THE TOWNSHIP OF TARBUTT
COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 18, 2026
CONSENT AGENDA

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Re: Improvements to Highway Safety in Algoma

b. Press Release from the North Shore Health Network 5 - 6
Re: NSHN Board Update on Future Healthcare Infrastructure Planning

c. Correspondence from the Dr. H.S. Trefry Memorial Centre 7
Re: Support the call for the federal government to secure a long term federal/ provincial funding agreement for home care, and to establish dedicated, sustained funding for community support services.

d. Resolutions from the Municipality of Central Manitoulin 8 - 11
Re: Physician Shortage in Northern Ontario; and
Establishment of a Northern Ontario Policing Grant

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Re: Extend deadline for Bill 140 Submissions

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Re: Riparian Forests and Autumn Cyanobacteria

Recommendation: Be it resolved that correspondence items a through k on the Consent Agenda dated November 18, 2026 be received; and
That The Council of The Township of Tarbutt supports the Board of Health's resolution seeking improvement to safety on Algoma Highways; and

That The Township of Tarbutt support the initiative from the Dr. H.S. Trefry Memorial Centre to secure a long term federal/provincial funding agreement for sustainable home care funding, and to establish dedicated, sustained funding for community support services to address the growing, unmet needs of the senior and disabled populations; and

That The Township of Tarbutt support the resolutions from Central Manitoulin regarding physician recruitment and retention in Northern Ontario, and to work directly with northern municipalities on a strategy that will address the unique demographic, geographic and fiscal realities of Northern Ontario; and further

That the efforts of FONOM to establish a Northern Ontario Policing Grant to address the disproportionately high policing costs of low population communities be supported; and

That The Township of Tarbutt support the resolution from the Municipality of Red Lake seeking a dedicated, predictable and sustainable provincial funding program to support municipalities with the legislated review and revision of Community Safety and Well Being Plans, and also the implementation of priorities, strategies and programs identified in those plans; and

That the letter from Environmental Assessment and Permissions Modernization Branch of the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks regarding amendments affecting waste disposal sites be received; and

That The Township of Tarbutt receive the AORS briefing on Bill 140, and supports the resolution from the Township of Stone Mills requesting the province to extend the deadline for municipal submissions on Bill 140, and that the province refrain from advancing the proposed legislation to final passage of Bill 140 until municipalities have had reasonable opportunity to review, consult and provide input on the legislation.

Algoma
PUBLIC HEALTH
Santé publique Algoma

BOARD OF HEALTH

MOTION: 2026- 96	IN SUPPORT OF
DATE: 23 Sept 2026	Northeastern Public Health's Letter Regarding Highway Safety in Northern Ontario
MOTION MOVED BY:	S. Hagman
SECONDED BY:	D. McConnell

WHEREAS the Northeastern Public Health (NEPH) Board of Health submitted a letter on 14 January, 2026, requesting careful and urgent considerations of options for improving highway safety and access;

AND WHEREAS the residents of the Algoma Public Health Unit share NEPH's reliance on safe highways for accessing health services, education, recreation, and for keeping its economy in operation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Health will submit a letter of support, endorsing the letter sent from NEPH.

Board of Health Chair: Carried ☑ Defeated ☐

RECORDED VOTE:			
Sally Hagaman	:	In Favour ☐	Opposed ☐
Donald McConnell	:	In Favour ☐	Opposed ☐
Luc Morrissette	:	In Favour ☐	Opposed ☐
Beverly Nantel	:	In Favour ☐	Opposed ☐
Sonny Spina	:	In Favour ☐	Opposed ☐
Sonia Tassone	:	In Favour ☐	Opposed ☐
Suzanne Trivers	:	In Favour ☐	Opposed ☐
Jody Wildman	:	In Favour ☐	Opposed ☐
Natalie Zagordo	:	In Favour ☐	Opposed ☐

Algoma PUBLIC HEALTH
Santé publique Algoma
www.algomapublichealth.com

Briefing Note

To: The Board of Health

From: Hilary Gordon, Manager Community Wellness & School Health

Written by: Dr. Lyall Pacey, Resident Physician

Date: 9/23/2026

Re: Improvement to Safety on Algoma Highways

☒ **For Information** ☒ **For Discussion** ☒ **For a Decision**

PURPOSE

This briefing recommends supporting the letter from Northeastern Public Health (NEPH) urging improvements to Northern Ontario's highway safety through investment in improved maintenance and safety infrastructure.

KEY MESSAGES

- Algoma's communities rely on the Northern Ontario highways for their transportation, economy, education, and healthcare systems to function. Continued improvements in safety practices and design will allow day-to-day use while minimizing risk of injury.
- The boards of the Thunder Bay District Health Unit (TBDHU) and NEPH have submitted letters to the Premier and Prime Minister, highlighting strategies for improving highways in Northern Ontario.
- Progress toward some of NEPH's recommendations is underway, and there are opportunities for continued improvement in the areas of highway safety, collaborating with Northern communities to optimize infrastructure for safety, and to identify high-risk collision zones to maintain emergency response, health-care access, and access to essential goods and services.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

That the Board of Health send a letter of endorsement for NEPH's letter to the Premier of Ontario and Prime Minister of Canada, to support continued and further actions to improve the safety of Northern Ontario highways.

BACKGROUND

- Whether the routine of supplying a pharmacy in Wawa, an ambulance responding to an emergency in Serpent River, or APH delivering a dose of rabies vaccine to Blind River, the pieces of Algoma's health system depend on highways.
- Algoma residents rely heavily on highways for daily travel to work and school, as well as to access essential services and amenities, including grocery stores and healthcare. Algoma's health unit consists of 21 municipalities, 2 large unorganized areas, and multiple Indigenous communities. Our

population is older than the average in Ontario, and has a higher rate of chronic and life-limiting diseases across all ages.[1]

