

THE SHUNIAH NEWS

Shuniah, Ontario



A Superior Living Experience

Volume Fifteen, Issue Two

March / April 2026



**SHUNIAH'S 2026
EASTER HUNT**

**APRIL 1ST, 6-9PM
@ THE MACGREGOR REC CENTRE!**

**EASTER HUNT STARTS
PROMPTLY AT 6:30PM!**

ARRIVALS AT 6:00PM, HUNT LINE UP
AT 6:20PM! STAY FOR MORE FUN
EASTER CRAFTS AND GAMES LATER!



CLOTHING SWAP

**SATURDAY, APRIL 18TH, 12-3PM
@ THE MACGREGOR REC CENTRE**

**TIME TO CLEAN YOUR CLOSETS AND SWAP
YOUR CLOTHES FOR SOMETHING NEW TO YOU!
FREE EXCHANGES, OPEN TO DONATIONS!**

EMAIL HANNAH AT
CSEC@SHUNIAH.ORG IF YOU
WOULD LIKE TO BRING EARLY
DONATIONS PRIOR TO APRIL 17TH

Want to improve your skating skills? Join a workshop at the MacGregor Rec Centre on **FRIDAY, MARCH 13TH**! More details on page 7!

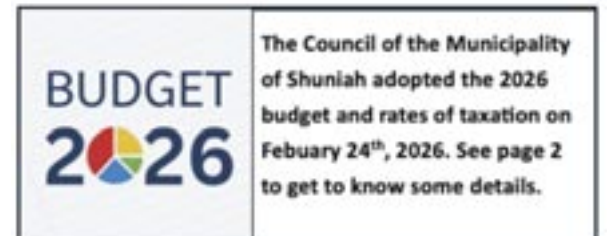


←
**Scan here
to sign up!**



**SHUNIAH SUMMER
DAY CAMP 2026**

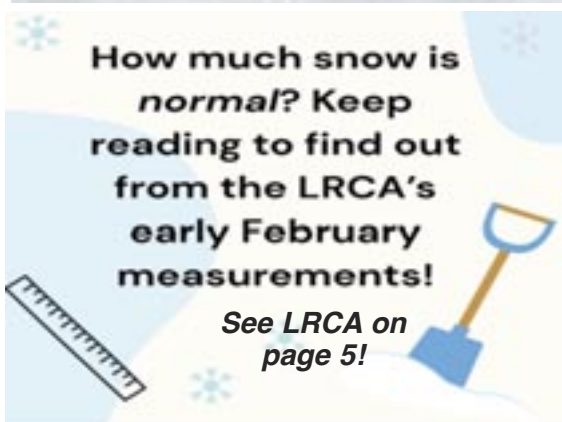
FLIP THROUGH FOR MORE INFORMATION!



**BUDGET
2026**

The Council of the Municipality of Shuniah adopted the 2026 budget and rates of taxation on **February 24th, 2026**. See page 2 to get to know some details.

Shuniah is Recruiting Volunteer Firefighters! Check page 3 for more information on how you or someone you know can apply and answer the call - we'll take care of training and equipping you, and you'll help take care of our rural community!



How much snow is normal? Keep reading to find out from the LRCA's early February measurements!

See LRCA on page 5!



2026 Budget and Property Taxes

Submitted by Sue Moore,
Treasurer/Deputy Clerk

The Council of the Municipality of Shuniah has ratified the municipal budget for 2026 which sets out the new tax rates and provides the approval to move forward with operating services and capital projects for the coming year. In these times of significant inflation and rising interest rates, our goal is to minimize the impact of property tax increases while ensuring that the services the Municipality offer can be sustained. The Municipality also needs to forecast for future commitments by preparing a multi-year budget that focuses on sustainability and includes reserves for infrastructure and potential fluctuations in operating expenditures. Council first received a draft budget report on January 13, 2026 and then set a special budget meeting on February 10, 2026. The agenda for this meeting included a detailed line-by-line budget, draft budget memo, a 10-year summary of revenues, expenses, and reserves, 10-year capital forecasts for both Fire and Roads. All these reports are still accessible by visiting our website at shuniah.org. Council adopted the 2026 budget and rates of taxation on Tuesday February 24, 2026.

The 2026 Shuniah Budget includes a 4.16% tax revenue increase.

While the total 2026 tax revenue increase is 4.16%, we attribute approximately 0.65% to growth in new property assessment (new construction) within Shuniah. **The net increase to the Municipal Levy (after growth) if comparing to other Municipalities is approximately 3.5%.**

The property taxes on every \$100,000 of assessment will be \$883 in 2026 compared to \$857 in 2025.

Example, the municipal property taxes on a property in Shuniah with a MPAC assessed value of \$400,000 will be \$3,532.00 in 2026 compared to \$3,428.00 in 2025. (this also includes education taxes)

Municipal Property Tax Rate for 2026
0.00729872

Education Tax Rate set by Province
0.00153000

Total Tax Rate for 2026
0.00882872

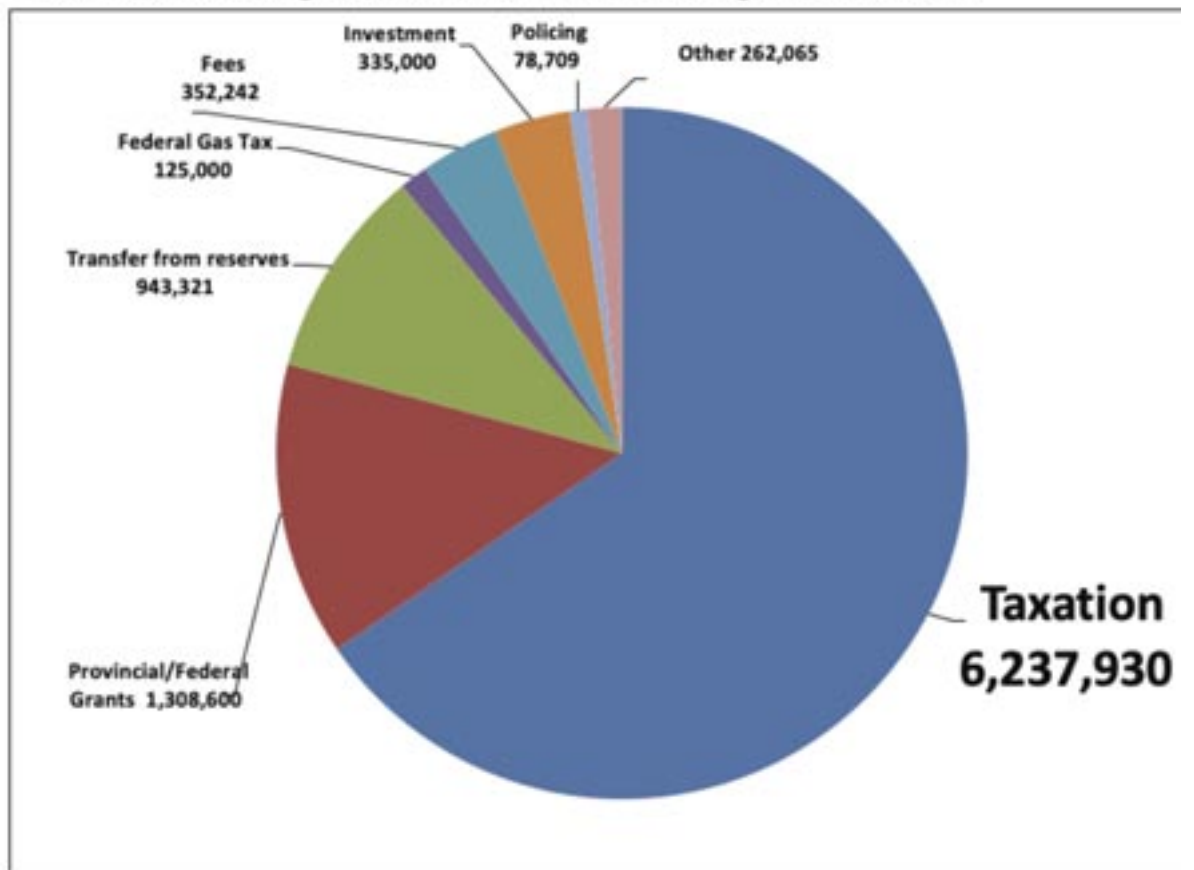
Drivers for the 2026 Budget:

