



The Johnson Chronicle

ISSUE 139 | JANUARY 2026

Who was the 2025 Senior of the Year?



As we close out 2025, we want to reflect on a very special individual who was named the Johnson Township 2025 Senior of the Year. The late Frank Hicks was honoured at a private ceremony with his family late last year to acknowledge the incredible impact he had made on the Community throughout his lifetime of service to Johnson Township.

Frank was the definition of a community builder. He was a proud volunteer, a dedicated firefighter, and a respected Township Councillor. Frank's roots in farming shaped so much of who he was. He understood hard work, persistence, and the importance of looking out for your neighbours. He was proud to be part of the farming community and brought that same steady, down-to-earth presence to every role he took on. He had a deep love for his family, an unwavering commitment to his community, and a personality that could brighten the darkest of days. His humour was quick, his stories full of charm, and that infectious smile brought joy to any room. He was spunky and spirited, full of laughter, and always had a twinkle in his eye – like he was just about to crack a joke or share something that would have us all grinning. His laugh was often the first thing you'd hear in a room – and certainly the last thing you'd forget.

He didn't do things for recognition. He gave his time and heart because he believed in this community and the people in it. To Frank, family came first, but community came a very close second. And that's what makes this award so special – it doesn't just celebrate years, it celebrates a legacy. Frank Hicks left a legacy of kindness, service, and good humour – one that continues to inspire all of us. We hope to remember and honour the lessons he left us as we move into 2026.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Wednesdays 50+ Club 1pm-3pm

Wednesdays Central Algoma EarlyON Centre at CAES Daycare 9:30am-12:30pm

Friday's Public Skate 6:30pm-8pm

Sunday's:

- **Public Skate:**
 - **January 18: 5:30pm-6:30pm**
 - **January 25: 12pm-1pm**
- **Open Ice: Sticks & Pucks:**
 - **January 18 & 25: 1pm-2pm**

Wednesday, January 21: Toddlers and Tots Skate 9am-12pm

Thursday, January 22 Fun Bingo 6pm-8pm

Friday, January 30: ADSB PD Day

Friday, February 6 Gordon Lake Card Party 7pm

February 13 - 15th Annual Curtis Ford & Jocelyne Stevens Memorial Family Hockey Tournament

Monday February 16th Family Day, Fun Day Winter Carnival 1pm-4pm

Winter Dump Hours:

Saturday 9am-5pm &

Wednesday 12pm-5pm

**Keep Meters Clear of Snow
For Ease of access for Staff to
Read**

Events & Recreation



STICKS & PUCKS

SUNDAYS IN JANUARY 2026

JANUARY 11: 2PM - 3PM
JANUARY 18: 1PM - 2PM
JANUARY 25: 1PM - 2PM

JOHNSON TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY CENTRE

OPEN ICE FOR PICK-UP HOCKEY OR TO PRACTICE SKILLS.
 FULL EQUIPMENT IS REQUIRED TO GET ON THE ICE.

Sticks & Pucks

Want some extra time to practice Hockey Skills and Drills? Looking for time for a pick-up game. We are opening up 1hr on Sundays in January for Sticks & Pucks on the ice. Full equipment is required to get on the ice during this hour. Find a date and time that works for you and join us at the JTCC.

Sunday January 11: 2pm - 3pm

Sunday January 18: 1pm - 2pm

Sunday January 25: 1pm - 2pm

Remember to use the ice at your own risk and to your own ability. Entry is by Donation.

Public Skate Sundays

Looking to keep everyone busy on the weekends, or just want to get your laps in? We are now offering Sunday Public Skating in January. Find a date and time that works for you:

Sunday January 11: 12pm - 1pm

Sunday January 18: 5:30pm - 6:30pm

Sunday January 25: 12pm - 1pm

Entry is by donation. Remember to use the ice at your own risk and to your own ability.



