

## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Hello everyone,

By the time this message arrives spring will be just around the corner, always a welcome time of the year. We have a lot to look forward to; the start of the market season, the return of our seasonal residents, and of course the warm weather. Like most of the province, Billings Township has had an exceptionally mild winter with above average temperatures. For those seasonal residents who are making their late winter trip to the Island, don't assume the ice on our lakes is safe, as it has been most years. Be extra cautious and please check the thickness, before venturing out onto the lakes.

The new pedestrian bridge has been installed on the Kagawong River trail system and a new accessible fishing platform has also been completed at the mouth of the Kagawong River. The new Fire Hall has been completed and is now operational. The bulk water dispenser has moved from the Fire Hall to the Water Tower located at the corner of Rainbow Heights and Beach Street. The outdoor rink was a big hit with young and old enjoying family skates and old fashion pick-up shinny games. A big shout out to the volunteers for their commitment in keeping the ice surface in great shape.

Administratively, with the resignation of our CAO/Clerk, Emily Dance, the Township is actively recruiting to fill that position. Emily has provided invaluable service to our community. Her visionary leadership and tireless work ethic have played a pivotal role in shaping the Township for the better. I'd like to welcome our newest member of council, Ian Anderson. His past experience and commitment to the Township will be a welcome asset to the community. Thank you to all the applicants that took part in the selection process. The community participation in the Strategic Plan survey was fabulous. On a final note, Council and staff will be busy with budget preparations. Our goal is to present a fiscally responsible and transparent budget. The 2024 Township budget is on track and should be ready by early spring.

**-Bryan Barker, Mayor**

## LET'S CONNECT

[www.billingstwp.ca](http://www.billingstwp.ca)  
**OFFICE** (705) 282-2611  
**FAX** (705) 282-3199

**EMAIL** [billingsadmin@billingstwp.ca](mailto:billingsadmin@billingstwp.ca)

## YOUR COUNCIL

**Mayor Bryan Barker**  
[bbarker@billingstwp.ca](mailto:bbarker@billingstwp.ca)

**Deputy Mayor David Hillyard**  
[dhillyard@billingstwp.ca](mailto:dhillyard@billingstwp.ca)

**Councillor Michael Hunt**  
[mhunt@billingstwp.ca](mailto:mhunt@billingstwp.ca)

**Councillor Vince Grogan**  
[vgrogan@billingstwp.ca](mailto:vgrogan@billingstwp.ca)

**Councillor Ian Anderson**  
[ianderson@billingstwp.ca](mailto:ianderson@billingstwp.ca)

## STAY INFORMED

Council meetings are scheduled for the first and third Tuesdays of each month.

Comments are always welcome from members of the Public, please direct them to the township office.

Agenda Packages, Meeting Minutes, Council Meeting Highlights and Monthly Newsletters are posted on the Township website.

## FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!

 Township of Billings | [www.billingstwp.ca](http://www.billingstwp.ca)



**Office Phone Email Hours**  
15 Old Mill Road Kagawong, ON  
(705) 282-2611  
[billingsadmin@billingstwp.ca](mailto:billingsadmin@billingstwp.ca)  
Mon – Thurs 8:30am – 4:00pm  
Fri 8:30am – 12:00pm