- The major highways in Algoma – Highways 17, 101, 129, and 556 – support an average of 4,773 vehicles per day, with approximately 1.8 million kilometers traveled by these vehicles.[2] Between 2018 and 2022, the provincial highway in Algoma had an average of 314 collisions per year, resulting in 19 deaths and 342 injuries. 47% of roadway deaths in Algoma happen on highways, even though only 21% of roadway collisions happen on highways.[3]
- Expanding and improving the safety of Northern Ontario's highways are consistent with the Prime Minister's five nation-building criteria, as laid out by the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities in July 2025.[4] Regarding public health, the criteria point to:
  - Emergency and Climate Resilience – the movement of emergency services or evacuation in the face of threats (e.g., wildfires) depend on safe highways, as well as safe alternative routes.
  - Economic Resilience and Supply Chain Reliability – the health sector and the economic stability that supports our residents need a reliable transportation network.
  - Improved Safety for Remote Access – Algoma's numerous municipalities, including Indigenous communities, deserve safe access to goods and services.[4]

EVIDENCE/ANALYSIS

- The provincial government has taken significant strides to rehabilitating the Northern highways in recent years. In Algoma, progress that reduces collisions includes funding for widening portions of Highway #17, twinning highways, adding more alternating passing lanes, rest stops, and enforcement.[5]
- The NEPH letter and resolution calls on both the provincial and federal governments to prioritize three major areas:[7]
  - Phased implementation of the 2+1 highway system – Algoma finds itself in Phase 2 as proposed by Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM), which would occur after trials near Nipissing.[4,6]
  - Collaboration with Northern communities to ensure planning incorporates health, safety, and equity considerations – Algoma's largest populations are along Highway 17, but many smaller communities rely on local highways, which may have different safety and access considerations than the larger provincial highways.
  - Designate zones with higher risk of collisions for safety upgrades, with priority attention to sections that would cut off emergency response, health care, and essential resources.

OPHS STANDARDS[8]

Substance Use and Injury Prevention: The board of health shall develop and implement a program of public health interventions using a comprehensive health promotion approach that addresses risk and protective factors to reduce the burden of preventable injuries and substance use in the health unit population.

Healthy Environments: The board of health shall identify risk factors and priority health needs in the built and natural environments.

Population Health Assessment: The board of health shall interpret and use surveillance data to communicate information on risks to relevant audiences.

Health Equity: The board of health shall lead, support, and participate with other stakeholders in health equity analysis, policy development, and advancing healthy public policies that decrease health inequities.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

Our Approach: Focusing on Upstream Pathways

- *Build capacity to strengthen community action, create supportive environments and promote local healthy public policy with community partners*
- *Work at the systems level to better support people facing inequities*

REFERENCES

1. Algoma Public Health. *Community Health Profile* [Internet]. Sault Ste. Marie (ON): Algoma Public Health; 2025 [updated 2025 Jan 26; cited 2026 Sep 18]. Available from: https://www.algomapublichealth.com/about-us/community-health-profile/
2. Ontario Ministry of Transportation. *MTO traffic volume data* [Internet]. Toronto (ON): King's Printer for Ontario; [cited 2026 Sep 18]. Available from: https://www.library.mto.gov.on.ca/SydneyPLUS/TechPubs/Portal/tp/tvSplash.aspx
3. Ontario Ministry of Transportation. *Ontario road safety annual reports (ORSAR)* [Internet]. Toronto (ON): King's Printer for Ontario; [cited 2026 Sep 18]. Available from: https://www.ontario.ca/document/ontario-road-safety-annual-reports-orsar
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5. Highway 17 rehabilitation project brings $53 million investment to Algoma [Internet]. Sault Ste. Marie (ON): Sault Star; 2026 Jun 8 [cited 2026 Sep 17]. Available from: https://www.saultstar.com/news/highway-17-rehabilitation-project-brings-53-million-investment-to-algoma
6. Ontario Ministry of Transportation. 2+1 roadway pilot project – site selection criteria: 2+1 Advancement Working Group draft report [Internet]. Toronto (ON): Ministry of Transportation; 2021 [cited 2026 Sep 17]. Available from: MTO draft report PDF
7. Northeastern Public Health, Board of Health. *Highway safety in Northern Ontario* [letter]. Timmins (ON): Northeastern Public Health; 2026 Jan 14.
8. Ontario Ministry of Health. Ontario public health standards: requirements for programs, services, and accountability. Toronto (ON): King's Printer for Ontario; 2018. Available from: https://www.ontario.ca/page/ontario-public-health-standards-requirements-programs-services-and-accountability

North Shore
Health Network
Réseau Santé
Rive Nord

525 Causley Street
Blind River, ON P0R 1B0
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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release October 8, 2026

NSHN Board Provides Update on Future Healthcare Infrastructure Planning

At its September 29 meeting, the North Shore Health Network (NSHN) Board of Directors endorsed, in principle, a future planning direction that includes:

1. Planning a new hospital facility to serve the western portion of the NSHN catchment area, including Thessalon, St. Joseph Island and communities along the highway 17 corridor to Echo Bay; and
2. Renovating and modernizing the Blind River hospital site.

This is a planning direction only. It is not a final decision or commitment. The Board will make further decisions after receiving and reviewing the final report from Agnew Peckham Health Care & Facility Planners (Agnew Peckham), an Ontario healthcare planning firm with more than 70 years of experience supporting hospitals and healthcare organizations with strategic planning, service planning, and redevelopment projects.

Since being engaged by NSHN, Agnew Peckham has been reviewing population trends, healthcare needs, facility conditions, and long-term planning opportunities across our region. Their independent assessment will help guide the Board's decisions about the future of healthcare infrastructure on the North Shore.

The information reviewed so far suggests that a two-site model may be the best way to provide safe, sustainable healthcare services for our communities in the years ahead. Preliminary findings indicate that a single new hospital serving the western portion of the NSHN catchment area is the most practical and sustainable option. This direction is also consistent with feedback from local physicians.

This approach aims to:

1. Maintain access to hospital services across the North Shore.
2. Address challenges with aging facilities.
3. Support future healthcare needs.
4. Provide a practical path for long-term hospital renewal.

The Board also recognizes that new hospital projects in Ontario must go through a detailed Ministry of Health capital planning process. Having a clear planning direction helps NSHN prepare for future discussions with the Ministry and positions the organization for potential capital investment opportunities.

The Board understands that many people care deeply about the future of healthcare in our region and are eager to help move this work forward. We appreciate that support and passion for local healthcare. As planning continues, it is important that activities related to hospital redevelopment are coordinated through NSHN so that we can work together with one voice and follow the Ministry of Health planning process.

