

## Spring has Sprung Says Mr. Willie



The results are in, Wiarton Willie saw no sign of his pesky shadow on Thursday, February 2nd. Indicating that Ontario will see an early spring. As for the rest of the country; Shubenacadie Sam, Fred La Marmotte, Lucy the Lobster, and Punxsutawney Phil all indicated 6 more weeks of winter will be hitting the East Coast. While the West is a 50/50 divide with Manitoba Merv seeing his shadow and Balzac Billy predicting an early spring. An early spring or a longer winter, either way, Johnson Township will have plenty of events scheduled for the upcoming year.

### Save the date for your favourite Community Event:

- Family Day Fun Day February 20th from 1pm-5pm
- March Break Free Skate Schedule March 13th - 17th
- Curtis Ford and Jocelyne Stevens Memorial Family Hockey Tournament March 17th - 18th
- North Shore Youth Slo-Pitch & Soccer Registration March 2023
- Summer Youth Swim Program Registration March 2023
- Fuel Up to Clean Up April 22nd
- Desbarats for Sale May 13th
- Johnson Jaunt June 1st - 30th
- Breakfast Buffet/Johnson Farmers' Market Opening June 3rd
- Reg McHale Memorial Big Pike Family Fishing Derby June 24th
- Community Days July 7th - 9th
- Gordon Lake Social Club Bake & Garage Sale July 15th
- Gordon Lake Social Club Pie Social August 12th
- ATV Poker Run September 23rd
- Big Buck Contest Registration September 1st - 30th
- Ice Goes in October 10 2023
- Halloween Skate Party October 27
- Big Buck Contest Awards Dinner November 19th
- Children's Holiday Party December 10th
- Holiday Free Skate & Shiny Schedule December 2023

**Interested in helping with one or a few of our annual community events? Email Patti Trotter at [ptrotter@johnsontownship.ca](mailto:ptrotter@johnsontownship.ca) and indicate which event you want to help with.**

### IMPORTANT DATES:

#### FRIDAY FEBRUARY 3RD:

- ADSB PD DAY
- GORDON LAKE SOCIAL CLUB CARD PARTY 7:30PM

#### WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 15: 10AM-11:30AM TODDLERS & TOTS SKATE

#### MONDAY FEBRUARY 20: 1PM-5PM FAMILY DAY FUN DAY

#### FEBRUARY 21/22: MONTHLY WATER & SEWER BILL ISSUED

#### WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 22: PINK SHIRT DAY

#### TUESDAY FEBRUARY 28: 1ST TAX INSTALLMENT DUE

#### MONTHLY:

#### WEDNESDAY'S:

- 9:30AM-12:30PM - EARLYON CENTRE - CAES
- 1PM-3PM 50+ CLUB MEETINGS - JTCC HALL
- 7PM-9PM WOMEN'S DROP-IN VOLLEYBALL - CAES

#### FRIDAY'S 6:30PM - 8PM - SKATE NIGHT PARTY'S

#### WATER & SEWER METER READINGS & BILLS DUE

## Events & Recreation

With all the fun we had last year, the Recreation Committee decided to blend the Family Day, Fun Day and the Winter Activities Festival into one fun filled day!

This means we are bringing back old favourites and adding a few new fun activities. Join us

**Monday, February 20th, 1pm - 4pm** at the Johnson Township Community Centre for:

- Bum Slides
- Snow Maze
- Log Sawing
- Nail Driving
- 2x4 Family Ski Races
- Hot Chocolate Bar
- Bonfire & Marshmallows
- Money in the Hay: 1:30pm
- Face Painting: 1pm-2:30pm
- Shamrock Skate Show: 2pm-3pm
- Free Skate: 3pm-4pm



**Activities are by donation** in the Lobby of the Community Centre. Prizes to be won throughout the day.



### 2023 CU-JO Memorial Family Hockey Tournament

Save the date for the return of the CU-JO Memorial Family Hockey Tournament on **Friday March 17th and Saturday March 18th 2023**. There will be a Competitive Division for those aged 14+ and a Family Division for those aged 6+. Bar Service, Pizza, Games, and an After Party will take place in the Hall. **Registration is coming soon**, get your team together and follow along on our Facebook Page @JohnsonTownshipRecreation as details unfold.

