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ADMINISTRATION

2026 Municipal and School Board Election

Key dates for and information for voters ahead of Election Day 2026

The next municipal and school board election in Ontario, including the Township of The Archipelago, will take place on Monday, October 26, 2026. This election is held every four years and provides electors with the opportunity to vote for Reeve, Council members, and School Board Trustees who will represent the community for the 2026–2030 term.

Key Dates to Know

- **May 1, 2026** – First day to file nomination papers for candidates
- **August 21, 2026 (2:00 p.m.)** – Nomination deadline (last day to file or withdraw)
- **August 24, 2026** – Certification of candidates and acclamations declared
- **October 14, 2026** – Advance voting period begins
- **October 26, 2026** – Voting Day (close at 8:00 p.m.)

Electors are encouraged to ensure they are on the voters' list, learn about candidates, and participate in the election process. For more information, visit the Township website. Stay tuned for further updates, as a mail-out will be distributed in the coming months.

BUILDING

Before You Build This Season

Contact the Building and Planning Department

If you are thinking about building, expanding, or making changes to your property in the Township of The Archipelago, it is important to contact the Building & Planning Department early in your project.

Many property owners are surprised to learn that a project may require more than one type of approval. Depending on what you are proposing, you may need a building permit, a septic review and possibly additional approvals. A preliminary review of your proposal can help identify requirements before detailed designs are prepared or construction begins. This is especially important for waterfront, island, and rural properties, where site-specific conditions can affect what is permitted. Setbacks, lot coverage, access, servicing, environmental constraints, and zoning requirements may all need to be considered.

Reaching out early can help:

- confirm what approvals may be required
- identify potential issues before time and money are spent
- reduce delays caused by incomplete information or redesigns
- support a smoother application and review process

When contacting staff, it is helpful to include the property address, a brief description of the proposed work, and any sketches, photos, or plans you may already have.

Quick Facts

Planning a project this season? Here are a few quick reminders to keep you on track:

Sheds

Small storage sheds under 15 m² (161 sq ft) may not require a building permit, provided they are detached, one storey, used for storage only, and have no plumbing. Keep in mind zoning rules like lot coverage, setbacks and height still apply.

Sleeping Cabins

All sleeping cabins require a building permit, no matter the size. The Zoning By-law also regulates how many are permitted, along with size and setback requirements.

Docks

New docks, reconfigurations, or size increases require a permit. Be sure to check in before starting your project.



LIGHTHOUSE ADVOCACY

Protecting Our Coastal Heritage

Pushing for federal action to save our iconic lighthouses

The Township of The Archipelago is deeply connected to the importance of maritime navigation and coastal lighthouses, being a primarily water-based community. The Pointe au Baril Front Range Lighttower (Pointe au Baril Lighthouse) was federally constructed in 1888 and was a pillar to the establishment of Pointe au Baril.

Today, the lighthouse is managed under the portfolio of the Department of National Defense and has declined in condition over the years without proper maintenance or budget. We continue to advocate for appropriate federal budget to maintain federal lighthouses, with a focus on the continued protection of cultural and historical buildings for both our Pointe au Baril Lighthouse and other area lighthouses.

If you wish to have your voice heard regarding the importance of lighthouse protection, please contact your local Member of Parliament.



RECYCLING

Producer Responsibility of Recycling Material

What's New in 2026

The responsibility of recycling moved to the producers of such material under provincial framework in January of this year. Throughout this change the goal is for end-user residents to feel little to no change, and our municipal staff are working hard with the producer groups and assigned contractors to ensure a successful transition and service delivery. You may see different contractors collecting recycling bins, but the operation of each transfer site remains the same. An updated list of recyclable materials, and a new sorting guide, is available on the [Circular Materials website](#).

Most notably: milk containers, paper laminate containers, and aseptic liquid containers are now collected in the plastic recycling stream.

INVASIVE SPECIES

Invasive Phragmites Removal Efforts

Partnership work continues to protect local ecosystems

The Township of The Archipelago and Georgian Bay Biosphere (Generations Effect) continue to work together on environmental initiatives. Recently, a joint effort targeted invasive phragmites along Healey Lake Road and Blackstone Crane Lake Road, with 11 sites managed over four days and more than 500 kg of biomass removed and properly dried to prevent spread. Ongoing monitoring is needed; community members and cottage associations are encouraged to play an active role in controlling invasive species and protecting the environment.



BY-LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES

New Summer By-law Enforcement Hours

Expanded daily coverage now in effect, with added patrols during peak periods.

As a friendly reminder, May 1st marks the start of the Archipelago's By-law Enforcement Service summer hours of operation. Based on previous trends in call times, the hours of operation are changing this year. Our By-law Enforcement Officer's are now available Monday to Sunday, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

You may also observe our By-law staff on duty outside of our regular hours of operation. These patrols are done specifically during periods of heightened awareness such as long weekends and total fire bans.