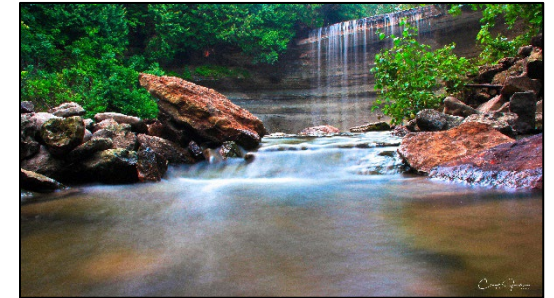


Photo Courtesy of Craig Jackson

## STAFF

CAO/Clerk	<b>Emily Dance</b>
Treasurer	<b>Harmony Hancock</b>
Deputy Clerk	<b>Tiana Mills</b>
Municipal Project Manager	<b>Todd Gordon</b>
Accounts Payable/Tax Clerk	<b>Tina Beckerton</b>
Public Works Superintendent	<b>Chris Cyr</b>
Public Works Operator	<b>Bill Hore</b>
Public Works Operator	<b>Bill Savage</b>
Public Works Operator	<b>John Tolsma</b>
Landfill Attendant	<b>Dennis Beckett</b>
Fire Chief	<b>Martin Connell</b>
Building Inspector	<b>Dan Osborne</b>
By-Law / Health & Safety	<b>Arthur Moran</b>
Marina Manager	<b>Jim Fowlie</b>
Librarian	<b>Jill Ferguson</b>
Museum Curator	<b>Rick Nelson</b>

## LANDFILL SITE INFORMATION

**The Billings Landfill**  
9490 Hwy 540, Kagawong

### Summer Hours

**April 1 – October 31**

Tuesday & Thursday 2pm – 6pm  
Saturday & Sunday 10am – 4pm

### Winter Hours

**November 1 – March 31**

Tuesday & Thursday 2pm – 6pm  
Saturday 1pm – 4pm  
Sunday 10am – 4pm

There are separate recycle bins for paper, cardboard, metal, electronics, wood and comingled plastics, aluminum, metal, etc. Recycling is mandatory and unsorted garbage will not be accepted. The landfill does not accept household hazardous waste. Once a year a household hazardous waste day is held, typically in July and is an Island-Wide shared event.

## LIBRARY HOURS

**The Billings Library**  
18 Upper Street, Kagawong  
Phone (705) 282-2944

### Hours

Tuesday & Thursday 4pm – 7pm  
Saturday 10am – 1pm

The library offers fiction and non-fiction books for adults and children, graphic novels, audio books, e-books, magazines, board games, and cake pans. Free Wi-Fi, desktops, fax, and copying services and basic technical support are also available.

## TAX INFORMATION

The 2024 interim taxes included with this flyer are due **March 29, 2024**

A \$15 administration fee will be applied to all credit card payments. Payment can also be made through the bill payment services at the following banks: The Bank of Montreal, CIBC, Scotia Bank, RBC and TD Canada Trust. Credit Union customers can check with their local branch for set up and assistance.

A penalty of 1.25% will be added to any unpaid balance after the due date and on the first of every month until paid.

If you are interested in setting up a Pre-Authorized Payment Plan for your municipal property tax, please contact Harmony Hancock at (705) 282-2611 x 222

### Do you have a change of address?


Failure to receive a tax bill does not excuse the property owner from paying taxes. If you move, remember to update your address with the office in writing or by email ([tbeckerton@billingstwp.ca](mailto:tbeckerton@billingstwp.ca))

## THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Strategic Plan and New Website Development Citizen Surveys!

Stay tuned for the 2024-2029 Strategic Plan for the Township of Billings coming soon.

## FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!

 Township of Billings | [www.billingstwp.ca](http://www.billingstwp.ca)

## MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

- Regular chimney cleanings and proper maintenance is essential to reduce your chance of having a chimney fire.
- There are several local professions who can complete your WETT inspection.
- Are you interested in volunteering? New volunteers are always welcome!
- Questions/concerns or request for site visits can be forwarded to Billings Fire, Chief Martin Connell at (705) 348-1484.

### Help Yourself, Help Your Neighbour!

With a changing climate, the threat of wildfire has increased significantly for everyone, include those living outside of the wildland urban interface.

We all have a part to play when it comes to preventing wildfire and reducing risk. FireSmart Canada has developed practical, effective, and science-based programs that provide you with tools to be better prepared when wildfire occurs.

How can you get started?

<https://firesmartcanada.ca/about-firesmart/>

## BY-LAW UPDATES

### Short Term Accommodation Rentals (STARs)

Application information packages are available for pick-up at the township office or by email. To be able to operate a STAR operation, the Township is requiring property owners to have a license for each property that is being used as a rental unit (By-Law 2022-49).

If you have any questions regarding the completion of the license application or require the package by email please contact Arthur Moran, By-Law Enforcement Officer [bylaw@billingstwp.ca](mailto:bylaw@billingstwp.ca).