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HARTLAND
We've got you covered

HARTLAND HAPPENINGS

January 2026 – vol. 9

THANKS to Michele Brooker-Budrow (Hartland 1), Tammy McLean (Hartland 2) and Sarah Everett Shaw (Waterville) for the photos featured above!

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Ribbon Cutting Marks a Milestone

On Friday, November 14, major donors and contributors gathered outside the Day & Ross Community Centre to mark an important moment: the official ribbon cutting for our new arena and the celebration of its first full year in operation. The chilly afternoon carried a warm sense of pride for all the work and collaboration that brought this facility to life. Mayor Tracey DeMerchant opened the ceremony with a reflection on the centre's first year.

The Mayor welcomed provincial MLA Bill Hogan and provincial Minister Chuck Chiasson, who each reflected on Hartland's commitment to this important project. Although federal MP Richard Bragdon was unable to attend, the Mayor shared a message he sent for the occasion. Each representative spoke to the value of the facility and the collective effort required to build it, reinforcing the strong partnerships that helped bring the arena from long-term vision to reality.

In her remarks, the Mayor highlighted how quickly the centre became a gathering place for our community once it opened its doors on November 15, 2024. Over the past year, residents have filled the space for hockey games, practices, tournaments, celebrations, and public events. She also reflected on the decades of work that led to this point, recognizing the committees, volunteers, and families who kept the vision alive.

While saying goodbye to the old 1967 arena was emotional for many, the heart of The Barn lives on in this new space where new memories continue to take shape.

The ceremony also offered a moment to recognize the generosity and determination that fuelled the project. Major financial donors and contributors were invited as honoured guests, with many seeing their names displayed on the Donor Recognition Wall inside the building.

Once the ribbon fell, everyone was invited inside to the Community Room for coffee, refreshments, and conversation.

The Day & Ross Community Centre stands as a testament to what our community can achieve when we work together. It honours our past while creating new opportunities for generations ahead, and the ribbon cutting served as a meaningful reminder of the teamwork and perseverance that continue to shape Hartland's future.



Pictured Left to Right: Minister Chuck Chiasson, Mayor Tracey DeMerchant, MLA Bill Hogan

Non-Profit Spotlight: Rotary Club of Woodstock

For 95 years, the Rotary Club of Woodstock has brought neighbours together with a shared commitment to service, friendship, and community spirit. Established in 1930, the club is part of a global Rotary network of 1.2 million members across more than 200 countries, all working to create positive change both locally and internationally. Here in the Saint John River Valley, their members continue that tradition by directing funds back into projects that strengthen our communities.

Our connection with the Rotary Club has grown through the development of the Day & Ross Community Centre. The club is a proud contributor to the facility's construction, and we're grateful for their support in helping bring this new community space to life. Partnerships like this show how service organizations and municipalities can work together to create lasting benefits for residents.

The club's well-loved fundraisers make much

of this work possible. Rotary Radio Bingo has been a weekly favourite since 2014, streaming on Facebook, YouTube, and on Woodstock's 104.1 FM radio. Bingo cards are available throughout the valley, including Hartland Valufoods and Coldstream Convenience.

Their second major fundraiser, the Rotary Club of Woodstock Dance and Draw, returns April 11 at the Ayr Motor Centre with beverage tasting from more than 15 New Brunswick vendors, live music, food, and a draw with a top prize of up to \$20,000. Tickets are available from any Woodstock Rotarian.

With 46 active members, the Rotary Club continues to welcome people who want to give back to their community. Anyone interested in joining or learning more can reach them at rotary6356sect@gmail.com or 506-612-1025.

Their longstanding dedication to service continues to make a meaningful difference across our region.



Pictured Left to Right: Mike Cole (Incoming President), Heidi Harper (Secretary), Susan Smith (Executive), Corey Clark (President), Robert Toner (Executive). Members absent from photo: Ashely Farrell (Outgoing President), Matthew Derrah (Treasurer), and Mark Gaddas (Executive)

We're Making Ice, Ice, Baby!



Creating the smooth, bright sheet of ice takes a lot more than just turning on the rink's cooling system. It's a careful process, with a mix of science and artistry taking 10 days.

