

Committee of the Whole Meeting

April 13, 2026

3:00 pm

Council Chambers

IMPORTANT NOTICE: This meeting will be held in person and will be open to the public in the Council Chambers.

It will also be recorded and livestreamed electronically on the "Village of Merrickville-Wolford" YouTube channel accessible by clicking

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_OEkw3yIMarGSHGeNecrQg

Pages

1. Call to Order

2. Approval of Agenda

3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

4. Public Question Period to Committee

Public Question Period is an opportunity for residents to ask questions directed to Committee regarding items on the Agenda only.

Questions asked during this section will be considered by Committee during the item on the Agenda that it pertains to.

5. Motions for Consideration

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6. Consent Agenda

All items listed under the Consent Agenda are considered routine or no longer require further discussion and are enacted in one motion. The exception to this rule is that a Member may request that one or more items be pulled for discussion and voted on separately.

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6.3 EOWC Resolution - Alto High Speed Rail Project

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13.	Announcements/Statements from Members	
14.	Closed Session	
	None.	
15.	Resume Open Session	
	Not Required.	
16.	Adjournment	
	Next meetings of Council:	
	Regular Council Meeting - Monday, April 27th at 6:00 p.m.	

1.	Call to Order -----
2.	Approval of Agenda THAT the Agenda for the Committee of the Whole Meeting held on April 13, 2026 be approved as presented. -----
3.	Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof -----
4.	Public Question Period to Committee -----
5.	Motions for Consideration THAT the Committee of the Whole receive for information the Motions for Consideration document as presented. -----
6.	Consent Agenda THAT the Committee of the Whole receive for information all items listed under the Consent Agenda as presented. -----
7.	Delegations
7.1	Mary Kate Laphen – Merrickville Public Library 2025 Annual Report THAT the Committee of the Whole receive for information the delegation from Mary Kate Laphen regarding the Merrickville Public Library 2025 Annual Report. -----
8.	Planning Matters
8.1	Use of Unopened Road Allowances Policy THAT the Committee of the Whole accept this report for information; AND FURTHER THAT the Committee of the Whole recommends to the Council of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford to approve the Use of Unopened Road Allowances Policy. -----
9.	By-laws
9.1	Use of Corporate Resources Policy THAT the Committee of the Whole receive for information that draft Use of Corporate Resources Policy for the 2026 Municipal Election; AND FURTHER THAT Committee direct staff to bring the by-law to adopt the Use of Corporate Resources Policy to the April 27 th Regular Council Meeting to approve and adopt the policy as presented. -----
9.2	Draft Election Sign By-law THAT the Committee of the Whole receive for information the draft by-law to regulate election signs in the Village of Merrickville-Wolford;

	AND FURTHER THAT Committee recommend to Council that the draft By-law to Regulate Election Signs be brought to the April 27 th Regular Council Meeting for approval and adoption.

10.	Staff Reports
10.1	Public Works Department
10.1.1	Departmental Activity Update
	THAT the Committee of the Whole receive for information the Departmental Activity Update for the month of March as presented.

10.2	Fire Department /Emergency Management

10.3	Finance Department
10.3.1	2026 Community Grants
	THAT the Committee of the Whole give staff direction on the allocation of funds and In-Kind requests for the Community Grant Program;
	AND FURTHER THAT the direction provided be brought forward to the April 27 th Regular Council Meeting for final approval.

10.4	Building Department
10.4.1	First Quarter Report 2026
	THAT the Committee of the Whole receive for information the First Quarter Report for the Building Department for 2026.

10.5	CAO/Administration
10.5.1	Merrickville Turbine Licence Agreement
	THAT the Committee of the Whole receive for information the draft Licence Agreement for the Merrickville Turbine;
	AND FURTHER THAT Committee direct staff to bring the necessary by-law to the April 27 th Regular Council Meeting to authorize and sign the agreement as presented.

10.5.2	2026 Budget Analysis
	THAT the Committee of the Whole receive the 2026 Budget Analysis report for information.

10.5.3	Grant Funding Updates
	THAT the Committee of the Whole receive this report for information.

11.	Action Items
11.1	Grenville Condominium Corporation Request (323 Main Street)
	THAT the Committee of the Whole receive for information the email correspondence from Andrew Ball, A&A Property Administration Inc. regarding the request for the installation of separate water meters at GCC #6 located at 323 Main Street in Merrickville.

11.2	Community History Video Partnership Request Letter
	THAT the Committee of the Whole receive for information the letter from Craig Baird, Canadian History Ehx, regarding the community history video partnership opportunity.

12.	Notices of Motion
12.1	Wellington Street W Sidewalk (Deputy Mayor Barr)
	<p>WHEREAS the Village of Merrickville-Wolford is conducting infrastructure improvements on Wellington St W;</p> <p>AND WHEREAS the current project scope includes the installation of a new sidewalk (where none currently exists) on the south side of Wellington St W between St. John and St. Patrick streets;</p> <p>AND WHEREAS the residents directly impacted by this specific segment of the project have expressed formal opposition to the installation, citing concerns regarding costs, impacts to their properties, accessibility, and safety;</p> <p>AND WHEREAS the Council of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford values community engagement and seeks to ensure that infrastructure projects reflect the needs and desires of the local residents they serve;</p> <p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council directs staff to remove the provisional sidewalk segment on the south side of the road between St. John Street and St. Patrick Street.</p>

13.	Announcements/Statements from Members

14.	Closed Session

15.	Resume Open Session

16.	Adjournment
	THAT the Committee of the Whole adjourn at XX pm.

March 27, 2026

Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus Responds to the 2026 Ontario Budget

With the release of the [2026 Ontario Budget, *A Plan to Protect Ontario*](#), the [Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus](#) (EOWC) acknowledges the government's efforts to provide stability during global economic uncertainty. We appreciate investments that support regional priorities for rural and small-urban communities, residents and businesses, but know that there is more work to do together with strong collaboration across all orders of government. We further encourage continued and expanded investments in critical infrastructure, building on the commitments outlined in the 2026 Ontario Spring Budget to support long-term growth and connectivity in rural

"The Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus thanks Premier Doug Ford, Minister Peter Bethlenfalvy, and Minister Rob Flack for their leadership in delivering a 2026 Budget that supports affordability and invests in rural economic resilience. Measures such as the one-year Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) removal, the historic small business corporate income tax reduction, new investments in health, social services, supportive housing, and enhancements to the Ontario Transit Investment Fund will provide meaningful relief and growth opportunities for residents and businesses across eastern Ontario. This Budget reflects a clear understanding of the challenges and priorities facing rural and small-urban communities." - **Bonnie Clark, EOWC Chair**

In [the EOWC's pre-budget submission to the Ministry of Finance](#), we outlined seven priorities (below). We are encouraged to see federal and provincial collaboration to ensure municipalities are made whole in funding the housing-enabling infrastructure needed to support growth. The EOWC remains *ready to work, and ready to grow* to deliver results for our region.

Recommendation 1: A Strong Fiscal Framework for Local Governments

- The EOWC continues to join the [Association of Municipalities of Ontario \(AMO\)](#) to call for a modernized financial framework. The budget acknowledges the need for federal-provincial-municipal partnership, particularly on housing affordability and development charges. However, we continue to call on the government to introduce new financial framework changes to strengthen the municipal-provincial fiscal relationship.

Recommendation 2: Tailored Support for Rural and Small-Urban Municipalities

- The EOWC called for support to advance shared priorities around housing, infrastructure, and growth-related projects. The 2026 Budget responds with enhanced investments, including a doubling of the Ontario Transit Investment Fund to \$30 million over three years to support rural transit. Additionally, the Province provides direct tax relief to small businesses, which will support our communities' local economies.
- Overall, the Province continues to deliver a range of programs that support rural and small-urban municipalities. The EOWC will continue engaging with provincial leaders to demonstrate how sustained investment in communities is critical to Ontario's economic strength and Canada's overall success.

Recommendation 3: Investment in Trade-Enabling Ports

- The EOWC called for investment in trade and transport-enabling ports across eastern Ontario to strengthen the "Highway H₂O" corridor. The budget references investment in trade corridors and related infrastructure, including \$31 billion for roads and highways to connect goods to markets. Eastern Ontario remains a vital gateway for interprovincial and international trade. We see an opportunity to explore strategic investments in port and transportation infrastructure across our region to benefit the province's trade diversification agenda to 'Protect Ontario' now and in the future.

Recommendation 4: Establish a Regulated Paramedic College

- The EOWC called for the establishment of a regulated paramedic college to accelerate training, standardize professional practice, and enable an expanded scope of care. The budget includes investments in healthcare, including the \$1.1 billion in additional hospital funding, and expansions to the Ontario Learn and Stay Grant. The EOWC believes there is value in exploring models that strengthen rural and small-urban healthcare delivery and bring Ontario in line with other provinces paramedic successes; therefore, we continue to encourage investments related to a regulated paramedic college.

Recommendation 5: Affordable and Sustainable OPP Services

- The EOWC called for a collaborative approach to ensure OPP services remain affordable, transparent, and sustainable for municipalities and residents over the long-term. The budget includes public safety investments, with an additional investment of \$8.3 million for the Bail Compliance and Warrant Apprehension Grant Program in 2026-2027, but no specific measures address the cost pressures faced by municipalities that contract OPP services. We appreciate the government's investments in public safety, however, the sustainability of OPP costs for our municipalities remains a concern.

Recommendation 6: Include Rural Communities in the Building Faster Fund

- On housing affordability overall, the EOWC is pleased to see the one-year expansion of HST relief for home buyers on new homes as an immediate action to support affordability for home buyers and support regional economic growth.
- The EOWC called for the inclusion of more rural and small-urban communities in the Building Faster Fund. The budget references the Building Faster Fund but does not explicitly include expansion for more rural communities. The EOWC appreciates the Ontario government's ongoing investments in housing-enabling infrastructure. However, there is value in exploring how the Building Faster Fund, or a similar program, could be extended to a broader range of rural and small-urban municipalities.

Recommendation 7: Address Homelessness, Addictions, and Mental Health

- The EOWC called for collaborative work with municipalities to address homelessness caused by addictions and mental health. The budget delivered \$53 million over three years to expand supportive housing initiatives, enabling over 425 new units. The EOWC is encouraged by these investments as well as the government's continued investment commitments into HART Hubs.

The [Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus](#) is a non-profit organization representing 103 small urban and rural municipalities across eastern Ontario. Spanning 50,000 square kilometres and serving over 1.1 million residents, the EOWC has been a united regional voice for more than 20 years. It advocates for municipal priorities and collaborates with all orders of government, businesses, non-profits, Indigenous leaders, the media, and the public to drive positive change for eastern Ontario.

Media Contacts

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Newsletter

March 2026

EOWC Advocacy Update

The EOWC Attends Great Lakes Day 2026 in Washington, D.C.



Left-to-right: Nathan Townend, Vice-Chair, EOWC; Bonnie Clark, Chair, EOWC.

The EOWC was proud to represent eastern Ontario in Washington, D.C. as part of Great Lakes Day 2026, in partnership with the [Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative](#).

As the third-largest regional economy in the world, the Great Lakes–St. Lawrence region depends on strong cross-border collaboration, and eastern Ontario continues to play a key role in this dynamic binational corridor.

EOWC leadership, including Chair Bonnie Clark, Vice-Chair Nathan Townend, Secretary-Treasurer Sheridan Graham, and Executive Director Meredith Staveley-Watson, joined municipal leaders from across Canada and the United States for a series of high-level advocacy meetings. Together, the delegation held

10 meetings with U.S. congressional offices, embassy representatives, and key stakeholders.

As part of the delegation, municipal leaders called on U.S. government officials to:

- Preserve United States-Mexico-Canada (USMCA) and avoid new tariffs or tariff increases on Canada in 2026
- Partner with local governments and Indigenous communities to attract half a million new businesses to the Great Lakes region and increase traffic along the Seaway
- Reauthorize the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds to help close the water infrastructure gap
- Advance the Brandon Road Interbasin Project by releasing committed construction funds and removing administrative delays to protect the Great Lakes from invasive carp

[Learn More](#)



Left-to-right: Ryan Sorenson, Mayor, Sheboygan, WI; Sam Cunningham, Mayor, Waukegan, IL; Cavalier Johnson, Mayor, Milwaukee, WI; Alvin Tedjo, Councillor, Mississauga, ON; Chris Ronayne, Executive, Cuyahoga County, OH; Sea O'Meara, Councillor, Halton Region, ON; Tom Mrakas, Mayor, Aurora, ON; Lauren Anderson, Councillor, Chatham-Kent, ON; Byron Nolen, Mayor, Inkster, MI; Iain Lovatt, Mayor, Whitchurch-Stouffville, ON; Bonnie Clark, Chair, EOWC; Lew Conner, Mayor, Two Harbors City, MN; Marcus Muhammad, Mayor, City of Benton Harbor, MI; Peter Frost, Councillor, Township of the Archipelago, ON; Jack Bradley, Mayor, Lorain, OH; Mat Siscoe, Mayor, St. Catharines, ON.

The EOWC Opposes the ALTO High-Speed Train Project in its Current Form

On March 19, the EOWC Board of Directors passed a resolution opposing the Alto high-speed rail project as currently proposed. While supportive of strategic infrastructure in eastern Ontario, the EOWC emphasizes that projects must strengthen, not compromise, our rural and small-urban communities, businesses, and lands.

Key asks from the EOWC include:

- Full project and route details
- Clear understanding of local, environmental, and infrastructure impacts
- Meaningful engagement with municipalities, residents, First Nations, businesses, and regional partners
- Exploration of train routes along existing infrastructure corridors

The EOWC Attends Minister Flack's Empire Club Event



Left-to-right: Rob Flack, Minister, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing; Nathan Townend, Vice-Chair, EOWC.

The EOWC attended the Empire Club of Canada's lunch featuring Minister Rob Flack, where discussions focused on the Ontario government's latest actions to address the housing crisis.

Amid rising home prices, slowing construction, and ongoing economic pressures, the event highlighted efforts to reduce red tape, accelerate development, and better support communities across the province.

With eastern Ontario's population expected to grow by more than 35% by 2051, the EOWC remains committed to working with all levels of government and partners to increase housing supply, strengthen infrastructure, and support sustainable, long-term growth across the region.

The EOWC Attends Minister Bethlenfalvy's Pre-Budget Address



Left-to-right: Marcus Ryan, Chair, WOWC; Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister, Ministry of Finance; Bonnie, Chair, EOWC.

Ahead of the Ontario Budget, the EOWC was pleased to take part in an event hosted by the Empire Club of Canada featuring Minister Peter Bethlenfalvy. EOWC Chair Bonnie Clark joined leaders and partners to discuss the province's economic priorities and outlook.

The EOWC Shares 2026 Ontario Budget Statement

The EOWC has shared its reflections on the [2026 Ontario Budget](#), titled "A Plan to Protect Ontario," noting how it aligns with priorities outlined in [the EOWC's pre-budget submission](#).

The statement highlights investments in municipal infrastructure, housing, health services, and economic development that support eastern Ontario communities. The EOWC emphasizes the importance of continued provincial support to strengthen rural and small-urban municipalities, improve services, and build resilient communities across the region.

[Learn More](#)

EOWC Advocacy Win: Ontario Proposes Expanded HST Rebate to Boost Housing Affordability

The [Ontario government is proposing to remove the full 13% HST on eligible new homes](#) valued up to \$1 million, providing rebates of up to \$130,000 to make homeownership more affordable. In partnership with the federal government, this initiative could deliver nearly \$2.2 billion in joint tax relief, while encouraging new

home construction. The temporary measure is expected to stimulate thousands of housing starts, support job creation, and ease costs for families entering the housing market.

This represents a significant advocacy win for the EOWC, as it reflects recommendations submitted in [the EOWC's letter](#) to Minister Gregor Robertson and Ms. Ana Bailão regarding the implementation of Build Canada Homes.

The EOWC Attends Elect Respect Queen's Park Day



Elect Respect Representatives, led by Marianne Meed Ward, Mayor of Burlington.

The EOWC was pleased to join [Elect Respect](#) at Queen's Park for their advocacy day, standing in support of respectful and inclusive public service. The day provided a valuable opportunity to connect with leaders and reinforce a shared commitment to fostering safe, respectful environments for all.

[Take the Pledge](#)

The EOWC Hosts the Municipal Climate Interns at March Board Meeting



Left-to-right: Sarah Fencott, Municipal Climate Intern, Bruce County; Nathan Townend, Vice-Chair, EOWC; Larissa Coulas, Municipal Climate Intern, Renfrew County; Lindsay Winters, Municipal Climate Interns, Municipality of Port Hope; Ashtyn Nauffts, Municipal Climate Intern, Prince Edward County; Bonnie Clark, Chair, EOWC; Dexter Adkin, Municipal Climate Intern, Peterborough County; Ben Hicks, Municipal Climate Intern, Prince Edward County; Shania Dennall, City of Niagra Falls, Municipal Climate Intern, EOWC.

The EOWC was pleased to welcome the [Municipal Climate Interns](#) to its Board of Directors meeting on March 19.

The interns shared updates on their work to date within their host municipalities, while also gaining valuable insight into municipal governance and current advocacy efforts across eastern Ontario.

The EOWC Attends the 99th ORBA Convention



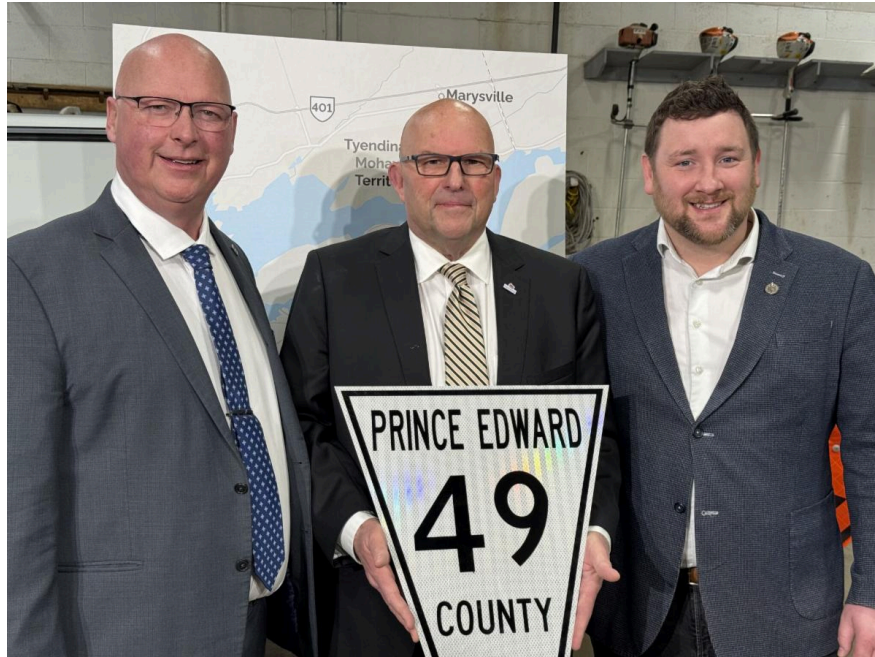
Left-to-right: Bonnie Clark, Chair, EOWC; Mark Mallett, President, ORBA.

The EOWC was pleased to attend the 99th [Ontario Road Builders' Association](#) Convention alongside partners from across the infrastructure sector.

Eastern Ontario plays a critical role in connecting Canada's two largest cities and is home to key trade-enabling highways, roads, and bridges that keep goods and people moving. The EOWC continues to emphasize that investing in infrastructure is investing in economic growth, with member municipalities at the forefront of building and maintaining strong, connected communities.

The EOWC also extends congratulations to incoming Ontario Road Builders' Association President, Mark Mallett.

Ontario Rehabilitates County Road 49 in Prince Edward County



Left-to-right: Ric Bresee, MPP, Hastings-Lennox and Addington; Steve Ferguson, Mayor, Prince Edward County; Tyler Allsopp, MPP, Bay of Quinte.

[Ontario is funding the rehabilitation of 18.4 km of County Road 49 between Picton and the Bay of Quinte Skyway Bridge](#), addressing one of the province's most deteriorated roads. The upgrades, including repaving, new culverts, and guiderail improvements, will enhance safety, and support the movement of people and goods.

Ontario Advances Highway 17 Expansion in Eastern Ontario



Left-to-right: Billy Denault, MPP, Renfrew - Nipissing - Pembroke; Ric Bresee, MPP, Hastings - Lennox and Addington; Jennifer Murphy, Warden, County of Renfrew

The [Ontario government has taken the next step toward widening Highway 17 between Renfrew and Arnprior](#), issuing a Request for Proposals to design the expansion from two to four lanes. Spanning 22.5 kilometres, this project will strengthen a key Trans-Canada trade corridor, improve traffic flow, and support job creation during construction. Building on earlier upgrades completed in 2023, the expansion aims to boost economic resilience, enhance regional connectivity, and ensure safer travel for residents and businesses across eastern Ontario.

New Affordable Seniors Housing Coming to Belleville



The [Ontario and federal governments are investing \\$375,000 to support affordable housing for seniors in Belleville](#), including 18 rent-geared-to-income units at the new Epworth Place development. Part of a broader effort to address the housing crisis, the project will provide a mix of affordable and market-rate apartments with community-focused amenities. Construction is underway, with residents expected to move in later this summer.

Ontario Advances Plans for Major Nuclear Project in Port Hope



Ontario has secured a key agreement to advance [a proposed nuclear generating station at the Wesleyville site in Port Hope](#), a project poised to become the largest of its kind in the world. The development could create over 10,500 jobs and contribute an estimated \$235 billion to the provincial economy while delivering reliable, clean power to millions of homes. The project marks a significant step toward meeting rising energy demand and supporting long-term economic growth.

New HART Hub Opens in Renfrew County to Support Recovery

[Ontario has launched a Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment \(HART\) Hub in Renfrew County](#), expanding access to integrated mental health, addictions, and social services. The facility provides treatment, supportive housing, employment counseling, and basic needs assistance, helping individuals facing housing instability and substance use challenges on their path to recovery.

Ontario Moves Forward on New Brockville Correctional Complex



[Ontario is issuing a Request for Qualifications to build the new Brockville Correctional Complex and expand the St. Lawrence Valley Correctional and Treatment Centre](#), adding 295 beds in eastern Ontario. This initiative is part of a provincewide plan to add 1,436 correctional beds by 2032, strengthening bail enforcement and ensuring space is available to keep serious and repeat offenders behind bars.

Ontario Investing \$45M to Repair Municipal Roads and Bridges

The [Ontario government is providing \\$45 million through the 2026-27 Connecting Links program](#) to help 20 municipalities repair roads and bridges that connect communities, support local jobs, and facilitate the movement of goods. Funding will support 21 projects across the province, boosting infrastructure reliability and economic growth.

This includes the following eastern Ontario municipalities:

- Bancroft
- Centre Hastings
- Havelock-Belmont-Methuen
- Loyalist Township
- Madawaska Valley
- Smith Falls



EORN

EASTERN ONTARIO REGIONAL NETWORK

EORN continues to move forward on key activities:

- Submitted comments to the CRTC on the Mobile Reporting Standards (CRTC 2026-9) consultation
- Annual General Meeting scheduled for April 16, 2026
- February project updates shared with municipalities, MPs, and MPPs

Regional Updates and News

Ontario



Ontario Invests \$2M to Build More Accessible Communities

The [Ontario government is investing over \\$2 million through the new Enhancing Access to Spaces for Everyone Grant](#) to support more than 40 projects aimed at improving accessibility for seniors and people with disabilities. Funding will help municipalities, non-profits, and Indigenous communities upgrade spaces with features like ramps, elevators, accessible washrooms, and safer pathways.

Ontario Invests \$21.5M to Strengthen Long-Term Care Workforce

The [Ontario government is investing over \\$21 million to train and upskill 700 long-term care staff](#), with a focus on supporting rural and northern communities. Through expanded Learn and Earn programs, existing workers will have opportunities to become personal support workers and registered practical nurses while continuing to work. This investment aims to strengthen staffing, improve quality of care for residents, and support career growth within the long-term care sector across the province.

Ontario Leads Historic Agreement to Build National Energy Corridor

Ontario has secured a landmark agreement with provinces and territories across Canada to strengthen and connect the country's electricity systems through [a new national energy corridor](#). The partnership will advance transmission infrastructure, expand electricity trade, and support a more reliable and resilient grid to meet growing demand.

Ontario Expands Support for Rural and Northern Livestock Producers

The [Ontario government is modernizing the Veterinary Assistance Program to improve access to veterinary care for livestock producers in Northern and rural communities](#). Updates include expanded eligibility, streamlined applications, increased compensation rates, and coverage for additional livestock such as honeybees and fish. These changes aim to strengthen the agri-food sector, support veterinarians, and ensure farmers have reliable services to maintain healthy livestock and resilient operations.

Ontario Commits Up to \$90M for Ice Storm Recovery

The [Ontario government is providing up to \\$90 million to help municipalities recover from the March 2025 ice storm](#), which caused widespread damage and power outages across central and eastern Ontario. Through the Municipal Ice Storm Assistance program, 59 communities are receiving initial funding to support emergency response efforts and cleanup costs, helping restore local infrastructure and services.

Upcoming Events



GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE

GLSLCI Conference

The Great Lakes St. Lawrence Cities Initiative will be hosting their annual conference from May 6-8, 2026, in Hamilton, Ontario.

[Register](#)



EOWC 2026 Queen's Park Advocacy Day

On May 11, 2026, the EOWC will head to Toronto for our Queen's Advocacy Day, advocating for the needs of eastern Ontario's 103 municipalities.