Items that affect the yearly budget include items that the Municipal Council has no control over as the levies are set by other organizations such as:

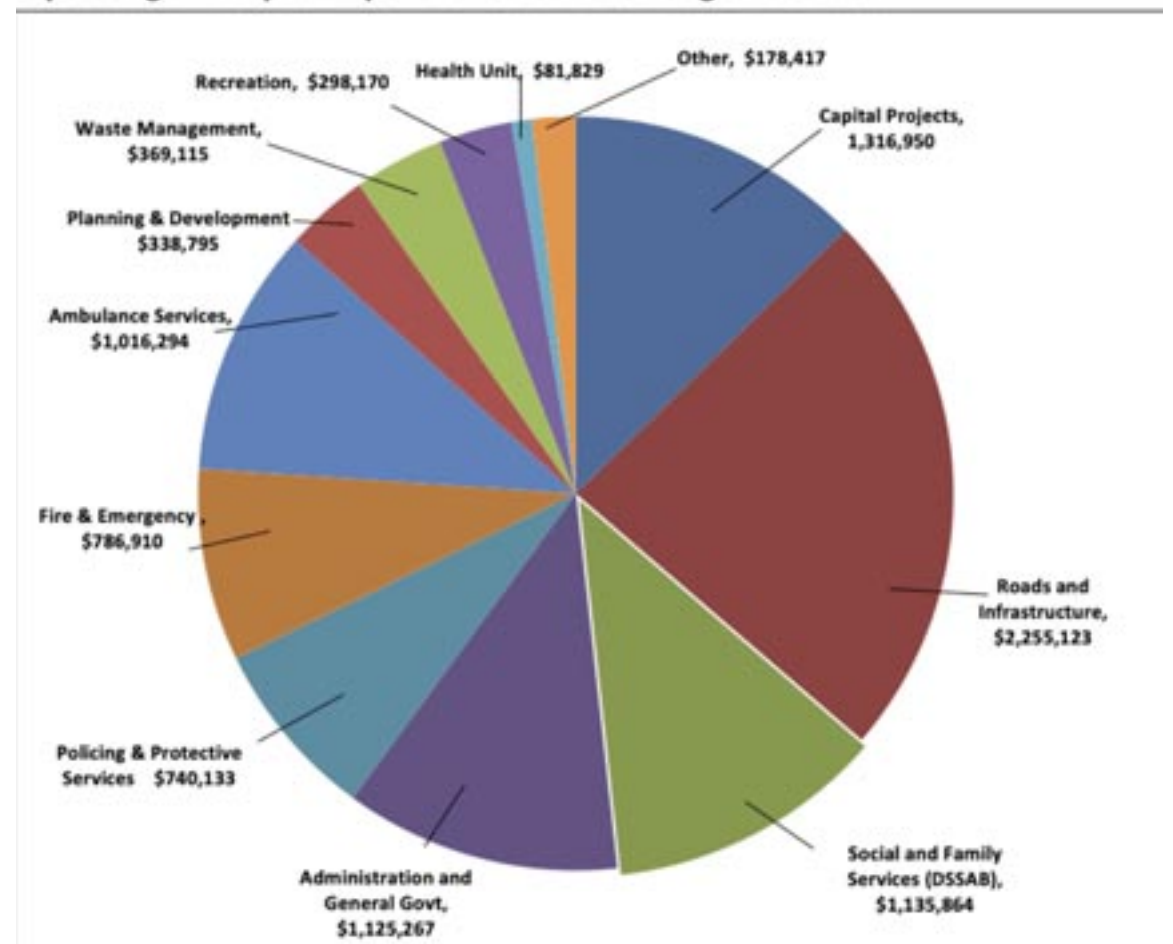
- **OPP Policing – based on Shuniah property count – both residential and commercial**
- **Ambulance Services – based on Shuniah property assessment value**
- **Social Services – based on Shuniah assessment value**
- **Health Unit – based on Shuniah population**

Operational costs are increasing due to the rising costs of construction, fuel, transportation of products to vendors etc. For Council to decrease operational costs they would need to reduce the services that are supplied to the residents of Shuniah. Capital projects are based on the Asset Management Plan which determines when an asset should be replaced or repaired. These projects are looked at yearly for condition and health and safety issues.

Revenue, Financing and Transfers for 2026 Budget Breakdown



Operating and Capital Expenditures for 2026 Budget Breakdown



This could be YOU! Apply to be a Volunteer Firefighter!



Answer the Call – Become a Volunteer Firefighter in Shuniah

The Municipality of Shuniah is proud of its strong sense of community. When neighbours need help, we step forward. That spirit of service is at the heart of Shuniah's volunteer fire department and

we are currently recruiting volunteer firefighters.

Spring Recruitment Drive Ends April 30th!!!

If you've ever wondered whether you could make a difference in someone's most difficult moment, this is your opportunity.

What Does Shuniah Fire & Emergency Services (SFES) Do?

SFES is a volunteer fire department responsible for:

- Fire suppression and structure fire response
- Emergency medical response
- Motor vehicle collision rescue and extrication
- Wildland and grass fire response
- Public education and fire prevention initiatives
- Mutual aid working with neighbouring departments

The Department operates under an Incident Command System and is governed by its Enabling and Regulating By-law passed by Council. Volunteer firefighters are essential to ensuring these services are delivered safely, efficiently, and reliably across our community.

A Commitment from the Municipality

The Municipality of Shuniah recognizes that volunteers are the backbone of emergency services in rural Ontario. That's why we are committed to providing:

- **All required training at no cost**
- **Department-issued protective gear and safety equipment**
- **Modern apparatus, tools, radios, and facilities**
- **Compensation for training, emergency response, truck checks, meetings, etc...**
- **WSIB coverage and supplemental insurance protection**
- **A professional, respectful, safety-focused environment**

Training meets or exceeds Occupational Health and Safety Act requirements and recognized fire service standards. **Once certification such as Firefighter I or II is achieved, it is portable and recognized across Ontario!!**

You are not paying to volunteer — the Municipality invests in you.

What Is the Commitment?

Volunteer firefighting is meaningful and rewarding — but it is also serious work.

Members are expected to:

- Attend training regularly
- Respond to emergencies when available
- Attain provincially mandated certification training
- Follow all policies and Standard Operating Guidelines
- Conduct themselves professionally in the community

After successfully completing the recruitment training, volunteers typically commit 15 – 25 hours per month to training, emergency response and meetings.

Importantly, volunteer firefighting recognizes that members bring different skills and comfort levels. Not every firefighter performs every task. Some focus on support roles, some on medical response, some on suppression — participation grows with training, confidence, and readiness.

Number of calls for the Year 2025: 114

Fire – structures	6
Fire -outdoor	16
Fire – vehicles	3
Medical calls	23
MVCs	14
Extrication	9
Agency assist	6
Rescue	2
Calls cancelled	35

(Note: these are approximate and unaudited counts; 6 of the outdoor fires were trees on hydro lines on the same day)

Who Should Apply?

You do not need prior firefighting experience.

You should consider applying if you:

- Want to serve your community in a meaningful way
- Are willing to learn and train
- Can work as part of a team
- Are physically capable of performing emergency duties
- Can balance volunteer service with work and family life

Volunteer firefighting is designed to complement work and family responsibilities. Flexibility is built into the model while ensuring emergency readiness.

What Will You Gain?