SUNDAY PUBLIC SKATING

SUNDAYS IN JANUARY 2026

JANUARY 11: 12PM - 1PM
JANUARY 18: 5:30PM - 6:30PM
JANUARY 25: 12PM - 1PM

ENTRY BY DONATION

JOHNSON TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY CENTRE | DESBARATS, ON

Curtis Ford & Jocelyne Stevens Memorial Family Hockey Tournament



**CURTIS FORD & JOCELYNE STEVENS
 2026 MEMORIAL
 FAMILY HOCKEY
 TOURNAMENT**

**REGISTER A
 TEAM TODAY**

FEBRUARY 13TH - 15TH 2026
 JOHNSON TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY CENTRE (DESBARATS ARENA)

**COMPETITIVE DIVISION
 AGED 15+ \$600/TEAM**

**WOMEN'S 3-ON-3
 \$360/TEAM**

ONLINE AT WWW.JOHNSONTOWNSHIP.CA
 REGISTRATION CLOSING SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST, 2026

Welcome the return of the Annual Family Hockey Tournament in memory of Curtis Ford and Jocelyne Stevens two local students who lost their lives too early. This annual tournament raises funds for the Johnson Township Recreation Volunteer Award for a graduating CASS and CAIS student who display a commitment to community recreation and sport. Get your team together today and register for the:

- **Competitive Division Aged 15+ \$600**
- **Women's 3-on-3 \$360**

PLUS:

- Exhibition games for Families and Seniors aged 55+

Register online at www.johnsontownship.ca or contact a tournament organizer at

cujofamilyhockey@gmail.com

Toddlers & Tots Skate

Are you at home with kiddo's aged 6 and under? Join us and the Central Algoma Early ON Centre twice a month for a Free Skate, snacks, and playtime. Ice will be open from 9am-10am and wagons and strollers are welcome onto the ice after a quick wipe down. Then head upstairs for playtime, snacks, and crafts until 12pm.

**January 21st | February 4th | February 18th | March 4th
March 18th | April 1st**



Fun Bingo: January 2026

B-I-N-G-O BINGO!

Thursday, January 22, 2026 is the first Fun Bingo of the new year! All are welcome to join in upstairs at the Johnson Township Community Centre 6pm-8pm. Please bring a wrapped gift valued at around \$5.00 for the prize table and enjoy popcorn on us!

Family Day, Fun Day

The Annual Family Day, Fun Day Winter Carnival is scheduled for Monday, February 16th, 2026 from 1pm-4pm. Bum Slide Fun, Free Skate, Hot Chocolate and more! Stay tuned for details on our Facebook Page @JohnsonTownshipRecreation.



Community Centre (JTCC) Bulletin

Ice is available to rent at the JTCC up until April 10, 2026. Looking for a winter birthday party idea? A family gathering? Just want extra practice time? 1hr of ice is \$120.00+HST. Bookings are available 7 days a week from 7am-10pm. Reach out to recreation@johnsontownship.ca to get your group booked in today.

Remember we also have **Skate Sharpening** at the rink by donation anytime the rink is open.

When visiting the JTCC, please remember to keep your kiddos nearby. We love tiny explorers, but keep them within arm's reach and remind them not to run inside the building, for their safety and everyone else's.

January 2026 Skate Nights

JANUARY 2 - FREE SKATE
Sponsored by the Bruce Mines & District Lion's Club

JANUARY 9 - WINTER WONDERLAND
Step into the snow and shine under the lights of winter magic

JANUARY 16 - SUPERHERO SKATE
Grab your cape and hit the ice like the hero you were born to be

JANUARY 23 - WESTERN NIGHT
Put on your boots and bring the country spirit to the rink

JANUARY 30 - NEON NIGHT
Turn up the color and shine bright under the rink lights

ENTRY BY DONATION
6:30pm-8pm | Friday Nights
Johnson Township Community Centre 1 Cameron Drive, Desbarats, ON

No Pushing snow across roads and streets, it is not only a safety hazard; it is also against the law. The Ontario Traffic Act states: No person shall deposit snow or ice on a roadway without permission in writing to do so from the Ministry or the road authority responsible for the maintenance of the road. R.S.O. 1990,c. H.8,s. 181