2026 CAMA Conference

From May 25-27, 2026, CAMA will host their 52nd Annual Conference and Annual General Meeting at the Whistler Convention Centre, in Whistler, British Columbia.

[More information](#)

Connect With Us on LinkedIn, Facebook and X



About the EOWC

The EOWC is a regional non-profit organization representing 13 upper and single-tier municipalities across eastern Ontario. The EOWC supports and advocates on behalf of 103 municipalities and serves 1.1 million residents. The EOWC covers an area of approximately 50,000 square kilometers from Northumberland County to the Québec border.

The EOWC has gained support and momentum by speaking with a united voice to champion regional municipal priorities and work with government, business leaders, the

media, and the public.

Visit the EOWC's website at eowc.org.

Connect with the EOWC

2026 Chair, Warden of Peterborough County, Bonnie Clark

2026 Vice-Chair, Warden of Lennox and Addington County, Nathan Townend

Executive Director, Meredith Staveley-Watson

info@eowc.org



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Resolution: The EOWC Opposes ALTO High-Speed Rail Project in its Current Form

Date: March 19, 2026

Moved by: Warden Richard Kidd, Lanark County

Seconded by: Warden Corinna Smith-Gatcke, United Counties of Leeds and Grenville

WHEREAS the Federal Government has identified ALTO high-speed rail as a nation-building project with an estimated cost of \$60 to \$90 billion, to deliver faster, more reliable passenger rail service; and

WHEREAS ALTO is advancing plans for a high-speed passenger rail project between the Quebec City-Toronto corridor, cutting through eastern Ontario; and

WHEREAS there is only currently one proposed stop across the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus' (EOWC) 50,000 square kilometre region, benefitting urban residents at the cost of rural residents and lands; and

WHEREAS portions of the proposed project will traverse and impact eastern Ontario communities, infrastructure, residential and agricultural lands, municipal trails, and environmentally sensitive areas, and with no long-term economic benefits; and

WHEREAS the closure and/or dead-ending of roads will have significant ongoing and unknown costs to municipalities, as well as service delivery and emergency response implications to residents and businesses; and

WHEREAS eastern Ontario municipalities and residents have not received sufficient detailed information regarding potential local impacts, including land use, environmental effects, municipal infrastructure interfaces, and long-term financial or operational implications; and

WHEREAS municipal governments are responsible for protecting local interests, ensuring compatibility with existing planning frameworks, as well as safeguarding environmental, community, and resident mental health and well-being; and

WHEREAS the EOWC and its member municipalities are actively trying to engage with ALTO through a truly meaningful consultation process to understand the impacts of both proposed high speed rail train routes to our residents, lands, trails, and businesses; and

WHEREAS the EOWC is eastern Ontario's united advocacy voice representing 103 communities who value and will advocate for the region's beautiful lands that hold deep

agricultural and cultural roots, and that are home to our rural and small-urban communities that will be impacted by ALTO.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the EOWC formally opposes the ALTO project in its current form; and

THAT this opposition is based on concerns related to insufficient municipal consultation, unclear rural and small-urban impacts, potential environmental effects, and alignments with existing eastern Ontario planning and infrastructure priorities; and

THAT the EOWC urge our member municipalities, partners, businesses, and residents to share their questions and comments with ALTO and federal representatives as part of the engagement process; and

THAT the EOWC look to gather detailed information from ALTO to more fulsomely understand the project and its impacts across eastern Ontario; and

THAT the EOWC advocates that the Federal Government and ALTO fully explore train route options along existing infrastructure corridors, such as VIA Rail and/or Highway 401; and

THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Right Honourable Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada, The Honourable Steve MacKinnon, Minister of Transportation, Martin Imbleau, President and CEO of ALTO, EOWC Members of Parliament, Premier Doug Ford, EOWC Members of Provincial Parliament, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Rural Ontario Municipal Association, the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, the Eastern Ontario Mayors' Caucus, all EOWC municipalities, and Eastern Ontario First Nations partners.

CARRIED

Signed by:



EOWC Chair Bonnie Clark
info@eowc.org

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 23, 2026

United Counties of Leeds and Grenville to Defend Position on Agricultural Area Review

The United Counties of Leeds and Grenville confirms that the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing has submitted an appeal to the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT) regarding Counties Official Plan Amendment No. 5 (OPA 5). This amendment implements the findings of the Agricultural Area Review.

The Agricultural Area Review was undertaken to meet a requirement established in the Counties' first Official Plan, approved in 2016. The review examines agricultural lands to identify whether additional prime Agricultural Area lands should be added to the Counties Official Plan and to confirm existing boundaries. The United Counties retained PLANSCAPE, supported by soil experts, to carry out the study using the provincially supported Land Evaluation and Area Review (LEAR) methodology.

The Counties has retained legal counsel and will be defending its position before the Ontario Land Tribunal.

Information related to the appeal is available directly through the Ontario Land Tribunal by visiting: <https://olt.gov.on.ca/case-status/>

For more information on the Agricultural Area Review, visit:
<https://www.leedsgrenville.com/en/government/agriculture-area-review.aspx>

-30-

Media inquiries:

John Kalivas, Communications Coordinator
United Counties of Leeds and Grenville
25 Central Avenue W., Suite 100, Brockville, ON, K6V 4N6
613-342-3840 ext. 2454 or John.Kalivas@uclg.on.ca



Council Highlights – March 19, 2026



General:

- Council accepted the 2025 Drinking Water System Annual Report for Maple View Lodge, as presented to the Maple View Lodge Committee of Management.
- Council accepted the 2025 Drinking Water Systems Annual Reports for Miller Manor, 3 Miller Drive, Mallorytown, and The Maples, 33 Bennett Street, Spencerville, as presented to the Joint Services Committee.
- Council passed a resolution objecting to the proposed ALTO high-speed rail project and calling for adequate mitigation measures and consultation.
- Council adopted the Committee of the Whole Report dated March 4, 2026, the Maple View Lodge Committee of Management Report dated March 5, 2026, and the Corporate Services and Finance Committee Reports dated February 11 and March 11, 2026.

By-laws Passed by Council:

- By-law No. 26-18 to Appoint the Area Weed Inspector for the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville.
- By-law No. 26-19 to Amend By-laws and Adopt Human Resources Policies.
- By-law No. 26-20 to Authorize the Execution of a Lease Agreement Between the UCLG and Canadian Addiction Treatment Centers for Space at 244 King Street West, Brockville.
- By-law No. 26-21 to Authorize the Execution of a Contract with Dell/ITI for Virtual Server Infrastructure Refresh.
- By-law No. 26-22 to Authorize the Execution of a Contract to Renew Managed Detection Services Through Softchoice.

Next Council Meeting:

Thursday, April 23, 2026

Council and Committee Meetings take place at 9:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers at 25 Central Ave. W., Suite 100 Brockville

If you would like to submit a question, contact the Clerk's Office at 613-342-3840 Ext. 2456

Scan the QR code for agendas, minutes, meeting videos, or to watch meetings live.



STAY CONNECTED!
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**Get on the
voters list
today.**

RegisterToVoteON.ca
1.866.242.3025

So, You Want to Run For Municipal Council?

Information Sessions

Open to anyone interested in running for Council

Saturday April 25	9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Elgin Hall, 47 Main Street, Elgin Hosted by: The Township of Rideau Lakes
Thursday April 30	6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Brockville Public Library, 23 Buell Street Hosted by: The City of Brockville
Thursday May 7	6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. 1 Jessie Street, Lansdowne Hosted by: The Township of Leeds and the Thousand Islands
Thursday May 14	6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. The Grand Room, 360 Dibble Street, West Hosted by: The Town of Prescott
Thursday May 21	6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. North Grenville Municipal Centre 285 Road#44, Kemptville Hosted by: The Municipality of North Grenville

- Get information from Municipal Professionals
- Ask Questions
- Network with others considering running

Presented by:

**Sandra MacDonald, AMCT, AOMC, CMO (CAO) and
Yvonne L. Robert, AMCT, AOMC, CMO (Retired)**

For more information, contact the clerk of your municipality or any hosting municipality clerk

From: Marissa Grondin <marissa.grondin@rvca.ca>

Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2026 10:52 AM

Subject: RVCA's Board of Directors Meeting Summary - March 26, 2026

Dear member municipalities,

The RVCA circulates the following email to all municipal CAOs, Clerks and other interested staff after each Board meeting. The email provides:

- A link to approved minutes for our past month's meeting
- A summary of our current month's Board meeting
- The date of our next Board meeting

If you would like additional people in your office to receive this email directly, please let me know.

February 26, 2026 – [Approved Minutes](#)

- Elections were held and Councillor Gary Waterfield representing the Town of Perth was elected Chair of RVCA's Board of Directors for a second one-year term for 2026, and Councillor Kristin Strackerjan representing the Municipality of North Grenville was elected Vice Chair for a second one-year term.
- Section 28 Application Timeline Reporting was presented and received
- 2026 Fee Schedule for Plan Review and Section 28 was approved
- RVCA held its Annual General Meeting:
 - Executive Committee and Audit Committee members were appointed for the 2026 term.
 - The Chair was appointed voting delegate to Conservation Ontario, with Vice-Chair and General Manager appointed first and second alternate.
 - Auditors and Legal Counsel were appointed for 2026.

- Signing officers were appointed for 2026.

March 26, 2026 – Meeting Summary

- An update on the proposed consolidation of Conservation Authorities was received.
- A tender was awarded to complete floodplain and erosion hazard mapping for Greens and Brassils Creeks.
- Unaudited financial reports for the period ending December 31, 2025 were received.
- Proposed year end reserve transfers were approved.
- Updates to RVCA's Purchasing Policy were approved.
- RVCA's programs and services activity report for January and February 2026 was delivered.

April 23, 2026 – Next meeting



Delegation Request Form

Should you wish to appear as a delegation to Council at one of their regular meetings, you are required to complete this request form and send to clerk@merrickville-wolford.ca

Name of Individual/Organization: Mary Kate Laphen, Merrickville Public Library
Council Meeting Date Requested: I'm flexible - what works for Council's schedule?

Topic: (If necessary, please attach additional correspondence)

To present the Library's 2025 Annual Report to Council.

Will send pdf of report with this form. I'll drop off print copies for the Councillors in advance.

Contact Information

Mailing Address: PO Box 460, 446 Main St W, Merrickville

Phone Number: 613-269-3326

Email: merrickville_library@bellnet.ca

Date: March 26, 2026

NOTE: All documents provided are open to the public. If you are providing communication to the Village, please be aware that your name and information will appear on the Village's website and become part of the public record, unless you expressly request that the Village remove it.

Additional Information:

- Delegations on an agenda shall be determined on a first come, first serve basis.
- The Clerk has authority under section 5.2(i) of the Procedural By-law to refuse delegation requests if necessary.
- No more than two (2) delegations shall be allowed at any meeting.
- Delegations have up to ten (10) minutes to make a presentation to Council.
- A delegation request must be submitted seven (7) days prior to the requested meeting date, with the inclusion of supporting documents if needed, to be submitted with the request form.



Merrickville Public Library

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Strategic Plan Charts Course for the Future

Connecting Our Community to the World—and Each Other

2025 was another busy and successful year for the Library. Library use continued to grow, with more active members, increased visits, and greater use of our meeting space, e-collections, and internet services. The Board is pleased to report that the Library is providing services that Merrickville-Wolford and Montague residents value.

This fall, we launched our new Strategic Plan. Shaped by community input, the Plan centers on Connection — connecting with residents to ensure our collections, programs, and services reflect their needs, and deepening our community partnerships to offer more opportunities for the public.

The Library has a strong tradition of collaboration. In 2025, we partnered with local groups and individuals to deliver meaningful learning, wellness, and social engagement programs, including new initiatives (p. 2–3). A major focus was



youth: with new programs such as the Lions Reading Den, Literacy Kits, a teen group, Rideau Eco-Literacy workshops, and expanded school visits. We also continued long-standing programs with our partners (p. 4–5).

The Strategic Plan also outlines goals for enhancing our collection and technology to serve a growing population, refreshing our interior and infrastructure, and preparing for future staff changes. Work on these priorities will begin in 2026.

See our new
[Strategic Plan](#)



The Board is confident that this Plan positions the Library to meet the evolving needs of our community and to support municipal goals by contributing to the well-being of Merrickville-Wolford and Montague residents.



“This is the nicest library in Ontario.” – MPP Steve Clark



MPP Steve Clark visited our hugely popular Eco-Literacy program to check out Canoe Day



BY THE NUMBERS

2025 Library Use

Library Visits

↑ 5% **15,400**

Items Borrowed

TOTAL Circulation: **33,650**

↓ 1% Library Materials: 20,400
eBooks, etc: 10,770
Kanopy Films: 2,480

InterLibrary Loans Borrowed: 675
InterLibrary Loans Lent: 885

Programs & Meetings

↑ 15% # of: Programs: **300**
Class Visits: **120**
Meetings: **150**

↑ 39% Total Participants: **6,570**

Computer & Internet Use

Library Computers: 1,500

Wifi: **1,625**

↑ 13% TOTAL: **3,125**

Active Library Members

↑ 1% Individuals: 1,950
Households/Grps: 920

New in 2025: 105 Hhds

Busiest Month: July



Merrickville Public Library

New Library Programs & Services in 2025

Connecting with Partners Enhances Community Well-Being

The Library is committed to staying relevant and responsive to our community. Each year our programs and services evolve — and 2025 was no exception.

None of this would be possible without our partners, who lead, fund, and support many programs with us. These collaborations allow our small library to offer a wider range of services, while also helping partner groups reach the community more efficiently and cost-effectively. “We work better when we work together.”



RIDEAU ECO-LITERACY CENTER

Rideau Eco-Literacy

2024’s **Rideau Eco-Literacy** program — a partnership of the **Rideau Roundtable** and 6 area libraries — expanded in 2025 to include regular workshops for kids. These ran monthly in the spring and weekly through the summer. Program lead **Tina Bye** took advantage of our riverside location to bring a variety of engaging and educational workshops on the ecology, flora & fauna, and history of the Rideau River—including a Voyageur canoe ride (see photo p. 1).

Our library set a up a new Eco-Literacy collection on wetlands and related subjects to keep the learning going.

New Literacy Support

We were excited to work with the **Merrickville Lions Club** this summer to host their very successful new literacy program: **The Lions Reading Den**. Local kids reading below grade level came to the Library daily for this free 3-week program led by a team of 3 elementary school teachers.

The Library also added customizable **Literacy Kits** with materials to help parents support young readers. This collection was created with funds donated in memory of **Liz Wallace**.



Chill & Chat

Led by two local teens, **Chill & Chat** kicked off in 2025. This ongoing program is a place for teens to spend time together IRL for maker activities, games, and snacks!





Connecting Our Community to the World – and Each Other



Repair Café

The Library partners with Sustainable Merrickville-Wolford to host **Repair Cafés**, where skilled volunteers do free repairs on small appliances and other household items, as well as sewing repairs — and bicycle “spring tune-ups”. Repair Café is a great way to help community members save money and keep items out of the landfill.

Craft Tool Library

In December, the Library launched a **Craft Tool Library**, with the help of local crafter Michelle Philp, that lends craft equipment to community members — for art projects, baking, fibre crafts, woodworking, scrapbooking and papercrafts, and more. The Library will also host craft workshops and knitting lessons to encourage connection and lifelong learning.



Special Events

The Library welcomes new ways to connect with community members and to connect them with each other.

We partnered with the **Merrickville-Wolford & District Chamber of Commerce** to host an inclusive family-friendly **Pride Day** in June. Over **40** people attended.

The Library joined with the **Lions Club** to host a “**Friends & Foes**” Party to celebrate *Harry Potter Book Day* (Oct 9), filling our space with themed activities. **50** youth participated.

The Library collaborated with local puzzle company, **The Occurrence**, and **The Pews** to run a successful **Puzzle Race** evening. **11** teams competed to be the first to finish the custom jigsaw.



The Library Makes a Difference

“I was at a Moms event and we were all talking about how great the Library is. The Saturday Play Days and the other programs. And how much we love what you do here.” – K.F.

Re: new Literacy Centre “I’ve never seen anything like this in a library. I like these decodable books for older kids. This is really impressive; you should be very proud of it.” – Visitor from Ottawa

“Christmas Off the Shelf is always magical” – M.H.

“The [Seniors] smartphone course was brilliant. Excellent instructor and very informative. My wife is excited to take it next time.” – R.S.

“The Seed Library was a blessing to me last year. I learned so much; the garden will be even better this year. My granddaughter will help me plant, then she can watch the seeds grow.” – C.W.

Repair Café: “This is great! I thought I’d have to trash this, but now it’s fixed!” – D.A.

Pride Day: “This was a nice event. We appreciate you having it.” – LGBTQ+ parent

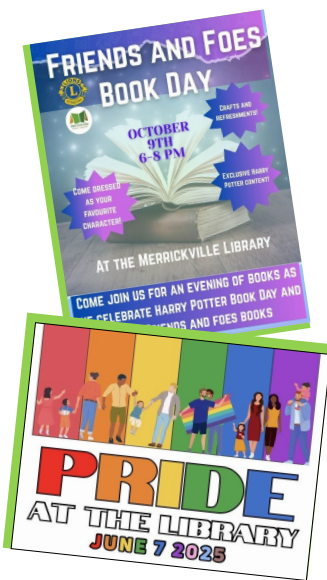
“I was on a Sherlock Holmes kick and wanted to watch the 1930’s movies. I couldn’t find a service to stream them, then I saw they were on Kanopy. Now I check Kanopy first!” – C.G.

“The kids are always excited when you come to read [to the class].” – Mrs Allen, MPS teacher

“I just wanted to thank you for hosting our PEP Rally workshop! Your warm and welcoming environment helped create the safe, empowering space we aim for.” – Faith Clark, Girls Inc [email]

And the Library worked with local artist **Graham Annable** and **Chris Chinkiwsky** from **Coba Studios** on their new **Find the Hidden People Contest** along two local trails in October.

We received over **50** entries from both kids and adults. Everyone loved counting the gnomes while enjoying the fall trails and hope to see them again in 2026.





Merrickville Public Library

Library programs support community well-being by encouraging life-long learning, social connection, family engagement, and early literacy through play. In 2025, we offered both new and long-standing programs for adults and children — including the seniors' programs introduced in 2023–24 and StoryTime, which has run on Friday mornings for over 30 years. Our meeting room remains a valued community space. Increased program participation and meeting room use were key contributors to the rise in library visits in 2025.



Speaker Diana Beresford-Kroeger draws a crowd

Seed Library
Users: 170+
Seed Packs Taken: 1,100
Seedy Saturday: 150 participants

"Seedy Saturday" seed exchange

Adult Learning & Engagement

Off The Shelf: literary readings for adult listeners hosted by **Charles Merredew** and **Gloria Stowell**.

Fitness for Your Aging Brain: seniors' fitness program focusing on brain health.

Mobile Plus Smartphone Class: seniors' smartphone classes led by staff from the **Adult Learning & Training Centre**.

Guided Meditation: weekly sessions led by staff from the **Merrickville & District Community Health Centre**.

Book Clubs: the Library hosts a monthly Book Club and supplies books for 6 others in the community.

The **Seed Library** saw increased use in 2025. Thank you to **West Coast Seeds, Ritchie Feed & Seed, the Ottawa Wildflower Seed Library,** and local growers for donating seeds to keep the Seed Library sustainable.

Seedy Saturday — our annual seed and seedling exchange — also continued to grow, featuring speakers such as environmentalist and plant expert **Diana Beresford-Kroeger**.

Thank you to the volunteer Steering Committee. The Seed Library is a joint project with **Sustainable Merrickville-Wolford**.



Mah Jong Club

Meeting Room Use (by Groups)
Meetings: 150
Participation: 960

A Place to Meet

Use of the meeting room by community groups and hobby groups increased substantially in 2025. These groups included the new Mah Jong Club, Knitting Club, Photography Group, Agricultural Fair Board, Chamber of Commerce, Lions Club, Theatre Night In Merrickville, Soccer Club, Run Merrickville, Scouting leaders, the Friends of the Library & more.

Remote meeting space is also available through the Library's Zoom account.

Library Partnerships Connect our Community Thank you to our Partners

- Merrickville Lions Club
- Sustainable Merrickville-Wolford
- Trails Society (MDTS)
- Community Health Centre (RCHS)
- Historical Society (MDHS)
- École Ste-Marguerite-Bourgeois
- Merrickville Public School
- Montague Public School
- Merrickville Day Nursery School
- Merrickville Cooperative Playgroup
- Rideau Roundtable Eco-Literacy
- Adult Learning & Training Centre
- Chamber of Commerce
- North Grenville Early Years Centre
- The Occurrence & The Pews
- Merrickville Legion Branch 245



Program Participation

Adult Programs:	107
Participants:	900
Kids/Youth Programs:	144
Participants:	1,830
Summer Reading Club:	117 kids
Class Visits (in Lib):	23
Class Visits (to Sch):	101
Total Participants:	2,280
Other Librarian Visits:	45
Participants:	620

A Playground for your Mind ”

Library Programs Entertain, Educate & Engage

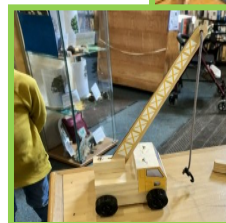
The Library's children's programs, include literacy-based programs and other "edu-tainment", as well as play opportunities for families. In addition to our new programs [see p. 2-3], the Library offered:

- Our weekly preschool/toddler **StoryTime** to develop pre-literacy and school readiness skills through stories, songs, & crafts.
- The **TD Summer Reading Club** for school-aged kids (sponsored by the **TD Financial Group**) combines our popular Prize Draw (kids earn tickets by reading books) with weekly activities. This year's theme was "Around the World" and included crafts and activities from other countries. Reading programs keep up literacy skills and prevent summer learning loss. Youth library visits sky-rocket during the summer and their circulation doubled.
- **Anya Perry (Maple Music Studios)** led a series of hands-on **Mini Music Makers** programs for preschoolers.
- The Library partners with the **Lions Club** and community members on the steering committee of the **ECO-Champions Contest** — an initiative to raise awareness about species at risk in Merrickville-Wolford. The Library was pleased to display the contest entries through the summer. See www.ecochampions.ca.
- **March Break** offers a variety of crafts and STEAM (*Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math*) projects for school-aged youth.
- The Library welcomed staff from the **North Grenville EarlyON** for a **Baby Play & Learn** and a pre-school **Teddy Bear Picnic**.
- Our **Saturday PlayDays** make the Library a family destination — offering a variety of play opportunities and books to take home. Parents also get time to socialize and browse the Library.
- The Library continues to partner with the **Merrickville & District Trails Society** on the **Story Trail** — a great way for

See our [Story Trail video](#) here:



Thank you **Victoria Nichols School of Highland Dancing** for an introductory lesson as part of our Summer Reading Club



March Break maker activities

Connecting with Classes

Library Visits (to and from)

- École Ste-Marguerite-Bourgeois
- Merrickville Public School
- Montague Public School
- Merrickville Day Nursery School
- Merrickville PlayGroup
- Firefighters' Halloween Party

We were pleased to welcome more class visits from **École Ste-Marguerite-Bourgeois** to the Library this fall. Librarian visits to primary classes at **Merrickville Public School** continued bi-weekly in 2025 — and we were delighted to increase visits to **Montague Public School** this year. These visits raise the Library's profile with students and encourage them to visit. They are also a great way for the Library to better connect with Montague residents!

Mary Kate also makes regular visits to the local daycare and playgroup.





Merrickville Public Library

Popular Collections & Services

New Materials

The Library continuously adds new materials to our collection. In 2025, over 1,000 new titles were added.

Pools & ILLs

The Library collaborates with other Ontario libraries to keep collections fresh at a modest cost. We participate in **Large Print**, **DVD**, and **adult French book** pools, which switch materials several times a year. We are also active in the **InterLibrary Loan** network which lends titles between libraries.

eCollections

Members love the convenience and wide selection of our eCollections — sponsored by the **Friends of the Library**. Use of our **OverDrive** collection of eBooks, eAudiobooks and eMagazines, and of our **Kanopy** film streaming collection of indie, foreign and award-winning films, documentaries, and children's content increased in 2025 [see p. 1].

Museum Passes & MAPsacks!

The Library partners with these area museums to lend family passes to the community.

- Agriculture
- History
- Nature
- National Gallery
- Space & Aviation
- Science & Technology
- War
- Upper Canada Village

The Library also lends **MAPsack** (Movement and Play) backpacks — with stories, nature guides, and a family park pass — to encourage family outdoor exploration. This award-winning program of the Lanark, Leeds & Grenville Healthy Community Partnership **promotes healthy living**.

Accessible Services

The Library partners with the **Centre for Equitable Library Access (CELA)** to provide materials for members with print disabilities.

@ Your Library

- Books — for all ages!
- eBooks & eAudiobooks
- Magazines & eMagazines
- DVDs
- Kanopy Film Streaming
- eResources
- Literacy Kits ***NEW**
- AudioBooks
- Large Print Books
- CELA Talking Books
- Accessible Services
- Jigsaw Puzzles
- Genealogy & Local History
- InterLibrary Loan
- Meeting Space & Zoom
- Museum Passes
- MAPsacks
- High-speed Internet
- Computers & MS Office
- Wireless access 24/7
- Print / Scan / Copy / Fax
- Radon Detectors
- Craft Tool Library ***NEW**

The Board thanks the Friends & Volunteers for all they do for the Library

A Little Help from Our Friends



The **Friends of the Library** continued their fundraising efforts in 2025 with their popular plant sale, garage sale, and used book and DVD sales — as well as a new Adventure Hunt fundraiser.