The Board looks forward to reviewing the final Agnew Peckham report and will use its recommendations to help guide the next phase of planning for healthcare infrastructure across our region.

The Board remains committed to keeping our communities informed as this work continues and appreciates the ongoing support and interest of residents across the region.

Questions About the Future of Healthcare Infrastructure?

NSHN has created an online Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section to help keep communities informed and answer questions about hospital planning and redevelopment. Community members are encouraged to submit their questions, which will be reviewed and answered as information becomes available.

Visit **nshn.care/future** to learn more and submit your questions.

-30-

For further information, contact:
Melanie Kubatlija,
Chief Communications Officer
mkubatlija@nshn.care

DR. HAROLD S. TREFRY MEMORIAL CENTRE

A Division of The Corporation of the Township of St. Joseph
Seniors and Persons with a Disability Services
1601 C Line, P.O. Box 158 Richards Landing, ON P0R1J0
Telephone: 705-246-0036 / Fax: 705-246-0249
www.trefrycentre.ca

October 22, 2026

Terry Sheehan, MP
Sault Ste. Marie-Algoma

VIA EMAIL: terry.sheehan@parl.gc.ca

Re: Federal Home and Community Care Funding: A Call for Long-Term Investment

At their meeting held October 21, 2026, Council for the Township of St. Joseph passed resolution #2026-232 in support of the Ontario Community Support Association's call on the federal government to support long-term investment in home care while expanding support for community support services.

I am writing on behalf of the Dr. Harold S. Trefry Memorial Centre, a division of the Township of St. Joseph, which provides essential community support services including transportation, Meals on Wheels, adult day programs, and other supports to residents within our service area, extending from east of Station Rd in the Municipality of Huron Shores to Hwy 638 in the Township of MacDonald Meredith & Aberdeen Additional.

I welcome the announcement by federal Health Minister Marjorie Michel extending federal funding for home and community care by one year. This is an important step that provides much-needed stability for the sector and helps protect the progress made through previous federal investments.

However, a one-year extension does not address the need for long-term, sustainable federal funding. Organizations like ours need predictable funding to retain skilled workers, plan services and respond to growing demand in our communities. Furthermore, community support services such as Meals on Wheels, transportation, adult day programs and caregiver respite, continue to face significant unmet demand and require dedicated investments

On behalf of the Township of St. Joseph and the Dr. H.S. Trefry Memorial Centre, and the residents we serve, I encourage you to support OCSA's call for the federal government to:

1. **Secure a long-term federal-provincial funding agreement** for home care that provides predictable, sustained investments beyond the one-year extension.
2. **Establish dedicated, sustained funding for community support services** to address growing unmet need and help more people remain independent at home.

These investments are essential to supporting seniors, people with disabilities and family caregivers while reducing pressure on hospitals and long-term care. I encourage you to raise these priorities with your colleagues in government and support a long-term agreement that strengthens home and community care across Canada.

Thank you for your consideration. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss the importance of home and community care services in our community.

Sincerely,

Marcy Clark
Manager, Seniors and Persons with a Disability Services
Dr. Harold S. Trefry Memorial Centre
manager@trefrycentre.ca
cc. info@ocsa.on.ca, Municipalities within the Trefry Centre service area

Supporting seniors and persons with disabilities with services that help them live independently and with dignity in their own homes.
Operating in the memory of Dr. Harold S. Trefry and his devoted service to this community from 1936 until 1960.

6020 Highway 542, P.O. Box 420
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October 23, 2026

Honourable Doug Ford
Premier for the Government of Ontario
Legislative Building Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A lAl

premier@ontario.ca

Re: Policy Without Appropriation: Physician Shortage in Northern Ontario and the Practice Ready Ontario Program; Support of Bruce Mines Resolution No. 2026-181

Dear Premier Ford,

On behalf of the Council of the Municipality of Central Manitoulin, we are writing to you in support of the Council of the Town of Bruce Mines resolution no. 2026-181 addressing the physician shortage in Northern Ontario.

Being that Northern Ontario's municipalities face a structural imbalance that is fundamentally different from communities in the south. We are small in population, geographically dispersed, and operate with limited tax bases that cannot support the escalating costs associated with physician recruitment, retention, and community health infrastructure. Despite these limitations, municipalities are increasingly expected to shoulder responsibilities that fall squarely within the provincial mandate for health care delivery.

Municipalities have stepped in where we can, but we cannot continue to fund physician recruitment packages, housing incentives, locum coverage, or clinic operations without dedicated provincial support. The current model places an unsustainable burden on small communities that simply do not have the tax revenue to fill the gaps left by the provincial health care system.

Therefore, the Council of the Municipality of Central Manitoulin endorses Resolution 226-2026:

We respectfully request that the Province of Ontario:

1. ***Establish a dedicated Northern Ontario Physician Recruitment and Retention Fund,*** *accessible to small and rural municipalities ensuring communities are not forced to subsidize provincial healthcare responsibilities.*
2. ***Work directly with Northern municipalities*** *to develop a coordinated strategy that reflects the unique demographic, geographic, and fiscal realities of the North.*

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter further and kindly request a written response from your office.

Sincerely,

Ms. Denise Deforge – CAO/Clerk
Municipality of Central Manitoulin

cc.

Ms. Marit Stiles
Leader of the Official Opposition
Leader, New Democratic Party of Ontario

Mr. John Fraser
Interim Leader, Ontario Liberal Party

The Honourable Sylvia Jones
Deputy Premier of Ontario Minister of Health

The Honourable George Pirie
Minister of Northern Economic Development and Growth

Bill Rosenberg
Member of Provincial Parliament Algoma-Manitoulin

Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA)
Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) Distributed to all Ontario municipalities.

File

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October 23, 2026

Honourable Doug Ford, Premier for the Government of Ontario;
Honourable Michael S. Kerzner, Minister of the Solicitor General;
Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing;
Honorable Peter Bethlenfalvy; Minister of Finance
Honorable Victor Fedeli; Minister of Northern Economic Development and Growth
Northern Ontario Municipalities Association;
Councils of each of Ontario's Municipalities.

RE: Support FONOM - Establishment of a Northern Ontario Policing Grant.

