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HARTLAND

HAPPENINGS

July 2026 – vol. 11

THANKS to Kristen Hamilton (Nov 2021), Dawn Nevers (June 2020), and Stephen Moreau (Oct 2013) for the photos featured above!

Sign up for the town's Notification System on our website at www.townofhartland.ca or call 506-375-4357 to be added.

Covered Bridge Celebrates 125th Anniversary

Few landmarks tell the story of a community quite like the Hartland Covered Bridge.

Stretching an impressive 1,282 feet, it holds the title of the longest covered bridge in the world, longer than six NHL rinks lined up end to end. As it marks its 125th anniversary this year, we have a chance to reflect on how this iconic structure has connected our community for generations.

In the 1800s, life along the Saint John River revolved around farming and trade. The valley produced abundant crops like oats and buckwheat, but getting those goods to market was not always easy. Travel by river depended heavily on the seasons and conditions, leaving families isolated during freeze-ups, floods, or low water. Crossing to the other side often meant long,

difficult trips by horse and wagon to nearby communities.

By the 1870s, local frustration had grown into determination. Residents knew a bridge was essential, and after an initial request to the government was denied, they took matters into their own hands. The Hartland Bridge Company was formed, and through the sale of bonds, funds were raised to build the structure. Under the leadership of Charles McCormack, construction was completed in 1901 at a cost that would be just over \$1 million in today's dollars, a remarkable investment in the future of the community.

Originally built as an uncovered bridge, the structure faced a major setback in 1920 when

river ice destroyed two spans on the Somerville end. Repairs followed, and in 1922 the bridge was fully covered, giving it the distinctive look we recognize today. Since then, it has stood not only as a practical crossing but as a symbol of resilience, connection, and community pride.

On Monday, August 3, join us to celebrate the 125th Anniversary of this incredible landmark. From 9am to 4pm, the bridge and surrounding area will be alive with activity, including the Covered Bridge Market, Heartland Culture on the Green, and a full day of fun. With live entertainment, family activities, a colour run, and a new public art mural, it will be a celebration that honours our past while bringing our community together in the present.



Photo Courtesy of Hartland Resident Brenda Lee Bradley, Oct 2025

Nursing Home Without Walls Hartland launched in October 2025 and is already making a meaningful difference in our community. The organization supports older adults in living independently, safely, and confidently at home by connecting them with services, social opportunities, and personalized support. Their goal is simple: to reduce isolation and ensure seniors feel supported and connected.

A variety of free programs are offered locally, many hosted at the Day and Ross Community Centre. Weekly favourites like Walk and Talk and Brain Games help seniors stay active while building friendships. Additional supports include transportation, one on one navigation assistance, wellness check-ins, educational sessions, and a monthly events calendar to keep everyone informed.

New initiatives continue to take shape, including a free seniors lunch at the Hartland Legion and a Memory Café in partnership with

the Alzheimer Society of New Brunswick. These programs are guided by the needs and interests of local seniors, helping ensure they remain welcoming and relevant.

This work is strengthened through ongoing collaboration with the Town of Hartland. Support from the Recreation Department has helped expand programs and build strong community

connections.

Nursing Home Without Walls Hartland is also welcoming new volunteers, with flexible ways to get involved and give back.

If you would like to be a volunteer or want information about their services, contact them at

506-516-0495 or nhww@ccnh.ca

facebook.com/profile.php?id=61582795131630



Volunteers Acknowledged

Our community came together recently to celebrate the people who make Hartland such a special place to live, work, and connect. The Town hosted a Volunteer & Staff Appreciation event, welcoming 46 dedicated volunteers along with their guests for an evening focused on gratitude, recognition, and community pride.

Volunteers from a wide range of local groups were invited, representing the many ways people give their time and energy to support Hartland. From community events and recreation to culture, safety, and service organizations, the room reflected the strong spirit of volunteerism that helps our town thrive. Each volunteer in attendance received a Hartland volunteer pin and certificate, along with a small gift bag as a token of appreciation.

A total of 20 individuals were recognized with awards highlighting their outstanding

contributions to our community. Their efforts, often behind the scenes, play a vital role in enhancing quality of life for everyone who calls Hartland home.

Nick Trecartin was also recognized by the CAO for his 10 years of service with the Town.

Fire Chief Philip Brown noted that 27 awards were presented to firefighters representing 730 years of experience, with top service awards going to Doug Hovey and the family of the late Gary Dickinson, each recognized for 55 years of service to Hartland.

The evening was emceed by Deputy Mayor Stewart Fairgrieve, with Mayor Tracey DeMerchant presenting volunteer awards alongside MP Richard Bragdon and MLA Bill Hogan. This event was a meaningful reminder that our community is built on generosity, dedication, and care for one another.