The Friends contributed **over \$6,500** to the Library to sponsor our ebook collection, film streaming service, reference e-resources, DVD pool, adult programs, & more.



Thank You Volunteers

A huge thank you to our dedicated volunteers who donate their time each week to support essential tasks such as processing, repairing and shelving books, packaging interlibrary loans, scanning genealogy records, and many other tasks.

Their contribution allows the Library to provide our current high level of service without additional staff.

Our Volunteers

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Kathy Brown | Alice Mills |
| Kirsten Finstad | Brenda Reid |
| Maureen Gross | Liz Sinclair |
| Scott Luke | Mary Small |
| Diana McCavera | Gyn Wylie |



Thank You to the Merrickville & District (MaD) Gardeners for their dedicated plant care through the summer and fall.





Working Together Lets Us Work Better

Thank You Donors

The Board is very grateful to those who donate to the Library. These contributions support books, programs, equipment, and other administrative needs.

The Library has received significant gifts from a generous donor, with most of these funds — along with other direct donations — directed to the Library's endowment reserve fund, administered by the **Ottawa Community Foundation**, to provide supplementary funding for future needs.

The Library Board sincerely thanks all our donors for their support.

Special thanks to :

Merrickville Legion Branch 245 for donating \$1,000 towards youth programs! This donation sponsors **Mini Music Makers, Chill & Chat**, and new science workshops in 2026.

The **Merrickville Seniors Dance Club** for donating the proceeds of one of their dances.

Spotlight on Lions

The Library is delighted to have collaborated with the Merrickville Lions Club on several recent projects, including the **Lions Reading Den**, and looks forward to growing this partnership in the years ahead.



Provincial Funding

The Library appreciates this annual funding from the **Ministry of Tourism, Culture & Gaming**.

Library Operating Grant	\$5,100
Internet Funding	\$2,040
InterLibrary Loan Postage	\$1,240

See what's new
@ your Library:
merrickvillelibrary.ca



Library Board Charts the Path Ahead

The Library Board devoted 2025 to strategic planning, including a community needs assessment, a public survey, and consultations with library partners. The Board was pleased with the strong positive feedback on current services and has developed a Strategic Plan to 2030 that strengthens valued programs while addressing upcoming organizational needs. An implementation plan has now been launched. In 2026, the Board will focus on updating the service agreement with Montague, which dates from the 1980s, and will conclude by preparing a legacy document for the next Board.

The Board has also been active in developing the 2026 budget and overseeing Library operations to ensure staff provide **excellent customer service** and quality library services to **support the well-being of the community**. A 2025 evaluation using the *Valuing Ontario Libraries Toolkit* (VOLT) determined that every dollar invested in the Merrickville Library generates a Social Return on Investment of \$11.50. This contributes to Merrickville-Wolford's strategic goal of **Efficient, Effective Services and Civic Engagement** and to Montague's mission to **work together to provide services to build and support the community**.

The Library Board would like to thank the Councils of Merrickville-Wolford and Montague Township for their ongoing support.



Library Board 2025-2026

- Kaitlyn Brady, Board Chair
- Jane Coghlan
- Cindi Delcorde
- Amelia Wilding
- Margaret Gural, Council Representative
- Olivia Enns, Montague Representative

And Your Staff ...

- Mary Kate Laphen, CEO
- Linda Purvis-Carriveau

The Library Makes a Difference

"This library is WONDERFUL! Wow! I want to join!" – New resident

"I've never been to the Library before. It's a cool place" – Youth at Harry Potter Party.

"We use our library all the time. I don't know what we'd do without it." — H.G.

The Library is a hit with Visitors

"This is such a beautiful little library. I'm going to bring my kids in, they'll love this."

"You have a very nice library. Whenever we come here, we drop by. It has such a nice atmosphere."

"This is the nicest library. Our library is good, but this one is so... cozy and cute."

"I love everything about this Library." — S.T.



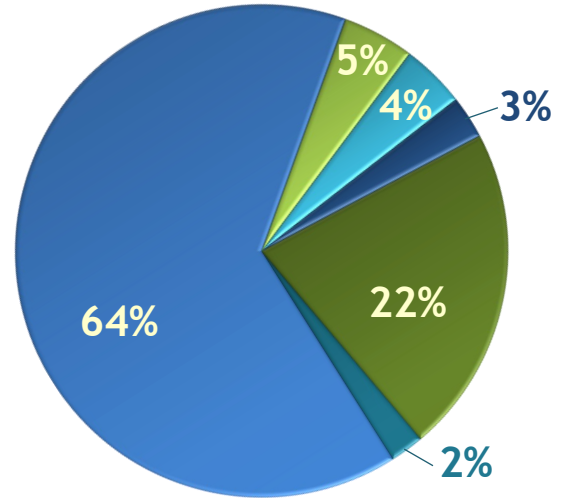
Merrickville Public Library 2025 Financial Summary

Note: Financial data is not yet audited

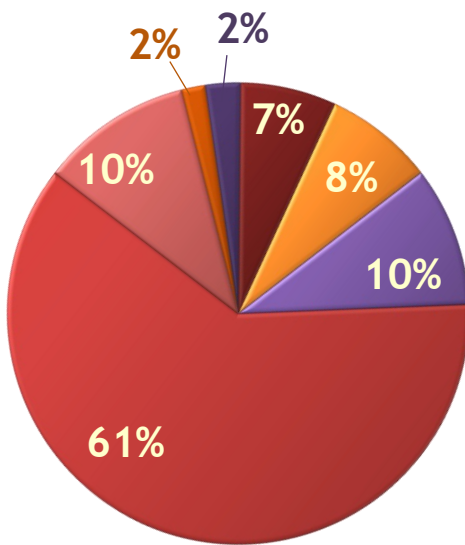
Operating Revenue

Merrickville-Wolford Grant	\$128,300	(64%)
Montague Grant	\$ 9,400	(5%)
Provincial Grants (see p7) (Operating grant, Internet & ILL funding)	\$ 8,400	(4%)
Revenue from Endowment Fund (OCF)	\$ 5,600	(3%)
Donations & Special Grants (incl Friends of Library)	\$ 42,900	(22%)
In-Library Revenue (incl bank interest)	\$ 4,400	(2%)
TOTAL Revenue	\$199,000	

Where the Money Comes From



Where the Money Goes



Operating Expenses

Staffing (includes professional development)	\$115,000	(61%)
Facilities (utilities, cleaning, maintenance)	\$ 18,500	(10%)
Collections (books, e-resources, pools)	\$ 14,400	(8%)
Administration, Supplies, etc.	\$ 12,650	(7%)
Computer/Internet (includes equipment & IT support)	\$ 4,650	(2%)
Programs (includes Seed Library & Story Trail)	\$ 3,100	(2%)
Transferred to Term Endowment:	\$20,000	(10%)
TOTAL Expenses	\$188,300	
Surplus/Deficit	\$10,700	

Municipal Contributions (In Kind)

Building Maintenance Work (Exterior)	\$3,430
Financial Services: (Payroll, Bookkeeping)	\$5,000
Public Works Services: (Snow/Grass, etc)	\$10,000
Total Value	\$18,430

Term Endowment Reserve (OCF)

Balance January 2025	\$128,508
Transfer from Donations (from 2024)	\$12,000
Donations 2025 (Direct)	\$350
Transfer from Library Donations (2025)	\$20,000
Income & Gains	\$18,008
Less: Disbursements & Fees	<u>(\$7,962)</u>
Year End Balance, 2025	\$170,904

Report to Committee of the Whole

Date: 4/13/2026
From: Brittany Mulhern, Consultant Planner
Re: Use of Unopened Road Allowances Policy

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Committee of the Whole accept this report for information.

AND FURTHER THAT the Committee of the Whole recommends to the Council of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford to approve the Use of Unopened Road Allowances Policy.

BACKGROUND

Cunningham Swan prepared a policy document titled “Use of Unopened Road Allowances Policy” relating to the use of unopened road allowances in the Village. This policy was presented to Council at the November 24, 2025 Council meeting where staff were directed by Council to provide more detailed information on the policy. Staff provided a detailed review of the policy as requested at the January 12th Committee of the Whole Meeting.

At the January meeting Council directed staff to remove the road allowance closure sections of the policy noting that Council had recently passed a separate road allowance closure policy. Council further directed staff to focus on a usage policy with criteria related to farm accesses, process for minor improvements, and oversight by staff, while ensuring that agreements would protect abutting landowners.

POLICY OVERVIEW

The purpose of the revised policy is to establish clear direction to the public and staff for use of unopened road allowances. All sections related to the closure of a road allowance have been removed as per Council’s direction. The policy has also been adapted to the format utilized for the 2025 Road Closure Policy.

The policy now includes differentiation between Agricultural Access and Private Driveway:

“Agricultural Access” means a driveway over an Unopened Road Allowance with the primary purpose being for access to agricultural lands.

“Private Driveway” means access over an Unopened Road Allowance with the primary purpose being for access to non-agricultural lands.

The main differences between the Agricultural Access and the Private Driveway is that Private Driveways are restricted to shorter distances along a road allowance and that the Clerk is delegated authority to enter into agreements with applicants for Agricultural Access requests provided there are no identified concerns.

The policy additionally provides a detailed overview of the process involved in the request to use a road allowance and clarifies the requirements for both Encroachment Agreements and License Agreements.

CONCLUSION

The policy provides clear direction to staff, Council and the public on the use of unopened road allowances. The policy outlines permitted uses for unopened road allowances and outlines a procedure for any requests for usage, while protecting the Village from liability through the use of appropriate agreements.

ATTACHMENTS

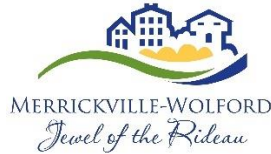
- Use of Unopened Road Allowances Policy

Submitted by:

Brittany Mulhern, Fotenn Planning +Design

Approved by:

Darlene Plumley, CAO



Policy Name: Use of Unopened Road Allowances Policy

By-law Number:	XX-2026
Revision Date:	
Approval Date:	_____, 2026

1. Policy Statement

- a) The Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford (hereafter the “Municipality”) is committed to reviewing and implementing Requests for Use of Unopened Road Allowances in a manner that is fiscally responsible, transparent, accountable and consistent.

2. Purpose

- a) The purpose of this Policy is to provide guidance and procedures to govern the process for the use of Unopened Road Allowances within the Municipality.

3. Scope

- a) This Policy applies to Council and all municipal departments.
- b) This Policy applies to the use of Unopened Road Allowances initiated through an unsolicited written application received from the public.
- c) This Policy does not apply to road closures or conveyances.

4. Legislative Authority

- a) Section 35 of the *Municipal Act, 2001* provides that Council may pass by-laws removing or restricting the common law right of passage by the public over a highway and the common law right of access to the highway by an owner of land abutting a highway.

5. Definitions

- a) For the purposes of this Policy, the following definitions shall apply:

“Abutting” shall mean a parcel of land adjoining another parcel of land having one (1) or more lot lines in common;

“Agricultural Access” means a driveway over an Unopened Road Allowance with the primary purpose being for access to agricultural lands.

“CAO” means the Chief Administrative Officer appointed by By-law of Council or their designate.

“Closure” means the closure of a road to remove its status as a Public Highway under the Act and to convert the land holding from that of a road authority to other lands owned by the Municipality.

“Council” means the elected Council for the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford.

“Encroachment Agreement” means a legal document authorizing an existing encroachment of a building, driveway or private lane on municipal property.

“Landlocked” means a parcel of land that will not have sufficient access to a public road if the whole or a portion of road allowance is restricted.

“Licence Agreement” means a legal document entered into with the Municipality authorizing the use of Municipal Property, namely untraveled portions of Unopened Road Allowances.

“Municipality” means the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford.

“Municipal Act” means the *Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c. 25*, as amended.

“Municipal Lands” means Lands owned by the Municipality, including road allowances.

“Private Driveway” means access over an Unopened Road Allowance with the primary purpose being for access to non-agricultural lands.

“Reference Plan” means a plan prepared by an Ontario Land Surveyor which pictorially details the dimensions of a parcel of land or easement, and which provides a legal description for registration purposes. May also be referred to as a **“Survey”**.

“Road” means a Public Highway under the Municipal Act and the terms Street, Highway, Common Highway, Original Road Allowance, Road Allowance, Shore Road Allowance, Quarter Session Road (all whether open or not opened), are all used within the meaning of ‘Road’.

“Unopened Road Allowance” as defined by the *Municipal Act* is a public highway that has not been opened and assumed for maintenance purposes by By-law of the Municipality. Unopened road allowances may accommodate seasonal (summer) traffic, private access to a farm, house, or vacant lands, logging access, or may function as a trail or public access to a water body. Where an Unopened Road Allowance currently has some form of use it is referred to as an existing or public right of way.

6. General

- a) All requests for use of an Unopened Road Allowance shall be in accordance with this Policy and shall conform to the procedures outlined herein.
- b) All requests for use of an Unopened Road Allowance shall generally be initiated by a property owner Abutting the subject road, however in limited circumstances requests by organizations may be permitted.
- c) Any required Surveys shall be conducted by the Municipality, and applicants are advised that they do not have authority to conduct Surveys of Municipally owned land. A preliminary survey plan may be initiated to assist in the review.
- d) The Municipality will generally refuse to permit any person to open any Unopened Road Allowance within the Municipality by way of a trail, driveway, or road capable of being used by any motor vehicle whatsoever. The purpose of this policy is to protect the Municipality from liability claims by persons using unimproved Unopened Road Allowance and from demands that such Unopened Road Allowance be improved and maintained at the expense of general ratepayers.
- e) The Municipality may consider permitting the opening up of an Unopened Road Allowance where the number of potential users warrants the expense of maintaining it, where such potential users are prepared to pay the cost of initially constructing a road to the same standard as similar publicly maintained roads located elsewhere in the Municipality, and where an agreement is signed between the parties respecting the opening and maintenance of the road allowance.

- f) No person shall erect a dock or any kind of structure on an Unopened Road Allowance leading to the water so as to have the effect of restricting public use of the Unopened Road Allowance.
- g) No person shall store any vehicle, boat, trailer, etc. on an Unopened Road Allowance.
- h) No person shall perform any work, remove any trees, soil, or other material, or erect upon or use any Unopened Road Allowance without specific written approval of the Municipality.
- i) If permission is granted by Council for use of a road allowance, or an encroachment on to either an open or an unopened road allowance, the following policies shall apply, as determined by the Municipality:
 - i. The actual location of the road allowance must be clearly determined. This is the responsibility of the applicant and may be required to be verified by an Ontario Land Surveyor, at the expense of the applicant.
 - ii. If a new entrance way is required, the approval of the Public Works Department as to its location, width, size, and length of culvert to be installed and the grade at which it intersects the Municipal Road, and the Unopened Road Allowance, is required.
 - iii. Where entry is upon a roadway not under the jurisdiction of the Municipality, the standards and specifications of the Ministry of Transportation shall apply, and for clarity to the same standards as similar publicly maintained roads located elsewhere in the Municipality.
 - iv. If brushing and clearing of the road allowance is undertaken, arrangements for the disposal of brush and/or compensation for wood of value harvested on the road allowance shall be obtained in writing by the applicant from the Municipality.
 - v. If the application is for the provision of an access road, driveway or right-of-way, the minimum width of clearance shall be as stipulated in the Municipal Zoning By-law (approximately six metres). The driveway shall generally be in the centre of the road allowance wherever possible, leaving an equal buffer on either side of the cleared area, unless otherwise approved by Council.
 - vi. The applicant shall acknowledge in writing that all improvements to the road allowance are at the sole expense of the applicant, and all such improvements must be approved by the Municipality.

- vii. The applicant must acknowledge in writing that the Municipality assumes no liability, responsibility, or obligation whatsoever to construct and/or maintain and/or repair the road allowance.
- viii. The applicant must agree to indemnify and save harmless the Municipality its employees and councillors from all manner of actions, causes of actions, claims or demands whatsoever for or by reason of any personal injury and/or property damage of or in any way arising out of any accident whatsoever occurring on the road allowance.

7. Review Process

- a) Applications for permission to use or encroach upon an Unopened Road Allowance shall be submitted in writing to the Clerk. The application must state the intended use, the applicant's interest in the allowance, and be accompanied by an accurate location and description plan as well as any other material or studies contemplated by this policy. Requests for Encroachment Agreements shall be accompanied by a survey of the lands illustrating the encroachment.
- b) Following receipt of the completed application form, staff will conduct a review of the application with respect to the following criteria:
 - i. The distance to be traveled along the road allowance is short, generally less than 30 meters from the front of the lot, except longer distances may be considered for Agricultural Access.
 - ii. The number of property owners who could access the section of road allowance to be used is very limited, no new lot creation is to be permitted, and in no case will the Municipality assume maintenance of an Unopened Road Allowance used as a Private Driveway.
 - iii. Each of the adjoining owners mentioned in the previous sub-paragraph enters into an agreement to be registered on title and binding subsequent owners of their property not to demand future improvement of the road allowance by the Municipality and protecting the Municipality from liability claims of users of the driveway.
 - iv. Where necessary, the boundaries of the portion of road allowance to be used are marked by an Ontario Land Surveyor and a Reference Plan prepared and, if further necessary, filed at the Land Registry Office at the expense of the applicant, prior to the commencement of any work to avoid trespassing on neighbouring land.
 - v. The proposal is completed in such a way as to prevent or discourage members of the public from using the portion of the road allowance

subject to the application. Such measures may include locating part of the driveway / travelled portion of the driveway on private property so that it can be gated, and access controlled where required by the Municipality.

- vi. Notwithstanding 'v.', the use of the Unopened Road Allowance should not result in a hardship for any existing users and/or does not result in any property being landlocked. Confirmation from property owners adjacent to the Unopened Road Allowance may be required.
 - vii. Any Provincial or Federal requirements dealing with Environmental Approvals have been obtained.
- c) Staff will circulate review documents and background information to affected departments and the solicitor (if necessary) for comment.
 - d) For Agricultural Access requests, should the review in 7 b) and c) not result in any identified concerns, and should there be no objections from property owners adjacent to the Unopened Road Allowance, the Clerk is authorized to enter into an Agreement with the Applicant on behalf of the Municipality for the use of the Unopened Road Allowance.
 - e) For all other requests, the procedure will follow Section 8.

8. Report/ By-law with Agreement to Council

- a) Staff shall submit a staff report outlining the request and confirmation that the review process outlined under Section 7 has been satisfied, to Council with a staff recommendation and by-law to proceed with the request, in whole or in part, to enter into a License or Encroachment Agreement with the Municipality.
 - i. Should the staff recommendation not be in favour of the request for use of the Unopened Road Allowance, a by-law to enter into the Agreement will still be required with the report in the event that Council wishes to proceed with the request.
- b) Following Council's review of the application:
 - i. Should the application be denied, the applicant will be so advised in writing.
 - ii. Should the application be recommended to proceed, the process outlined below will be followed for the applicable agreement.

9. Encroachment Agreements

- a) Where there are existing buildings or structures, including foundations, partially encroaching on to a road allowance this policy encourages relocation of said buildings, structures, and foundations off the said road allowances wherever practical and reasonable.
- b) Where it is not practical and possible to relocate a building or structure partially encroaching on to a road allowance, this policy shall allow the encroachment to continue through an agreement with the municipality. The agreement shall specify terms of the encroachment including required notice of termination of the agreement, rights of the Municipality to use the road allowance, public access rights and similar. As a general principle the Municipality will not limit continued public access to any road allowance even where an encroachment agreement is permitted.
- c) This policy does not permit the expansion, redevelopment or increase in size of any existing encroachment on a road, whether it is recognized by an encroachment agreement or not.
- d) The Encroachment Agreement shall be approved by By-law and shall be registered on the title of the benefitting lands. No registrations shall occur on the title of the Unopened Road Allowance.
- e) Any encroachment agreement will contain a provision that on reasonable notice the Municipality may require the encroachment to be removed.
- f) Any person requesting the Municipality to permit an encroachment to continue shall comply with the requirements of this policy.

10. License Agreements

- a) Licence Agreements shall be permitted on Unopened Road Allowances where the continued use requires a Licence Agreement from the Municipality. The Agreement will allow the applicant to use the lands for access to a property or other such reasons. The municipal Council must deem a new use necessary and appropriate. The granting of a new Licence Agreement may be withheld for any reason.
- b) Licence Agreements shall acknowledge that there will be no negative impact to abutting landowners and if negative impacts occur due to the alterations, the road allowance is to be brought back to the original state with the cost borne by the applicant.

- c) Licence Agreements shall be registered on the title of the benefitting lands. No registrations shall occur on the title of the Unopened Road Allowance.

11. Costs

- a) The applicant shall be responsible for all costs associated with the request which may include legal opinions and advice, title searches, registrations, advertising, and surveys.
- b) All costs for improving and maintaining the Unopened Road Allowance in accordance with the Agreement are the sole responsibility of the applicant.

12. Responsibility and Implementation

- a) Council is responsible for approving this Policy.
- b) The CAO or designate is responsible for:
 - i. Directing compliance and resolving any conflicts with this Policy;
 - ii. Assigning appropriate service departments for the administration of this Policy as required; and
 - iii. Establishing procedural guidelines.
- c) Staff shall be responsible for:
 - i. The administration and management of this Policy in consultation with such departments or committees as deemed appropriate and as described in the Policy;

13. Documentation and Forms

- a) All requests for use of an Unopened Road Allowance shall be submitted on the application form prescribed by the municipality from time to time.

Report to Committee of the Whole

Date: 4/13/2026
From: Julia McCaugherty-Jansman, Clerk
Re: Use of Corporate Resources Policy

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Committee of the Whole receive for information that draft Use of Corporate Resources Policy for the 2026 Municipal Election;

AND FURTHER THAT Committee direct staff to bring the by-law to adopt the Use of Corporate Resources Policy to the April 27th Regular Council Meeting to approve and adopt the policy as presented.

BACKGROUND

The Municipal Elections Act, 1996 (MEA) establishes rules governing municipal elections, which includes finance provisions and restrictions on the use of municipal resources. Section 88.18 of the MEA states the following:

88.18 Before May 1 in the year of a regular election, municipalities and local boards shall establish rules and procedures with respect to the use of municipal or board resources, as the case may be, during the election campaign period.

This therefore is a mandatory requirement. Municipalities adopt policies that clearly outline the rules and expectations related to the use of corporate resources during an election period. This helps to ensure that municipal operations remain impartial during the election cycle, and provides transparency and guidance to everyone including staff, candidates, and Members of Council.

There was a Use of Corporate Resources approved ahead of the 2022 Municipal Election, but due to legislative changes staff felt as though it was needed to review and update for the 2026 Municipal Election.

ANALYSIS

The purpose of the policy is to ensure that municipal resources are not used to influence the outcome of an election, either directly or indirectly. The policy applies to Members of Council, municipal staff, candidates (including acclaimed candidates), and registered third parties.

This policy is intended to contribute to increased transparency and fair governance. If adopted, it will be included on the Village of Merrickville-Wolford municipal election website, as well as in the Candidate Information Package.

BUDGET/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

CONCLUSION

Staff recommend approval of the attached draft policy and adoption of the by-law at the April 27th Regular Council Meeting. This will satisfy the requirement of adopting a policy by May 1st, 2026.

ATTACHMENTS

Schedule “A” – Draft By-law to Establish a Use of Corporate Resources Policy

Schedule “B” – Draft Use of Corporate Resources Policy

Submitted by:

Julia McCaugherty-Jansman, Clerk

Approved by:

Darlene Plumley, CAO

THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF MERRICKVILLE-WOLFORD

BY-LAW XX-2026

Being a By-law to Establish a Use of Corporate Resources Policy for the Village of Merrickville-Wolford

WHEREAS s. 5(1) of the Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, c.25 provides that the powers of a municipality shall be exercised by its council;

AND WHEREAS s. 5(3) provides that the powers of every council are to be exercised by by-law;

AND WHEREAS the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, s. 88.18 provides that before May 1 in the year of a regular election, municipalities shall establish rules and procedures with respect to the use of municipal resources during the election period;

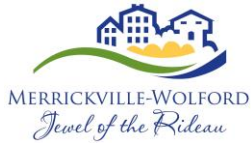
NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford hereby enacts as follows:

1. THAT the Use of Corporate Resources for Election Purposes Policy, attached hereto as Schedule "A", be adopted.
2. THAT any other by-laws, resolutions, or actions of the Council of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford that are inconsistent with the provisions of this By-law are hereby repealed.
3. THAT this by-law shall come into force and take effect immediately upon the final passing thereof.

Read a first, second and third time and passed on the XX day of XX, 2026.

Michael Cameron, Mayor

Julia McCaugherty-Jansman, Clerk



Village of Merrickville-Wolford Policy

Approved by: Council	Policy Number: C01-2026
Approval Date:	Title: Use of Corporate Resources for Election Purposes
Revision Date:	

Policy Statement

The Village of Merrickville- Wolford and its local boards are committed to ensuring accountable and transparent election practices relating to the use of Corporate Resources. The *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, establishes the election campaign finance rules for Candidates running for municipal election. Public funds are not to be used for any election-related purposes, including the promotion of, or opposition to, the candidate of a person for elected office. The *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, prohibits a municipality from making contributions in any form, which includes its assets, resources, and employees.

Scope

This policy applies to Members of Council, the Municipality, Staff, Candidates (including Acclaimed Candidates), and Registered Third Parties (all defined herein).