Please be advised that at the Municipality of Central Manitoulin Council meeting of August 27, 2026, the following motion was approved:

225-2026 That the Council of the Municipality of Central Manitoulin supports the following motion from the Corporation of the Township of McGarry meeting dated June 4, 2026:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT *the Council of the Municipality of Central Manitoulin supports the resolution from the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) regarding the Establishment of Northern Ontario Policing Grant.*

WHEREAS *Municipalities across Northern Ontario face disproportionately high policing costs due to low population densities, geographic isolation, and limited municipal tax bases;*

AND WHEREAS *many Northern communities rely on the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) for policing services, while others operate municipal police services that are also experiencing significant cost pressures;*

AND WHEREAS *recent increase in policing costs have placed unsustainable pressure on municipal budgets, forcing communities to make difficult decisions between maintaining public safety and funding essential municipal services such as infrastructure, roads, water systems, and recreation facilities;*

AND WHEREAS *Northern Ontario municipalities provide essential services across a vast geographic region while supporting key sectors of Ontario's economy, including mining, forestry, transportation, and energy;*

AND WHEREAS *municipalities require predictable and equitable provincial support to ensure policing costs remain sustainable and communities remain safe;*

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT *the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities call on the Government of Ontario to establish a $100 million Northern Ontario Policing Grant, phased in over three years, to support the 157 municipalities across Northern Ontario served by both the Ontario Provincial Police and municipal police services;*

AND THAT *the grant includes a base funding allocation for all municipalities, with additional funding distributed based on population to ensure equitable support across communities of varying sizes;*

AND THAT *the Province work collaboratively with Northern municipal leaders, including FONOM and NOMA, to design and implement a sustainable funding framework that recognized the unique economic and geographic realities of Northern Ontario.*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT *a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of the Solicitor General, the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Northern Economic Development and Growth, the Association (NOMA), and all Northern Ontario Municipalities.*

Sincerely,

Ms. Denise Deforge – CAO/Clerk
Municipality of Central Manitoulin

cc. File

Ontario Provincial Police
Police provinciale de l'Ontario

Crime Prevention and Community Support Bureau
Bureau de la prévention du crime et du soutien communautaire

777 Memorial Ave.
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Tél. : 705 329-7680
Téléc. : 705 329-7593

File Reference:

October 23, 2026

Dear Mayor/Reeve/CAO/Treasurer:

Re: 2027 Annual Billing Statements

Please find attached your Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Annual Billing Statement package including 2027 estimated costs and a statement for the 2025 year-end reconciliation. The final cost adjustment resulting from the 2025 reconciliation process, including the discount applied to 2025 estimated costs, has been applied to the calculated billing amount for the 2027 calendar year.

As noted in the letter sent to you by the Solicitor General dated August 14, 2026, any increase in total policing costs for calendar year 2027, including the 2025 year-end adjustment, has been capped at 11% over the final amount billed in 2026 (lesser of calculated billing or capped payable).

To provide clarity and transparency, your statement includes:

- The actual calculated billing amount for 2027.
- A capped amount, based on the final 2026 payable amount plus 11%.

The municipality will be billed the lower of these two amounts during the 2027 calendar year.

The final reconciliation of your 2027 annual costs will appear in your 2029 Annual Billing Statement. The reconciled 2027 costs will reflect the 11% cap over 2026 payable.

For more detailed information on the 2027 Annual Billing Statement package, please refer to the resource material available on the internet, www.opp.ca/billingmodel. Further, OPP Municipal Policing will host webinar information sessions to review 2027 cost recovery. An email invitation, including the webinar dates and additional details, will be forwarded to municipalities once the session dates have been finalized.

If you have questions about the Annual Billing Statement, please e-mail OPP.MunicipalPolicing@opp.ca.

Yours truly,

Brad McCallum
Chief Superintendent
Commander
Crime Prevention & Community Support Bureau

OPP 2027 Annual Billing Statement

Tarbutt Tp

Estimated costs for the period January 1 to December 31, 2027

Please refer to www.opp.ca for 2027 Municipal Policing Billing General Information summary for further details.

			Cost per Property $	Total Cost $
Base Service	**Property Counts**			
	Household	410		
	Commercial and Industrial	17		
	Total Properties	427	219.04	93,530
Calls for Service	(see summaries)			
	Total all municipalities	227,806,961		
	Municipal portion	0.0073%	38.95	16,633
Overtime	(see notes)		10.19	4,350
Prisoner Transportation	(per property cost)		1.63	696
Accommodation/Cleaning Services	(per property cost)		6.61	2,822
Total 2027 Estimated Cost			**276.42**	**118,031**
2025 Year-End Adjustment	(see summary)			1,668
Calculated Billing for 2027				**119,699**
Capped Payable for 2027				**119,173**
Total Billing for 2027 (Lesser of Calculated Billing or Capped payable)				**119,173**
2027 Monthly Billing Amount				**9,931**

Notes

Cost increases for the Total 2027 Billing amount have been capped at 11% over the Total 2026 Billing amount.

2026 Grand Total Billing Amount	107,363
11% of 2026 Grand Total Billing	11,810
Capped Payable for 2027	119,173

The capped payable for 2027 is lower than the calculated billing amount by $526.

Eligibility for the Regulatory Discount requires a minimum standard deviation of 3.0. Your Municipality's standard deviation value is -1.

BILL ROSENBERG
MPP - Algoma Manitoulin

Constituency Office
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October 28, 2026

Mayor Smith
Township of Tarbutt, Ontario

Subject: Congratulations on Your Election to Township of Tarbutt Council

Dear Mayor Smith and Members of Council,

On behalf of myself MPP Rosenberg and the residents of your community, I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to the Mayor and Members of Council of the Township of Tarbutt for your recent election for the next 4-year term.

As a former Councillor and Mayor for 11 years I know how important your election to public office is a significant responsibility and an opportunity to serve the people of your community with dedication, integrity, and a shared commitment to the community's future.

The Township of Tarbutt has a proud history and a strong community spirit. As you begin this new term, I wish you every success as you work together to address local priorities, support residents and businesses, strengthen essential services, and promote opportunities for economic development and community well-being.

As Member of Provincial Parliament, I look forward to working collaboratively with the Mayor and Council on matters of shared importance to the Township of Tarbutt and its residents. Cooperation among municipal, provincial, and community partners is essential to building a strong, vibrant, and sustainable future for our region.