As always, to report a by-law concern or for general inquiries, you can reach out to us through the following methods:

- Phone: (705) 746-4243 ext.325
- Email: bylaw@thearchipelago.ca
- Website: Use our online reporting tool "E-Service Request" for quick submissions.

Wildland Fire Protection Plan Underway

Help shape the plan - share your input through our community survey

The Archipelago is excited to announce the receipt of a grant from the Ministry of Natural Resources to develop our community's first Wildland Fire Protection Plan. The goal of this plan will be to define areas of high risk through forest hazard mapping and fuel loads, then develop mitigation strategies to address these risks. In drafting this plan, we want to hear from you! Your input will help shape the development of the plan. A survey is available online through our website and social media accounts. Physical copies are also available for pick-up and submission at the Township office. The survey is currently available and will be throughout the month of May and into June.

Complete the survey [here!](#)

Smoke & Carbon Monoxide Alarm Check

Make it part of your cottage opening checklist

As you return to your seasonal property this spring, please remember to test your smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms upon arrival. Homes and cottages left vacant over the winter may experience dead batteries, power loss, or alarm failure. Taking a few minutes to check that your alarms are working properly is an important step in protecting your family, guests, and property.

Please replace batteries as needed, check alarm expiry dates, and replace any unit that is not functioning properly.

ENERGY SAVINGS

Energy Savings Support Program

Free support to cut energy costs and upgrade your home

Introducing the Georgian Bay Biosphere's free Energy Savings Support Program!

The Energy Savings Support Program helps residents achieve healthier, safer, and more durable homes while also reducing energy costs. We can provide expert guidance and help you apply to rebates and support programs that offer home upgrades—completely for free!

- As part of the program, Energy Specialists can support homeowners and renters by providing:
- Up-to-date rebate information: direct answers on available and relevant rebates and support programs that can help you access energy-saving upgrades.
- Rebate application support: direct assistance preparing and interpreting applications for rebates and support programs.
- Expert guidance: general energy efficiency and energy conservation knowledge.

Fill out the Biosphere's [online form](#) here to connect with an Energy Specialist!



SEPTIC PROGRAM

You Be the Judge: Septic Screening A free, voluntary tool to help you assess when your septic system needs service

The Archipelago has launched a free voluntary septic screening program! The “You Be The Judge” program provides a simple self-assessment tool and guide to determine the status of septic tanks using a sludge sampler (also known as a ‘sludge judge’). Sludge samplers are easy-to-use tools for determining when a septic tank is in need of a professional pump out and conversely, when pumping is not yet required.

Why judge your own septic tank? Measuring the sludge in a septic tank can result in cost savings for a property owner by either avoiding unnecessary pump outs or by identifying the need for a pump out before any damage is done to the baffle or drain field (or septic bed). There are also environmental benefits from pumping and hauling waste only when it is necessary. Visit the [Township website](#) to learn how to participate!



PLANNING

Comprehensive Zoning By-law Review Update

Final draft coming forward as the Township moves toward adoption

The Archipelago's Comprehensive Zoning By-law Review is an important initiative to update the zoning framework that guides land use and regulates buildings and structures across the municipality. The review will ensure the Township's Zoning By-law, originally prepared in 2007, aligns with the updated Official Plan, remains consistent with provincial policies and regulations, and reflects current zoning and development standards. Public consultation has included public information sessions, Council Presentations, an Open House, Online Commenting Opportunities, and, most recently, a Statutory Public Meeting held in February 2026 to provide the public with a further opportunity to review and comment on the proposed updated by-law. A final updated Zoning By-law will be brought forward to Council this spring for consideration and possible adoption. For more information, visit the [Township website](#).



ARCHIPELAGO HISTORY

Fun Fact: The Story Behind “The Archipelago Express”

A newsletter name inspired by a historic journey that helped shape our Township

Did you know the title “Archipelago Express” comes from a real train? In 1979, a special Via Rail train carried more than 1,000 seasonal residents from Union Station to Parry

Sound so they could vote in a pivotal election supporting the future amalgamation of the North and South Archipelago.

Nicknamed the “Archipelago Express” or the “A-Train,” the journey even included entertainment for passengers along the way. Learn more about this memorable moment in our [Story Map](#) celebrating the Township's 45th anniversary.



SAVE THE DATE

Seniors Appreciation Lunch

June 16, 2026

Join us on Tuesday, June 16 at 12:00 p.m. at the Pointe au Baril Community Centre for a special lunch in recognition of Seniors Month. This event is free for all seniors who reside in the Archipelago.

RSVP by June 1 to:
Alana Torresan
Deputy Clerk
705-746-4243 ext. 315
atorresan@thearchipelago.ca