Purpose

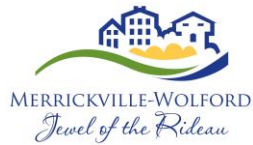
The purpose of this policy is to clarify that all municipal election Candidates, Members of Council, Registered Third Parties, and Staff are required to follow the provisions of the Act about the use of Corporate Resources for election purposes.

This policy also ensures that the Municipality’s operations, events, and facilities are used for non-partisan purposes and are not used for election campaign related purposes/activities.

Definitions

For the purposes of this Policy, the following definitions shall apply:

“Acclaimed” means to have been elected by acclamation pursuant to section 37 of the Act.



Village of Merrickville-Wolford Policy

“**Act**” means the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, S.O. 1996, c. 32, as amended.

“**Campaigning**” means engaging in municipal election-related activity for supporting or opposing the election of a Candidate or a question on the ballot, and includes, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the distributing of materials, advertising, display signage, etc.

“**Campaign-related materials**” means materials that promote or oppose the election of a Candidate or a question on the ballot.

“**Candidate**” means a person who has filed a Nomination Form for an office pursuant to Section 33 of the Act and includes a person who has filed a nomination for election to a school board pursuant to the Education Act, R.S.O. 1990, C.E.2, as amended.

“**Clerk**” means the individual appointed as the Village Clerk and includes their designate.

“**Corporate Resources**” means real property, goods and/or services owned, controlled, leased, acquired, or operated by the Municipality including but not limited to: facilities, parks, materials, equipment, monetary funds, technology, IT systems and resources, databases, social media, intellectual property, and supplies.

“**Member**” means a Member of the Council of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford and includes the Mayor.

“**Municipality**” means the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford.

“**Nomination Day**” means the date by which a nomination must be filed pursuant to the Act.

“**Registered Third Party**” means an individual, corporation, or trade union that is registered with a local municipality under Section 88.6 of the Act, and “**Registered Third Parties**” means more than one Registered Third Party.

“**Staff**” means all persons employed with the Municipality, including but not limited to hourly employees, contract, temporary, and students.

“**Voting Day**” means, in the case of a regular Election, the fourth Monday in October in the year of an Election, or in the case of a by-election, the 45th day after Nomination Day, as noted in the Act.

Village of Merrickville-Wolford Policy

Policy

General Provisions

In accordance with the Act:

- a) Corporate Resources and funding may not be used for any election-related purposes;
- b) Staff may not canvas or actively work in support of a Candidate or Registered Third Party during working hours;
- c) Corporate Resources may not be used for any election-related purposes, which includes Campaigning or the displaying of any Campaign-Related Materials on Municipal premises unless all Candidates are afforded the same opportunity.

Specific Regulations

The following, if supplied by the Municipality, shall be discontinued for all Members throughout the period from May 1st of the election year until Voting Day, inclusive, or, in the case of a municipal by-election, for the period of 60 days prior to and inclusive of Voting Day:

- a) All forms of advertising, including advertising in Municipality publications;
- b) All printing, photocopying and distribution, including printing and general distribution and display of newsletters;
- c) The ordering of any stationery or office supplies or furnishings;
- d) Links to Member-related web sites or social media links;
- e) The porting of information relating the activities of Council or any Member on the Municipality's website, excluding the minutes of Council and committee meetings (only the photos and contact phone and/or email posted for each Member at the commencement of each term shall remain on the corporate website).

To avoid any confusion with any website or social media accounts used for Council work, Members who choose to create or use their own websites or social media accounts shall throughout the period from May 1st of the election year until Voting Day,

Village of Merrickville-Wolford Policy

inclusive, or, in the case of a municipal by-election, for the period of 60 days prior to and inclusive of Voting Day,:

- a) Include a clear statement, easily found and readable, on each website or social media account's home page indicating the account is being used either solely for Council work, for both Council work and election campaign purposes, or solely for election campaign purposes;
- b) Include a statement described in clause a) for as long as the website or account is accessible to the public.

Members, Candidates, and members of the public shall not:

- Create, print or distribute any materials paid for by Municipality funds that illustrate that a Member of Council or any other individual is registered in any municipal election or where they will be running for office;
- Profile (name of photograph), or refer to, in any material paid for by Municipal funds, any individual who is a Candidate in any municipal election;
- Create, print or distribute any Campaign-Related Materials using Municipal funds, including any materials that refer to, or contains the names, photographs, or identifies the registered Candidates for municipal elections;
- Use the Municipality's website, logo, domain names and/or other social media sites that are funded, owned or operated by the Municipality for campaigning/advertising or as a substitute to distributing newsletters or flyers from Nomination Day up to and including Voting Day;
- Use the Municipality's voicemail system to record municipal election-related messages;
- Use the Municipality's computer network (including the email system) for municipal election-related correspondence;
- Use Municipality-issued devices, such as cell phones, for municipal election-related purposes unless it is impractical to do so, in which case the Member shall report election-related usage to the Clerk and reimburse the Municipality for such use;
- Use any photographs produced for and owned by the Municipality or any photos taken utilizing the Municipality's equipment for any election-related purposes;

Village of Merrickville-Wolford Policy

- Use Corporate Resources or Staff in any campaign photos or images unless all Candidates are afforded the same opportunity (for clarity: photos/images of interior spaces and spaces not accessible to the public are not permitted);
- Use of any Municipal facility/property/venue for any election-related purpose unless the applicable rental fee, as established by the Municipality, is paid and the opportunity to rent such facility/property/venue is available to all Candidates and Registered Third Parties (Note: no facility/property/venue shall be rented or used for any municipal election-related purpose by Members, Candidates, Registered Third Parties, or the public during any day that voting is taking place at the facility/property/venue, including set-up, hosting, or take-down activities);
or
- Benefit from the use of the Municipal pricing established under the Municipality's purchasing policy.

Staff Involvement

Due to the potential for perceived conflict of interest, Staff should consider the impact of being involved in Campaigning, including displaying election signs on their property, participating in phone and/or email solicitations, signing nomination papers, distributing brochures or Campaign-Related Materials, and/or wearing Candidate buttons.

Staff shall:

- a) Behave in a manner that is impartial, fair and unbiased toward all Candidates and Registered Third Parties;
- b) Consult with their direct Supervisor prior to agreeing to perform any task requested by a Member, Candidate, or Registered Third Party that exceeds their normal duties or could be construed as contributing to an election campaign as Staff or otherwise on behalf of the Municipality;
- c) Not rent any Municipal facility/property/venue for any municipal election-related purpose to Members, Candidates, Registered Third Parties or the public during any day that voting is taking place anywhere on the property at which the facility/venue is located, including set-up, hosting, or take-down activities;
- d) Ensure separation between their personal activities and their official positions;

Village of Merrickville-Wolford Policy

- e) Not participate in Campaigning or canvas or actively work in support of a Candidate or Registered Third Party during working hours (Note: this does not apply to personal time, such as during an approved leave of absence without pay, lieu time, float day, or vacation leave);
- f) Request and obtain a leave of absence without pay should they wish to run for federal, provincial, or municipal office and abide by the applicable legislation governing such elections; and
- g) Be permitted to be involved in provincial and/or federal campaigns provided that such involvement does not affect the objectivity with which they must discharge their duties as a representative of the Municipality.

Policy Management and Enforcement

Any complaints arising regarding the alleged use of corporate resources in contravention of this policy must be made in writing and include the complainant's full name and address to the Clerk.

Staff are authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect to this policy.

Nothing in this policy shall preclude a Member from performing their duties as a Council Member, nor inhibit them from representing their constituents.

The Clerk is delegated the authority to make administrative changes to this policy that may be required from time to time due to legislative changes or if, in the opinion of the Clerk, the amendments do not change the intent of the policy during an election period. This Policy will be reviewed by the Clerk in advance of each regular Municipal Election and will be updated in accordance with legislative requirements.

Report to Committee of the Whole

Date: 4/13/2026
From: Julia McCaugherty-Jansman, Clerk
Re: Draft Election Sign By-law

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Committee of the Whole receive for information the draft by-law to regulate election signs in the Village of Merrickville-Wolford;

AND FURTHER THAT Committee recommend to Council that the draft By-law to Regulate Election Signs be brought to the April 27th Regular Council Meeting for approval and adoption.

BACKGROUND

Election signs are currently regulated by the Village's Sign By-law 24-10. There was an Election Sign Policy drafted and in place for the 2022 Municipal Election, attached as Schedule "A" for reference.

By-law 24-10 briefly references election signs as follows:

Definitions in this By-law

2.13 'Election Sign' means any sign advertising or promoting the election of candidates and does include a portable sign.

Permit Exemptions

4.1 No permit under this By-law shall be required for the following, however all other regulations of the By-law shall be adhered to:

a) any poster, banner, or sign of a candidate in a Municipal, Provincial or Federal election.

5.22 Removal of Signs

a) Election signs erected within the municipality shall be removed by the campaign office within five (5) days following the election.

The By-law then has a section for administration of signage regulations in general.

ANALYSIS

With the upcoming Municipal Election in October 2026, staff have been reviewing all election-related documents to ensure that they remain consistent, reflect best practices, and meet legislative requirements.

With the limited mention of election signs in By-law 24-10, staff felt it was worth looking into drafting a dedicated standalone by-law for the regulation of election signs. The draft By-law, attached as Schedule “B” would regulate municipal, provincial, and federal election signs. Having a dedicated by-law to regulate election signs, at all government levels, has the potential to increase consistency and provide clear guidelines for candidates, staff, and the public going forward. This will also assist in the provisions of the election sign by-law to be administered and enforced if contravention does occur.

It is recognized that election signs remain an important method of communication for many candidates’ campaigns. They allow the public to be aware of the candidates and that there is an upcoming election.

The provisions of the new draft by-law do not contradict the current provisions of the Sign By-law 24-10. There will be no permit required for election signs under the new draft by-law, and the removal of election signs remains at the proposed five (5) days. With this in mind, staff suggest leaving Sign By-law 24-10 as it is and making no amendments at this time. The Sign By-law remains on the list of by-laws to review, so when the general review of the Sign By-law occurs, these provisions can be considered for removal at that time, should the dedicated Election Sign By-law be adopted and put in place.

BUDGET/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

OTHERS CONSULTED

CAO

By-law Enforcement Department

Public Works Department

Building Department

CONCLUSION

If Committee decides to recommend to Council to not adopt the draft by-law, then the existing policy from 2022 would be updated and maintained for the 2026 Municipal Election.

The recommendation is to recommend approval of the draft by-law to have in place for the 2026 Municipal Election. Committee can propose changes or amendments to the draft by-law prior it to being brought forward to Council.

ATTACHMENTS

Schedule “A” – 2022 Election Sign Policy

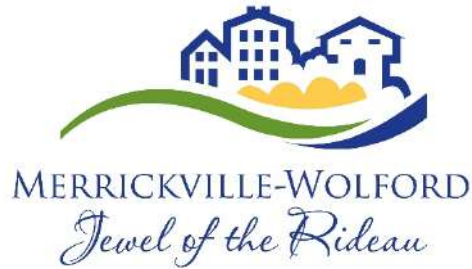
Schedule “B” – By-law XX-2026 – Election Sign By-law

Submitted by:

Julia McCaugherty-Jansman, Clerk

Approved by:

Darlene Plumley, CAO



ELECTION SIGN POLICY 2022 MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

Candidates are required to comply with Village of Merrickville-Wolford By-law No. 24-2010 which includes several restrictions related to election signs. The majority of these restrictions are summarized below, however candidates should review the By-law closely to ensure full compliance with all by-law provisions. In addition to the provisions of By-law 24-2010, there are several supplementary restrictions regarding election signs outlined below as determined by the Clerk in accordance with the Municipal Elections Act (MEA) authority found in MEA S. 12, as amended which reads:

*S. 12 (1) A clerk who is responsible for conducting an election may provide for any matter or procedure that,
(a) is not otherwise provided for in an Act or regulation; and
(b) in the clerk's opinion, is necessary or desirable for conducting the election. 1996, c. 32, Sched., s. 12 (1).*

GENERAL ENFORCEMENT

Village of Merrickville-Wolford By-law 24-2010 reads:

S. 12.1 – Administration – This By-Law shall be administered by the Chief Building Official or as assigned by the Chief Administrative Officer.

S. 12.4 – Administration – Any sign in contravention of this By-Law may for the first offence be picked up and brought to the Municipal offices. The owner shall be notified that they may claim and pick up the sign at the Municipal office. The owner shall be given a written caution/notice that a first offence has been committed and if any further offences against the Sign By-Law are committed the sign shall only be returned upon payment of an administrative fee.

S. 12.5 – Administration – Any sign in contravention of this By-Law shall for the second offence shall be picked up and brought to the Municipal office. The owner shall be notified that they may claim and pick up the sign at the Municipal office upon the payment of an administrative fee of twenty (\$20.00) dollars.

S. 12.6 – Administration – Any sign in contravention of this By-Law shall for the third offence be picked up and brought to the Municipal office. The owner shall be notified that they may claim and pick up the sign at the Municipal office upon the payment of an administrative fee of fifty (\$50.00) dollars.

S. 12.7 – Administration – Any sign in contravention of this By-Law shall for the fourth offence be picked up and brought to the Municipal office. The owner shall be notified that they may claim and pick up the sign at the Municipal office upon the payment of an administrative fee of two hundred (\$200.00)

dollars. Any further offences against the Sign By-Law the sign shall be returned only upon payment of an administrative fee of the same amount (\$200) for each repeat offence.

S. 12.8 – Administration – Every person who contravenes any of the provisions of this By-Law is guilty of an offence and upon conviction is liable to a court fine not less than \$100.00 and not more than \$2,000.00 exclusive of costs.

Please note also that:

- **Election signs shall not be installed until after 4:00pm on Monday August 22, 2022 which is the deadline for certification of nominations by the Clerk.**
- Signs installed in prohibited areas will be removed by Village of Merrickville- Wolford staff.
- Where there are immediate safety concerns or damage to municipal property, Village of Merrickville-Wolford staff will immediately remove the signs.
- The Village of Merrickville-Wolford will assume no responsibility for any damage to election signs where they are removed by Village of Merrickville- Wolford staff in prohibited locations.

GENERAL PROHIBITIONS

Village of Merrickville-Wolford By-law 24-2010 reads:

S. 5.3 – General Regulations – Persons may, with the written permission of the Corporation attach any sign, poster, hand bill, notice or advertisement to any pole, subject to obtaining the written consent of the utility company or any others owning such pole on any highway.

S. 5.5 – General Regulations – No person shall attach any sign, poster, notice or advertisement to any tree in the Municipality located on municipal property.

S. 5.8 – General Regulations – No person shall erect or maintain any sign within the area of a corner lot defined as the Site Triangle which would obscure vision.

Please note also that signs are prohibited on:

- Any municipally owned property including, but not limited to:
 - The Village Municipal Office and Fire Hall;
 - Merrickville Community Centre;
 - Merrickville Fairgrounds;
 - Merrickville Outdoor Ice Rink;
 - Merrickville Public Library;
 - Merrickville Toboggan Hill;
 - Centennial Hall and the adjacent outdoor sports facilities;
 - Wolford Municipal Garage;
 - Village Waste Disposal Site;
 - Village water and wastewater facilities; and,
 - Merrickville Cenotaph.
- Any public or private property that:
 - Are within one (1) metre of a fire hydrant;
 - Obstruct or detract from any traffic control device or signage;
 - Obstruct the line of vision at an intersection; or
 - Are placed in a manner that may constitute a hazard to pedestrians, cyclists or vehicles.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Village of Merrickville-Wolford By-law 24-2010 reads:

S. 2.13 – 'Election Sign' means any sign advertising or promoting the election of candidates and does include a portable sign.

S. 2.37 – 'Sight Triangle' means an area free of buildings or structures, which area is to be determined by measuring, from the point of intersection of street lines on a corner lot, a distance of 5 metres (16 feet) along each such street line and joining such points with a straight line. The triangular shaped land, between the intersecting street line and the straight line joining the points the required distance along the street lines, is the 'Sight Triangle'.

S. 4.1 – Regarding Permit Exemptions – “No permit under this By-Law shall be required for the following however all other regulations of the By-Law shall be adhered to: a) any poster, banner, or sign of a candidate in a Municipal, Provincial or Federal election.”

Please note also that:

- Signs must meet the requirements of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, as amended.
- Sign permits are not required.
- Signs must not be visible from any voting place.
- Signs must not be illuminated, animated, rotating, flashing or have moving lights or other electrical features.
- Election signs for provincial or federal elections or by-elections are permitted only within the respective election period.
- **Signs must be removed with five (5) days after the election period closes.**

ADDITIONAL CANDIDATE RESPONSIBILITIES

Village of Merrickville-Wolford By-law 24-2010 reads:

S. 5.22 – Election signs erected within the municipality shall be removed by the campaign office within five (5) days following the election.

Please note also that:

- Any damage to underground utilities or services as a result of election signs being placed on municipal property is the responsibility of the candidate(s) and their agent(s).
- Candidates and their agents are liable for any damage done to Village of Merrickville-Wolford property in placement of election signs on municipal property.
- Candidates and their agents should also reference applicable Provincial and Federal statutes and regulations for additional restrictions or requirements.

April 29, 2022

Date

Doug Robertson
Clerk/Returning Officer

THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF MERRICKVILLE-WOLFORD

BY-LAW XX-2026

Being a By-law to Regulate Election Signs in the Village of Merrickville-Wolford

WHEREAS subsection 5 (3) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, S.O. 2001, c. 25, as amended (the “Municipal Act, 2001”), provides that municipal powers shall be exercised by By-law; and

WHEREAS subsection 11 (3), paragraph 7 of the *Municipal Act, 2001* authorizes the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolofrd to pass By-laws respecting signs; and

WHEREAS section 23.2 of the *Municipal Act, 2001* permits a municipality to delegate certain legislative and quasi-judicial powers; and

WHEREAS subsection 63 (1) of the *Municipal Act, 2001* provides that a By-law may prohibit or regulate the placing or standing of an object on or near a highway, and may provide for the removal and impounding or restraining and immobilizing any object placed or standing on or near a highway; and

WHEREAS section 425 of the *Municipal Act, 2001* established that any person who contravenes any By-law of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford is guilty of an offence; and

WHEREAS section 429 of the *Municipal Act, 2001* provides that a municipality may establish a system of fines for offences under a By-law of the municipality passed under that Act; and

WHEREAS section 445 of the *Municipal Act, 2001* provides that a municipality may make an order requiring a person who has contravened a By-law or who caused or permitted the contravention, or the owner or occupier of land on which the contravention occurred to do work to correct the contravention; and

WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford is of the opinion that the legislative powers under this By-law shall be delegated to the Village Clerk, or their designate; and

WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford deems it expedient to pass a By-law to regulate the placement of election signs for federal, provincial and municipal elections and by-elections;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford hereby enacts as follows:

1. Application of this Bylaw

1.1 This By-law applies to all Election Signs Placed within the Village of Merrickville-Wolford.

2. Short Title of this By-law

2.1 The short title of this By-law is the “Election Sign By-law”.

3. Administration of this By-law

3.1 The administration of this By-law is hereby delegated to the Village Clerk or their designate.

4. Interpretation of this By-law

4.1 General

In this By-law, the definitions and interpretations set out shall apply, unless unusual circumstances require otherwise as determined by the Municipality, and any words not specifically defined in this By-law shall carry their dictionary definition.

4.2 Singular and Plural Words and Genders

In this By-law, unless otherwise specifically indicated:

- Words used in the singular number include the plural and vice versa;
- Word variations, for example, Place, Placed, Placement and Placing shall have a similar meaning.

5. Definitions

5.1 With the exception of clause and sub-clause headings, defined terms in this By-law have the first letter capitalized. Words that are defined in sub-clause 5.2 below but appear within this By-law without the first letter capitalized shall have their ordinary and plain dictionary meaning.

5.2 In this By-law the following terms shall have the meaning indicated:

“Act” means the *Municipal Act, 2001*, S.O. 2001, c. 25, as amended.

“Advance Voting Day” means one or more days, held not more than thirty (3) days before Voting Day, that are designated by the Village Clerk or relevant official as defined in the Canada Elections Act (Ontario) for electors to cast ballots prior to Voting Day.

“Billboard Election Sign” means an outdoor sign erected and maintained by a Person engaged in the sale or rental of the space on the Billboard Election Sign to a Candidate or Registered Third Party for the purposes of advertising, promoting, opposing or taking a position with respect to any Candidate or political party, or influencing electors to vote for or against an issue associated with a Candidate or political party, or influencing electors to vote for or against any Candidate or any question, law or by-law submitted to the electors.

“By-Election” means any Election other than a regular Election in the case of a municipal Election or a general Election in the case of a provincial or federal Election.

“Campaign Office” means a building or structure, or part of a building or structure, used by a Candidate or an agent of a Candidate or by a Registered Third Party or an agent of a Registered Third Party as part of an Election campaign and where a Candidate’s or Registered Third Party’s campaign staff is normally present and the public may enter to obtain information regarding the Candidate or Registered Third Party.

“Campaign Office Election Sign” means any sign Placed on a Campaign Office which only displays the name of a Candidate in a municipal Election, or

the name of a Candidate and/or the name and/or the logo of a political party in a federal and provincial Election, or the name of a Registered Third Party in a municipal Election, and the location of a Candidate's or Registered Third Party's Campaign Office, and contains no other message.

"Canada Elections Act" means the federal statute cited as the *Canada Elections Act*, S.C. 2000, c.9, as amended.

"Candidate" means a person who has been nominated to run in a municipal, provincial or federal Election, and shall be deemed to include a Registered Third Party seeking to influence electors to vote for or against any Candidate or any question or by-law submitted to the electors under section 8 of the *Municipal Elections Act*, 1996.

"Election" means a general federal or provincial Election or a regular municipal Election and any question or by-law submitted to the electors and includes an Election to a Local Board or commission.

"Election Act" means the provincial statute as cited as the *Election Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c.E.6, as amended.

"Election Sign" means any image, words, sign, picture, device, notice or visual medium, or any combination thereof, including, without limitation any poster, placard, bulletin and banner which:

- i. Advertises, promotes, opposes or takes a position with respect to any Candidate or political party in a federal, provincial or municipal Election or By-Election, including an Election of a Local Board or commission; or
- ii. Is intended to influence electors to vote for or against an issue associated with a Candidate or political party in a federal, provincial or municipal Election or By-law election; or
- iii. Is intended to influence electors to vote or against any Candidate or any question, law or by-law submitted to the electors under the Canada Elections Act, the Election Act (Ontario), or section 8 of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996.

For the purposes of clarification, an Election Sign does not include any Election campaign literature (e.g. pamphlets and brochures) but does include a Billboard Election Sign, Campaign Office Election Sign, Third Party Advertisement and Vehicle Election Sign.

"Electoral District" means the geographic area represented by a member of a municipal council or a school board.

"Local Board" means a school board, municipal service board, transportation commission, public library board, board of health, police services board, planning board, or any other board, commission, committee, body or local authority established or exercising any power or authority under any general or special act with respect to any of the affairs or purposes, including school purposes, of a municipality or of two or more municipalities or parts thereof.

"Municipal Elections Act, 1996" means the provincial statute cited as the *Municipal Elections Act*, 1996, S.O. 1996, c.32, as amended.

"Municipality" means the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford.

“Nomination Day” for a regular municipal Election means the deadline to file a nomination with the Village Clerk under the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, as amended. In the case of a municipal By-Election, the Village Clerk shall fix the date of Nomination Day in accordance with the provisions of sub-section 65 (4) 1 of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*.

“Person” means, but is not limited to, an individual, business, firm, corporation, unincorporated business, trade union, partnership, or association, and includes a Registered Third Party.

“Place” means to attach, install, erect, build, construct, reconstruct, move, display or affix. Placed, Placement and Placing shall have a similar meaning.

“Public Property” means property owned by or under the control of the Municipality, any of its agencies, Local Boards or commissions, including highways and Streets, and shall be deemed to include public utilities facilities, regardless of whether the Public Utility Poles are owned by or under the control of the Municipality and shall also be deemed to include benches, municipal garbage containers or other structures located on a Street regardless of whether the shelters, container or structures are owned by the Municipality. Property owned by the Municipality and leased to another Person shall not be deemed to be Public Property.

“Public Utility Pole” means a pole owned or controlled by an entity which provides a municipal or public utility service.

“Registered Third Party” or **“Third Party Advertiser”** means one of the following whose notice of registration has been certified by the Village Clerk pursuant to section 88.6 of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*:

- i. An individual who is normally a resident in Ontario; or
- ii. A corporation that carries on business in Ontario; or
- iii. A Trade Union that holds bargaining rights for employees in Ontario.

“Sidewalk” means that portion of a Street with a surface that is improved and designed or ordinarily used for the use of pedestrians and shall include a multi-use path.

“Sight Triangle” – means the triangular space formed by the Travelled Roadways of the Streets abutting a corner lot and a line drawn from a point in one Travelled Roadway to a point in the other Travelled Roadway, each such point being 5.0 m (16.5 ft) from the point of intersection of the Travelled Roadways (measured along the curb lines or edge of pavement). Where the two Travelled Roadways do not intersect at a point, the point of intersection of the Travelled Roadways shall be deemed to be the intersection of the projection of the curb lines or edge of pavement.

“Street” means the allowance for a public road and includes the travelled and untraveled portions of the Street, including the shoulders and Sidewalks.

“Third Party Advertisement” means a sign or advertisement in any broadcast, print, electronic or other medium that has the purpose of promoting, supporting or opposing a Candidate in a municipal Election or an Election of a Local Board or commission or intended to influence persons to vote for or against any Candidate or any question or by-law submitted to the electors under section 8 of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, and which has been Placed without the authorization, direction or involvement of a Candidate.