Once again, congratulations on your election and on taking on this important role in public service. I wish you a productive and successful term as you work to represent the interests and aspirations of the people of the Township of Tarbutt.

Yours sincerely,

MPP Bill Rosenberg
Algoma Manitoulin

The Corporation of the Municipality of Red Lake

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED BY: NO. 176-26

SECONDED BY: DATE: November 9th, 2026

WHEREAS the *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019* requires Ontario municipalities to prepare and adopt Community Safety and Well-Being Plans; and

WHEREAS *Ontario Regulation 414/23* requires municipal councils to review and, where appropriate, revise their Community Safety and Well-Being Plans within four years of adoption and every four years thereafter, thereby creating an ongoing legislative planning obligation for municipalities; and

WHEREAS meaningful review and revision of Community Safety and Well-Being Plans require municipalities to undertake activities such as data collection and analysis, community and stakeholder engagement, priority setting, multi-sector collaboration, and the development of strategies to address identified community risks; and

WHEREAS the effectiveness of Community Safety and Well-Being Plans ultimately depends on municipalities and their community partners having sufficient resources not only to develop and periodically revise the plans but also to implement the priorities, programs and initiatives identified through the planning process; and

WHEREAS the Rural Ontario Municipal Association has identified the implementation of Community Safety and Well-Being Plans as an unfunded municipal mandate and has advocated for a dedicated funding stream to enable municipalities, particularly rural communities, to implement these plans; and

WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba has supported Community Safety and Well-Being planning through provincially funded programs involving participating communities rather than through the same province-wide statutory municipal planning requirement, including a $1.3 million investment announced in 2022 to support participating communities in developing Community Safety and Well-Being Plans and implementing local safety priorities, while Ontario municipalities are legislatively required to undertake Community Safety and Well-Being planning without dedicated provincial base funding or ongoing financial support for plan development and coordination; and

WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba continues to provide support for CSWB activities, including funding directed toward the implementation of local Community Safety and Well-Being priorities and programs;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of The Corporation of the Municipality of Red Lake calls upon the Government of Ontario to establish a dedicated, predictable and sustainable provincial funding program to assist municipalities with:

1. the legislatively required review and revision of Community Safety and Well-Being Plans, including associated consultation, engagement, research, data analysis and planning costs; and
2. the implementation of the priorities, strategies, programs and initiatives identified through Community Safety and Well-Being Plans; and

FURTHER THAT the Government of Ontario be requested to consider a funding model that recognizes the unique financial, geographic, service-delivery and capacity challenges experienced by northern, rural and remote municipalities; and

FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, the Solicitor General, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Minister of Rural Affairs, the local Member of Provincial Parliament, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Rural Ontario Municipal Association, and Ontario municipalities for consideration and support.

				CARRIED ✓ DEFEATED
Declaration of Interest (*)	NAME OF COUNCIL MEMBER	YEAS	NAYS	
	BADIUK, Warren			MAYOR
	GEARY, Debra			
	HAGER, Janet			CLERK
	KRISTOFF, Jamie			
	MOTA, Fred			
* General Nature Thereof:				

Distribution: _____

Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

Environmental Assessment and Permissions Modernization Branch

40 St. Clair Avenue West
11th Floor
Toronto ON M4V 1M2

Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Protection de la nature et des Parcs

Direction de la modernisation relative aux évaluations et aux permissions environnementales

40, avenue St. Clair Ouest
11e étage
Toronto ON M4V 1M2

Ontario

November 10, 2026

RE: Regulatory amendments to streamline requirements for waste disposal site service area and fil rate changes

To whom it may concern,

Today, I am writing to advise that the Ontario government has made changes to streamline requirements for certain service area changes at waste disposal sites (e.g., landfilling site, thermal treatment facility, waste transfer station) and fill rate changes at landfilling sites and dumps.

These regulatory amendments, which we consulted on between April 22, 2026, and June 8, 2026, have now been made and have come into effect.

As a result of these amendments, changes to the service area or fill rate of certain waste disposal sites no longer trigger requirements under the *Environmental Assessment Act*. Where an Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA) limits the service area and fill rate for a waste disposal site, changes to this limit will require an ECA amendment. Proposals for ECA amendments for these changes have been exempted from the posting requirements under the *Environmental Bill of Rights, 1993* (EBR) and third-party appeal provisions.

The ECA program is designed to protect Ontario's water, air and natural environment. A waste ECA sets conditions for the use, operation, establishment, alteration, enlargement or extension of waste disposal sites. ECAs also regulate operational changes including fill rates and service areas, through conditions, monitoring, reporting, and other controls to manage environmental risks.

General guidance on the ECA application process and requirements can be found in the Guide to applying for an environmental compliance approval.

Please visit the Environmental Registry of Ontario for further information, and please feel free to contact us at EAModernization.MECP@ontario.ca if you have any questions.

More information on our efforts to modernize the EA program can also be found here.

Sincerely,

A. Cross

Annamaria Cross
Director, Environmental Assessment and Permissions Modernization Branch
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

AORS

PROMOTING **KNOWLEDGE**. PURSUING **EXCELLENCE**.

November 12, 2026

Bill 140 – Building Ontario Faster Act, 2026

Briefing – Potential Implications for Public Works and Infrastructure

The Province of Ontario has introduced Bill 140, the *Building Ontario Faster Act, 2026*, an omnibus bill intended to accelerate infrastructure development, streamline approvals and reduce regulatory barriers.

While much of the legislation addresses broader provincial priorities, several proposed amendments could have direct implications for municipal public works departments, particularly for roads, bridges, drainage, underground infrastructure, environmental management and capital construction projects.

The following outlines the key areas the Association of Ontario Road Supervisors have identified that municipalities should be aware of and consider monitoring.

1. Underground Infrastructure Mapping and Reporting – Schedule 15

Significant potential municipal impact

The legislation proposes to give the Minister authority to require owners and operators of underground infrastructure, including municipalities, to provide specified information about their infrastructure.

Key considerations include:

- The Province may require municipalities to submit infrastructure information within specified timelines.
- Regulations will determine what information must be provided and which organizations are subject to the requirements.
- Municipalities may be required to provide confidential infrastructure information.
- No compensation is provided for supplying the information.
- Non-compliance can result in administrative penalties of up to $500,000.