Beyond training and certification, volunteer firefighters gain:

- Lifesaving skills
- Leadership and teamwork experience
- Strong friendships and camaraderie
- A deep sense of purpose
- The opportunity to serve neighbours in their time of need

There is also a strong community connection. SFES members participate in public education, community events, and local initiatives — reinforcing Shuniah's reputation as a supportive, engaged municipality.

The Recruitment Process

Becoming a volunteer firefighter includes:

1. Submission of an application
2. Interview and reference checks
3. Criminal record check (and vulnerable sector check where required)
4. Entry into recruit training on a probationary basis

New recruits begin training before attending emergency incidents and are gradually integrated into response activities under supervision as qualifications are achieved.

Could This Be You?

Across Ontario, volunteer fire departments protect rural communities with professionalism and pride. In Shuniah, our firefighters are neighbours, parents, business owners, tradespeople, retirees, and students. They come from all walks of life — but share one common trait: They step forward when others need help.

If you are looking for a way to give back, build new skills, and become part of something bigger than yourself, consider joining Shuniah Fire & Emergency Services.

**Your community may one day depend on you.
And you may discover it is one of the most rewarding decisions you ever make.**

For more information please visit our Shuniah website to review our Volunteer Firefighter Recruitment Package and Application Form or contact the Fire Chief at 807-683-2021



Shuniah Public Works

Craig Baumann, Manager of Operations

Notice of proposed changes to Landfill Punch Card System & Tipping Fee Structure

By Craig Baumann, Manager of Operations

Like other small rural municipalities across Ontario the MacGregor and McTavish disposal sites have been in operation since the early 1970's and are unfortunately nearing capacity within the next several years. The facilities were established decades ago, operate with small footprints, and now face declining capacity due to population growth, increased service expectations, and evolving waste streams.

Operating and expanding landfill sites is expensive. Expanding an existing landfill rather than constructing a new facility is typically the most cost-effective, environmentally responsible, and publicly supported approach. To proceed with an expansion, municipalities such as Shuniah must obtain approvals from the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) through Environmental Compliance Approvals (ECAs), Environmental Assessments (EAs), hydrogeological assessments, technical design reports and associated consultation processes.

Administration and the Municipality's Engineering Consultant have recently completed a revised site operation design and obtained the required supporting groundwater data to support a capacity expansion of 60,000 m3 at the McTavish Waste Disposal Site. The Ministry of the Environment is fully aware of our capacity needs and has committed to work with our team to prioritize the review of the required environmental permissions.

Based on an average annual waste disposition rate of 6,500 m3 for the entire municipality, the capacity expansion increase of 60,000 m3 would provide approximately 10 years of volume for waste disposal. After which the site would still have a remaining 100,000 m3 of theoretical capacity for future expansion subject to MOECP approval.

The MacGregor Landfill is unfortunately not a candidate for expansion due to geophysical limitations and environmental management challenges. Based on the sites available remaining capacity of just over 19,000 m3, Administration would like to propose prohibiting the deposit of demolition and construction debris once approval for expansion of the McTavish Disposal Site is received. Diversion of the bulky debris to the McTavish Landfill would allow the MacGregor site to remain open for the next decade for resident disposal of domestic bagged garbage, recycling, household hazardous waste and single bulky items (chairs, mattresses etc..). For convenience of users the bulky items will be permitted to be deposited into roll-off bins and transported to the McTavish facility on an as required basis.

Operating a municipal landfill site is a significant and ongoing financial responsibility. Beyond the visible day-to-day activities of managing waste, there are substantial costs associated with regulatory compliance, environmental monitoring, leachate management, equipment procurement and maintenance, staffing, fuel, insurance, reporting to the Ministry of the Environment, and long-term closure and post-closure care. While it is appropriate that a portion of these costs be supported through the general tax base there is a strong rationale for aligning a greater share of operating costs with tipping fees. A user-pay approach ensures that those who generate and dispose of more waste contribute proportionately to the cost of managing it, promoting fairness, financial sustainability, and responsible waste reduction practices.

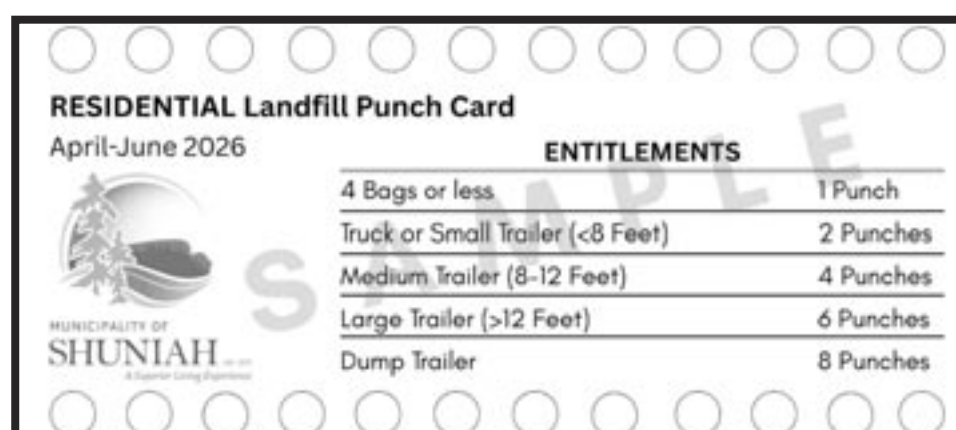
Proposed Card System Changes

To better manage landfill capacity and ensure fairness in use, Administration is proposing a revised landfill punch card system.

Fees:

- **Residential Punch Card:** \$40.00 per year
- **Vacant Land Card:** \$25.00 per year
- **Commercial Card:** \$125.00 per 3 months

With the pending transition from the old punch cards to the new card system, administration is working on a method to credit current card-holders that have remaining punches.



Card Structure:

Residential users will receive **four (4) quarterly cards per year**, each valid for 3 months.

- 24 punches per quarterly card
- No carryover of unused punches into the next quarter
- Color-coded for each quarter
- Security encoded to prevent reproduction
- Replacement quarterly card fee: \$200.00 (limited to one replacement per year)

Users will also receive a separate property-based landfill identification card listing:

- Municipal property address
- Authorized user names (maximum to be determined)
- Mailing address

Photo identification will be required for verification at disposal sites. This system ensures that landfill access is tied to verified municipal properties, helping prevent unauthorized use and protecting capacity for Shuniah taxpayers.

As in the past recycling, household hazardous waste, scrap metal, tires, e-waste and the re-use drop off areas will remain free of charge.

Proposed Punch Cards

Residential Punch Card: Four Quarterly 3-month cards with 24 punches each.

- Less than 4 bags -1 punch
- Truck or Small Trailer (under 8 feet) -2 punches
- Medium Trailer (under 12 feet) -4 punches
- Large Trailer (over 12 feet) -6 punches
- Dump Trailer -8 punches

Vacant Land Punch Card: Annual card with 12 punches

- Truck or Small Trailer (under 8 feet) -2 punches
- Medium Trailer (under 12 feet) -4 punches

Commercial Punch Card: 3-month card with 28 punches.

- Truck or Small Trailer (under 8 feet) -1 punch
- Medium Trailer (under 12 feet) -2 punches

The commercial punch card will allow for the disposal of bagged domestic garbage only, all other commercial debris will be charged in accordance with the tipping fees indicated below.

The revised punch structure aligns usage more closely with actual volume deposited and provides a more equitable cost recovery model.

Revised Tipping Fees

Waste transported in vehicles or trailers with a gross vehicle weight greater than 4,500 kilograms utilized for larger scale projects will be charged at the rates indicated below. Any person wishing to dispose of the larger volume loads will be required to apply and obtain permission from the Corporations Manager of Operations or designate prior to disposal.