“Trade Union” means a Trade Union as defined in the federal Labour Relations Act, 1995 or the Canada Labour Code (Canada) and includes a central, regional or district labour council in Ontario.

“Travelled Roadway” means that portion of a Street that is designed or ordinarily used for vehicular traffic and delineated by the curb line or the edge of pavement.

“Vehicle Election Sign” means any form of Election Sign displayed in or on a vehicle, including a vehicle wrap.

“Village Clerk” means the Clerk of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford or a person designated by them for the purpose of this By-law.

“Voting Day” means the day on which the final vote is to be taken in an Election or By-Election.

“Voting Place” means the location(s) where electors cast their ballots as approved by the federal, provincial, or municipal Election officials and includes the entire property and all the boundaries associated with it, including any abutting Streets, when such Voting Place is located within a public or private premises and shall also include the common elements when the Voting Place is located within a private premises.

“Writ of Election” means the date as defined in the *Canada Elections Act* and the *Elections Act* (Ontario).

6. Candidate or Registered Third Party Responsible for Election Signs

6.1 The Candidate or the Registered Third Party, as the case may be, to whom an Election Sign relates shall be responsible for the Placing, removal and maintenance of the Election Sign and shall ensure that all requirements of this By-law are met.

7. General Provisions

7.1 No Person shall Place or permit to be Placed an Election Sign within the limits of the Municipality, except in accordance with this By-law and all applicable legislation.

7.2 This By-law shall not apply to signs Placed by the Municipality or the provincial or federal governments to provide information concerning an Election or By-Election or any part of an Election or By-Election process.

7.3 No Person shall Place or permit to be Placed an Election Sign on Public Property including a Street, save and except a Boulevard, provided that an Election Sign on a Boulevard is placed 1.5 metres from the improved section of street allowance and Site Triangles are not impacted.

7.4 No Person shall Place or permit to be Placed an Election Sign on any object or structure that is located within the limits of a Street allowance, including, but not limited to: a Public Utility Pole, a light standard, a traffic control sign or signal, a guardrail or other form of traffic safety structure or facility, a bus shelter, a community mailbox, a bridge, a trestle, a hydrant, a fence, or a tree.

- 7.5 For a municipal Election, no Person shall Place or permit to be Placed an Election Sign outside of the boundaries of the Electoral District(s) where the Candidate is running for office.
- 7.6 No Person shall Place or permit to be Placed an Election Sign on, in, or within 50.0 m (164 ft.) of a Voting Place or a place where the administration of Election processes are conducted on Advance Voting Day or Voting Day.
- 7.7 No Person shall Place or permit to be Placed an Election Sign on private property without permission or consent of the owner or occupant of the property.
- 7.8 No Person shall pull down or remove an Election Sign without the consent of the Candidate or Registered Third Party to whom the Election Sign relates or the owner or occupant of the property on which the Election Sign was Placed, except as otherwise provided for in this By-law.
- 7.9 No Person shall deface or willfully cause damage to an Election Sign.
- 7.10 No Candidate or Third Party Advertiser, as the case may be, to whom an Election relates shall permit an Election Sign to be left in a state of disrepair.
- 7.11 No Person shall Place or permit to be Placed an Election Sign on private property that:
- i. Is illuminated has flashing lights, or rotating parts;
 - ii. Measures more than 1.0 m (3.25 ft) by 2.0 m (6.5 ft) and has a height that is more than 2.15 m (7.0 ft) above the ground;
 - iii. Obstructs, impedes or interferes with any fire escape, fire exit door, window, skylight, flume, air intake or exhaust, or any means of access by a firefighter to any part of a building or fire hydrant;
 - iv. Impedes, hinders, or prevents parking by vehicles on private lands;
 - v. Impedes or obstructs the passage of pedestrians where they are reasonably expected to walk;
 - vi. Interferes with the safe operation of vehicular traffic or the safety of pedestrians, including the visibility of warning devices and traffic signals; and
 - vii. Impedes or obstructs Municipal maintenance operations.
- 7.12 Sub-clauses 7.11 i) and 7.11 ii) of this By-law shall not apply to Campaign Office Election Signs, Billboard Election Signs or specified Vehicle Election Signs (ie. vehicle wrap).
- 7.13 Except for a sign Placed pursuant to sub-clause 7.2 of this By-law, no Person shall Place or permit to be Placed on any Election Sign a logo, trademark, crest, or official mark, in whole or in part, owned or licensed by the Municipality.

8. No Sign Permit or Permit Fee

- 8.1 Notwithstanding any other By-law of the Municipality to the contrary, no fee shall be charged by the Municipality and no permit shall be required in order to Place an Election Sign in accordance with this By-law.

9. Timing for Placement and Removal of Election Signs

Placement of Election Signs

- 9.1 No Person shall Place or permit to be Placed any Election Sign for a federal or provincial Election or By-Election prior to the day the Writ of the Election is issued.
- 9.2 No Person shall Place or permit to be Placed any Election Sign for a municipal Election or By-Election until a Candidate has filed their nomination papers to the satisfaction of the Village Clerk and paid the required filing fee.
- 9.3 Campaign Office Election Signs may be Placed once a Candidate has filed their nomination papers to the satisfaction of the Village Clerk and paid the required filing fee or Registered Third Party has registered to the satisfaction of the Village Clerk.

Removal of Election Signs

- 9.4 All Election Signs shall be removed within five days (120) hours of the day on which the Election or By-Election is held.
- 9.5 Where an Election Sign has been Placed on private property, it is the responsibility of the owner or occupant of the property to ensure that the Election Sign(s) is removed within the required time frame.

10. Election Signs Not Permitted Abutting Cemeteries

- 10.1 No Person shall Place or permit to be Placed an Election Sign on a cemetery or on any property that is abutting a cemetery.

11. Special Provisions for Vehicle Election Signs

- 11.1 No Person shall Place or permit to be Placed a Vehicle Election Sign except in accordance with the provisions of this By-law.
- 11.2 No Vehicle Election Sign shall be Placed on Public Property (other than a Street).
- 11.3 Notwithstanding sub-clause 11.2 of this By-law, a Vehicle Election Sign may be Placed by a Candidate or Registered Third Party on or in a vehicle while such vehicle is in use on any Street in the Municipality in accordance with all applicable laws and by-laws.
- 11.4 On Advance Voting Day and Voting Day, no Person shall Place or permit to be Placed a Vehicle Election Sign on a Voting Place or a place where the administration of Election processes are conducted or within 50.0 m (164.0 ft) of a Voting Place or a place where the administration of Election processes are conducted.

12. Special Provisions for Campaign Election Signs

- 12.1 Campaign Office Election Signs may be Placed once a Candidate has filed their nomination papers with the Village Clerk and paid the required filing fee or a Registered Third Party has registered with the Village Clerk.
- 12.2 Campaign Office Election Signs Placed pursuant to sub-clause 12.1 of this By-law shall only display:
- i. The name of a Candidate in a municipal Election or By-Election; or
 - ii. The name of a Candidate and the name and/or logo of a political party in a federal or provincial Election or By-Election; or
 - iii. The name of a Registered Third Party in a municipal Election or By-Election; and

- iv. The location of a Candidate's or Registered Third Party's Campaign Office; and shall contain no other message.
- 12.3 A Candidate or Registered Third Party shall designate only one building or part thereof in the Municipality as the Campaign Office where the Election Signs are to be Placed and must advise the Village Clerk, in writing, of the address of the Campaign Office prior to Placing any Campaign Office Election Signs pursuant to sub-clause 12.1 of this By-law.
- 12.4 Other Election Signs may be Placed on the Campaign Office property in accordance with sub-clauses 9.1 and 9.2 and Clause 14 of this By-law and all other applicable regulations respecting Election Signs.

13. Special Provisions for Third Party Advertisements

- 13.1 A Third-Party Advertiser must be registered to the satisfaction of the Village Clerk prior to Placing any Election Signs.
- 13.2 Third Party Advertisements shall contain valid and up-to-date contact information, including the name of the Registered Third Party, the municipality where the Registered Third Party is registered, and a telephone number, mailing address or e-mail address at which the Registered Third Party may be contacted, in order to identify at least one individual responsible for the Placing of the Third Party Advertisements including any Election Sign(s).

14. Election Signs on Private Property

- 14.1 The Placement of Election Signs on Private Property shall be subject to Section 7 and Section 9 of this By-law.
- 14.2 No more than two (2) Election Signs per Candidate or Registered Third Party shall be Placed on each Street frontage of a residential property.
- 14.3 No more than two (2) Election Signs per Candidate or Registered Third Party shall be Placed on each Street frontage of a non-residential property.
- 14.4 In accordance with section 88.2 of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, as amended, owners or tenants in an apartment building, condominium building, non-profit housing, co-operative or a gated community may Place Election Signs on the premises that they own or lease subject to any reasonable restrictions on the size or type of Election Sign that may be established by the landlord, property manager, co-operative or condominium corporation.
- 14.5 Election Signs Placed on private property shall not interfere with the safe operation of motor vehicular traffic, cyclists and the safety of pedestrians, and shall not obstruct visibility or sightlines.
- 14.6 No Person shall Place or permit to be Placed an Election Sign on private property that overhangs a public Sidewalk or that is near a public Sidewalk in any manner that may interfere with or obstruct the normal flow of pedestrian traffic.

15. Removal of Unlawful Election Signs

- 15.1 Where an Election Sign has been Placed in contravention of any provision of this By-law, a Provincial Offences Officer, Municipal Law Enforcement Officer, or any other individual designated by the Village Clerk may cause the Election Sign to be removed immediately without notice or compensation and/or take any further action as provided within this By-law.

- 15.2 Election Signs that pose any risk to the health and safety of pedestrians, cyclists or motorists shall be removed without notice or compensation.
- 15.3 On Advance Voting Day and Voting Day, unlawful Election Signs may be removed without notice or compensation by a Municipal By-law Enforcement Officer or any other individual designated with the Village Clerk.
- 15.4 Any Election Sign that has been removed by the Municipality and stored for more than thirty (30) days may be destroyed or otherwise disposed of by the Municipality without notice and without compensation.
- 15.5 A Provincial Offences Officer, Municipal By-law Enforcement Officer and any other individual designated by the Village Clerk may remove and impound any vehicle that is parked or left contrary to Section 11.4 of this By-law. These actions shall be at the expense of the owner of the vehicle.

16. Offence and Penalty Provisions

- 16.1 Every Person who contravenes any provision of this By-law is guilty of an offence and upon conviction is liable to a fine of not more than Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) for a first offence and not more than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) for any subsequent offence.
- 16.2 If this By-law is contravened and a conviction entered, the court in which the conviction has been entered and any court of competent jurisdiction thereafter may, in addition to any other remedy and to any penalty that is imposed, make an order prohibiting the continuation or repetition of the offence by the Person convicted.
- 16.3 No Person shall prevent, hinder or interfere or attempt to prevent, hinder or interfere with a Provincial Offences Officer, a Municipal By-law Enforcement Officer, or any other individual designated by the Village Clerk in the exercise of a power or the performance of a duty under this By-law.

17. Liability for Damages

- 17.1 The provisions of this By-law shall not be construed as relieving or limiting the responsibility or liability of any Person Placing or owning any Election Sign for personal injury or property damage resulting from the Placing of such Election Sign or resulting from the negligence or willful acts of such Person, or his or her agents or employees, in the construction, Placing, maintenance, repair or removal of such Election Sign.

18. Conflict

- 18.1 If a provision of this By-law is in conflict with a provision of any applicable act, regulation, or other by-law, the provision that establishes the higher or more restrictive standard shall apply.

19. Severability Clause

- 19.1 If a Court of competent jurisdiction declares that any provision, or any part of a provision of this By-law to be invalid, or to be of no force and effect, it is the intention of Council in enacting this By-law that each and every other provision of this By-law shall continue in full force and effect unless the court makes an order to the contrary.

20. Effective Date

20.1 This By-law shall come into force and take effect on the date of its passing.

Read a first and second time this XX day of April 2026.

Read a third and final time and passed this XX day of April 2026.

Michael Cameron, Mayor

Julia McCaugherty-Jansman, Clerk

Report to Committee of the Whole

Date: 4/13/2026
 From: Chad Kean, Manager of Public Works
 Re: Departmental Activity Update

Recommendation:

THAT the Committee of the Whole receive for information the Departmental Activity Update for the month of March as presented.

Topic	Activity	Status	Involved
Public Works Operations			
Waste Pickup Expansion	Staff in communication with contractor, province and fielding calls from residents	On-going	PW
Notices – drafted letter to businesses and residents	Communicating updates for roadwork to residents and businesses on Wellington W and St. Lawrence	Staff hand delivered notices to all buildings	PW
Enbridge Design	Staff working with Enbridge	On-going	PW
Culvert installed	Snowdons Corners W	Completed	PW
Culvert installed	Wolford Centre	Completed	PW
Scratch Grading Roadways	Gravel Roads	On-going	PW
Master Infrastructure Plan	Staff working on information with OCWA	On-going	PW
Road Cut Permits	Review and issue / inspect construction, connections, backfill	On-going as received	PW
Crosswalks	Working with the County and Contractor – installation of crosswalks	On-going	PW
Entrance Permits	Assisting residents with inspections and issuing permits for entrance/culverts	On-going	PW
Resident Concerns	Review concerns identified (email, phone, service order) and act upon	On-going	PW

Tenders: Road Projects and updating information	Confirmed costs associated with road treatment options	Completed	PW
Working with Streetlogix System to upgrade information	Staff updating information i.e. infrastructure in software	On-going	PW
Meeting with Library	Meeting to discuss upcoming repairs and seasonal maintenance	On-going	PW
Radio License Renewal	Staff completed the renewal for PW radio license	Completed	PW
Brushing	Bates Road	Completed	PW
Building Condition Assessments	Currently being completed for all facilities	On-going	PW
Seasonal vehicle and fleet maintenance	Staff inspecting fleet and completed maintenance	On-going	PW
Refinishing Benches	All to be installed for season	Completed	PW
Facilities			
Completing weekly workorders for facility bookings	Merrickville Community Center and Eastons Corners Hall	On-going	PW
Continued Cleaning	All facilities following events	On-going	PW
Merrickville Community Centre	Work underway and staff working with contractors	On-going	PW
Wholesale Food Show	Staff assisted with setup and tear down	Completed	PW
Merrickville County Market Event	Prepared facility	Completed	PW
Water and Sewer			
Capital and Maintenance Work at the Water and Wastewater plant	Review proposed work and costs	On-going	PW
OCWA Operations Meeting	Staff met with representatives from OCWA	Completed	PW
OCWA – Water License Renewal	Working with OCWA to complete water license renewal	On-going	PW

Landfill			
Data Collection concerning expanded recycling for both residential and ICI	Staff working with contractor to track information	On-going	PW
Item pick up at Landfill	Staff coordinating with service providers for pick up of Recycling, Tires, Scrap Metal, E-Waste	On-Going	PW

Report to Committee of the Whole

Date: 4/13/2026
From: Kirsten Rahm, Treasurer/Manager, Finance
Re: 2026 Community Grants

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Committee of the Whole give staff direction on the allocation of funds and In-Kind requests for the Community Grant Program;

AND FURTHER THAT the direction provided be brought forward to the April 27th Regular Council Meeting for final approval.

BACKGROUND

On April 23, 2019, Council passed By-law 23-2019, being a by-law to adopt a Community Grant Program Policy to set rules and eligibility requirements for applicants and to guide the decision-making process with respect to the allocation of the community grants each year. The Village of Merrickville-Wolford Community Grants Program provides *limited* financial support to community groups and organizations for projects or events that benefit and contribute toward the quality of life of residents. Community grants are *not* intended to provide ongoing funding to organizations. They are for one-time initiatives.

The 2026 Operating Budget allocates \$4000 for Community Grants.

ANALYSIS

Staff received In-Kind requests for the following:

- Merrickville Lions Club Christmas Food Hampers – request to waive rental fees at the Merrickville Community Centre for Christmas Food Hamper program
- Merrickville Public School - request to waive rental fees at the Merrickville Community Centre for their annual Christmas Luncheon
- Chamber of Commerce - request to waive rental fees at the Merrickville Community Centre for the annual Snowflake Festival
- Seniors Exercise Group - request to waive rental fees at the Merrickville Community Centre for weekly exercise classes
- Ecole Ste-Marguerite-Bourgeoys - request to waive rental fees at the Merrickville Community Centre for their annual Thanksgiving lunch
- Eco Champions - request to waive rental fees at the Merrickville Community Centre for their annual Awards Ceremony

- Merrickville Scouts - request to waive rental fees at the Merrickville Community Centre for their weekly Scouts meetings
- Run Merrickville - request to waive rental fees at the Merrickville Community Centre for their annual Fundraising Event and Race Day

As the above applications are not requesting a cash grant, and are yearly requests, staff advise that going forward, they do not need to be approved by Council. In order to secure their rental date, the organizations need to continue filling out a Rental Application and provide the Village with insurance.

Theatre Night in Merrickville submitted a request for an In-Kind waiver. Their agreement with the Village states that they will pay the Village 25% of their gross profits from their productions. Their request is to keep \$1500 of the revenue owed to the Village.

Staff received the following cash grant applications:

- Ontario SPCA – Neuter Scooter program - \$3000
- Beth Donovan Hospice – hospice care programs - \$4500
- Fibre by the Locks – requesting support for marketing, rental space and signage costs - \$2787.71
- Chamber of Commerce Streetscaping Working Group – funding to purchase 26 banners - \$2500
- Ecole Ste-Marguerite-Bourgeoys – funding to purchase 2 picnic tables for their schoolyard
- Amanda Casselden (re: dog park) – funding to assist with creating a safe and enclosed space for off leash dogs - \$1500

The detailed grant applications are included as an attachment.

In addition, the Merrickville Arts Guild (MAG) submitted a grant request for \$2000. They are now included in the operating budget with an allocation of \$500. The Merrickville Organization for Culture and the Arts (MOCA) also submitted a grant application for \$7000. This organization is also included in the operating budget with an allocation of \$5000.

The cash grant requests total \$14,787.71 (excluding MAG and MOCA), which far exceeds the approved budget of \$4000. Staff are looking for directions on how to allocate the \$4000.

BUDGET/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The 2026 approved budget allocation for community grants is \$4,000.

CONCLUSION

Staff are asking Council to provide direction on the allocation of the 2026 community grant funding of \$4000.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – Community Grant Applications

Submitted by:

Kirsten Rahm
Manager of Finance/Treasurer

Approved by:

Darlene Plumley, CAO

Appendix B - Application

COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM APPLICATION



Please complete this form, enclose all required information and return to:

Kirsten Rahm, Manager of Finance/Treasurer, Village of Merrickville-Wolford

317 Brock St W, PO Box 340, Merrickville, ON K0G 1N0

Email: finance@merrickville-wolford.ca

NAME OF ORGANIZATION OR GROUP: Theatre Night In Merrickville (TNIM)	
MAILING ADDRESS: Box 177, Merrickville ON K0G 1N0	
PHONE NUMBER:	
CONTACT PERSON: Omar Simonyi	PHONE NUMBER: [REDACTED]
EMAIL ADDRESS: mail@merrickvilletheatre.org	
TYPE OF REQUEST	
<input type="checkbox"/> CASH GRANT	Amount requested: <u>\$1500</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN-KIND WAIVE FEES (provide details below)	
<input type="checkbox"/> IN-KIND OTHER (provide details below)	

DESCRIBE YOUR REQUEST FOR IN-KIND SERVICES:

We request that we be granted \$1500 "in kind" consideration against the normal fees that we pay to the Village for the use of the Community Centre during our productions. That amount is the equivalent of the fee we would pay for one production if it was a financially successful show.

DESCRIBE THE PURPOSE OF YOUR PROPOSED PROJECT/EVENT, INDICATING WHAT THE MUNICIPAL FUNDING WILL BE USED FOR, IF APPROVED (attach detailed budget):

The savings provided would be used to help defray some of the costs associated with a production. Print and publicity alone are over \$1500 based on historical values. We will be putting on two productions this year as usual. Our spring show will be "Siberian Summer" by Paul Van Dyck. Our fall show is yet to be determined. Siberian Summer will incorporate the use of projection, which may incur extra costs to that production.

WHAT ARE THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE EVENT?:

To provide quality theatrical entertainment to the people of the Village and surrounding area.

WHO IS YOUR TARGET GROUP?:

Merrickville Patrons, both individual and business as well as theatre goers from the Village and the region.

HOW WILL YOUR PROJECT BENEFIT MERRICKVILLE-WOLFORD RESIDENTS?:

Recent productions have drawn audiences of over 300 each, primarily from within Merrickville-Wolford, but also bringing in visitors. The shows provide an entertainment event for those attending, and may also have spinoff benefits in terms of visits to stores and restaurants.

PROVIDE A LIST OF OTHER FUNDING SOURCES FOR YOUR ORGANIZATION OR GROUP:
We are primarily funded by ticket sales. In addition, we have the support of Patrons and Sponsors, whose donations help defray the costs of putting on our productions.

DESCRIBE YOUR ORGANIZATION OR GROUP'S FUNDRAISING EFFORTS:
As part of our 50th anniversary last year, we hosted a dinner theatre evening - although the proceeds were donated to Rideau Community Health Services (for patient needs in Merrickville-Wolford), since TNIM was founded to help fund a health centre in the Village.

DESCRIBE EVIDENCE OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT (INCLUDING VOLUNTEERS):
Donations in 2025 included:
Rideau Community Health Services; The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 245 (Merrickville); Public Washroom Project; Merrickville Arts Guild

TNIM participated in: Merrickville Festival of the Arts; Canada Day Parade; Christmas Parade

TNIM is a volunteer run organization

ENCLOSE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

- Budget for Project/Event
- Financial Statements
- Confirmation of Not-for-Profit or Charitable status (if applicable)

ATTACH ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WHICH YOU FEEL MAY ASSIST COUNCIL IN EVALUATING YOUR APPLICATION (PLEASE LIMIT VOLUME OF INFORMATION):

!We have read the eligibility criteria and confirm that the organization or group will comply with all requirements.

!We understand if the Village of Merrickville-Wolford approves funding, the Village of Merrickville-Wolford makes no commitment to provide ongoing financial support to the organization or group.

!We understand that should the project or event not proceed and occur, or should any grant money received from the Municipality not conform with this policy and/or application, that the money will be refunded to the municipality as stipulated in the Village of Merrickville-Wolford Community Grants Policy.

Omar Simonyi

Applicant Name (Please print)

Omar Simonyi

Signature

2026-01-30

Date

Appendix B – Application

COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM APPLICATION



Please complete this form, enclose all required information and return to:

Kirsten Rahm, Manager of Finance/Treasurer, Village of Merrickville-Wolford

317 Brock St W, PO Box 340, Merrickville, ON K0G 1N0

Email: finance@merrickville-wolford.ca

NAME OF ORGANIZATION OR GROUP: Ontario SPCA and Humane Society Leeds and Grenville Animal Centre	
MAILING ADDRESS: 800 Centennial Rd Brockville, ON, K6V 5T2	
PHONE NUMBER: 613 345 5520	
CONTACT PERSON: Katelyn Stojadinov	PHONE NUMBER: 613 349 7575
EMAIL ADDRESS: kstojadinov@ontariospca.ca	
TYPE OF REQUEST	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CASH GRANT	Amount requested: <u>3000</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> IN-KIND WAIVE FEES (provide details below)	
<input type="checkbox"/> IN-KIND OTHER (provide details below)	

DESCRIBE YOUR REQUEST FOR IN-KIND SERVICES:

N/A

DESCRIBE THE PURPOSE OF YOUR PROPOSED PROJECT/EVENT, INDICATING WHAT THE MUNICIPAL FUNDING WILL BE USED FOR, IF APPROVED (attach detailed budget):

The Neuter Scooter program currently runs in Renfrew, Durham, Napanee and Hawkesbury, and is fully supported by the generosity of private donors. This grant would allow us to expand this vital service into the Leeds & Grenville County, supporting families and animals in our community. To assist with overpopulation issues in Ontario, the Ontario SPCA and Humane Society's Neuter Scooter transports owned, homeless and community cats to partner-run high-volume, low-cost spay/neuter clinics to be spayed/neutered, vaccinated, and microchipped. The animals would then be transported back to their families or the rescue organizations caring for them. Transportation is a barrier in communities facing financial insecurities, particularly in rural communities with limited access to services. The Neuter Scooter service will reduce barriers related to transportation, geographic location, and availability of accessible veterinary services. The program will be geared towards rural areas with high animal populations, including feral and community cats. The Neuter Scooter service will help to promote the inclusivity of rural communities to valuable animal welfare. The evidence is clear that accessible spay/neuter programs are effective in reducing the cost of companion animal overpopulation to society, including providing cost savings by reducing animal control spending related to complaints, pick up, impounding and sheltering. Further, spay/neuter services provide public health and safety benefits by reducing incidences of bites and nuisance animals, including roaming and fighting, and it decreases the transfer of rabies and other zoonotic diseases to people. For underserved individuals in our communities to be able to access basic animal wellness services without being stigmatized or marginalized supports inclusion and acceptance, which builds emotional safety. It also allows them to focus their resources and energy on other critical areas of their life, such as food, housing, and access to health care. In summary, the Ontario SPCA's Neuter Scooter program helps benefit the people and pets of Ontario. It will reduce animal overpopulation and increase animal health and, in doing so, will help keep communities healthy and safe, reduce costs to communities and will keep pets out of shelters and with the people who love them.