### Hey Mom!

Get out of the house this winter and join us at the Johnson Township Community Centre once a month for Toddlers and Tots Skate 10am-11:30am. We will skate for 1hr followed by snacks and crafts in the hall thanks to the Central Algoma CAPC Early ON Child & Family Centre. Sign up at [www.keyon.ca](http://www.keyon.ca) to join us Wednesday, **February 15th or March 15th** at the rink. Strollers and wagons are welcome onto the ice.



**We are searching for new volunteers to help with upcoming Township Events. Get in touch with Patti at [ptrotter@johnsontownship.ca](mailto:ptrotter@johnsontownship.ca) or on Facebook @JohnsonTownshipRecreation and indicate which event you want to help with.**

## Public Skate Schedule

Rock the rink on Friday nights by joining us at the Public Skate Party's **6:30pm-8pm every Friday** at the Johnson Township Community Centre. This **month's themes** are:

**February 3rd:** Jersey Night

**February 10th:** Valentine's Night

**February 17th:** Free **Skate Sponsored by the Bruce Mines & District Lions Club**

**February 24th:** Mardi Gras Carnival

**Entry is by Donation** or a non-perishable food donation for the local food bank. Helmets and Skates are available at the rink to borrow. **NEW!** Join us on select Sunday afternoons for an additional hour of Public Skate. Check our Facebook Page for details.

## Community Centre Bulletin

The Johnson Township Community Centre is looking a bit different these days. A large chunk of the major construction is now completed including new insulation throughout, new siding, new rubber flooring, and a beautiful front awning. We want to thank all our patrons for your patience and understanding as we underwent these major improvements. We still have more changes to make so stay tuned!

**We are incredibly thankful to NOHFC and The Ontario Trillium Foundation for providing funding to make these improvements happen.**

### Snowshoe Trail

We hope to have the Snowshoe Trail up and running again soon. Keep an eye on our Facebook Page for updates. Want to give us a hand packing the trail? Message Patti to arrange a time and to get a map.

## ICE BOOKINGS STILL AVAILABLE

**For the 2022/2023 Season**

\$117/hour Call Patti: 705-257-6827

Great for **Birthday Parties** or  
**Family Outings**

## Getting Social at Gordon Lake Hall



*The Lending Library at the Gordon Lake Hall is now full and waiting for you to stop by to borrow a book (or two).*

The **Gordon Lake Social Club** is hard at work planning the return of a few favourite summer events. Mark your calendars for the ever-popular **Bake & Garage Sale on Saturday July 15th, 9am-1pm** and the **Pie Social on Saturday, August 12th**. More details will follow closer to the dates. These events help support the Gordon Lake Social Club and all they do to support the Gordon Lake Hall.

Can't wait until the summer to visit Gordon Lake Hall? Not to worry the hall can be rented for a flat fee of \$75+hst by calling Patti at 705-257-6827. With a capacity of 50 people, this newly renovated hall is great for Baby Showers, Celebrations of Life, Small Group Meetings, and more.

### Card Parties: First Friday of the Month at 7:30pm

**February 3rd | March 3rd | April 7th | May 5th**

\$5.00 entry to play Crokinole or 500 Bid. Everyone is invited to attend but you must be 16yrs or older to play. Light refreshments are provided.

**WINTER DUMP HOURS ARE IN EFFECT**  
**SATURDAY 9AM-5PM | WEDNESDAY 12PM-5PM**  
**HAZARDOUS WASTE IN SAULT STE. MARIE IS NOW CLOSED UNTIL APRIL 2023**

## The Public Works Garage

We are deep into winter weather now, please be aware of road crews out salting/sanding and plowing on the municipal roadways. If you find a particularly bad area please call the Public Works Garage at 705-782-6601 x206.