Tipping Fees:	Current	Proposed	City of Tbay (\$91.89/tonne)
Single axle truck or trailer (<5m ³)	\$100.00	\$220.00	\$240.00
Tandem trucks (<12m ³)	\$300.00	\$500.00	\$560.00
Tri-axle trucks (<15m ³)	\$400.00	\$700.00	\$700.00
Trailer/ Roll-of bin (<20m ³)	\$550.00	\$850.00	\$930.00
Tank trucks with raw sewage annual fee	\$500.00	\$100.00/Truck Load	N/A

As always, we welcome and value public input, please feel free to e-mail your comments, questions, or concerns to pw@shuniah.org

Craig Bauman
Manager of Operations

Voices Heard, Choices Made: A Council Meeting Recap!

Submitted
by Kerry Bellamy, Clerk



New Time, 5:00 pm!

Come out and see what your Council is doing on your behalf. Attend in person at the municipal office, or by zoom.

On January 13, 2026, at our Regular Council Meeting, Council approved a sponsorship package for the Thunder Bay Municipal League Conference, Memorandum of Understanding for plan review fees with the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority for 5 years, and a new TbayTel Mobility Cell Phone Tower on Lakeshore Drive near Silver Beach Road. Council also approved 2 Zoning Amendments applications and reviewed the 2026 draft budget. Council passed a resolution supporting Bill 9, Municipal Accountability Act and passed a resolution not supporting Bill 68, Legislative Changes to OMERS' Governance Structure.

On January 27, 2026, at our Regular Council Meeting, Council heard a deputation regarding Kinghorn line rail to trail. Council discussed a subdivision in the community that has expired and approved a by-law to deem the lots of the subdivision out of a plan of subdivision. Council approved items to be purchased with Fire Protection Grant funds and reviewed and approved internet and telephone voting for the upcoming election and signed an agreement with Intelivote as out service provider. Council received a memo regarding the mass notification system Voyant Alert! To start on February 1, 2026.

On February 3, 2026, Council held a Special Meeting, to have a closed meeting to receive advice from Council regarding a renewable energy project.

On February 10, 2026, Council held a Budget meeting, prior to the Regular Council Meeting, the Treasurer presented the draft budget to Council, Council directed staff to proceed with budget approval.

On February 10, 2026, at our Regular Council Meeting, the Manager of Operations presented proposed changes to the Landfill punch card system and landfill operations, and Council received registration information for Voyant Alert! The new municipal notification system for residents.

On February 19, 2026, Council held a Special Meeting, to have a closed meeting to receive information and discuss personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees.

Reminder Council meetings are held the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month.

Please contact the Municipal Office for more information or with input into any of the items that Council is considering.



For upcoming Council meetings, and to see the approved minutes from each of the meetings visit our website www.shuniah.org. If you don't have internet capabilities, please contact our office for copies of approved minutes. This article contains only highlights from Council meetings.



LRCA staff have continued to conduct bi-monthly snow surveys at the three historical snow survey locations (Hazelwood Lake,

Vibert Road and Madeline Street). As of February 1st, snow depth and water content were above average for that time of year with depth ranging from 40-62 centimetres (18% above average) and water content ranging from 115-173 millimetres (59% above average). Lake Superior's beginning of February level was 36 centimetres below the beginning of February average and 3 centimetres lower than the level last year.

MNR's snow monitoring data is now available to the public through the Ontario GeoHub. The site contains information including a list of all active and historical snow survey locations, mapping of snow survey locations as well as historic and current snow survey data (1933 – 2025).

The 2026 Explore Card Parking Pass is now on sale! Explore Card Parking Passes permit day-use/parking at our ten Conservation Areas for one calendar year. Visit as often as you like. Enjoy one calendar year of recreation activities! For the low price of \$40.00 +HST, it's convenient for frequent users. All Explore Card revenue goes directly towards the upkeep and maintenance of our Conservation Areas.

Be sure to Follow, Like and Share the LRCA on social media and sign up for our e-newsletter! We have tons of great events and activities in the works for 2026 and we don't want you to miss any of them!

Get out and Explore!

Shuniah Fire and Emergency services – Fire Prevention Department

by Neil Parsons

Spring (we desperately hope) is not far away. Here are some Fire Prevention Tips to help us prepare for its arrival.

(With many Thanks to the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs)

- Ensure your address number is visible from the road. Remove debris that could obstruct the view of first responders.
- Clean out filters above your stove.
- Test your smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms; replace batteries immediately if they are dead. Replace entire units for smoke alarms more than 10 years old.
- Ensure you have an emergency preparedness kit in case of events, such as power outages or floods.
- Pull out the fridge and dust or vacuum the coils. Temporarily unplug the fridge so there is no power running through the coils when you are cleaning them.
- Practise your home escape plan so everyone in the household knows what to do in a fire. Windows should be checked to ensure they open and close properly, in case they are needed as an exit. Clean out stairs and landings clear so they are accessible during an evacuation in the case of an emergency.
- Check outdoor electrical outlets and other electrical appliances for animal nests and to ensure proper wiring.
- Get rid of old newspapers, magazine and junk mail by recycling them. These items tend to pile up and can greatly contribute to the severity and spread of fire.
- Clean up and properly store paints, pool and yard chemicals.
- Check fuels containers for leaks and make sure they are properly stored.
- Remove leaves and trash from carports and garages: Combustible materials are dangerous if they are exposed to heated automobile components, especially under the vehicles.



Summer Student Employment – Shuniah Summer Day Camp

The Municipality of Shuniah is currently accepting applications for the following positions:

Shuniah Summer Day Camp Supervisor

We are currently seeking ONE (1) Supervisor who will co-develop and supervise a day-camp program that will strive to encourage youth engagement and development. Rate: \$23.20/hr.

Deadline to apply: March 22nd, 2026 @ 11:59 pm.

We are seeking TWO (2) Counselors who will focus on delivering youth programming, including leading activities and facilitating daily camper arrivals and departures. Rate: \$18.50/hr.

Deadline to apply: Friday, May 1st, 2026 @ 11:59 pm.

For full job descriptions and details, visit www.shuniah.org/employment

How to apply: Interested persons may submit a cover letter and resume along with three references, indicating the position being applied for to Hannah Terejko, Community Services and Events Coordinator at csec@shuniah.org. Thank you!



Nomination Period: May 1, 2026 to August 21, 2026

Election Day: Monday, October 26, 2026

Term of Office: November 15, 2026 to November 14, 2030

See the municipal website for more information. www.shuniah.org

Check, update or add your information to the voters list for provincial and municipal elections at Elections Ontario www.elections.on.ca

Senior of the Year Award

By Kerry Bellamy, Clerk

The deadline to nominate someone is April 1, 2026.

We received 1 nomination for Senior of the Year in 2025.

We are accepting nominations for next year's remarkable senior who is an inspiration to our community and makes Shuniah a Superior Living Experience!

Please consider making a nomination, and join us in sharing our appreciation for our seniors.

Eligibility

The person you nominate (the nominee) must be:

- at least 65 years of age
- a resident of Ontario
- a living person who has made their community a better place to live
- nominated by a municipality in Ontario

Required information

To submit a nomination, you will need to provide the nominee's:

- first name,
- last name,
- home address,
- email address and
- phone number

Only municipalities can submit a nomination. If you know someone who should be considered for this award, please submit the required information to:



Volunteer in Shuniah!

Want to see more events and programs in Shuniah?



These opportunities need the support of many hands! If you are interested in volunteering for special events, please complete a form by scanning this QR code or visiting

www.shuniah.org
Thank you!