WHAT ARE THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE EVENT?:

Each Neuter Scooter completion results in approximately 20 spayed/neutered community cats. This grant would achieve the completion of 3 neuter scooters with pickup/ drop-off locations in the Merrickville/Wolford region. We will measure and track the number of families served, number of animals receiving service, number of animals spay and neutered, number of births prevented, number of physical examinations, number of vaccination provided, and the costs associated with the providing program. To provide an example of the success of the Neuter Scooter service and some of the information we routinely collect, in 2025, the Ontario SPCA and Humane Society completed over 40 Neuter Scooter's where just over 750 cats were transported to partnering low-cost Spay Neuter Clinics. The spaying/neutering of these cats resulted in the prevention of almost 50,000 possible offspring. Therefore the Neuter Scooter service will help to achieve two main outcomes: increased access to animal welfare and reduced issues of cat overpopulation in Merrickville/Wolford communities.

WHO IS YOUR TARGET GROUP?:

For this project, our target group are individuals in Merrickville/Wolford who have not had the opportunity to spay or neuter their cats due to reasons such as lack of transportation, inability to financially take a day off of work to bring their animals to and from an appointment, and individuals who are in need of assistance but are unaware of assistance programs such as the Neuter Scooter (for example but not limited to our senior/retired community members).

HOW WILL YOUR PROJECT BENEFIT MERRICKVILLE-WOLFORD RESIDENTS?:

The Ontario SPCA and Humane Society aims to bring low-cost spay/neuter services to 60 animals within the Merrickville-Wolford community by removing transportation barriers for local families. As mentioned above, low-cost veterinary care can be difficult for individuals to access, that is where the Neuter Scooter program can provide transportation relief and allow families to access these services in Brockville without worry of having to miss a full day of work, or of not having a reliable vehicle.

PROVIDE A LIST OF OTHER FUNDING SOURCES FOR YOUR ORGANIZATION OR GROUP:
The Ontario SPCA and Humane Society is not government funded and therefore relies on our donors and community granting opportunities to fund our projects such as the Neuter Scooter.

DESCRIBE YOUR ORGANIZATION OR GROUP'S FUNDRAISING EFFORTS:
This grant is critical for the success and completion of the project. The owners of the cats transported by the Neuter Scooter service will be responsible for the \$20 gas fee, as well as the selection and payment of services (spay/neuter, microchip, vaccination, etc). The remainder of the costs however would be supported by this grant for the completion of 3 Neuter Scooter trips. These additional costs include the maintenance and fuel for the Ontario SPCA transport van, staffing costs, costs associated with volunteer training, and subsidy for some families/individuals utilizing the service who need it most. Our costs can range depending on each Neuter Scooter service. Our costs average out to \$1000 per event. For each trip, costs such as maintenance/fuel and volunteer training would be expensed and then remaining funding would support subsidizing family pets who need it most.

DESCRIBE EVIDENCE OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT (INCLUDING VOLUNTEERS):
Beyond the community members using the service of Neuter Scooters we have had ample support from our staff in our community outreach team within the Ontario SPCA, our Ontario SPCA volunteers who help us in completing outreach events commonly like Neuter Scooters, as well as our partnering high-volume spay/neuter clinics such as the Lanark Leeds & Grenville Spay Neuter Clinic located in Brockville. Please see our attached "in support" letter for this program from the Lanark Leeds and Grenville Spay Neuter Clinic.

ENCLOSE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

- Budget for Project/Event
- Financial Statements
- Confirmation of Not-for-Profit or Charitable status (if applicable)

ATTACH ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WHICH YOU FEEL MAY ASSIST COUNCIL IN EVALUATING YOUR APPLICATION (PLEASE LIMIT VOLUME OF INFORMATION):

!We have read the eligibility criteria and confirm that the organization or group will comply with all requirements.

!We understand if the Village of Merrickville-Wolford approves funding, the Village of Merrickville-Wolford makes no commitment to provide ongoing financial support to the organization or group.

!We understand that should the project or event not proceed and occur, or should any grant money received from the Municipality not conform with this policy and/or application, that the money will be refunded to the municipality as stipulated in the Village of Merrickville-Wolford Community Grants Policy.

Katelyn Stojadinov

Applicant Name (Please print)

Katelyn Stojadinov

Signature

30/01/26

Date

Appendix B – Application

COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM APPLICATION



Please complete this form, enclose all required information and return to:

Kirsten Rahm, Manager of Finance/Treasurer, Village of Merrickville-Wolford

317 Brock St W, PO Box 340, Merrickville, ON K0G 1N0

Email: finance@merrickville-wolford.ca

NAME OF ORGANIZATION OR GROUP: Beth Donovan Hospice	
MAILING ADDRESS: 1107 French Settlement Rd, Kemptville ON	
PHONE NUMBER: 613-258-9611	
CONTACT PERSON: Darlene Collin	PHONE NUMBER: 613-258-9611 ext 6
EMAIL ADDRESS: darlene.collin@bethdonovanhospice.ca	
TYPE OF REQUEST	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CASH GRANT	Amount requested: <u>4500</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> IN-KIND WAIVE FEES (provide details below)	
<input type="checkbox"/> IN-KIND OTHER (provide details below)	

DESCRIBE YOUR REQUEST FOR IN-KIND SERVICES:

DESCRIBE THE PURPOSE OF YOUR PROPOSED PROJECT/EVENT, INDICATING WHAT THE MUNICIPAL FUNDING WILL BE USED FOR, IF APPROVED (attach detailed budget):

The purpose of this project is to offer practical, supportive hospice programs in Merrickville-Wolford that help people better understand hospice care, support those living with serious illness, and reduce isolation for caregivers and families. Municipal funding will be used to help cover facilitator fees, space costs, refreshments and materials.

WHAT ARE THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE EVENT?:

The goals are to bring care closer to home by increasing awareness and understanding of hospice services, end-of-life care, and available community supports. The programs aim to support individuals living with a life-limiting illness, as well as their families and caregivers, by offering education, emotional support, and opportunities for connection. A key objective is to help residents feel more prepared and confident by encouraging open, compassionate conversations about death, dying, and caregiving before a crisis occurs.

WHO IS YOUR TARGET GROUP?:

For this application, everyone. We have two education offerings that would benefit all residents. In addition to those individuals the programming is intended to benefit families who are living with a life-limiting illness, caregivers, and men who are experiencing grief.

HOW WILL YOUR PROJECT BENEFIT MERRICKVILLE-WOLFORD RESIDENTS?:

The planned activities will provide accessible, community-based support for Merrickville-Wolford residents experiencing grief, caregiving responsibilities, or serious illness. Activities such as Grief & Grub for Guys, daytime and evening caregiver support groups, therapeutic art, and a grief-focused Yoga & Sound Bath retreat will reduce isolation and offer meaningful opportunities for connection and support. Educational offerings, including Advance Care Planning and Last Aid training, will help residents be better prepared for a time when they need additional care, or are supporting someone at end-of life. These sessions are for everyone.

PROVIDE A LIST OF OTHER FUNDING SOURCES FOR YOUR ORGANIZATION OR GROUP:

Roughly 55% of our operating budget comes from the Ministry of Health, the rest is fundraised, and made possible by grants like this one.

DESCRIBE YOUR ORGANIZATION OR GROUP'S FUNDRAISING EFFORTS:

We have a team of dedicated volunteers who do a substantial amount of fundraising. Some of the bigger events are Hike for Hospice, Taste for Hospice, Annual Holiday Online Auction. We also do a series of smaller things throughout the year including craft sales, and raffles. People in the community also assist us in fundraising through 3rd party fundraisers, like on Horseback for Hospice.

DESCRIBE EVIDENCE OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT (INCLUDING VOLUNTEERS):

Beth Donovan Hospice was started in Merrickville, many people still fondly remember the founder Beth Donovan. It started in the basement of St. Ann Church over 30 years ago with an in-home visiting program and a day hospice program. Many Merrickville business are supporters of the hospice for the various fundraiser we hold over the year, including Merrickville Makers, Violet's on Main, and several others. Our current volunteer roster sits at 103 volunteers.

ENCLOSE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

- Budget for Project/Event
- Financial Statements
- Confirmation of Not-for-Profit or Charitable status (if applicable)

ATTACH ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WHICH YOU FEEL MAY ASSIST COUNCIL IN EVALUATING YOUR APPLICATION (PLEASE LIMIT VOLUME OF INFORMATION):

!We have read the eligibility criteria and confirm that the organization or group will comply with all requirements.

!We understand if the Village of Merrickville-Wolford approves funding, the Village of Merrickville-Wolford makes no commitment to provide ongoing financial support to the organization or group.

!We understand that should the project or event not proceed and occur, or should any grant money received from the Municipality not conform with this policy and/or application, that the money will be refunded to the municipality as stipulated in the Village of Merrickville-Wolford Community Grants Policy.

Darlene Collin

Applicant Name (Please print)



Signature

01/29/2026

Date

Appendix B – Application

COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM APPLICATION



Please complete this form, enclose all required information and return

to: Kirsten Rahm, Manager of Finance/Treasurer, Village of

Merrickville-Wolford 317 Brock St W, PO Box 340, Merrickville, ON K0G 1N0

Email: finance@merrickville-wolford.ca

NAME OF ORGANIZATION OR GROUP: FIBRE BY THE LOCKS	
MAILING ADDRESS: 1124 Pioneer Rd, Merrickville, ON K0G 1N0	
PHONE NUMBER:	
CONTACT PERSON: Debra Alexander	PHONE NUMBER: [REDACTED]
EMAIL ADDRESS: [REDACTED]	
TYPE OF REQUEST CASH GRANT Amount requested: <u>\$2787.71</u> IN-KIND WAIVE FEES: none (provide details below) IN-KIND OTHER: none (provide details below)	

DESCRIBE YOUR REQUEST FOR IN-KIND SERVICES:

No in-kind services are requested

DESCRIBE THE PURPOSE OF YOUR PROPOSED PROJECT/EVENT, INDICATING WHAT THE MUNICIPAL FUNDING WILL BE USED FOR, IF APPROVED (attach detailed budget):

Fibre by the Locks is requesting a cash grant to cover essential marketing efforts, rental space, and some one-time signage costs. These funds will be directly applied to marketing materials to attract regional tourism and the rental of space to showcase fibre and textile artists.

By securing this financial support from the Municipality, we can offer free admission to the event, thus ensuring that this celebration of fibre and textile arts remains accessible to all. This investment will drive foot traffic to our local business core and, furthermore, the marketing budget will allow us to target visitors from Ottawa and Kingston, driving tourism and secondary spending at Merrickville's restaurants and shops.

Please see the attached budget sheet for details on how the money will be spent

WHAT ARE THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE EVENT?:

Our event directly supports the Municipality's goal of enhancing community vibrancy and tourism growth. We aren't just hosting a craft show; we are building a recurring annual event that reinforces Merrickville's reputation as the 'Jewel of the Rideau'

Fibre by the Locks is a vibrant celebration of textile arts that transforms historic Merrickville into a hub of creative energy. The event centers around a curated **vendor market** featuring high-quality yarns, raw fibres, and finished textile and fibre goods, providing a vital platform for both small, local businesses and artisans.

A highlight of programming in 2026 is a special showcase of **6 young, emerging artists**, offering a spotlight to new talent and fresh perspectives within the fibre community. Visitors can immerse themselves in the craft through live **demonstrations by local textile makers**, who will be sharing traditional techniques such as spinning, weaving, and felting, ensuring that the rich heritage of the Rideau Valley remains a living, breathing part of our community.

WHO IS YOUR TARGET GROUP?:

While our event appeals specifically to those interested in traditional crafts and Canadian heritage, our marketing strategy focuses on the 'Creative Tourist' demographic—individuals who stay longer and spend more in local economies than the average visitor.

Our event is designed to engage an audience through the following groups:

- **Regional Arts & Heritage Tourists:** We target fibre enthusiasts, historians, and "day-trippers" from the **Ottawa, Kingston, and Brockville** corridors. These visitors are drawn to Merrickville's reputation as an artisanal hub and provide a direct economic boost to our local hospitality and retail sectors.
- **Artisans and Creative Professionals:** We provide a platform for local makers to showcase their expertise, fostering a creative network within the Rideau Valley.

HOW WILL YOUR PROJECT BENEFIT MERRICKVILLE-WOLFORD RESIDENTS?:

Fibre by the Locks is designed to strengthen the fabric of our local community. The event serves as a networking hub, where residents can connect with local artisans, hobbyists, and small business owners in a relaxed, creative environment. By facilitating the sharing of crafter tips and traditional techniques—such as spinning, weaving, and knitting—we foster a culture of lifelong learning and mentorship right here in the village.

The Fibre by the Locks event will connect residents to the rich history of fibre and textile production in our village through the participation of the Merrickville and District Historical Society and local guilds and groups.

In addition, Fibre by the Locks is an entry level event that is affordable and accessible to cottage-craft makers and home-based businesses and is uniquely suitable for our local artisans.

PROVIDE A LIST OF OTHER FUNDING SOURCES FOR YOUR ORGANIZATION OR GROUP:

Fibre by the Locks will be soliciting sponsorship from local businesses, specifically those associated with textile supplies and small manufacturing operations

DESCRIBE YOUR ORGANIZATION OR GROUP'S FUNDRAISING EFFORTS:

The Fibre by the Locks event will include a silent auction and this is our sole fundraising opportunity.

DESCRIBE EVIDENCE OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT (INCLUDING VOLUNTEERS):

The Fibre by the Locks event was first held in October of 2025 and enjoyed great support from the community with vendors and attendees coming from Ottawa and surrounding areas. Estimated attendance was ~600 people. This support included months of planning by eight committee members, half a dozen 'day of' volunteers, demonstrations from local knitters, rug hookers, and spinners; plus a speaker's series that highlighted antique quilts, sheep farming operations, and the history of Merrickville's Watchhorn woolen mill.

Further support was found in the business community when they offered to post information or share news of the event by that most valuable media: 'word of mouth'

ENCLOSE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

- Budget for Project/Event
- Financial Statements
- Confirmation of Not-for-Profit or Charitable status (if applicable)

The marketing and rental budget for the event is enclosed.

Fibre by the Locks is an *ad hoc* group of volunteers with shared interests. While there is an organizing committee for the event, we have no other formal structure nor are we registered as a business of any sort. Therefore, we have no financial statements to provide and we have no formal status as a business, NFP, or Charity.

We are, however, very able to provide a report after the event as required by the grant policy.

ATTACH ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WHICH YOU FEEL MAY ASSIST COUNCIL IN EVALUATING YOUR APPLICATION (PLEASE LIMIT VOLUME OF INFORMATION):

I/We have read the eligibility criteria and confirm that the organization or group will comply with all requirements.

I/We understand if the Village of Merrickville-Wolford approves funding, the Village of

Merrickville-Wolford makes no commitment to provide ongoing financial support to the organization or group.

I/We understand that should the project or event not proceed and occur, or should any grant money received from the Municipality not conform with this policy and/or application, that the money will be refunded to the municipality as stipulated in the Village of Merrickville-Wolford Community Grants Policy.

Debra Alexander

Applicant Name (Please print)

2026-01-27

Signature Date

Appendix B – Application

COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM APPLICATION



Please complete this form, enclose all required information and return to:

Kirsten Rahm, Manager of Finance/Treasurer, Village of Merrickville-Wolford

317 Brock St W, PO Box 340, Merrickville, ON K0G 1N0

Email: finance@merrickville-wolford.ca

NAME OF ORGANIZATION OR GROUP: Streetscape Working Group (M-W and District Chamber of Commerce)	
MAILING ADDRESS: PO Box 571, Merrickville, K0G 1N0	
PHONE NUMBER: n/a	
CONTACT PERSON: Lisa Card	PHONE NUMBER: [REDACTED]
EMAIL ADDRESS: lisa@chaiyadecor.ca	
TYPE OF REQUEST	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CASH GRANT	Amount requested: <u>2500.00</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> IN-KIND WAIVE FEES (provide details below)	
<input type="checkbox"/> IN-KIND OTHER (provide details below)	

DESCRIBE YOUR REQUEST FOR IN-KIND SERVICES:

n/a

DESCRIBE THE PURPOSE OF YOUR PROPOSED PROJECT/EVENT, INDICATING WHAT THE MUNICIPAL FUNDING WILL BE USED FOR, IF APPROVED (attach detailed budget):

If approved, the municipal funding will be used to purchase 26 banners for the spring season. This would complete the basic sets of banners needed to cover the entire year. These will be for installation on the existing banner brackets on poles in Merrickville, Eastons Corners, and Jasper and will stay in place from the time the winter banners come down until the Canada Day banners get installed in late June.

WHAT ARE THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE EVENT?:

The banners will add colour and vibrancy to the streetscape during the springtime. They will also contribute to wayfinding, inviting visitors to explore beyond the first two blocks of St. Lawrence St.

WHO IS YOUR TARGET GROUP?:

Merrickville-Wolford residents, visitors, and tourists

HOW WILL YOUR PROJECT BENEFIT MERRICKVILLE-WOLFORD RESIDENTS?:

The banners will beautify the streets, adding warmth, colour and vibrancy to the streetscape for approximately 4 months from early spring until early summer.

PROVIDE A LIST OF OTHER FUNDING SOURCES FOR YOUR ORGANIZATION OR GROUP:

Currently the only other funding we have is raised by the volunteer committee members.

DESCRIBE YOUR ORGANIZATION OR GROUP'S FUNDRAISING EFFORTS:

We have been selling Merrickville branded tote bags of our own design to raise funds.

DESCRIBE EVIDENCE OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT (INCLUDING VOLUNTEERS):

We don't have any hard evidence of support, but have received many positive comments on the poles and banners so far.

ENCLOSE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

- Budget for Project/Event
- Financial Statements
- Confirmation of Not-for-Profit or Charitable status (if applicable)

ATTACH ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WHICH YOU FEEL MAY ASSIST COUNCIL IN EVALUATING YOUR APPLICATION (PLEASE LIMIT VOLUME OF INFORMATION):

!We have read the eligibility criteria and confirm that the organization or group will comply with all requirements.

!We understand if the Village of Merrickville-Wolford approves funding, the Village of Merrickville-Wolford makes no commitment to provide ongoing financial support to the organization or group.

!We understand that should the project or event not proceed and occur, or should any grant money received from the Municipality not conform with this policy and/or application, that the money will be refunded to the municipality as stipulated in the Village of Merrickville-Wolford Community Grants Policy.

Applicant Name (Please print)

Signature

Date

Appendix B – Application

COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM APPLICATION



Please complete this form, enclose all required information and return to:

Kirsten Rahm, Manager of Finance/Treasurer, Village of Merrickville-Wolford

317 Brock St W, PO Box 340, Merrickville, ON K0G 1N0

Email: finance@merrickville-wolford.ca

NAME OF ORGANIZATION OR GROUP: École élémentaire catholique Sainte-Marguerite-Bourgeoys	
MAILING ADDRESS: 306 Read Street, Merrickville, Ontario, K0G1N0	
PHONE NUMBER: 613-521-4213	
CONTACT PERSON: Lisa Samrai	PHONE NUMBER: 613-521-4213
EMAIL ADDRESS: samrali@ecolecatholique.ca	
TYPE OF REQUEST	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CASH GRANT	Amount requested: <u>\$500.00</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> IN-KIND WAIVE FEES (provide details below)	
<input type="checkbox"/> IN-KIND OTHER (provide details below)	

DESCRIBE YOUR REQUEST FOR IN-KIND SERVICES:

N/A

DESCRIBE THE PURPOSE OF YOUR PROPOSED PROJECT/EVENT, INDICATING WHAT THE MUNICIPAL FUNDING WILL BE USED FOR, IF APPROVED (attach detailed budget):

This funding would be used to help the school purchase two picnic tables for the school yard as there is currently a lack of seating for the students.

WHAT ARE THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE EVENT?:

The goals and objectives of this project would be to provide seating for students while they are outside. Many of our students would like to be able to sit and read and draw during their recesses and this would allow them to do this. Many teachers would also like to be able to use picnic tables outside to be able to teach the students during nice weather.

WHO IS YOUR TARGET GROUP?:

Our primary target group is our school community, most notably our students. However, this project would also benefit the village community who also use the school grounds after hours.

HOW WILL YOUR PROJECT BENEFIT MERRICKVILLE-WOLFORD RESIDENTS?:

This project will benefit many residents of the village of Merrickville-Wolford. Many community members use the school grounds when the school is not open. For example, people use the basketball court very often and this would provide a place for community members to sit and rest.

PROVIDE A LIST OF OTHER FUNDING SOURCES FOR YOUR ORGANIZATION OR GROUP:
The schools regular budget may also be used to help fund this project.

DESCRIBE YOUR ORGANIZATION OR GROUP'S FUNDRAISING EFFORTS:
N/A

DESCRIBE EVIDENCE OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT (INCLUDING VOLUNTEERS):
The local community does use the school grounds frequently and we believe they would be very happy to also have a place where they can sit and rest.

ENCLOSE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

- Budget for Project/Event
- Financial Statements
- Confirmation of Not-for-Profit or Charitable status (if applicable)

ATTACH ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WHICH YOU FEEL MAY ASSIST COUNCIL IN EVALUATING YOUR APPLICATION (PLEASE LIMIT VOLUME OF INFORMATION):

!We have read the eligibility criteria and confirm that the organization or group will comply with all requirements.

!We understand if the Village of Merrickville-Wolford approves funding, the Village of Merrickville-Wolford makes no commitment to provide ongoing financial support to the organization or group.

!We understand that should the project or event not proceed and occur, or should any grant money received from the Municipality not conform with this policy and/or application, that the money will be refunded to the municipality as stipulated in the Village of Merrickville-Wolford Community Grants Policy.

Lisa Samrai

Applicant Name (Please print)

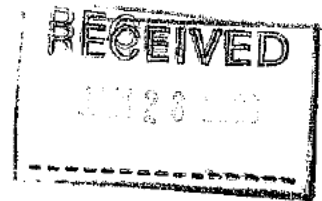
Lisa Samrai

Signature

30/01/2026

Date

Appendix B – Application



COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM APPLICATION



Please complete this form, enclose all required information and return to:

Kirsten Rahm, Manager of Finance/Treasurer, Village of Merrickville-Wolford

317 Brock St W, PO Box 340, Merrickville, ON K0G 1N0

Email: finance@merrickville-wolford.ca

NAME OF ORGANIZATION OR GROUP: <i>Amanda Casselden</i>	
MAILING ADDRESS: <i>Box 705 - 218 main st E, Merrickville</i>	
PHONE NUMBER: [REDACTED]	
CONTACT PERSON: <i>Amanda Casselden</i>	PHONE NUMBER: [REDACTED]
EMAIL ADDRESS: [REDACTED]	
TYPE OF REQUEST	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CASH GRANT	Amount requested: <i>\$ 1500.00</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> IN-KIND WAIVE FEES (provide details below)	
<input type="checkbox"/> IN-KIND OTHER (provide details below)	

DESCRIBE YOUR REQUEST FOR IN-KIND SERVICES:

DESCRIBE THE PURPOSE OF YOUR PROPOSED PROJECT/EVENT, INDICATING WHAT THE MUNICIPAL FUNDING WILL BE USED FOR, IF APPROVED (attach detailed budget):

To Create a Safe, enclosed well maintained environment, where dogs can roam off leash, while ensuring public safety & minimizing potential conflicts with other recreational users and wildlife. monies will be used for Signage, waste stations

WHAT ARE THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE EVENT?:

Community Engagement, Health & wellness, Encourage tourism & Economic foot traffic to the downtown Core.

WHO IS YOUR TARGET GROUP?:

All residents, users & the fair grounds

HOW WILL YOUR PROJECT BENEFIT MERRICKVILLE-WOLFORD RESIDENTS?:

The dog park, will serve local residents, & attract visitors, which will increase foot traffic & generate positive spillover for local businesses.

PROVIDE A LIST OF OTHER FUNDING SOURCES FOR YOUR ORGANIZATION OR GROUP:

Park View Homes have a commitment of \$3000.00 and work in kind in development of the Park. I have applied to the Lions Club for the Lion Share Program with a possible amount of \$10,000.00. still waiting on a reply from them

DESCRIBE YOUR ORGANIZATION OR GROUP'S FUNDRAISING EFFORTS:

All monies for this, will come from Grants, Sponsorships, Donations Fundraising.

DESCRIBE EVIDENCE OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT (INCLUDING VOLUNTEERS):

I have received 120 individual signatures in favor of a park in Merrickville, 26 Business owners signatures in favor of the fairgrounds. Volunteers will join once a decision is made as to whether Council approve the park proposal.

ENCLOSE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

- Budget for Project/Event - Budget Estimated at \$30,000.00
- Financial Statements N/A
- Confirmation of Not-for-Profit or Charitable status (if applicable) N/A
will be a not-for-profit, if proposal is approved

ATTACH ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WHICH YOU FEEL MAY ASSIST COUNCIL IN EVALUATING YOUR APPLICATION (PLEASE LIMIT VOLUME OF INFORMATION):

The Dog Park is still in the Proposal Stages

!/We have read the eligibility criteria and confirm that the organization or group will comply with all requirements.

I/We understand if the Village of Merrickville-Wolford approves funding, the Village of Merrickville-Wolford makes no commitment to provide ongoing financial support to the organization or group.

I/We understand that should the project or event not proceed and occur, or should any grant money received from the Municipality not conform with this policy and/or application, that the money will be refunded to the municipality as stipulated in the Village of Merrickville-Wolford Community Grants Policy.