Municipal concerns: Many municipalities, particularly smaller and rural communities, do not have complete digital records of their underground infrastructure. Historical drawings, paper records and institutional knowledge may be the only information available.

Municipalities should seek clarification on:

- Whether they will be required to undertake additional surveying, locating or digitization work to meet provincial requirements.
- Whether provincial funding or technical assistance will be available to support compliance.
- Whether municipalities will be held responsible for inaccurate or incomplete historical records.
- What protections will exist when information is provided in good faith but has not been independently verified.

A key concern is potential liability if information supplied to the Province is subsequently relied upon by contractors or other infrastructure owners.

2. Environmental Assessment Act and Environmental Bill of Rights – Schedules 7 and 8

Bill 140 proposes changes to both Acts, including the removal of certain environmental consultation, review and investigation mechanisms.

Of particular interest to municipalities are the proposed changes to environmental oversight and accountability.

Municipal public works activities that may be affected include:

- Roadside ditching and drainage.
- Culvert replacements and stormwater management.
- Road construction and reconstruction.
- Road salt application and storage.
- Municipal infrastructure and waste management projects.

Municipal consideration: Municipalities should monitor how these changes affect environmental requirements and operational responsibilities. Clear provincial guidance, consistent standards and appropriate transition periods will be important to ensure municipal staff understand and can implement any new requirements.

Bill 140 also removes the existing statutory requirement for municipal council support for certain proposed large landfill projects. Municipalities would retain opportunities to provide input through environmental assessment consultation but would lose this particular statutory support requirement.

This may be of particular interest to municipalities that could be expected to accommodate waste management infrastructure serving larger geographic areas.

3. Municipal Work Along Provincial Highways – Schedule 20

Significant potential municipal impact

Proposed amendments to the *Public Transportation and Highway Improvement Act* establish a revised framework for activities along King's Highways and controlled-access highways.

The legislation introduces permitting requirements for certain activities, while allowing prescribed exemptions subject to applicable conditions, notifications and standards. It also expands provincial enforcement, inspection and cost-recovery powers.

Municipal activities potentially affected include:

- Municipal drainage and ditching projects.
- Culvert installation and replacement.
- Utility crossings.
- Road maintenance near provincial highway intersections.
- Installation and maintenance of municipal infrastructure.
- Emergency repairs involving flooding, drainage failures or damaged infrastructure.

Municipal consideration: The practical impact will depend heavily on regulations that follow. Municipalities should seek clear exemptions for routine maintenance, emergency repairs and urgent public safety work.

There should also be straightforward notification processes, effective coordination with the Ministry of Transportation and no unnecessary duplication of existing provincial approval processes.

This is particularly important for rural and northern municipalities where small public works departments may need to respond immediately to infrastructure failures without waiting for lengthy provincial approvals.

4. Archaeological Requirements – Schedule 17

Proposed amendments to the *Ontario Heritage Act* revise archaeological assessment requirements, introduce additional compliance and enforcement powers, and significantly increase potential penalties for certain offences.

Municipal infrastructure projects involving ground disturbance may be affected, including:

- Road reconstruction and widening.
- Culvert and bridge replacements.

- Storm sewer installations.
- Watermain and drainage projects.

Although certain exemptions are proposed, there is no blanket exemption for municipal infrastructure work.

Municipal consideration: Municipalities should seek clear guidance on when archaeological assessments are required, appropriate exemptions for routine maintenance and emergency repairs, and procedures to follow when archaeological resources are discovered during construction.

The increased penalties also reinforce the importance of ensuring municipal staff understand their responsibilities and applicable compliance requirements.

5. Construction Act – Schedule 5

Bill 140 proposes changes to the annual release of construction holdbacks for prescribed owners.

Currently, the annual release framework is tied to the anniversary of a construction contract. The proposed amendments would allow prescribed owners to establish a common annual date, including for certain existing contracts.

Municipal consideration: This could simplify contract administration for municipalities managing multiple capital construction projects. Municipalities should monitor the regulations to determine which owners qualify and how existing contracts will be transitioned.

6. Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act – Schedule 22

The proposed legislation introduces authority for regulations requiring certain producers or designated parties to offer services to municipalities for prescribed materials.

It also allows regulations to address agreements, fees, service requirements and information-sharing. Some future requirements may affect existing agreements, potentially modifying or extinguishing contractual rights without compensation.

Municipal consideration: This could create opportunities for municipalities involved in waste collection and recycling through expanded producer services. However, municipalities should monitor potential impacts on existing collection contracts, service delivery arrangements, operating costs and contractual obligations.

Municipal consultation should be encouraged before regulatory changes affect existing municipal agreements.

AORS Perspective

The Association of Ontario Road Supervisors (AORS) is reviewing the proposed legislation from the perspective of municipal public works operations and infrastructure delivery.

AORS is particularly focused on ensuring that new provincial requirements do not create unfunded responsibilities for municipalities, that appropriate exemptions exist for routine maintenance and emergency work, and that municipalities receive clear guidance and adequate implementation timelines.

AORS supports the Province's objectives of accelerating infrastructure construction and reducing unnecessary red tape. However, municipal public works departments must be recognized as essential partners in achieving these objectives. AORS will be making submissions to the Province on behalf of our members.

The underlying principle is straightforward: new provincial expectations must recognize the financial, staffing and operational realities of the municipalities responsible for delivering and maintaining Ontario's infrastructure.