COUNCIL CONTACT INFORMATION

Mayor Wendy Landry
807 626-6686
wlandry@shuniah.org

Councillor Don Smith
807 621-1904
dsmith@shuniah.org

Councillor Donna Blunt
807 983-2129
dblunt@shuniah.org

Councillor Meghan Chomut
807 983-3399
mchomut@shuniah.org

Councillor Ron Giardetti
807 983-2051
rgiardetti@shuniah.org

WINTER LANDFILL HOURS

November 1 - March 31

MacGregor Site
Wednesdays 8:30am-4:30pm
Sat/Sun 9:00am-5:00pm

McTavish Site
Wednesday 10:00pm-6:00pm
Sat/Sun 9:00am-5:00pm

SUMMER LANDFILL HOURS

April 1 - October 31

MacGregor Site
Wednesdays 8:30am-4:30pm
Sat/Sun 9:00am-5:00pm

McTavish Site
Wednesdays 12:00pm-8:00pm
Sat/Sun 9:00am-5:00pm

REMINDER

Invoices received at the Shuniah Landfill sites must be paid at the Municipal office within 15 days of receiving invoice. The Municipal office is located at 420 Leslie Ave.

Dogs Off-Leash and Licencing: By-Law 1951-98

An important reminder to all dog owners: every dog must be registered annually and the dog tag is to be secured to the dog. Additionally, every dog owner shall keep the dog leashed and under control of some person when on land that is not owned by the owner of the dog unless the person owning the land has given permission.

For additional details, please visit our Shuniah.org website

Shuniah Dog Tags

2026 Dog Tags are required.

Available for purchase at the Municipal Office.



SHUNIAH NUMBERS

EMERGENCY	911
Non Emergency Administration.....	807-983-2021
Public Works and Roads	807-983-2550
Municipal Office	807-683-4545
	Toll-free: 1-855-683-4545
OPP	1 888 310-1122
MNR.....	1 888 310-(Fire) 3473
CBO.....	807-620-3709

MUNICIPAL OFFICE HOURS OF OPERATION

Located at 420 Leslie Avenue, Thunder Bay

Monday to Friday: 8:30 am to 4:30 pm
May long weekend to September long weekend
– Friday Hours 8:30 am to 3:30 pm


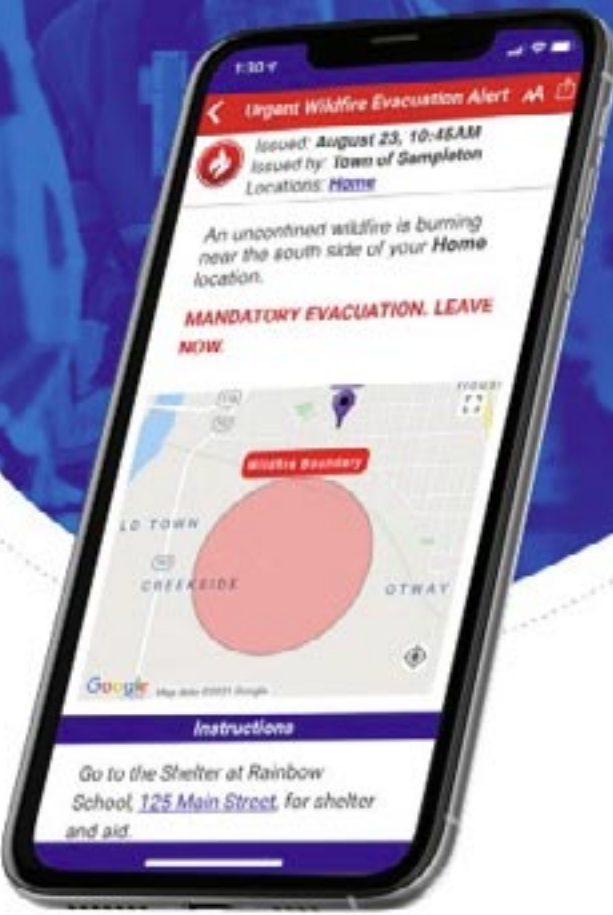


A Successful Return of the Me-Treat

Submitted by Hannah Terejko, CSEC

After a few years on pause, this year's Me-Treat event came back with beautiful energy and enthusiasm! This February featured a day full of women's self-care and learning through music and dance, fashion, our inner natural wisdom, photography, skating, nutrition conversations, yoga and even fixing home appliances! We would like to thank all participants, presenters, volunteers and the Daily Grind Café for contributing to this experience and making it so much fun!




REGISTER FOR FREE TODAY

WHAT IS VOYENT ALERT!?
 Voyent Alert! Is a multi-purpose communication service provided by the Municipality of Shuniah to keep you informed of critical events like fires or floods as well as day-to-day communications such as road maintenance and closures, water advisories, etc.

NOTIFICATION SERVICE



Instructions

Go to the Shelter at Rainbow School, 125 Main Street, for shelter and aid.

WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT

PERSONALIZED COMMUNICATIONS	Voyent Alert! provides informative communications. Critical information such as the distance and direction from an incident, and preferred evacuation routes from your followed locations may be provided.
FOLLOW MULTIPLE LOCATIONS	Voyent Alert! allows you to create and follow multiple locations such as "Kids School" or "Mom's House". Any event or communication related to your followed locations will be forwarded to you along your preferred communication channel.
COMMUNICATIONS YOUR WAY	Receive alerts over a wide variety of communication channels including mobile apps, text/SMS alerting, email or voice dial. You can register for one or more communication channels.
NO MESSAGE FATIGUE	Smart alerting capabilities ensure that you will only get notified when a communication is relevant to your or one of the locations you are following.
EASY REGISTRATION	Registration for the service is FREE, simple and anonymous.

Visit the Shuniah website for more tips and info on how to sign up for alerts!

Questions?
Email csec@shuniah.org

REGISTER NOW!



MOBILE APP USERS
Download and install the Voyent Alert! app from the Apple App or Google Play stores.





Scan the QR code to register online to receive email, voice or text-based alerts.

Wondering how to kick your new year off with UMPH?
Check out what's happening at the MacGregor Rec Centre!

800 Lakeshore Drive - More information email csec@shuniah.org

Follow MacGregor Rec Centre on Facebook and Instagram to stay updated on new and upcoming events, programs and opportunities! Remember to visit the Community Input tab on the Municipality of Shuniah website to tell us what other events and programs you'd like to see in Shuniah!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	MORNING YIN YOGA 10AM	FAMILY MUSIC 11AM	WELLNESS WEIGHT TRAIN 9AM & 10AM		BALANCE, CORE & MORE 9AM
	FUNCTIONAL FITNESS 2:30PM	SHUFFLEBOARD 1PM	ART GROUP 1:30PM	FUNCTIONAL FITNESS 2:30PM	
	BOXING 5:15PM	YOGA 5PM	WEIGHT NIGHT 5:15PM	BOXING 5:15PM	
	GIRL GUIDES 6:30PM		YOUTH GROUP 6PM		YOUTH GROUP 6PM

THE MACGREGOR REC CENTRE'S GOAL IS TO PROVIDE THE FACILITY AND SUPPORT TO PROGRAM INSTRUCTORS, ENABLING THEM TO OFFER CLASSES IN A WELCOMING AND SAFE ENVIRONMENT.

MORNING YIN YOGA with Diane

Mondays 10:00-11:00am March 2nd - April 27th
\$10 with session rate (9 classes for \$90)

"Meet you on the mat" Yin Yoga targets the connective tissues, such as the ligaments, bones, and even the joints of the body that normally are not exercised very much in a more active style of yoga. This slow-paced style of yoga allows postures to be held for a longer period of time stretching muscles, releasing the fascia and improving joint mobility. Any questions please contact Diane Gordon at (807) 683-3016 or dgordon@tbaytel.net

ACRYLIC AND OIL PAINTING CLASSES with a smattering of art history (All levels welcome)-taught by Jeanne Marler
Wednesdays 1:30-4:30pm January 14th - April 29th

This three-hour class includes personal coaching, instruction on colour and composition and includes traditional and some abstract art techniques. For information contact Jeanne Marler : (807) 631-7856 or jeanne@jeannemarler.com.