During bad winter weather if you can stay home until the weather clears this will make it much easier for our road crews to work quickly to clear the snow. See if you can spot our crew out on Gordon Lake Road this month, as they begin brushing operations along the roadway. Please give them room to work and be aware of oncoming traffic.

The Winter Parking By-Law is now in effect. Do not park on roadways until April 2023. This will allow crews to clear roads efficiently.

## Now Hiring

We expect to hire up to **6 part-time employees aged 15-30** for summer work experiences. Keep an eye on the Website and Facebook Page for more details.

## Water & Sewer Billing

**We are pleased to now provide monthly billing.** To ensure proper billing, please keep meters clear of snow and ice. February's bill will be issued mid-month and due March 31st, 2023. Payments can be made at the Township Office by cash, cheque, post-dated cheque, by e-transfer, or through online banking. If using e-transfer please add your account number in the comments. **When making a payment please provide your updated phone number to the office.**

## Tax Bills

The first of two installments is due **February 28th, 2023**, and the second installment is due **April 28th, 2023**. You can pay your tax bill online with your bank by making Johnson Township a Payee, using your 19-digit roll number located at the top right-hand corner of your tax bill. If you have more than one property please enter each roll number separately. Payment can also be made by cheque or cash at the Township Office.

## FROM THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS

January 18, 2023

With the new council sworn in meetings have resumed monthly on the third Wednesday of the month at 6pm, now in person at the Johnson Township Community Centre Hall. The January Agenda was filled with By-Law changes and letters of congratulations welcome the new Mayor and Council.

Council adopted the provided Code of Conduct that will be set as the standard of professional conduct expected by persons representing the Municipality. This includes Council, Staff, Volunteers, and Committee Members. The complete Code of Conduct can be found on the Johnson Township Website and in the Township Office.

**Next Council Meeting: Wednesday, February 15th, 2023 6pm**  
**In-person at the Johnson Township Community Centre Hall**

**For the full council meetings proceedings please visit our website for the meeting agendas, minutes, and related materials.**





## Community Improvement Plan Applications Now Open

The Community Improvement Plan (CIP) is now complete and applications are being accepted. The CIP aims to offer assistance to Land & Business Owners or Developers within Johnson Township on projects that focus on beautification, accessibility, and growth. 6 grants and incentives are currently offered:

**\$8000 Exterior Improvement Grant | \$5000 Agriculture Grant | \$1000 Residential Exterior Improvement within the Hamlet | Phase in Taxes for Development | \$2000 Accessibility Improvement Grant | Fee Rebate Evaluated by Project**

All application details and forms are available online at [johnsontownship.ca](http://johnsontownship.ca) or stop by the Municipal Office at 1 Johnson Drive to discuss your project.

## Notes from the Fire Chief

### 2022 Deadliest Year of Fire-Related Deaths in Ontario

Ontario Fire Marshal Jon Pegg, announced a total of 133 fire-related deaths in the province this past year. The highest annual total in more than 20 years. In many cases those losses being young children and families. "The number always concerns us. We've seen in the last three years, a huge increase in fire deaths in the province. 133 that's a new record," said North Bay

Fire Chief Jason Whiteley. "We are part of that statistic, unfortunately, and tragically, we had five fire deaths in our community in 2022," said Greater Sudbury Fire Chief Jesse Oshell.

In light of this news, Fire Chief Ron Smith, is encouraging all home owners to ensure they have appropriate working smoke alarms with working batteries on every floor in their homes. Even smoke alarms stating 10-year battery life still need to be checked on a regular basis.

Chief Smith wants to remind community members to be diligent in their fire prevention. During winter months fire departments typically see twice as many fire calls. Ensuring you have working smoke alarms and that you are using heating devices properly can help keep you and your loved ones safe.



# Around the Community



**VULNERABLE PERSONS REGISTRY**

**24-HOUR SUPPORT**

Any person who receives 24- hour care or support from a care giver or home care aid is not eligible for the VPR. Their safety during an emergency is provided by their care giver.