For additional information, municipalities can review the full legislation: Bill 140 – Building Ontario Faster Act, 2026

For more information, contact:

Kelly Elliott, Executive Director
Association of Ontario Road Supervisors
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November 13, 2026 **Sent Via Email Only**

Honrouable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Premier's Office
Room 281
Main Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A5

Dear Honorouable Doug Ford,

Re: Requests to pause the current consultation process and extend the deadline for municipal submissions on Bill 140, the Building Ontario Faster Act, 2026

Please be advised that during the regular Council meeting of November 9, 2026, Township of Stone Mills Council passed the following motion,

Resolution 19-717-2026

WHEREAS: The Province of Ontario has introduced Bill 140, the Building Ontario Faster Act, 2026, which proposes significant legislative changes affecting municipalities, planning, environmental protections, public consultation and other areas of provincial and municipal governance;

AND WHEREAS the proposed legislation contains numerous complex provisions that may have significant and long-term implications for municipalities, their residents, and their ability to make informed decisions in the public interest;

AND WHEREAS municipal councils have a responsibility to carefully review proposed legislation, understand its potential implications, and provide meaningful and informed input to the provincial government on behalf of their communities;

AND WHEREAS the 2026 municipal election was held on October 26, 2026, and newly elected municipal councils are in the process of transitioning into their new terms of office, with limited opportunity to view and assess the full implications of Bill 140 prior to the provincial consultation deadlines;

AND WHEREAS the Township of Stone Mills recognizes that Bill 140 may contain provisions that could benefit municipalities and the public, but believes that meaningful consultation requires adequate time for municipalities to understand and assess the proposed changes before providing informed feedback;

AND WHEREAS municipal input is essential to ensuring that provincial legislation reflects the practical realities, unique circumstances, and needs of Ontario's diverse municipalities, including small rural communities;

AND WHEREAS the Township of Stone Mills is not, at this time, taking a position on the merits of every provision contained within Bill 140, but rather is seeking an adequate opportunity for meaningful municipal review and consultation before the legislation proceeds;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Council of the Township of Stone Mills respectfully requests that the Government of Ontario pause the current consultation process and extend the deadline for municipal submissions on Bill 140, the Building Ontario Faster Act,

2026, to provide newly elected municipal councils with sufficient time to review and assess the proposed legislation;

2. The Township further requests that the Province refrain from advancing the proposed legislation to final passage until municipalities have been afforded a reasonable opportunity to review the legislation, consult with their communities, and provide meaningful input;

3. The Township requests that the Province provide newly elected municipal councils with a minimum 90 days following the commencement of their new terms of office to review the legislation and submit their comments;

4. That this resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Shelby Kramp-Neuman, MP, Ric Bresee, MPP, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and all other Ontario municipalities for their consideration and support;

5. That the Township of Stone Mills submit this resolution as its formal comment on the consultation process for Bill 140, and request that it be considered by the Province in determining the appropriate consultation period.

Moved By Councillor Milligan
Seconded By Councillor Lalande
Carried

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

B Teeple

Brandi Teeple
Township Clerk
Township of Stone Mills
4504 County Road 4
Centreville, ON, K0K 1N0
Phone: 613 378-2475 ext. 225
Email: bteeple@stonemills.com

cc. Rob Flack, Minster of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Shelby Kramp-Neuman, MP Hastings-Lennox & Addington-Tyendinaga
Ric Bresee, MPP Hastings-Lennox & Addington
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
All Ontario Municipalities

Fall 2026

Riparian Forests and Autumn Cyanobacteria



Riparian Forests: Where the Forest Meets the Water

By Phil Riley

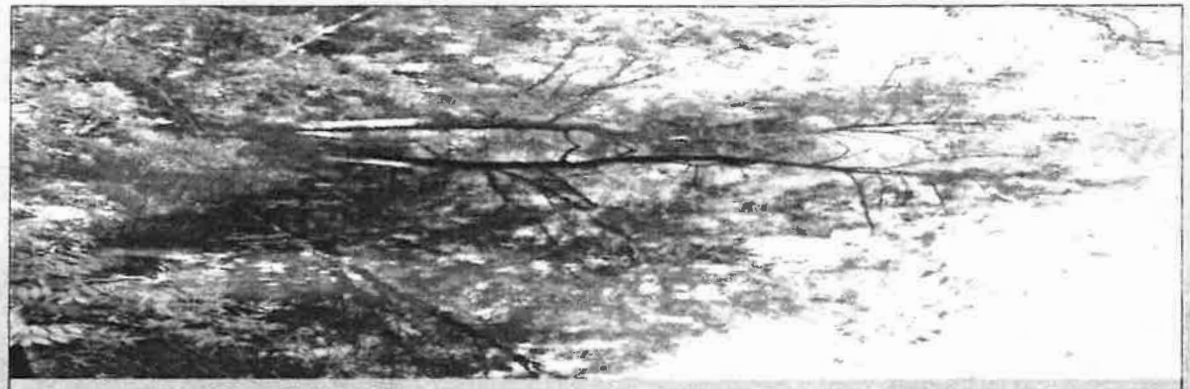
What is a riparian forest?



Walk along a healthy stream, river, lake or wetland and you will often notice a strip of trees and vegetation bordering the water. This is the riparian zone—the transition between aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems. When trees and shrubs dominate that zone, we can call it a riparian forest. Riparian forests are much more than a line of trees beside the water. They form a living interface between land and water, influencing everything from fish habitat and water temperature to birds, mammals, insects, soil, nutrients and the movement of water across the landscape.

A Natural Filter for the Water

Rainfall and snowmelt moving across a forest floor encounter roots, leaf litter, fallen branches and other vegetation. This slows runoff and helps trap sediment and nutrients before they reach the water. Roots also help hold streambanks and lakeshores together, reducing erosion.



Keeping the Water Cool

Trees along streams and rivers provide shade that can substantially reduce solar heating. For cold-water fish such as brook trout, cooler water is critical. Temperature influences dissolved oxygen, metabolism, growth, feeding and survival. Ontario guidance specifically recognizes riparian forest as important to fish habitat because of its influence on sedimentation, temperature and cover.

The Forest Feeds the Stream

Leaves, needles, twigs and other organic materials enter the water and become resources for fungi, microorganisms and aquatic insects. Those insects in turn feed fish, amphibians, birds and bats. Some of the energy supporting a trout can therefore begin with a leaf falling from a tree beside the stream.



Trees Become Fish Habitat

Eventually, some riparian trees fall into the water. Logs, branches and root wads can create pools, cover and slower-water areas, while trapping organic material and providing habitat for aquatic invertebrates. What may look like debris to us can be valuable aquatic structure.

A Highway for Wildlife

Riparian forests can provide food, shelter, nesting habitat and travel corridors. Deer, beaver, mink, otter, raccoon and many smaller mammals use these areas, while birds benefit from the combination of water, insects, shrubs, mature trees and dense cover. Ontario identifies riparian zones and forested stream valleys as important wildlife movement corridors.

The Small Streams Matter Too

Tiny headwater streams can be easy to overlook, yet they feed larger streams, rivers and lakes. Protecting the forest around these waterways helps maintain the connected functions of an entire

watershed. Springs, seeps and intermittent streams can also provide important hydrological links even when they are not obvious on a map.

