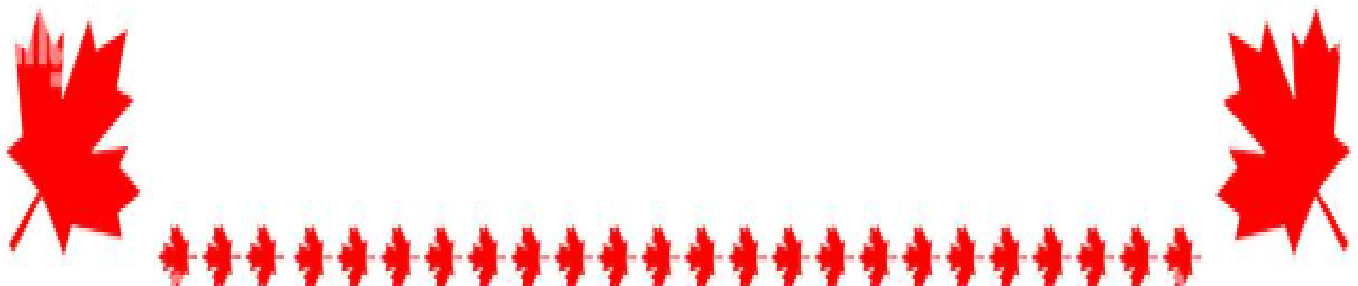
Electronic voting has been successfully used by over 100 Ontario municipalities and meets national standards for security and accessibility. Each eligible voter would receive a **personalized Voter Instruction Letter** by mail containing a **unique Personal Identification Number (PIN)**. This PIN ensures that only the person assigned to it can vote. The system is designed to protect voter privacy and ballot integrity, and it includes audit tools to verify the process.

For residents without internet access or who prefer not to use a computer, **telephone voting** will be available. This option has proven popular among older voters in other municipalities, with many choosing to vote by phone. Your feedback will help Council decide whether to offer online and telephone voting in addition to traditional voting methods. Please share your thoughts below.

Please complete the attached survey and return it by the first week of February 2026. You may submit it in any of the following ways:

- * Drop it off in person at the Township Office
- * Mail it to the Township Office at:
19 Holland Road, West
Kakabeka, ON P0T 1W0
- * Email it to adminassist@conmee.com (please include the survey as an attachment)
- * You also have the option to complete this online through the Township's website

We look forward to receiving your responses to the survey, and we sincerely thank you for taking the time to complete it!



Introduction: We are exploring the possibility of introducing electronic voting in local elections. Your feedback is important to help us understand community preferences and concerns. This survey is anonymous and will take only a few minutes to complete.

Section 1: About You

1. Age Group

- ☐ 18–29
- ☐ 30–44
- ☐ 45–59
- ☐ 60+

Section 2: Your Opinion

2. Do you support the introduction of electronic voting in local elections?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure

3. Would you prefer electronic voting over traditional paper ballots?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Depends on security and accessibility

4. How confident are you in the security of electronic voting systems?

(Scale: 1 = Not confident at all, 5 = Very confident)

- ☐ 1
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3
- ☐ 4
- ☐ 5

5. What concerns do you have about electronic voting? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ Security
- ☐ Accessibility for all residents
- ☐ Cost
- ☐ Transparency
- ☐ Other: _____

6. What features would make you trust an electronic voting system?

(Open-ended) _____