[www.sooovpr.com](http://www.sooovpr.com)



**Women's Volleyball**  
Wednesday's at 7pm  
at the Elementary  
School Gym at CASS.

**Desbarats 50+ Club**  
**Wednesday's 1pm-3pm** at the Johnson Township Community Centre Hall. Cards & Shuffle Board, Coffee, Tea, and Light Snacks. \$5.00 drop-in fee. All 50+ members of the community and surrounding communities are welcome to join in.

## Dr. Harold S. Trefry Memorial Centre

**Coming March 2023!** Thanks to the generous support of USW Local 2724 A new **Swim & Gym** program in partnership with the YMCA will be starting up shortly for those aged 50+. Stay tuned for details.



Congratulations to all of the skaters that participated in the Skate Ontario Provincial Series 6 event. You should all be very proud of your hard work.

**SAVE THE DATE:** March 26 2022, Annual Ice Show at the Johnson Township Community Centre



**2022/2023**

## Season End Dance Recital

February 11, 2pm at the Sault Community Theatre Centre. Tickets are available online.

## The Kensington Conservancy Valentine's Day Guided

**Snowshoe** at the Foster Parkland and Walking Trails. 9:30am Tuesday February 14th.



**Desbarats Women's Institute**

Come join the group every 2nd Tuesday of the month at Desbarats United Church at 1:30pm. **February 7th**

## celebrates Heart Month

### Kids Can Cook

Kids can cook is back in person

Monday January 30<sup>th</sup> at the Echo Bay Community Hall – **Pizza Rolls**

11:00am – 12:00pm

Thursday February 2<sup>nd</sup> at The Church of Christ in Thessalon – **Pizza Rolls**

11:00am – 12:00pm

Tuesday February 7<sup>th</sup> at St. Joseph Central School – **Pizza Rolls**

11:00am – 12:00pm

Wednesday February 8<sup>th</sup> at The Central Childcare Center in Desbarats – **Valentine's cupcakes**

11:00am to 12:00pm

Thursday February 9<sup>th</sup> The Church of Christ in Thessalon – **Valentine's Cupcakes**

11:00am to 12:00pm

Friday February 10<sup>th</sup> at BMPAPUL – **Valentine's Cupcakes**

11:00am – 12:00pm

Monday February 13<sup>th</sup> at The Echo Bay Community Hall – **Valentine's Cupcakes**

11:00am – 12:00pm

Tuesday February 14<sup>th</sup> at St. Joseph Central School – **Valentine's Cupcakes**

11:00am to 12:00pm

Wednesday February 15<sup>th</sup> at The Johnson Community Center – **Pizza Rolls**

11:00am to 12:00pm

Friday February 17<sup>th</sup> at BMPAPUL – **Pizza Rolls**

11:00 – 12:00pm

For more information, please email [capc@childcarealgoma.ca](mailto:capc@childcarealgoma.ca), [centralalgomaealyon@gmail.com](mailto:centralalgomaealyon@gmail.com) or call Megan at 705-542-5661

To register go to [www.keyon.ca](http://www.keyon.ca)

Region: Algoma

Site: Community of your choice

## Production and Pest Management Workshop

**Thursday, March 9th 9am-3pm**

Pre-Registration on [eventbrite.ca](https://www.eventbrite.ca) or call 1-877-424-1300

Binder and Lunch Included  
\$20/person

OMAFRA vegetable crop specialist.

## CASS 50th Reunion Dance

**Sat, Feb 18, 8:00 PM**

Thessalon Curling Club. \$15 advanced ticket \$20 at the door. 19+ Event

Want to get in touch with us?

1 Johnson Drive, Box 160, Desbarats, ON P0R 1E0 | 705-782-6601

[www.johnsontownship.ca](http://www.johnsontownship.ca) | @JohnsonTownshipRecreation on Facebook

[people@johnsontownship.ca](mailto:people@johnsontownship.ca) | Mon-Fri 8:30am - 4:30pm