FUNCTIONAL FITNESS with Lynda

Mondays and Thursdays 2:30-3:30pm, NO CLASS APRIL 6TH (Easter Monday)
11 class drop-in punch card for \$80.00

Whether you have remained active your entire life or are just beginning to get active this class is for you! In a fun group format, you can expect a variety of exercises intended to improve your MOBILITY, boost your BALANCE, increase your STRENGTH, and improve your CARDIO! Emphasis will be on supporting all elements essential to strong, healthy, and active aging. Suitable for all levels. Please contact Canfitpro Fitness Instructor and Active aging Specialist, Lynda to register by emailing tbk@tbaytel.net or texting or calling 807-632-8282.

SWEATCLUB FITNESS BOXFIT with Jacquie

Mondays and Thursdays 5:15-6:00pm, NO CLASS APRIL 6TH (Easter Monday) \$10 drop in

All fitness levels welcome! Personal trainer Jacquie Kennedy has been instructing Boxfit classes for over 7 years and has a modification for every issue you might have. In this class you can start at low intensity and work your way up to a high intensity work out. Jacquie is a personal trainer, and body building specialist who is also available for private and semi-private sessions, alone or with a group of your friends or family.

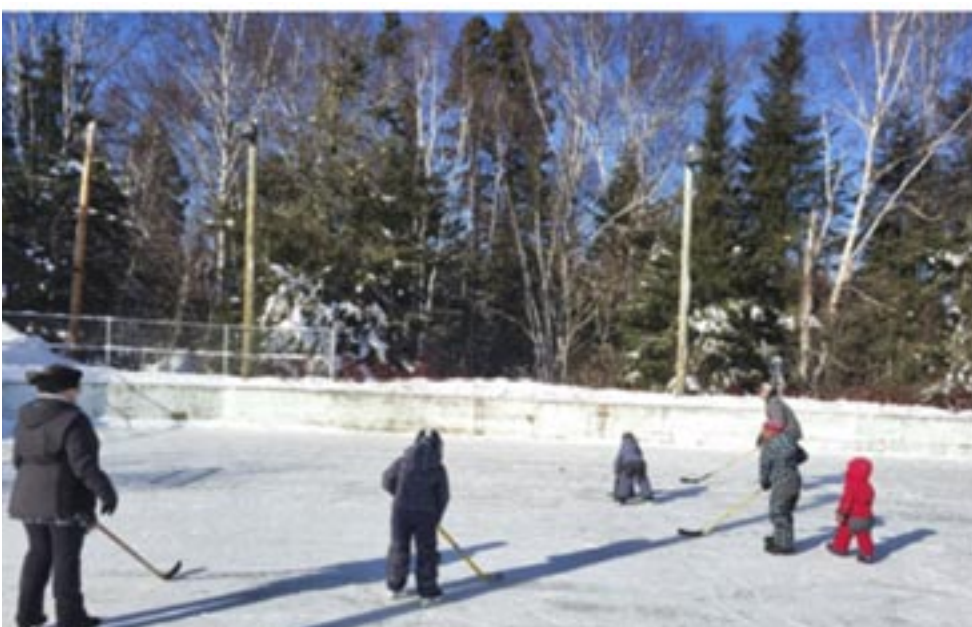
Please contact Jacquie at 807-629-1815 to register and for class information.

FIRST SHUNIAH GIRL GUIDES, EMBERS AND SPARKS
Mondays 6:30-8:30pm, No Session MARCH 16 OR APRIL 6

The First Shuniah Girl Guides 2025/26 itinerary includes on-site (Macgregor Rec Centre) and off-site activities that will have the girls learning new skills and working towards badges. Key focus areas include exploring our environment, STEM, diversity & inclusion and community-building - we're in for another great year. Reach out to firstshuniahgg@gmail.com for more information. Our guiding seasons are made possible by many volunteers and community partners. If you have a message to share or a skill to teach and would like to join us as a special guest, please contact firstshuniahgg@gmail.com. We'd love to have you!

GROWING WITH MUSIK FAMILY MUSIC with Karen
Tuesdays 11:00-11:30am January 13th - March 10th
\$10 per class. Siblings are half price

Family Music is a 30-minute joyous class where little people and their caregivers have fun together, while building a foundation for future musical proficiency. The singing, chanting, moving and playing activities are designed to enhance the development of confidence, active listening and following along in the company of others. Children learn to play to a beat, to respond to rhythms, to sing and move to the kid-friendly folksongs, following a Musikgarten influenced curriculum. The child can respond in their own time while feeling secure interacting with their caregivers. It's a unique bonding opportunity! Call Karen Kent at 807-355-5520 or email and e-transfer to: growingwithmusik@gmail.com to register.



We had a beautiful day at the McTavish rink complimented by hot chocolate and roasted marshmallows – perfect skating snacks!



EVENING YOGA with Lynn

Tuesdays 5:00-6:00pm

March 3rd-31st - \$55

April 7th-28th - \$45

Drop-in class \$15

Please bring your own mat and a blanket. Pre-registration is required. Everyone is welcome, suitable for all levels. We will explore the restorative nature of yoga and the mindfulness of the practice through postures, breathing techniques and guided relaxation. Paying attention to our bodies and breath through yoga is a wonderful practice to support overall health and wellbeing. The many benefits of yoga include increased strength, mobility and balance, improved posture and body awareness, and an antidote to help mitigate stress and improve sleep.

If you have any questions and to pre-register, please email roblynn@tbaytel.net or message me at (807) 633-0183 Lynn Kallies Instructor.

WELLNESS WEIGHT TRAINING with Danielle

Wednesdays 9:00-10:00am & 10:00-11:00am

7-week session \$75 - Drop In \$12

This dynamic group session involves mostly circuit-style workout with heavier weights. Also includes some mobility and core work. Contact Danielle 807-707-0876 or email: strongmomcoaching@gmail.com

THE SHUNIAH SHUFFLERS

Tuesdays 1:00-3:00pm - final session on May 12th

Shuffleboard beginners welcome! The disks and cues are ready! Come out and meet your neighbours by joining us for a weekly fun tournament. Coffee is always on! Please contact Ron to register at rgiardetti@shuniah.org

WEDNESDAY WEIGHT NIGHT with Jacquie

Wednesdays 5:15-6:00pm

\$10/class or \$5 for retired individuals and students 16-18 yrs old Weight training, and strength and conditioning with Certified Body Building and Corrective Exercise Specialist Jacquie Kennedy. Please contact her at 807-629-1815 to register and for important class information.

BALANCE, CORE & MORE with Danielle

Friday 9:00-10:00am

7-week session \$75 - Drop In \$12

This class involves floor, chair, and standing exercises. We target core (abdominal) strength, major joints range of motion, and overall balance work in gentle flowing exercises and stretches.

If you wish to attend 2x/week, total cost for the 8 weeks is \$155.

Contact Danielle 807-707-0876 or email:

strongmomcoaching@gmail.com

YOUTH GROUP

Wednesdays and Fridays 6:00-9:00pm, NO YOUTH GROUP

MARCH 18TH & 20TH (March Break)

Drop in activities geared towards youth grade three and up (Kids must sign in and out of centre)

Younger children welcome to participate in activities with parental supervision.

The Youth Group Program offers fun organized activities to participate in - sports nights, skating rink (when the weather is right), craft nights, theme nights, dances, bingos, ping-pong games and a great place to hang out and meet friends in the community! Follow us on Facebook at "MacGregor Rec Centre" to find out what the nightly activities will be and join in the fun!

JOIN YOUR FRIENDS AND MAKE NEW ONES AT THE MACGREGOR REC YOUTH GROUP!



Determined contestants raced through The Big Ski Shuffle challenge at the Snow-lympics and skating event this year!

YOUTH GROUP!!

Youth Group kids have beat the winter blues with skating in the pavillion, lots of active indoor games and activities, including making our own ice cream complete with sundae bar!!