A Forest That Works in Two Worlds

Riparian forests occupy a remarkable position in nature. Their roots are in the soil, their branches reach into the air, and their leaves influence the water below. They filter runoff, moderate temperatures, stabilize banks, recycle nutrients, provide habitat and connect aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems.

Six Riparian Forest Factoids

1. **Trees can be air conditioners for a stream.** Shade reduces solar heating and helps maintain the cooler conditions required by cold-water fish such as brook trout.

2. **Fish can, in a sense, grow on trees.** Leaves and other plant material entering streams support aquatic food webs. Aquatic insects process that material and become food for fish and other wildlife.

3. **A fallen tree may be a fish habitat structure.** Logs, branches and root wads create cover, pools and feeding areas and increase habitat complexity.

4. **Riparian forests are wildlife highways.** Forested shorelines and stream valleys can connect habitat patches and provide cover for mammals, amphibians, reptiles and birds moving through the landscape.

5. **The smallest streams can have a big downstream influence.** Headwater streams and small hydrological features contribute water, organic matter and ecological connectivity to larger waterways.

6. **A riparian forest is much more than a 'buffer.'** It can filter sediment and nutrients, moderate temperature, stabilize soil, provide food and habitat, store carbon and connect two major ecosystems.

An Algoma Shoreline Perspective

Here in Algoma, a walk beside a cold creek or Great Lakes shoreline can reveal this connection at almost every step. Cedar, balsam, spruce, alder, willow, poplar and hardwoods contribute shade, roots, leaf litter and woody material. Brook trout seek cold water and cover; beaver reshape channels and wetlands; kingfishers, wood ducks, warblers and other birds exploit the rich interface between forest and water. These are not separate pieces of the landscape; they are parts of one functioning system.



The next time you walk beside a stream or lake, look closely at the forest along the shore. Those trees aren't simply growing beside the water. They are part of the water system.

Selected Ontario sources Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry: Ontario Tree Marking Guide; Forest Management Guide for Conserving Biodiversity at the Stand and Site Scales; Timber Management Guidelines for the Protection of Fish Habitat; Significant Wildlife Habitat Technical Guide; Ontario guidance on trees, farms and riparian buffers.

Understanding Cyanobacteria: Causes and Solutions

Early fall is an important times to watch Algoma District lakes. Water can remain warm after air temperatures cool, while calm, sunny weather may support cyanobacterial growth. Autumn storms can wash nutrients and leaves into lakes and fall turnover may redistribute phosphorus from deep water and bottom sediments. Visible scum can disappear without proving that cyanotoxins are gone, so suspicious water should still be avoided.

Cyanobacteria Model: Why Overgrowth Develops

Cyanobacteria are photosynthetic bacteria that occur naturally in lakes. They are often called blue-green algae, and dense growth is commonly described as algae overgrowth. Some species can produce cyanotoxins harmful to people, pets and wildlife. A simple model links nutrient inputs from the watershed, nutrient recycling within the lake, temperature and mixing, cyanobacterial growth, and effects on water quality.

External nutrient loading occurs when phosphorus and nitrogen enter from the surrounding land. Natural sources include soil and decaying vegetation. Human sources include leaking or overloaded septic systems, fertilizer, manure, pet waste, eroded soil and stormwater. Heavy rain and snowmelt can carry these materials through ditches and streams. Shoreline clearing increases the risk because native plants no longer slow runoff, hold soil or take up nutrients.

Internal phosphorus loading occurs when phosphorus stored in lake-bottom sediments returns to the water. Large, shallow lakes can be vulnerable because wind and waves resuspend fine, nutrient-rich sediments. Low oxygen near the bottom can also release phosphorus. Warm water, sunlight, calm conditions and slow flushing favour cyanobacteria. Some species regulate their buoyancy and move toward light or nutrients, while wind concentrates cells along shorelines. As cells die, decomposition uses oxygen and may promote further phosphorus release.

How Folks Can Reduce Nutrient Loading

People can reduce loading by inspecting and pumping septic systems, fixing leaks and avoiding excess water or harsh chemicals in drains. Use phosphorus-free fertilizer or avoid fertilizer near shore. Never apply it before heavy rain. Keep grass clippings, leaves and pet waste out of the water, and store manure where runoff cannot reach ditches or lakes.

Maintain a wide strip of native trees, shrubs and grass beside the water. Their roots stabilize soil, and the plants filter runoff. Redirect roof water onto planted ground, limit hard surfaces and cover bare soil during construction.

Farmers and larger landowners can test soil, match fertilizer and manure to crop needs, plant cover crops and maintain vegetation beside waterways.

Residents can support lake monitoring and report green, turquoise or paint-like water.

If suspected cyanobacterial overgrowth is visible, keep people and animals away, do not drink or cook with the water, and follow Algoma Public Health guidance. Appearance alone cannot show whether cyanotoxins are present. Preventing external nutrient loading is the most practical community action, although lakes with strong internal loading may improve slowly because sediment can continue supplying phosphorus.

Sources: Algoma Public Health: Blue-green algae; Ontario: Blue-green algae; and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada: Water contamination by phosphorus.

You May Not Know

Desbarats, Bright, Basswood and Caribou Lakes in Algoma District have been research by experts since 2009 and the reports are available on our website at: https://www.centralalgomafreshwatercoalition.ca/reports-1

Sault Ste. Marie/ Algoma Climate & El Niño Outlook



Sault Ste. Marie and the Algoma region are facing a warmer-than-normal, relatively low-snow, and high-variability winter for 2026–27 due to a very strong El Niño acting on a warming long-term climate baseline. This combination increases the likelihood of mild periods, rain, freezing rain, and freeze–thaw cycles, which may negatively impact forestry operations and snowpack persistence. However, major Lake Superior lake-effect snowstorms remain entirely plausible whenever Arctic outbreaks cross the relatively ice-free lake.

Become a Member

Central Algoma Freshwater Coalition

Your annual membership fee will provide a base budget for work of CAFC and demonstrate the commitment of local partners working towards a common goal. A strong diverse group is an essential component in meeting the goals of the Central Algoma Region.

Support us at https://www.centralalgomafreshwatercoalition.ca