Getting Social at Gordon Lake Hall

The Gordon Lake Social Club still has a few monthly Card Party's coming up between Febuary and May 2026. Doors open at the Gordon Lake Hall, at 7pm with play starting at 7:30pm. Light refreshments are provided, and all ages are welcome; players must be aged 18+. Admission is \$10. Mark your calendars for the remaining dates:

February 6, 2026 | March 6, 2026 | April 10, 2026
May 1, 2026

The Public Works Garage

Someone keeps ordering up all this snow, keeping the Public Works crew extra busy out on the roads! Keep your eyes out for plows, graders, and sanders as the team works hard to keep up with the ongoing snowfall. Remember to give large machinery space and slow down when approaching. To help with snow removal the winter parking By-Law is now in effect and no overnight road parking is permitted until April 2026.

See an issue out on the roadways? Contact the Public Works Garage by calling 705-782-6601 ex. 206 and leave a message, the Road Super will be in touch promptly to assist.

FROM THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS

December, 17, 2025

Regular Council Meeting

The Public Meeting to announce 5 Margaret St. being rezoned from Multi Residential to General Commercial saw no complaints and will move ahead. January 2026 will see the property posted for sale. Staff Reports highlighted discussions regarding:

- Deputy Clerk: The Joint Official Plan for the Desbarats to Echo Bay Planning Board is in review with 2 open Public Planning Meetings coming up in March 2026. 1 in Johnson Township and 1 in Echo Bay. Details still to be announced. This is a chance to review issues such as zoning and severance changes for property owners.
- Arena: The new generator, thanks to a grant from NOHFC, is now in place and will be hooked up in the spring of 2026.
- Recreation: The Recreation Coordinator is away on a Maternity leave from January 2026 - July 2027. A Part time posting will be going out to help cover the position during this time.
- Fire Department: In 2025 the Fire Department responded to 30 calls, providing approximately 600 hours throughout the year for training, activities, and incident response from all Fire Fighter Volunteers.

Next Council Meeting: Wednesday, January 21, 2026

6pm In-person at the Council Chambers: 1 Johnson Drive, Desbarats, ON (Municipal Office)

Sale of Surplus Municipal Property

At the October 15, 2025 Council meeting the following properties were declared surplus and are offered for Sale until 12:00 PM, Thursday, February 12th 2026:

- **Property #1** Roll Number 5716 000 00203616 0000 | Carter Side Rd, Plan1M536 Pt Lot 10 RP1R13631 Pt 2 | Zoning is RR Rural Residential
- **Property #2** Roll Number 5716 000 0001 00700 0000 | Gordon Lake Rd, Con 6, Lot 4 Spt | Zoning is A-2 Agriculture
- **Property #3** Roll Number 5716 000 004166002 0000 | Margaret Street, Plan 1106, RP 1R13926 Part 1 Zoning is GC-2 (H) - General Commercial Exception with a holding provision

Maps and the "Tender to Purchase Surplus Land" form are available for viewing at the Municipal Office or online at www.johnsontownship.ca.

School Support Designation

Planning to vote in the 2026 municipal and school board elections? Make sure your school support designation is up to date by June 1, 2026. Your designation determines which school board you support and which trustee election you can vote in on October 26, 2026 – and helps ensure Elections Ontario has the right information. In Ontario, there are five options: English-Public, English-Separate (Catholic), French-Public, French-Separate (Catholic), and Protestant-Separate (Penetanguishene only). By default, your designation is set to English-Public, unless you choose to change it, if eligible to do so.

Take a moment to review or update your information at www.mpac.ca/schoolsupport.



A Huge Thank you to Kent's Corner Rentals for the donation of the lift to install the winter banners along Lake Huron Drive.

FIRE PERMIT RENEWAL: 2025 FIRE PERMITS ARE NOW EXPIRED

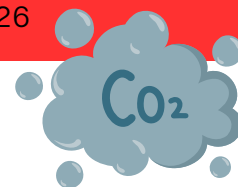
New Permit Applications can be Completed Online Free of Charge at:
<https://johnsontownship.ca/services/fire-department/>

2026 DOG TAGS: NOW AVAILABLE AT THE MUNICIPAL OFFICE

Dog Tags are FREE and Required for all Dogs Owned in the Township.