Upcoming Events in Shuniah

Skating Workshops with the Thunder Bay Skating Academy on Friday, March 13th, 6:30pm & 7:30pm @ MacGregor Rec Centre and the Pavilion Rink

Each workshop will be about 45 minutes in length. The 6:30pm workshop will focus on building confidence on the ice and learning to skate. The 7:30pm workshop will focus on building on skating skills that could be useful in hockey or for more advanced skating!

Easter Hunt

on Wednesday, April 1st, 6pm @ the MacGregor Rec Centre The Easter Hunt starts at 6:30pm SHARP! Stay for other Easter themed events later!

Clothing Swap

on Saturday, April 18th, 12-3pm @ the MacGregor Rec Centre

Spring cleaning means sorting through that wardrobe - but don't throw it away! Bring your gently used garments to the Shuniah Clothing Swap and switch them out for something more your style! You can also please consider bringing your donations to the Shuniah Office by April 17th so we can bring them out to the event if you are unable. Free to attend - support sustainable shopping!

Shuniah Community Yard Sale on Saturday, July 4th, 9am-1pm @ the MacGregor Rec Centre Pavilion



Another Season of Fun for First Shuniah Girl Guides Hilary Hoogsteen

The second half of the guiding season is well underway and the First Shuniah Girl Guides have been busy with lots of fun activities and outings.

The Sparks and Embers enjoyed a private tour of the Thunder Bay Art Gallery, learning about Jannick Deslauriers' exhibition 'Navire de Nuit' (the Night Ship). The visit also included a screen printing activity about the mark we leave in the world, where they used ink and screen-printing techniques to make their own prints and contribute to a collective art piece at the gallery.

The girls have also been enjoying the mild winter temperatures with outdoor activities; skating under the pavilion and walking through the snow with their headlamps to learn about animal tracks. They found lots of animal activity around the MacGregor Rec Centre and had fun making predictions about the types of animals that might have been leaving tracks!

The Guides had the chance to visit a female-owned business during a delicious meeting to Bakeshop on Boundary, where they made pizzas and learned what it takes to be an entrepreneur.

Back at the rec centre, the Sparks and Embers group had a fun board game night and wrote to their new pen pals; a girl guide unit in Edmonton. The Guides have been busy making crafts and cooking things up in the kitchen!

Spring cookies (chocolate-vanilla) will be available in a couple of weeks. If you see the girls out selling, be sure to pick up a box to help fuel future activities.



**SHUNIAH SUMMER
DAY CAMP 2025**

**REGISTRATION TO OPEN LATER THIS
SPRING!**

WHO: YOUTH AGED 6-13

**WHERE: MACGREGOR REC
CENTRE, 800 LAKESHORE DRIVE**

**WHEN: WEEKLY FROM JULY 6TH
TO AUGUST 21ST 2025, MONDAY TO
FRIDAY 8:00AM TO 5:00PM**

**Stay tuned for updates on the MacGregor
Rec Centre Facebook Page and Instagram!**

MacKenzie School

Alexander Lod, VP McKenzie School

McKenzie School continues to be a place where students, families, and staff come together to create an amazing learning community. As more families choose to make their home in our area, the school has seen strong and steady enrollment, a welcome sign of growth and confidence in the work happening within our school. These increasing numbers bring new energy, diverse perspectives, and a lively school which helps to build friendships, teamwork, and a sense of belonging that enriches every part of the elementary experience.

Being a rural school adds a special dimension to the work we do. At McKenzie School, we take pride in supporting a wide range of student needs: academic, social, emotional, and developmental, with the personalized care and attention that small communities are known for. Our staff is committed to meeting each child where they are and helping them grow, but doing so requires strong partnerships at home. Parental involvement remains essential, whether it's encouraging positive routines, fostering a love of learning, communicating openly with teachers, or volunteering when possible. Together, we form a team that ensures all Mustangs feel supported and capable. Through this connection, we have continued to increase our EQAO scores over time, demonstrating our ability to support academics.

Celebrating student character is an important tradition at McKenzie School, and each month we proudly recognize those who exemplify values such as honesty, courage, respect, and wisdom. These Character Awards highlight the moments and choices that make a difference in a positive school culture. Alongside this, our anti-bullying initiatives reinforce the message that every student deserves to feel safe, included, and valued. Through ongoing lessons, we work to empower children to treat others with empathy and to stand up for what is right.

And of course, being a Mustang comes with plenty of fun. School spirit runs deep through special events, celebrations, activities, and traditions that students look forward to year after year. The joy and excitement that fill our hallways remind us that learning is not only about academics, it's about connection, experience, and pride in being part of something meaningful. It's about being a Mustang. McKenzie School is more than just a place for education; it is a community built on partnership, character, and a genuine belief in the strength of every child. As our Mustang family continues to grow, so does our commitment to ensuring that McKenzie remains a wonderful place to learn, laugh, and thrive. If you know of anyone wishing to register their child into a wonderful school, please point them our way. We are always happy to have them.



Adventures on Caribou Island

Gen Pintel (she/her), Communications Specialist
Nature Conservancy of Canada | Ontario
365 Bloor St East, Suite 1501 | Toronto, ON M4W 3L4
gen.pintel@natureconservancy.ca | www.natureconservancy.ca

Last summer, the Northwestern Ontario team from the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) and Fort William First Nation boated to Caribou Island with Sail Superior. While it was a beautiful June day, it was windy and the waves were choppy.

We arrived safely at the south side of the island, which is managed and cared for by NCC and our dedicated volunteers. After scrambling over the rocky shore, we installed a new trailhead sign which will help hikers navigate the short trail to the high elevation lake. While hiking up to the lake, we shared stories about Lake Superior, clipped the low-lying Canada yew branches growing over the trail and carefully selected spots for our new wayfinding signage.

After surveying and maintaining the trail, we felt confident no invasive species had found their way to the island this year. When it was time to boat back to Thunder Bay with Sail Superior, we saw that the strong southern winds were making it unsafe for the large vessel to pick us up where we had been dropped off. We devised a plan to walk along the shoreline to a small, sheltered bay to the east where the vessel could safely land. At many points along our way, the shoreline became impassable, and we were pushed into the thick boreal forest, weaving our way through irregular boulders covered in moss and dense balsam fir trees. Although this took twice as long, we learned more about the history of the island from stumbling upon tin cans, containers and glass bottles from generations ago. We were relieved to finally meet our boat captain in the sheltered bay, carrying our trail equipment onboard along with picnic supplies and a garbage bag that was now full of the litter we had collected.

To help protect and care for Caribou Island, it's crucial to leave no trace when visiting. When pulling your boat on shore, take care not to trample sensitive plants, pack out all garbage with you and take only photos and memories. Camping and campfires are not permitted on Caribou Island as these activities cause disturbance for native species and risk uncontrolled fires.

Passive recreational activities like hiking the trail up to the perched lake, birdwatching and appreciating nature are encouraged. We hope this island continues to be used sustainably by the Shuniah and Thunder Bay communities. We hope you enjoy its trails, listen to its birds and explore where a diverse forest meets freshwater shoreline, so Caribou Island can continue to be enjoyed for generations to come.



Municipality of Shuniah Announces Appointment of New Chief Administrative Officer Shuniah, Ontario — February 19, 2026

The Municipality of Shuniah is pleased to announce the appointment of Mark Figliomeni as the Municipality's next Chief Administrative Officer (CAO). Mr. Figliomeni will assume the role as Paul Greenwood concludes his tenure with the Municipality and enters retirement following his dedicated service to the Municipality of Shuniah.

Mr. Figliomeni brings extensive municipal leadership and governance experience across Northwestern Ontario. Most recently, he served as the inaugural Executive Director of the Thunder Bay Police Service Board. Prior to that, he was the Chief Administrative Officer for the Township of Red Rock and has held a number of senior public-sector leadership positions. Earlier in his public service career, he served in elected office as Mayor of the Municipality of Schreiber and previously as a municipal councillor. Mr. Figliomeni has also served on regional governance bodies, including the Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board in a leadership capacity, as well as a Member of the NOMA Board and Thunder Bay District Municipal League.