HARTLAND PARADE 2026

Celebrating the 125th Anniversary of the
Hartland Covered Bridge

SATURDAY, August 1 at 3:00 PM

PARADE ROUTE:

Begins at Hartland Community School
Travels down Orser Street to Main Street
Ends at Walton Car Wash

ROAD CLOSURE NOTICE

Parade Route will be closed during the event.
Please plan an alternate route if you're not attending.

JOIN THE FUN!

Register a float by contacting:
dana.stokoe@townofhartland.com

Bring your friends and family as we
celebrate this special milestone together!



Meet Your 2026 Hartland Town Council



Tracey DeMerchant
Mayor

Our community came together this spring to take part in the municipal election, with Election Day held on Monday, May 11 at various locations throughout the municipality, following Advance Polls on May 2 and 4 at the Hartland Baptist Church gymnasium. Thank you to everyone who took the time to vote and be part of this important democratic process, helping shape the direction of our community.

We would also like to sincerely thank all of the candidates who put their names forward. Running for Council is a meaningful way to contribute to our community, and we appreciate the time, effort, and commitment shown by each individual.

The newly elected Council was officially sworn in on May 26. This term brings together a mix of returning members and new faces, creating a strong team with both experience and fresh

perspectives. We congratulate those elected and thank them for stepping forward to help guide decisions and shape the future of Hartland.

Council meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month, and members of the public are always welcome to attend. For those who prefer to watch from home, meetings are recorded and later shared on our YouTube channel. [youtube.com/@TownofHartlandNB](https://www.youtube.com/@TownofHartlandNB)

If you have a concern or proposal you would like Council to consider, you are encouraged to reach out. Submissions must be sent to the Clerk at least one week prior to a scheduled meeting. Simply email the Clerk to be added to an agenda. Clerk: julie.stockford@townofhartland.com

Together, this new Council and our community will continue building a strong and vibrant Hartland for everyone in the months ahead.



Stewart Fairgrieve
Deputy Mayor



Lee Patterson
Councillor At Large



Tanya Hawkes
Councillor At Large



Jason Smith
Councillor Ward 1



George Boone
Councillor Ward 2



Charlie Webber
Councillor Ward 3

Grills, Thrills, and Championship Skills

The inaugural Covered Bridge Smoke Showdown brought great food, live music, and community spirit to Hartland on May 8 and 9, as residents and visitors gathered at the Covered Bridge Golf & Country Club for a weekend of barbecue competition and family fun.

Organizers began planning the event in January, quickly turning the idea into a successful community celebration that welcomed more than 2,000 attendees over the two-day event.

The Smoke Showdown featured 9 competitors battling in several barbecue categories, along with a Vendor Tent Village, free live entertainment, and a Kids Fun Zone featuring bouncy castles, balloon art, and lawn games for families to enjoy throughout the weekend.

Entertainment throughout the weekend included performances by Double D, Ray Haines & Jason Shaw, Elles et Lui, Steve Hartfield, Iris Lloyd, Ronny Michaud and the Shotgun Jammers, and Big Bad Party Band.

R&R Smokers also brought their popular Meat Missile smoker to the event grounds, preparing food served inside the restaurant during the festivities.

The event also raised important funds for local causes through 50/50 sales, a Traeger BBQ prize draw, and food sales. Organizers estimate approximately \$12,000 was raised for each of the three benefiting charities: the River Valley Cancer Support Group, We've Got Your Back River



Jason Shaw and Ray Haines



Royal Nova Company



Jason Shaw and Ray Haines



R&R Smokers Meat Missile

Valley, and the Woodstock High School Backpack Program.

The Town of Hartland supported the event with a \$2,500 contribution through its Municipal Grant program.

Top competition honours included Michel Rock of R&R Smokers placing first in both Chicken and Ribs, Royal Nova BBQ winning Pork Butt, Allison McLellan of McLellan Brand Source taking first in Brisket, and Saucy Rossy BBQ earning top spot in the Master Class division.

Covered Bridge Recreation Inc.'s General

Manager, John Trecartin, said, "This could never have happened without every single sponsor, volunteer, competitor, employee, and the list goes on and on. It really has been a team effort that every person involved gave every ounce of energy and resources they had to make a huge success out of an idea that just seemed to hatch from a short conversation."

Following the strong turnout and positive response from the community and competitors, plans are already underway to make next year's Covered Bridge Smoke Showdown even bigger and better.



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Whether you live, work or play in Western NB, you can receive notifications for different municipalities by adding Location pins to your VoyentAlert! account.

If you are new to receiving alerts for Hartland, download the app or visit their sign-up page.

<https://register.voyent-alert.com>



THE NB SPCA ARE NOW HANDLING DOG COMPLAINTS FOR HARTLAND

Call 1-877-722-1522

Our Animal By-law can be found at townofhartland.ca/by-law-policy.

GREAT NEWS!

Garbage will start being picked up every week, even on recycling weeks, starting in September.

Plus, there will be an extra recycling pick up each month.



Watch for a flyer in your mail for more details as the start date gets closer!