Amanda Casselden

Applicant Name (Please print)

A Casselden

Signature

January 27/26

Date

Appendix B – Application

COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM APPLICATION



Please complete this form, enclose all required information and return to:

Kirsten Rahm, Manager of Finance/Treasurer, Village of Merrickville-Wolford

317 Brock St W, PO Box 340, Merrickville, ON K0G 1N0

Email: finance@merrickville-wolford.ca

NAME OF ORGANIZATION OR GROUP: Merrickville Arts Guild	
MAILING ADDRESS: c/o 341 Wellington St E, Merrickville, Ontario, K0G 1N0	
PHONE NUMBER: [REDACTED]	
CONTACT PERSON: Kenna McCall	PHONE NUMBER: same
EMAIL ADDRESS: [REDACTED]	
TYPE OF REQUEST	
<input type="checkbox"/> CASH GRANT	Amount requested: <u>\$2,000</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> IN-KIND WAIVE FEES (provide details below)	
<input type="checkbox"/> IN-KIND OTHER (provide details below)	

DESCRIBE YOUR REQUEST FOR IN-KIND SERVICES:

DESCRIBE THE PURPOSE OF YOUR PROPOSED PROJECT/EVENT, INDICATING WHAT THE MUNICIPAL FUNDING WILL BE USED FOR, IF APPROVED (attach detailed budget):

The funds will be used to supplement the cost of the venue rental. The Knox has agreed to charge MAG only 1/3 of the regular cost and for the other 2/3 to be considered as an in-kind donation. The Knox will be \$1500. The funds will also be used to supplement the cost of the grid rental from the North Grenville Arts Guild which is estimated to be \$500, including transportation. Remaining costs are estimated to be \$3,000 which includes: advertising; participation fees; materials, creation and installation of decorations; professional installation of artwork; signage; invitations to supporters; and, contract for local professional social media consultant. The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$3,550. In-kind donations have been secured and more are being sought. Additional funding is sought from other sources and MAG will use funds raised from 2025 fundraising and will conduct additional fundraising events in 2026. MAG is a completely volunteer governed and operated not for profit and the in-kind contributions from MAG volunteers would be well beyond the estimated cost for this event.

WHAT ARE THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE EVENT?:

The Merrickville Arts Guild has wanted to participate in Christmas in Merrickville for a very long time but were unable to do so for lack of a suitable venue. In 2024, Merrickville is known as a village of artists and it seemed odd that its most popular event had no artist presence. MAG considers it vital for the reputation of Merrickville and MAG to have a strong art presence at such a significant event for tourism, the arts and local economic development. MAG began discussion with The Knox regarding the possibility of installing an art gallery type exhibition. The Knox was able to free up their reservations for Christmas in Merrickville 2026 and offered it to MAG. As MAG has no regular funding stream and depends on membership fees for ongoing operations, MAG was in no position to be able to afford the rental fee of The Knox. The Knox owner negotiated to offer the facility at 1/3 the cost and consider the other 2/3 cost as in-kind donation. MAG agreed to those terms and is seeking the funds to pay for the event through local funding and fundraising efforts.

WHO IS YOUR TARGET GROUP?:

The target audience is individuals and families, locals and visitors who will be at the 2026 Christmas in Merrickville event. Merrickville has a reputation for being a community that encourages the arts and has a large and strong artist community. People visiting expect to see local art when they come to Merrickville and particularly for a popular event.

HOW WILL YOUR PROJECT BENEFIT MERRICKVILLE-WOLFORD RESIDENTS?:

As noted previously, locals and visitors expect to see local art when they come to Merrickville because of our long-standing reputation as being a village that has a lot of artists per capita and values art as a community. The exhibit will obviously benefit local artists because of the exposure of their art to the large number of visitors coming to Christmas in Merrickville, but, more than that, it will encourage youth and seniors in the community who are interested in the arts, to get involved with MAG. MAG has learning and mentoring opportunities for new and emerging local artists, which will be promoted at the event. It is well-established that the arts are integral to community-building, reduces isolation and contributes to sound mental health.

PROVIDE A LIST OF OTHER FUNDING SOURCES FOR YOUR ORGANIZATION OR GROUP:

As noted previously, MAG is completely volunteer driven, has no staff and no secure funding stream. Each year MAG seeks local funding and sometimes it is successful and sometimes not. Collaborations with other local community groups for events, small fundraising efforts such as bake sales, and donations obtained from MAG events from coin jars all contribute to the costs of MAG events and activities. MAG has been around for 40 years and in that time, has formed strong bonds with local businesses and community groups and has developed many methods of doing a lot with very little. This year MAG will be applying to register with the province as a non-profit, which will increase the amount of funding sources it can apply to. MAG regularly receives in-kind donation of space from the Legion for monthly meetings and workshops and has received a \$200 grant from the Chamber of Commerce and will apply again this year.

DESCRIBE YOUR ORGANIZATION OR GROUP'S FUNDRAISING EFFORTS:

See above. MAG has also been the beneficiary at times from funding that has been obtained from MOCA. MAG regularly has a booth at local events for promotion and donations such as the Studio Tour which is self-funding through participant fees, and that may also offer a fundraising opportunity. In the past, MAG has raised funds at the Merrickville Garage Sale and we hope to raise funds there as well. All of these fundraising events are labour intensive and result in small amounts of funds of a few hundred dollars each. In 2025, MAG contributed 17 one-of-a-kind centrepiece creations for TNIM brunch celebration and \$740 was raised which MAG donated to the Merrickville Clients in Need fund managed by the local Community Health Centre. On occasion, artists will provide workshops and donate the fees to MAG.

DESCRIBE EVIDENCE OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT (INCLUDING VOLUNTEERS):

MAG is completely volunteer driven with over 100 members. It is a testament to the dedication of artist volunteers that MAG has been in existence for over 40 years and has earned Merrickville a solid reputation as a village of artists. Because of this reputation, many artists from Ottawa and other communities retire here. We attract thousands of visitors a year to Merrickville for our events. These visitors come from Montreal, Gatineau, Ottawa, Brockville, Kingston, up state New York and beyond. Some return yearly, frequent the restaurants and local businesses and stay at local accommodations. Some businesses that recognize the benefit of MAG to them have built a reciprocal relationship with MAG where we promote each other on an ongoing basis. MAG also has a strong relationship with the Chamber of Commerce and Theatre Night in Merrickville

ENCLOSE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

- Budget for Project/Event
- Financial Statements
- Confirmation of Not-for-Profit or Charitable status (if applicable)

ATTACH ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WHICH YOU FEEL MAY ASSIST COUNCIL IN EVALUATING YOUR APPLICATION (PLEASE LIMIT VOLUME OF INFORMATION):

!We have read the eligibility criteria and confirm that the organization or group will comply with all requirements.

!We understand if the Village of Merrickville-Wolford approves funding, the Village of Merrickville-Wolford makes no commitment to provide ongoing financial support to the organization or group.

!We understand that should the project or event not proceed and occur, or should any grant money received from the Municipality not conform with this policy and/or application, that the money will be refunded to the municipality as stipulated in the Village of Merrickville-Wolford Community Grants Policy.

Kenna McCall

Applicant Name (Please print)



Signature

January 13, 2026

Date

Appendix B – Application

COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM APPLICATION



Please complete this form, enclose all required information and return to:

Kirsten Rahm, Manager of Finance/Treasurer, Village of Merrickville-Wolford

317 Brock St W, PO Box 340, Merrickville, ON K0G 1N0

Email: finance@merrickville-wolford.ca

NAME OF ORGANIZATION OR GROUP: Merrickville Organization for Culture & the Arts (MOCA)	
MAILING ADDRESS: PO Box 167, 517 Elgin Street	
PHONE NUMBER: [REDACTED]	
CONTACT PERSON: Nick Previsich	PHONE NUMBER: [REDACTED]
EMAIL ADDRESS: [REDACTED]	
TYPE OF REQUEST	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CASH GRANT	Amount requested: <u>\$7000.00</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN-KIND WAIVE FEES (provide details below)	
<input type="checkbox"/> IN-KIND OTHER (provide details below)	

DESCRIBE YOUR REQUEST FOR IN-KIND SERVICES:

This request is to provide financial support for the 6th annual Merrickville Festival of the Arts. We also request that all fees associated with signage advertising the event and directional signs showing the location of the Festival in the Blockhouse Park. In addition, we are requesting permission to erect signs as needed. Parks Canada has provided a permit for the past 5 years for the utilization of the Park for the Festival of the Arts and an application for 2026 has been provided to them. Large banner signs will be placed at the four entrances to the Village pending permission from the Chamber of Commerce. A-Frame signs and lawn signs will be placed at or near the Blockhouse Park showing locations for toilets, parking, event schedules, etc.. Canopy tents will be used by MAC artists and for sound equipment, musical and theatrical.

DESCRIBE THE PURPOSE OF YOUR PROPOSED PROJECT/EVENT, INDICATING WHAT THE MUNICIPAL FUNDING WILL BE USED FOR, IF APPROVED (attach detailed budget):

This is a two-day event (July 11th and 12th). The funding request of \$7000 will be used for the production of signage, printing, insurance, advertising, musician fees, electronic equipment rentals, overnight security, social media promotion, graphic design and if needed (The Pews) facility rental for a possible night concert. In addition, the Parks Canada permit cost has risen considerably to app \$650.00.

WHAT ARE THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE EVENT?:

The overall objective is to provide an enjoyable weekend experience celebrating the Arts in its various forms. The goals are:

- to engage and support local businesses
- to showcase the work of talented local artists, actors, musicians, writers, etc..
- to draw day visitors, tourists and local residents to join in the festivities and appreciate the diversity of artistic and cultural experiences. An attempt will be made to invite participation by local First Nations people.

WHO IS YOUR TARGET GROUP?:

The target group is local residents, tourists and visitors to the Village, boaters and campers who are here to experience the Rideau Canal System and young people who will be encouraged to enjoy art, music, theatre.

HOW WILL YOUR PROJECT BENEFIT MERRICKVILLE-WOLFORD RESIDENTS?:

This project will provide residents an opportunity to see and hear a high calibre of art, music and theatre oriented for a family experience. This will help reduce social isolation for residents who may not be able to afford to pay to attend such events. There are no admission fees of any kind.

Local business have said in the past that the Festival of the Arts is the single most important day outside of Christmas in Merrickville for visitors to their shops and restaurants.

PROVIDE A LIST OF OTHER FUNDING SOURCES FOR YOUR ORGANIZATION OR GROUP:

Chamber of Commerce
Lions Club
Merrickville Arts Guild (MAG)
Corporate donors & local businesses
Merrickville Organization for Culture & the Arts (MOCA)

DESCRIBE YOUR ORGANIZATION OR GROUP'S FUNDRAISING EFFORTS:

MOCA will be writing to local businesses and potential corporate donors to help with financial support in addition to that provided through the Community Grant Program. In addition, both the Lions Club and Chamber of Commerce will be asked to contribute directly with funds or in-kind services. MAG artists will be asked to pay a participation fee for displaying and potentially selling their art work.

DESCRIBE EVIDENCE OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT (INCLUDING VOLUNTEERS):

MOCA has been an active contributor to various events in Merrickville-Wolford for the past several years. We have been active in the past by bringing extraordinary musicians to Merrickville through the Small Halls Concert initiative. We have funded and participated in the celebrity chefs' events for fundraising purposes. We have collaborated with The Pews (former United Church) to provide free concert experiences.

ENCLOSE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

- Budget for Project/Event
- Financial Statements
- Confirmation of Not-for-Profit or Charitable status (if applicable)

ATTACH ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WHICH YOU FEEL MAY ASSIST COUNCIL IN EVALUATING YOUR APPLICATION (PLEASE LIMIT VOLUME OF INFORMATION):

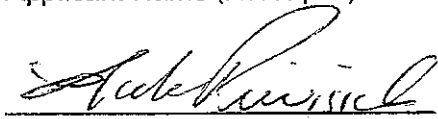
!We have read the eligibility criteria and confirm that the organization or group will comply with all requirements.

!We understand if the Village of Merrickville-Wolford approves funding, the Village of Merrickville-Wolford makes no commitment to provide ongoing financial support to the organization or group.

!We understand that should the project or event not proceed and occur, or should any grant money received from the Municipality not conform with this policy and/or application, that the money will be refunded to the municipality as stipulated in the Village of Merrickville-Wolford Community Grants Policy.

Nick Previsich

Applicant Name (Please print)



Signature

January 19, 2026

Date

Report to Committee of the Whole

Date: 4/13/2026
From: Dan Halladay Chief Building Official
Re: First Quarter Report 2026

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Committee of the Whole receive for information the First Quarter Report for the Building Department for 2026.

BACKGROUND

The Building Department regularly receives and reviews various applications for permits, as well as the issuance (or refusal of the issuance), of construction and demolition permits, which typically requires site inspections and approvals as mandated under the Ontario Building Code.

ANALYSIS

The chart below shows the number of permits that were issued during the same timeframe as the previous 5 years. In addition to providing the number of permits, they have been separated to show the various types of permits.

January to March	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Total Permits	12	22	36	9	6
New Residential	2	3	19	0	0
Accessory Buildings	3	3	4	0	3
Pools	1	0	0	0	0
Demolition	0	2	4	2	1
Residential Additions	1	2	1	3	0
Renovations	5	3	2	2	0
Sewage systems	0	5	2	0	0
Septic Review	0	3	1	1	2
Decks	0	0	1	0	0
Solid Fuel	0	0	1	0	0
Signs	0	1	0	1	0
Solor Panels	0	0	1	0	0
Change of Use	0	0	0	0	0

The Administrative Assistant for the Building Department has been assisting in updating the forms for the Building Department, making them electronically fillable and accessible on the Village website. The process of digitizing the Building Department records has

also started and is an ongoing process. The continued use of the digital permitting system, called Centre for Geographic Information Systems (CGIS), benefits the Building Department. This electronic permitting system allows online permitting and the digital inputting of inspection reports as well as reports to MPAC, Stats Can, and Tarion to generate service level and efficiencies.

BUDGET/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The Building Department expects to see permits remain moderate and inspections increase over the next several years with the Merrickville Grove Subdivision well into construction, and with newly severed lots looking to be developed, though this is always dependent upon local and national economic factors.

CONCLUSION

This report is for information purposes.

ATTACHMENTS

None

Submitted by:

Dan Halladay, CBO

Approved by:

Darlene Plumley, CAO

Report to Committee of the Whole

Date: 4/13/2026
From: Julia McCaugherty-Jansman, Clerk
Re: Merrickville Turbine Licence Agreement

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Committee of the Whole receive for information the draft Licence Agreement for the Merrickville Turbine;

AND FURTHER THAT Committee direct staff to bring the necessary by-law to the April 27th Regular Council Meeting to authorize and sign the agreement as presented.

BACKGROUND

At the [September 22nd, 2025 Regular Council Meeting](#), the following motion was passed regarding the request for ownership transfer from the Friends of the Merrickville Turbine:

Moved by Councillor Maitland
Seconded by Councillor Gural

THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford receive for information the letter from the Friends of the Merrickville Turbine regarding the request to transfer ownership of the heritage artifact known as the Merrickville Turbine;

AND FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to bring back further background information and report to the October 14th Committee of the Whole Meeting to consider the request.

Carried.

ANALYSIS

The initial request letter is attached to this report as Schedule "A" for reference. The draft Agreement between Parks Canada Agency and the Municipality has now been obtained and is attached as Schedule "B" to this report.

The purpose of taking over the current lease between Parks Canada and the Friends of the Merrickville Turbine is to preserve the Merrickville Turbine, as noted in the request letter from the Louis Birta, President of the Friends of the Merrickville Turbine.

BUDGET/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no budget implications or it has been confirmed that there is no impact to the Municipality's insurance costs by transferring ownership of the Turbine to the Village.

CONCLUSION

Staff recommend that Committee recommend to Council that the agreement be approved and authorized by way of by-law at the April 27th Regular Meeting.

ATTACHMENTS

Schedule "A" – Request Letter to Council from Louis Berta (Friends of the Merrickville Turbine)

Schedule "B" – Draft Licence Agreement between Parks Canada and the Village of Merrickville-Wolford

Submitted by:

Julia McCaugherty-Jansman, Clerk

Approved by:

Darlene Plumley, CAO

Ms Darlene Plumley, CAO
Village of Merrickville-Wolford
317 Brock St W., Box 340
Merrickville, ON K0G 1N0

September 15, 2025

Dear Ms Plumley

I am writing to you in my role as President of the Friends of the Merrickville Turbine (FMT). We are a charitable organization established to preserve, maintain, and interpret one of Merrickville's most significant pieces of industrial heritage; namely, the turbine generator that has been on display for more than a decade as part of the Parks Canada's Industrial Heritage Display located adjacent to the OPG generating station on the bridge that crosses the Rideau River/Rideau Canal.

Historical Background

The turbine operated in the nearby power station from 1915 until 1991, providing electricity to factories on this Industrial Site and to the village of Merrickville itself, powered by the adjacent Rideau River waterfall. Recognizing the heritage value of this remarkable artifact, the Heritage Merrickville Foundation (HMF), together with Ontario Hydro and Parks Canada, arranged for its display on the Merrickville Industrial Ruins site.

- 1991 – Removed from the Generating Station and placed in storage by Parks Canada.
- 1993 – Relocated to its present site, with HMF funding for the construction of the plinth.
- 1994–1995 – Painted under the oversight of HMF.
- 2004 – Discussions initiated with Parks Canada regarding long-term care.
- 2011 – On the initiative of David Hammonds, the Friends of the Merrickville Turbine was formed to address deterioration and establish a sustainable stewardship plan.

Incorporation and Charitable Status

On March 3, 2012, the Ontario Historical Society incorporated the FMT as an Affiliated Member #9477, Ontario Corporation #001869322. On May 23, 2012, the Canada Revenue Agency approved our charitable status (registration #82835 8705 RR0001).

Objectives

The organization's objectives are to:

- a) own, research, restore, preserve, interpret, and maintain the turbine, governor, and generator—collectively known as the "Turbine"—which stands on Parks Canada land at the Merrickville Industrial Ruins;
- b) carry out activities supporting the preservation of the Turbine; and
- c) solicit funding to ensure its ongoing care.

Stewardship and Expenses

Since incorporation, the Friends have invested significant time and resources:

- 2013 – Sandblasting, environmental remediation, and repainting (\$29,606; supported by a Trillium Foundation grant of \$14,300).

- 2013 – Installation of protective fencing (\$6,780; supported by Valley Heartland).
- 2014 – Alloy Foundry signage (\$2,011.40; supported by a \$3,500 donation from OPG).
- Ongoing – Annual printing of information brochure (approx. \$75).

These efforts build on the foundational work of the Heritage Merrickville Foundation and demonstrate the Friends' long-standing commitment to preserving this artifact.

Request for Transfer

After more than a decade of stewardship, the Friends have reached a point where our aging membership must consider the long-term sustainability of this responsibility. While ongoing costs remain modest—Parks Canada maintains the grounds, the turbine is fenced, and the primary requirement is liability insurance—the Friends believe that municipal ownership offers the most secure path for preservation and interpretation.

At its meeting of August 14, 2025, the Village's Museum Services Board acknowledged the current difficulty faced by the Friends and indicated its willingness to provide support. Based on this encouragement a special meeting of the Friends was called on September 4 during which the following Motion was unanimously passed by the members present:

MOTION: That a request to the Village of Merrickville-Wolford Council be formulated to approve the transfer of ownership of the heritage artifact known as the Merrickville Turbine from its current owner (namely, the legal entity called the Friends of the Merrickville Turbine) to the Village of Merrickville-Wolford. In addition to the turbine-generator this transfer will include the following: the fence surrounding the current display (with lock and key), the concrete plinth upon which the artifact rests and a'l documentation relating to the display; e.g., the information brochure typically displayed/distributed at the site, the contents of the website: www.FriendsOfTheMerrickvilleTurbine.weebly.com, together with any other documentation deemed to be relevant. All costs associated with ownership (e.g. insurance), incurred subsequent to the transfer, will be assumed by the Village.

As President of the Friends of the Merrickville Turbine, I would very much appreciate your help in conveying this request for the transfer of ownership that is embedded in this Motion, to an appropriate meeting of the Merrickville-Wolford Council.

Closing

I thank you for your consideration. Approval of this request will ensure that this unique industrial artifact—an enduring reminder of Merrickville's industrial and cultural heritage—will remain preserved, interpreted, and celebrated for generations to come.

Sincerely,



Louis Birta

President, Friends of the Merrickville Turbine

DUPLICATE
ORIGINAL

85-2188-606-1098

Parks Canada Agency

AGREEMENT

HIS MAJESTY THE KING

TO

THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF MERRICKVILLE-WOLFORD

Date of Licence

Date du Permis -----

Public Work concerned

Ontario Waterways - Rideau Canal

Travail public touché -----

Description: permission to preserve the Merrickville Turbine which forms an integral part of the ruins of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford's historical industrial complex

Term during pleasure

Durée -----

From

April 1, 2026

A compter du -----

Rental

\$1.00

Loyer -----

Departmental Reference File No

C8606/R85-1098

Référence du Ministère No du dossier -----

MEMORANDA - NOTE

This Agreement replaces Licence No. 85-2188-606-1098 dated June 27, 2023 with the Friends of the Merrickville Turbine

5. This agreement operates solely as a licence and does not transfer any exclusive possessory right or leasehold interest to the Licensee.
6. The Licensee shall not transfer this agreement or any part thereof or any of the rights and privileges hereunder.
7. The Licensee shall use the land to gain access to the Turbine in order to carry out stabilization, re-painting, on-going maintenance and the exhibition and interpretation thereof.
8. The Licensee shall, at its own cost and expense, erect signage at the site of the Turbine, in both official languages of Canada, containing interpretive messaging and information on future plans for the refurbishment of the Turbine and shall obtain the approval of the Director prior to it being displayed.
9. All structures, materials and supplies, articles, effects and things hereinafter for the purpose of this Licence referred to as "property of the Licensee", at any time brought, placed or being upon the land shall be entirely at the risk of the Licensee in respect of loss, damage, injury, destruction or accident from whatsoever cause arising, whether due to the negligence of His Majesty, His servants, agents or employees, or otherwise howsoever.
10. No permanent structures, other than the existing Turbine, are permitted on the land. The Licensee may erect temporary structures on the land should they be required in connection with the stabilization of the Turbine provided it is done in strict compliance with instructions and directions given with respect thereto by the Director.
11. Subject to Clause 10, the Licensee shall keep the land and any and all structures thereon, in a condition satisfactory to the Director who may enter the land and any and all such structures, at all reasonable times, for the purposes of inspecting the same and to ensure that the terms and conditions of this Licence are being well and truly observed and performed.
12. The Licensee shall not, without the prior written permission of the Director, at any time, cut down, injure or destroy, nor cause nor permit to be cut down, injured or destroyed, any tree or trees on the land.
13. No refuse, waste or rubbish of any kind or anything detrimental to the purity of the water of the Rideau Canal and/or River shall be placed or discharged by the Licensee into the said Canal and/or River or upon the land or upon any part of the Rideau Canal reserve land.
14. The Licensee shall comply with all federal, provincial and municipal sanitary and water quality laws that are applicable hereto from time to time.
15. The Licensee shall comply fully with the instructions of the Director in connection with fire and safety precautions and all other matters in connection with the use and occupation of the land.
16. The Licensee shall, at the expense of the Licensee, comply with the provisions of all federal statutes that relate hereto, with the relevant provisions of any regulations made pursuant to such statutes and with the relevant provisions, if any, of all applicable provincial or municipal laws that are not in conflict with the federal law.
17. Notwithstanding anything in this Licence contained, the annual Licence fee herein reserved to His Majesty will be subject to review from time to time by the Minister and may, at his option, be fixed and determined at the beginning of each five (5) year period at any greater or other sum than herein reserved and, in the event that the Licensee refuses to pay such revised sum, this Licence may be cancelled and determined by notice in writing signed by or on behalf of the Minister and forwarded by registered mail to the Licensee at the Licensee's last known address or place of business and after the mailing of such written notification, this Licence shall be determined and ended.
18. This Licence is granted strictly subject to the right of His Majesty to grant leases or licences, as the case may be, at any time, covering the right and privilege or permission to construct, lay, maintain and operate watermains, sewers, gas pipelines, oil pipelines, underground transmission and telephone cables, overhead transmission and telephone lines, on, under, over and across the land without interference from the Licensee and the Licensee shall not, at any time, do anything or cause or permit anything to be done which will in any way interfere with the rights and privileges thereby granted.