"Council is pleased to welcome Mark Figliomeni to Shuniah. His experience as a municipal CAO, Mayor, and councillor in Northwestern Ontario provides a strong foundation in both governance and administration. We are confident he will be an excellent fit for our organization and community." *Mayor Wendy Landry*

Paul Greenwood will remain in the role through the end of March to support a smooth transition. Council would like to thank Paul Greenwood for his professionalism, leadership, and commitment to the Municipality of Shuniah. His work has strengthened the organization and positioned the Municipality well for the future. We wish him a well deserved and rewarding retirement.



Reminder! Do Not Feed Wildlife!

By Kerry Bellamy, Clerk

Threats to people

- feeding wildlife may attract "unwanted" animals to your property
- animals will learn to associate humans with food, and can become a problem to neighbours
- habituated animals can become aggressive
- feeding animals near roads increases the risk of motor vehicle accidents, resulting in property damage, injury or death.

Threats to wildlife

- animals can become dependent on artificial food sources
- animals can lose their natural fear of humans and pets, becoming more prone to conflict
- artificial feed is not healthy for wildlife
- wild animals may gather in large numbers when they are being fed — this concentration of animals in one area can spread parasites and disease and cause destruction of natural habitat
- feeding animals near roads increases their risk of being hit by vehicles

Planning to Build in 2026?

By Kerry Bellamy, Clerk



A Building Permit is required in the Municipality of Shuniah

By Kerry Bellamy, Clerk

Building season is approaching, its not to early to apply for your building permit!

Please contact our office at to discuss any projects you are considering, and staff can assist in determining what type of application may be required for your project.

Also, see our Building and Planning Department Website Page for information regarding when a building permit is required, and for Building Permit Application Packages. www.shuniah.org



Water Testing Reminder

Submitted by Kerry Bellamy, Clerk

The Thunder Bay District Health Unit...

...recommends "regular testing of your private well is important to make sure your water is safe for you and your family to drink. Bacteria such as E. coli can contaminate your well making is unsafe to drink. The risk is higher if you have animals in the area, but the bacteria can also occur naturally in the soil."

Heavy rainfalls or flooding? Additional testing is recommended as there is a greater risk of surface water washing into your well (drilled or dug).

How to get a kit?

Free bacterial testing is available for private well owners through Ontario's Public Health Laboratory (the Lab), located at 336 South Syndicate Avenue. The Lab does not test for other contaminants, such as chemicals.

Free bacterial testing kits are available for pick up at the Municipal Office at 420 Leslie Avenue.

Testing

Water samples submitted for bacterial testing to Ontario's Public Health Laboratory are not tested for metals or chemical contaminants that could affect the safety of drinking water.

It is recommended that homeowners have their well water tested for non-bacterial environmental contaminants by a private laboratory approximately every five years.

For Further Information

Call the Environmental Health program at (807) 625-5900 or toll-free at 1-888-294-6630.

Visit Thunder Bay District Health Unit Website at: <https://www.tbdhu.com>

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Share Your History!

Submitted by Hannah Terejko, CSEC

Council has been discussing the creation of a history book for Shuniah and is looking to start gathering information at the municipal office about the community and families here now and over the last 150 years.

Staff have prepared a questionnaire, if you are interested in sharing your stories and images, please contact the Community Services and Events Coordinator at 807-683-4546 or email csec@shuniah.org

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 For more information call Samantha 807-626-4003 | Jordan 807-631-9903



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In the Shuniah Spotlight



*Thunder Bay KOA Holiday Earns 2026 KOA ICON Award for Excellence
Local Shuniah campground recognized among the top 10% of KOA campgrounds in North America*

KOA NEWS SERVICE (Billings, MT, January 14, 2026) — Kampgrounds of America, Inc. (KOA), the largest system of privately owned campgrounds in the world, is proud to announce that the Thunder Bay KOA Holiday has been recognized with the prestigious KOA ICON Award. This recognition highlights campgrounds that demonstrate exceptional operational excellence, customer satisfaction, and a commitment to the KOA brand.

The KOA ICON Award is granted to the top 10% of KOA campgrounds across North America based on criteria including growth in registration, engagement with KOA programs that drive excellence, and their Net Promoter Scores (NPS)—a widely recognized customer loyalty and satisfaction metric broadly used throughout the hospitality sector. In its second year, this recognition program focuses on measurable performance metrics and brand participation, celebrating campgrounds that consistently go above and beyond, providing superior experiences for their guests.

“Great campgrounds don’t just deliver one memorable weekend — they offer excellence, stay after stay,” said Toby O’Rourke, president and CEO of KOA. “ICON winners, like the Thunder Bay KOA Holiday, show what’s possible when operational excellence, brand pride, and exceptional service come together, led by teams who are true ambassadors of the KOA experience.”

The KOA ICON recognition is part of KOA’s larger commitment to celebrating campgrounds that continuously strive to exceed guest expectations. As a KOA ICON campground, the Thunder Bay KOA Holiday will enjoy unique benefits designed to amplify its achievement, including dated logo placement on KOA.com, enhanced award designation marketing materials, and recognition in KOA corporate marketing initiatives. This honor underscores the importance of delivering exceptional service and fostering a loyal camper base.

Located at 162 Spruce River Road, the Thunder Bay KOA Holiday is open May 1st to October 23rd annually

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Gardening Starts Earlier Than It May Appear

Submitted by Hannah Terejko, CSEC

If I mention gardening, many of us would picture a trowel in the soil, bees buzzing amongst the flowers, and tomatoes hanging heavy on green, fragrant branches, but there is so much more that happens before we get there! For experienced gardeners, one might even argue that it never ends...but we can tell you at the very least that it can even begin when there is still snow on the ground!

As we get closer to the warmer months, we're thinking about sourcing our seeds, planning our garden beds and what plants will go where, and checking out the inventory at local plant nurseries. For those who don't have gardens at home, you might even be thinking about when local organizers will start taking reservations for a plot in community gardens.

So, this is truly where our gardening starts – in our planning and sourcing! It is always important to consider where we are sourcing our seeds and plants, not only so we can support local businesses, but in the case of flower gardens so that that we can be sure our seeds are for flowers that are native to the area and are acclimatized to our Northwestern Ontario climate.

A great place to start is by exploring the Sleepy G Farms website, which later in March will open up their garden sale webstore! This local business in Pass Lake also puts on an incredible "Garden Like A Boss" gardening workshop later in the spring for anyone keen for a learning experience that will give you a great jumpstart on your gardening learning journey! Stay tuned for dates and check their website out at www.sleepygfarm.ca.

The Shuniah Soil Mates community gardens in mid-July, 2025. Interested in learning more about these gardens?

Email Hannah at csec@shuniah.org.







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Year-Round Client Support

June is Senior's Month in Ontario!

Submitted by Hannah Terejko, CSEC

This is a time to recognize and honour all the seniors in our own lives, in our community, and across the province! Take a moment to think about all the contributions our seniors have made and continue to make in Shuniah, and the all the wonderful ways they've strengthened the bonds in our little piece of the province. If you're a senior in Shuniah, take a moment to think about what you enjoy most in the community and what you look forward to seeing in Shuniah's future! Stay tuned for more Senior's Month News.





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2027 SHUNIAH CALENDAR PHOTO CONTEST – PET THEME

submitted by Hannah Terejko, CSEC

The theme for the 2027 Shuniah calendar photo contest is PETS – they don't have to be your own, but you must request permission from the pet owner to submit the photos to csec@shuniah.org for eligibility. Your photos could appear in our Municipal publications, website, and printed materials to promote Shuniah. The more photos you submit the better your chances!

This year's deadline is Friday, September 18, 2026.

See our website for submission guidelines and contest forms.

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