2026 Interim Tax Bills will be in the Mail at the end of January

1st Installment Due February 27, 2026 | 2nd Installment Due April 30, 2026



Notes from the Fire Chief

All About Carbon Monoxide

All homes that contain a fuel-fired appliance, fireplace, attached garage or that receive heat from a fuel-fired appliance outside the home, are now required to by law to have a CO Alarm installed on every storey of your home and adjacent to each sleeping area.

How to protect yourself and your loved ones from Carbon Monoxide:

- Test your CO alarm once a month, and change your batteries once a year.
- If you hear or suspect to hear a CO alarm leave your home immediately.
- Know the difference between the sound of the CO alarm and your smoke alarm.
- Keep fuel-burning appliances inspected and cleaned annually.

Make sure to follow the **Desbarats Volunteer Fire Department on Facebook** for more fire-related tips, tricks, and updates.

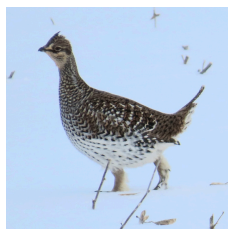
Around the Community

**CASS is Off to See the Wizard...**

CASS on Stage has been working hard over the last few months putting together an amazing performance of The Wizard of Oz. Be sure to

get your tickets online at <https://saultctc.ca/event/the-wizard-of-oz/> and enjoy this fan favourite. Want to help support the show? CASS on Stage is looking for monetary donations email curriec@adsb.on.ca for details.

Huskies Hockey: The CASS Boys Hockey Team recently played a great game here in Desbarats against the White Pines Wolvourines. The roar of the fans in the stands might have helped bring the boys to a 5-2 win!



The Central Algoma Land Trust would like to thank everyone who participated in the 10th annual Desbarats Christmas Bird Count on December 27th! The preliminary results are that 35 volunteers assisted our staff and counted 34 species for a total of 3,404 individual birds.

The highlights included 655 Redpolls, 48 Horned Larks, and a Sharp-shinned Hawk. Once finalized, the data will be submitted to the National Audubon Society, who will make it available to scientists, researchers, and conservationists for their work.

BRUCE MINES TRAILBLAZERS

GLOW IN THE SNOW

**JANUARY 31ST, 2026
6:30 PM**

Join the hike on January 31st 6:30 pm
Bring glowsticks, headlamps, flashlights & snowshoes.
Hike along the Historic Mine Trail
Warming Station with Hot Cocoa too!
You are responsible for your children!
Meeting Spot is at the Campground entrance
7 WILLIAMS STREET

Entrance by Donation




AlgomaTrad Presents "SHOULD AULD ACQUAINTANCE BE FORGOT..."

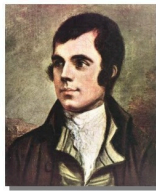
A CELEBRATION OF ROBBIE BURNS

Friday, January 30, 2026, 7:30pm
AlgomaTrad Centre, St. Joseph Island

Tickets \$25.00 (+hst)
(\$20 students/seniors +hst)
available at: Algomatrad.ca
MORE INFO CALL: 705 257 6106

The evening program will include:

- The Address to the Haggis
- Haggis, Desserts, Finger Foods
- The Playing of the Great Highland Bagpipe
- Highland Dancing
- Songs and Poetry by Scotland's Most Famous Bard
- Traditional Scottish Music provided by AlgomaTrad Musicians



Bar Service will be provided.
Proceeds to support AlgomaTrad's programs and operations

Doors open at 7:00
Festivities begin at 7:30pm

**BRUCE MINES TRAILBLAZERS
PRESENT**

Twilight Trekking

Tuesdays at 6:30pm

Please gather at the Taylor Street parking lot near the land transfer site.
Be sure to bring your headlamp, warm clothing, and your adventurous spirit!
If you need to borrow a pair of snowshoes, feel free to text Mary at 705-785-3786.