19. (a) The Licensee covenants and agrees that all activities on the land shall be conducted in compliance with Applicable Environmental Law, or in accordance with generally accepted environmental practices if there is no Applicable Environmental Law.
- (b) The Licensee covenants and agrees that:
- (i) any required environmental assessments relating to its physical works and activities on the land shall be conducted in accordance with the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*, S.C. 1992, c. 37, or any successor or similar legislation and regulations made thereunder, and all applicable federal policies and procedures; and
 - (ii) it shall implement and comply with any specifications, mitigative measures and environmental protection measures as set forth in an environmental assessment referred to in (i) and such specifications, mitigative measures and environmental protection measures shall become covenants which form part of this Licence.
- (c) The Licensee covenants and agrees to ensure that no Contaminant shall be used, emitted, discharged, stored or disposed of as a result of its use of the land except in strict compliance with Applicable Environmental Law, or in accordance with generally accepted environmental practices if there is no Applicable Environmental Law. The Licensee shall implement and comply with any specifications, mitigative measures and environmental protection measures as required by the Minister regarding the use, emission, discharge, storage or disposal of any Contaminant and such specifications, mitigative measures and environmental protection measures shall become covenants which form part of this Licence.
- (d) The Licensee covenants and agrees to provide the Minister with written notice of any anticipated or actual adverse environmental impacts attributable to its use of the land immediately upon discovery by the Licensee, and if the Minister considers remedial action to be necessary, the Licensee hereby agrees to undertake remedial action immediately using the appropriate technology, design or repair to the satisfaction of the Minister and pay the costs of such remedial action. Furthermore, the Licensee agrees that all such remedial action shall be undertaken in accordance with Applicable Environmental Law, or in accordance with generally accepted environmental practices if there is no Applicable Environmental Law and in a manner so as to minimize any impact on the land and elsewhere.
- (e) The Licensee covenants and agrees that should the Licensee fail to take any mitigative measures required by the Minister as set forth in Clause 19 (b) and 19 (c), fail to commence and diligently complete the remedial action required in Clause 19 d), the Minister may, upon written notice to the Licensee, carry out the specifications, complete the required mitigative measures or remedial action and charge the costs thereof, including reasonable costs for administration, to the Licensee, and such costs shall constitute a debt due and owing to His Majesty and shall be payable upon demand.

20. The Licensee shall at all times indemnify and save harmless His Majesty from and against all claims, demands, costs, loss, damages, actions, suits or other proceedings of whatsoever nature and kind and by whomsoever made, brought, sustained or prosecuted which are, in any manner based upon, occasioned by or attributable to or arising out of anything done or suffered or omitted to be done by the Licensee, its officers, servants, agents, contractors, invitees and Licensees or any, some or all of them, in connection with the use and occupation of the land and whether caused by the negligence of the Licensee, its officers, servants, agents, contractors, invitees and licensees or any, some or all of them or otherwise howsoever.

21. The Licensee covenants and agrees that:

- (a) during the Term, it shall, at its sole expense, obtain and maintain comprehensive commercial general liability insurance in the amount of \$2,000,000.00 and on such terms as a prudent license should maintain. Such insurance will provide that His Majesty is named as an additional insured and shall include coverage for bodily injury, including death, to any person, as well as the loss of or damage to any property, to the extent that liability for these things is connected with the Licensee's use of the land. Furthermore, the Licensee shall increase the amount of such insurance and obtain such additional coverage as the Director may from time to time require based on the prevailing limits and coverages for the type of land use described in Clause No. 7;

- (b) the insurance referred to in 21. (a) shall
 - (i) be issued by an insurance company or companies which would be satisfactory to the Director and shall provide for a minimum of thirty (30) days notice in writing by such company or companies to the Licensee and to His Majesty of cancellation or amendment of such insurance;
 - (ii) contain a waiver of any subrogation rights the Licensee's insurers may have against His Majesty and against those for whom His Majesty is responsible in law except in the case of negligence of His Majesty, His Servants and agents and all those for whom His Majesty is responsible at law;
 - (iii) provide for cross liability, that is to say, that the insurance shall indemnify each named insured and each additional insured in the same manner as though separate policies were issued in respect of any action brought against any of the insureds by any other insured;
 - (iv) on the anniversary date for each year this Licence is in effect, the Licensee shall provide the Director with Certificates of Insurance or affidavits from the insurance company or companies confirming that the insurance referred to herein is in full force and effect; and
- (c) it shall not do or omit to do or allow anything to be done or omitted to be done on the land which will in any way impair or invalidate such insurance referred to herein.

22. This Licence may be cancelled forthwith, at any time,

(a) by the Licensee, by notice in writing delivered or mailed addressed to the Director, Ontario Waterways - Rideau Canal National Historic Site, Parks Canada Agency, Department of the Environment, 34 Beckwith Street, South, Smiths Falls, ON, K7A 2A8

b) by or on behalf of the Minister, by notice in writing forwarded by registered mail to the Licensee located at 317 Brock Street, West, Merrickville, ON K0G 1N0.

23. Upon cancellation of this Licence as provided herein, the Licensee shall forthwith, upon notice from the Director, either verbally or in writing so to do, remove at the cost and expense of the Licensee, the property of the Licensee from the land, leaving and restoring the land as nearly as possible in as neat and as clean a condition as originally and in a condition satisfactory to the Director and in case of failure of the Licensee to remove the said property of the Licensee as and in any of the cases above referred to, the said property shall become the property of and shall vest in His Majesty, without any right to compensation on the part of the Licensee therefor and His Majesty may remove the property of the Licensee from the land and restore the land as nearly as possible as originally, and the cost of so doing shall constitute a debt to His Majesty, payable by the Licensee.

24. Upon default or breach in respect of any provision or condition herein, His Majesty may, with or without notice, retake possession of the land, and, thereupon, the Licensee shall forthwith remove the property of the Licensee from the land and upon failure of the Licensee so to do, the said property shall become the property of and shall vest in His Majesty, without any right to compensation on the part of the Licensee therefor.

25. Notwithstanding anything in this Licence contained, His Majesty shall have a lien upon the property of the Licensee for any loss or damage arising by reason of the breach of any of the conditions or provisions hereof or the failure on the part of the Licensee to comply therewith.

26. This Licence may be signed and delivered in any number of counterparts (including counterparts by electronic mail), each of which when signed and delivered is an original but all of which taken together constitute one and the same instrument.

SIGNED, SEALED AND DELIVERED BY
the Director, Ontario Waterways
Rideau Canal National Historic Site
Parks Canada Agency
Department of the Environment
on behalf of His Majesty
in the presence of

Witness

Director, Ontario Waterways – Rideau Canal

SEALED, DELIVERED AND ATTESTED TO
by the Mayor and Treasurer of the Corporation of the
Village of Merrickville-Wolford

Witness

Mayor, Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-
Wolford

Witness

Treasurer,
Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford



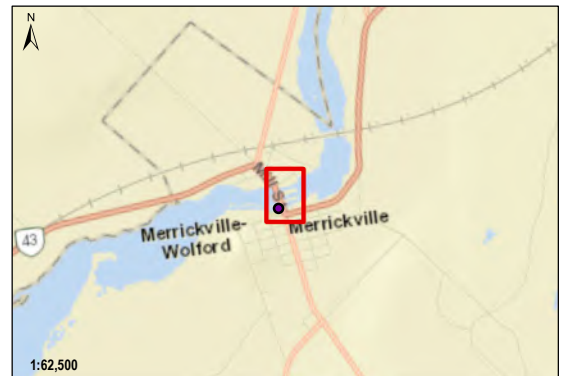
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© Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada as Represented by the Chief Executive Officer, Parks Canada Agency June 1, 2022. Information provided on this map is for illustrative purposes only.

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**The Corporation of the
Village of Merrickville-
Wolford
Schedule "A"
85-2188-606-1098**



Report to Committee of the Whole

Date: 4/13/2026
From: CAO Plumley
Re: 2026 Budget Analysis

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Committee of the Whole receive the 2026 Budget Analysis report for information.

BACKGROUND

It has been identified that the process used for the development of the 2026 Budget needs to be reviewed and to provide clear and consistent messaging for the Public, Council and Staff. Based on the feedback received, the analysis below represents areas that can be improved upon.

ANALYSIS

2026 Budget Analysis	Issue	Improvement for 2027
No Public Involvement in the process.	The lack of public input on service delivery and proposed projects was lacking. Staff and Council received many questions after the draft budget was made public, responses were provided to all members. A summary of questions/responses was circulated as part of the budget agenda package.	Schedule a Special Council Meeting to receive delegations from members of the public where they can bring their ideas forward and raise awareness on specific initiatives for consideration.
A Priority Setting Exercise was held in December of 2025 to assist in determining the goals for the remainder of the term.	The main priorities: Roads related infrastructure. Establish long term financial planning (and execution) as a core capability for the Municipality and identify methods to preserve this for the future. Securing grant funding.	In 2027, the Priority Setting Exercise will be more focused on Orientation for the new Council and introduction of the various departmental responsibilities within the Municipality.

	<p>Upgrading of rinks. <i>Note: A Benchmarking Review was not brought forward as a Priority.</i></p>	
<p>Using the Tax Supported Assets Document prepared by Watson and Associates Staff released three budget scenarios with a five-year financial strategy and this caused a great deal of public confusion.</p>	<p>The public was not made aware of the reasoning and requirements associated with the scenarios.</p>	<p>Increased quality of communication will be a priority.</p>
<p>Separate release of Operation/Capital budgets was a disjointed process.</p> <p>Meeting dates were announced with the plan to have adoption at the January regular meeting of Council.</p> <p>It was the intent of Staff to release the documents as a package.</p>	<p>Prior to the initial meeting date, notification of HWS Funding was provided to Council with the understanding that it could not be announced. The public release of the Capital component was put on hold. However, the capital budget was provided to council prior to January 1, for their consideration.</p>	<p>In 2027, one complete package will be distributed in a binder format, which includes Operational and Capital, Previous year budget and actuals, Cost of living and construction price index, Assessment growth information, Costs for Policing, Insurance, CRA, Audit and all which are not restricted to COLA.</p>
<p>Using the Gravel Road Scoring data that was approved by Council, the need to upgrade gravel roads identified.</p> <p>There was no consensus as to the extent of what level they were to be addressed.</p> <p>After the initial budget presentations were received, there was no direction as to what an acceptable increase to the levy would be.</p>	<p>This unfortunately led to inconsistent direction to Staff by members of Council. It was unclear as to where and what changes Council wanted Staff to consider. Staff concerns that insufficient increases would lead to a deficit position were not fully taken into consideration. Do we borrow, if so, how much? What is the debt limit, how will it be funded, how can the Municipality accommodate the debt</p>	<p>Staff will use the forecast of Operational and Capital budget as proposed in 2026 for the initial budget presentation in 2027.</p> <p>Data from Consultants will be prepared and provided as they were in 2026.</p> <p>From there, after debate at the Council Table, changes or alterations will be in the form of a Motion of Council, to ensure clarity of what is to be achieved.</p>

<p>Notifications of any changes to the previous budget were provided to Council prior to being made public.</p> <p>Statements occur during meetings without background information or consultation with Financial Staff. This requires additional staff time to follow-up and confirm what has been introduced.</p>	<p>without raising taxes, contribute to reserves and still maintain a consistent level of service.</p> <p>Ultimately Treasurer Rahm prepared 15 separate budget scenarios which were then considered and reviewed by Department Heads, in hopes of having the information available for the various suggestions from Members.</p>	<p>The structure of budget will not change unless it is done with the consensus of council.</p> <p>Open communication between Council and Staff is welcomed. Whenever possible Members are encouraged to provide questions or concerns prior to meetings. This will ensure Staff is prepared and able to respond in a productive manner to move matters forward.</p> <p>This will ensure that Staff time is focused on a singular approved goal.</p>
<p>Data obtained from the Watsons & Associates report relating to fleet replacement was deferred, with the priority being rural road infrastructure.</p>	<p>The deferral of fleet replacement does not address the need for fleet replacement. Increased budget lines for maintenance were incorporated into the operating budget.</p>	<p>Reevaluating fleet replacement will be undertaken and incorporated into the draft budget based on the information provided by the <u>new</u> consultant's report.</p>
<p>Importance of identifying projects prior to budget development was noted. Auditor recommends that Working Funds balance should not decrease further.</p> <p>Balance should rest at no less than \$1,000,000</p>	<p>Previous year, working funds were used to accommodate additional post budget projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crosswalk Lights Traffic Counts Speed Study Roof for Municipal Building Overrun of CC OTF project 	<p>Benchmarking Exercise will be drawn from Working Reserve Fund.</p> <p>It is not recommended that any additional projects should be drawn from this fund unless it is the result of unforeseen circumstances as was the Municipal Roof.</p>

CONCLUSION

As you will see in the analysis above, flaws were identified in the process. Staff are committed to providing a more cohesive budget structure in 2027 by considering the lessons learned. Having acknowledged the many concerns in the 2026 process, I want to congratulate Finance Staff, Department Heads and Council for approving the 2026 budget. I am pleased with the final result and thankful that Staff now has the document necessary to move forward with the direction provided by Council.

BUDGET/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no impacts on the budget.

OTHERS CONSULTED

Treasurer Kirsten Rahm

Public Works Manager Chad Kean

Fire Chief Brad Cole

Clerk Julia McCaugherty-Jansman

Chief Building Official Dan Halladay

ATTACHMENTS

None

Submitted by:

Darlene Plumley, CAO

Report to Committee of the Whole

Date: 4/13/2026
From: Shelley Mackenzie, Administrative Clerk, Public Works/Building
Re: Grant Funding Updates

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Committee of the Whole receive this report for information.

BACKGROUND

Grant funding plays a vital role in supporting improvements throughout the Village of Merrickville-Wolford. Staff actively research and pursue funding opportunities to advance community projects, infrastructure upgrades, and service enhancements. This report provides an overview of the grant opportunities that staff have investigated, and the applications submitted for consideration to date.

ANALYSIS

Between 1980 and 1990, significant federal and provincial spending reductions created a substantial infrastructure gap, increasing municipal dependence on government grants. The additional financial responsibilities for municipalities further amplified the need for provincial funding to remain revenue neutral. With limited revenue sources, primarily taxation, user fees, and government grants, municipalities must pursue external funding to support essential projects and services. Staff continue to actively research and apply for grant opportunities to enhance local infrastructure, improve services, increase resident satisfaction, and promote tourism to strengthen the local economy.

In the last several years the world has seen a sharp increase in costs. These rising infrastructure costs place significant pressure on smaller municipalities, where limited commercial growth means a greater financial burden on local ratepayers. The Covid-19 pandemic further intensified the need for provincial and federal support to address municipal funding shortfalls. In recent years, increased provincial downloading has transferred additional responsibilities—such as social housing, social services, public health, policing, emergency services, infrastructure maintenance, and in some cases transit—to municipalities. As a result, many Ontario municipalities are now experiencing substantial service realignment and heightened fiscal challenges.

With heightened competition for grant funding from other municipalities, Village staff are constantly looking for opportunities to apply for much needed funding. The Village of Merrickville-Wolford benefits from strong support and highly valuable and productive relationships from local user groups and organizations that contribute to our grant initiatives. Staff regularly seek letters of support from these partners and consistently receive timely and positive responses, which strengthen our funding applications.

BUDGET/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no impacts on the budget.

OTHERS CONSULTED

Jenny McCleery, Administrative Assistant

Kirsten Rahm, Treasurer

Chad Kean, Manager of Public Works

Brad Cole, Fire Chief

Darlene Plumley, CAO

ATTACHMENTS

Attached is an outline of the recent grant applications.

Submitted by:

Shelley Mackenzie, Administrative Clerk
Jenny McCleery, Administrative Assistant

Approved by:

Darlene Plumley, CAO

Grant Applications and Status Tracking

Wellington Street Grant - Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program	Successful
All Risk Assessment	Unsuccessful
Safe and Active School Routes Program - FCM/GMF	Researched
EASE Grant	Unsuccessful
Active Transportation	Researched
Ontario Pothole Grant	Successful
Municipal Risk Grant	Unsuccessful
Fire Protection Grant 2024-25	Successful
Medallion Group Insurance – Fire Prevention Week	Unsuccessful
Ontario Municipal Fire Prevention Officers Association	Successful
2025 Safe Communities – Project Zero – Enbridge	Unsuccessful
2025 Safe Communities- Project Assist-Enbridge	Unsuccessful
Community Emergency Preparedness 2025-26	Submitted
Fire Protection Grant 2025-2026	Successful
2026 - Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation Grant	Submitted
Ontario Trillium Foundation – Capital 2026	Submitted
Rural Ontario Development Program	Submitted
FCM Program	Researched
COVID Funding Grant	Successful
Canada Day Grant	Successful
Easton's Corners Pavilion (CCRF)	Successful
Main St Grant	Successful
Community Emergency Preparedness Grant	Unsuccessful
FCM Asset Management Grant	Successful
RED Grant	Successful
Source Protection Grant	Successful
Service Delivery Review Grant (MMP intake 3 SDR)	Successful
Street (Pole) Grant	Successful
YCW Grant	Successful
OCIF Top Up Grant	Successful
2026 Ontario Fire College Mobile Live Fire Training Unit	Unsuccessful
Farm Credit Canada AgriSpirit Fund	Currently Researching
Enhancing Access to Spaces for Everyone (EASE)	Currently Researching
Ontario Fire College Mobile Live Fire Training Unit	Unsuccessful
RBC – Rick Hansen Barrier Buster Grant	Submitted

From: A&A Property Administration <info@aapropertyadmin.ca>

Sent: 12 March 2026 12:13

To: cao@merrickville-wolford.ca <cao@merrickville-wolford.ca>

Cc: John Beames [REDACTED]; Kurt Fredrickson [REDACTED]; A&A Property Administration <info@aapropertyadmin.ca>

Subject: Fw: GCC #6 323 Main street Merrickville

Darlene Plumley

Chief Administrative officer

Town of Merrickville Wolford.

Re: Grenville Condominium Corporation #6, 323 Main street, Merrickville Ont.

Darlene,

Thank you again for meeting with the Corporation.

The Corporation and owners of GCC #6 are excited to be investing and modernizing to remain competitive in the Market.

- Security - Cameras, modernized entry directory and most importantly the introduction of a monitored fire control system.
- Power system and metering upgrades.
- Upgrades to the Corridor air supplies.
- New Carpets, colours, suite numbers
- Landscape improvements

And

The more substantial Balcony improvements- Renovate and expand the current Juliet balconies for improved outdoor space and provide a home heat pump equipment. As the building currently has no out door living space and remains heated by electric baseboard and no air conditioning.

Where we need your HELP!

The current water and sewer billing is being bulk metered. As a result , the Corporation Common Fees pays the Tab. The burden on the Operating budget shared by all owners has resulted in an uncompetitive Market position for Condominium Fees as compared to similar properties in Smith Falls and Kemptville. This is because comparable properties have owners paying Water separately. This burden of the additional cost has optically inflated the Corporations operating costs.

For example:

The Fees with Water for 2026 are \$672.39.

The Fee with out Water would be \$465.00.

As a perspective buyers shopping to move to Merrickville when openly comparing the market discount 323 Main street due to its high Condo fees with no Amenities.

We feel an error has occurred and the seventeen owners of Grenville Condominium Corporation #6 have been overlooked in Past. As all the units are independently pinned, deeded and taxed as individual owners. But lumped as a Commercial single user for Water and sewer.

I trust you will agree that separately metering all units is a benefit to both the Corporation owners and Municipality alike.

So How do we fix this problem? And to state opening this is Team effort and a shared responsibility.

We are seeking the Municipality provide the Meters for installation at no cost to the Corporation on the basis this is not new construction but a correction to what should have always been. The Corporation will then install the Meters at no cost to the Municipality. Problem Fixed.

Together with this small correction the Market Comparable of Condominium Fees will repair, the building will become a desirable destination for buyers and market values will inflate to match comparable properties. To the Benefit of the Municipality the assessment values will climb, and the tax revenue will match.

We believe our request is both fair and reasonable undeniably.

Andrew Ball- C.E.T, OLCM

President

A&A Property Administration Inc

Ball Management Group Inc

613 349 5802

On behalf of the Owner of GCC #6

Telling Your Story: A Community History Video Partnership

Dear Council Members,

My name is Craig Baird, and I am the creator and host of *Canadian History Ehx*, one of Canada's leading history podcasts and radio programs.

I launched *Canadian History Ehx* in 2019 with the goal of exploring and sharing Canada's rich past. What began as a small podcast has grown into one of the most-listened-to history shows in the country, now reaching over one million downloads per year and airing nationally on the Corus Radio Network. Alongside the show, I manage social media channels with a combined audience of more than 300,000 followers, and I am the author of the best-selling book *Canada's Main Street: The Epic Story of the Trans-Canada Highway*.

This year, I am embarking on an ambitious coast-to-coast-to-coast journey across Canada to document our country's past and present. The stories, interviews, and experiences from this trip will become a series of videos and a future book focused on the people, places, and communities that shape Canada.

With my background in journalism and video production, my goal is to visit communities like yours to tell your story—highlighting your history, heritage, and the ways you preserve it for future generations. These videos are designed not only to celebrate local history, but also to serve as lasting, shareable promotional pieces for your community.

To help fund this journey, I am offering communities the opportunity to partner with me for the creation of a dedicated feature video about their history and heritage.

What I'm offering:

- A 10–20 minute professionally produced video focused on your community's history, heritage, and preservation efforts
- Distribution across my social media platforms, YouTube channel, and TikTok, reaching hundreds of thousands of history-interested viewers. My follower count is as follows:
 - Twitter (65,000): <https://x.com/CraigBaird>
 - Instagram (48,000): @cdnhistoryehx
 - Threads (40,000): <https://www.threads.com/@cdnhistoryehx>
 - Bluesky (25,000): <https://bsky.app/profile/cdnhistoryehx.bsky.social>
 - TikTok (35,000): @cdnhistoryehx
 - YouTube (6,800): <https://www.youtube.com/@CanadianHistoryEhx>
 - Facebook (106,000): <https://www.facebook.com/CanadianHistoryEhx>
- A collaborative process: no video will be published without your approval after review
- A two-week turnaround: all videos will be delivered for review within two weeks of filming

- Filming will take place during my journey between June and September (although some can be done earlier than June due to proximity to my location of Stony Plain, Alberta).

Cost:

- \$500 total
- \$250 upon acceptance
- \$250 once the video has been delivered for your review

My aim is to create something that your community can be proud of—an engaging, accurate, and accessible story that showcases what makes your town unique, while also introducing it to a large, Canada-wide audience interested in history, travel, and heritage.

Thank you very much for considering this proposal. I would be happy to answer any questions or discuss how we can tailor this project to best serve your community.

Sincerely,
Craig Baird
Canadian History Ehx

WHEREAS the Village of Merrickville-Wolford is conducting infrastructure improvements on Wellington St W;

AND WHEREAS the current project scope includes the installation of a new sidewalk (where none currently exists) on the south side of Wellington St W between St. John and St. Patrick streets;

AND WHEREAS the residents directly impacted by this specific segment of the project have expressed formal opposition to the installation, citing concerns regarding costs, impacts to their properties, accessibility, and safety;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford values community engagement and seeks to ensure that infrastructure projects reflect the needs and desires of the local residents they serve;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council directs staff to remove the provisional sidewalk segment on the south side of the road between St. John Street and St. Patrick Street.

March 12, 2026

To: Merrickville-Wolford Municipal Clerk
cc: Merrickville-Wolford Council Members

It has come to our attention that the Council is considering adding a sidewalk on the south side of Wellington West between St. John and St. Patrick as part of the Wastewater Infrastructure Project.

The affected homeowners of this area are very concerned about this proposed plan and object to it for the following reasons:

- Wellington West between St. John and St. Patrick is rarely used by cars and/or pedestrians to make their way to any of the various destinations in town, therefore the sidewalk will serve little or no purpose;
- There currently is a sidewalk on the north side of Wellington West from St. Lawrence and ending at St. John. The new sidewalk is proposed to be on the south side of the street from St. John to St. Patrick. Therefore, people choosing to use the sidewalk would need to cross the street twice at St. John and then again at St. Patrick as the current sidewalk on St. Patrick intersects with the Northwest corner while the proposed sidewalk would intersect with the Southwest corner thereby not being continuous;
- The contouring of the sidewalk to allow for all the driveways will render the sidewalk dangerous for people with mobility issues;
- Hydro poles may need to be relocated at an additional expense;
- Furthermore, adding a sidewalk which is not needed will increase the cost of maintenance and the cost of repairs to the municipality and the taxpayers at a time when tax dollars are desperately needed elsewhere;
- The additional cost to include the sidewalk in the project is estimated at upwards of \$200,000. If adding new sidewalks where none currently exist becomes the standard in Merrickville, the additional burden on the Village and its taxpayers would be prohibitive;

- In addition to the needless cost, the work would inflict hardship on nearly every homeowner whose property it crosses.

224 Wellington West: Has an easement to construct steps and a landing to the front door on Wellington West. Last summer, obtained a permit to rebuild the landing and steps and the project was completed. With the proposed sidewalk, the front steps will no longer be usable as the proposed grade will be 12-16" lower than existing conditions. With this change in height, the steps will no longer be compliant with the building code and will no longer be able to stay within the easement.

218 Wellington West: Front porch may need to be removed.

212 Wellington West: Retaining wall and gardens may need to be relocated.

206 & 208 Wellington West: Driveways will no longer accommodate full size pickups.

206 St. John (corner of Wellington West): Gas meter and furnace exhaust may need to be modified to meet code.

As constituents and taxpayers, we urge you to remove from the plans the proposed sidewalk on Wellington West between St. John and St. Patrick. We ask that you please add this to the agenda of the next appropriate meeting.

Thank you for your attention and we are looking forward to your response.

Residents of Wellington Street West

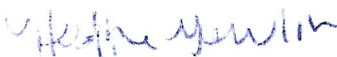
Sarima Sivilans 206 ~~St. John~~
 (Sarima Sivilans)
 Sebastian Artelle ~~205 Wellington~~
 Heather Gawling ~~206 Wellington~~
 Nicole Smith ~~218 Wellington~~
 Rob Paredis 224 Wellington SW.

Wellington West Residents in Agreement With This Submission

205 Wellington west Sebastien Artelle



206 Wellington west Heather Gowling



208 Wellington west Mireille Mathewson



212 Wellington west Kelvin McGreavy



218 Wellington west Diane Smith



224 Wellington west Robert Paradis



223 Wellington west Kaitlyn Brennan

Ashley



206 St John

Samra Svilans

211 Wellington St. W



106 St John St