Workshop: Growing Native Plants from Seed

Jan 17, 2026 - 10-11 am on Zoom

Learn to grow your own native plants from A to Z. Lots of info and tips from our Blooming Boulevards expert on this rewarding activity. We learn how to prepare seed-starting mixes and make our own potting mix.
Tips on setting up indoor grow lights and outdoor propagation beds, plus detailed information on overwintering, spring germination and care will be given. Handouts available to download.

Pre-registration on our website is required.



Blooming Boulevards
Connecting neighbourhoods to nature

www.bloomingboulevards.org




YOGA CLASSES

with Terri

Yoga in Desbarats
Johnson Township Community Centre
Tuesdays, Jan. 13- Feb. 24 (7 weeks)
7:00 PM – 8:15 PM
\$105 + tax = \$118.65

Yoga in Bruce Station
Bruce Station Community Hall
Thursdays, Jan. 15 - Feb. 26 (7 weeks)
7:00 PM – 8:15 PM
\$105 + tax = \$118.65

Double the zen! Register for both Desbarats + Bruce Station and save 10%

\$189 + tax = \$213.57
To save your spot or ask a question:
Email / E-transfer: terri@meadowviewalpaca.com



Central Algoma Seedy Saturday

SAVE THE DATE
SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2026



Kindergarten REGISTRATION

Time to Learn, Grow and Play!

register online

A learning journey starts here for someone special!

Algoma District School Board



UPCOMING DATES

10/11/25 FINAL TUITION PAYMENT

11/12/25 HOLIDAY SPECTACULAR

11/01/26 FINALE REHEARSAL 1

25/01/26 FINALE REHEARSAL 2

30/01/26 SENIOR REHEARSAL 1

01/02/26 FULL COMPANY REHEARSAL

06/02/26 SENIOR REHEARSAL 2

07/02/26 RECITAL

CENTRALDANCE.CASS@GMAIL.COM



Family LITERACY Week

JANUARY 26 - FEBRUARY 2, 2026

Visit the library together with your Central Algoma EarlyON family!

January 28

St Joseph Island
Public Library
2:00 - 3:00pm

January 29

Thessalon Public Library
12:00 - 1:00pm

January 30

Bruce Mines & Plummer
Additional Union Public Library
11:00am - 12:00pm

February 2

Echo Bay Lending Library
11:00am - 12:00pm



North Channel Minor Hockey

January Home Games at the
Johnson Township Community
Centre

Sunday January 18: 9am-1pm
Saturday January 31: 9am-1pm

HOMECOOKED MEALS

All people 65+ living in our area are eligible to sign up for our Meals on Wheels program. You don't have to be low income, single, sick or elderly to qualify. Call for details 705-246-0036

ONLY
\$13.80

**delivered hot
to your door

Meals include:
soup, entree & dessert
Every Mon, Wed & Fri



Friendly Phone Calls

Do you know a senior living alone, who'd enjoy receiving a friendly phone call each week from one of our trained volunteers? We are now offering this service as part of our Friendly Visiting Program. Contact the centre for details.



705-246-0036



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

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

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



Register to Vote

1 @RegisterToVoteON
2 @RegisterToVoteON
3 @RegisterON

RegisterToVoteON.ca
info@registertovoteon.ca
1.866.242.3025

SNAPP

Sustainable New Agri-food Products & Productivity (SNAPP) Program

APPLICATIONS
ACCEPTED
JANUARY 19 -
MARCH 13, 2026!

- New Products
- Productivity Enhancement
- Clean Growth in Agri-food



Up to \$15,000 at 50% cost-share for individual applicants
Up to \$25,000 at 50% cost-share for collaborations of 3+

For more information visit <https://rainalgoma.ca/SNAPP>



Federal Economic Development
Agency for Northern Ontario

Agence fédérale de développement
économique pour le Nord de l'Ontario



1 Johnson Drive, Box 160, Desbarats, ON P0R 1E0 | 705-782-6601
www.johnsontownship.ca | @JohnsonTownshipRecreation on Facebook
people@johnsontownship.ca | Mon-Fri 8:30am - 4:30pm