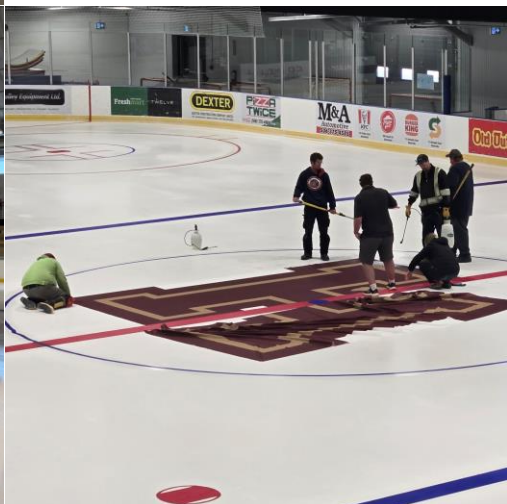
It starts with the bare grey concrete pad. The surface is thoroughly cleaned, then cooled to the right temperature. Staff use a special multi-nozzle sprayer to apply a fine mist of water by hand, letting each pass freeze before adding the next. These early layers are built up slowly until there's about half an inch of clear ice.

Next comes the colour. White powder mixed with water is sprayed evenly across the surface.

This not only gives the ice its familiar bright appearance but also helps the black puck stand out. Several more thin layers of water seal that paint in place.

Once the white base is ready, staff paint the red and blue lines, circles, and goal creases using stencils for accuracy. Mesh logo mats are laid on the surface. Then, with more light sprays of water, everything is sealed beneath fresh layers of ice until the sheet reaches its full playing thickness of 1.5 inches.

The result is a perfect surface that's ready for skates, pucks, and fun all season long.



Lighting Up Our Community Spirit

Hartland was brimming with holiday cheer throughout December. From gingerbread houses to festive skating, each event highlighted the warmth and generosity that make our community special, even on some very chilly days.

The December 6 festivities at the Day & Ross Community Centre kicked off with the free Gingerbread House Competition, sponsored by the Hartland Legion. Teams of all ages built creative and delicious designs, filling the room with laughter and holiday spirit. Following that, participants enjoyed wooden ornament painting, creating keepsakes to take home and adding a personal touch to the season.

Later that afternoon, the Mitten Skate gave families a chance to glide across the ice while giving back. Skaters brought mittens and non-perishable items for Hartland Helpers, helping neighbours in need while enjoying a fun, family-friendly event. The rink was alive with smiles, community connections, and the true spirit of giving.

As temperatures dropped, residents bundled up and made their way to Pavilion Park for the

Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony. The Mayor lit the tree and Hartland Community School carolers sang holiday favourites. Despite the cold, a large turnout gathered to enjoy the music, the lights, and the shared sense of community that has become a hallmark of this event.

By 7pm, most of the crowd made their way to The Courtyard where the evening celebrations

continued. Local musicians performed while families settled in with lawn chairs. Unit XIII offered hot chocolate, Hartland Freshmart provided cookies, and Courtyard BMR decorated the space to welcome everyone who attended.

December's gatherings showed the strength of Hartland's community spirit and the value of coming together to celebrate the season.



2026 Budget Highlights

Hartland's 2026 budget demonstrates a thoughtful approach to balancing rising costs with continued investment in the long-term needs of our community. With less than a one-cent increase to the residential tax rate, Hartland's rate will be \$1.55 per \$100 of assessed value, while former Local Service Districts will align at \$0.74, and Peel at \$0.70.

To support essential infrastructure upgrades, residential water and sewer bills will adjust from \$730 to \$775 annually, with commercial users seeing a modest change from \$580 to \$625. Apartment rates will move from \$500 to \$525 per unit, while metered water rates remain unchanged for 2026.

These adjustments reflect the significant repairs and improvements required for municipal utility infrastructure. The overall 2026 budget is \$4.49M, an increase of \$103,000 from 2025, with infrastructure renewal as a major focus. Recreation and community services continue to grow, including expanded program support. RCMP services remain a key priority, representing 23% of the operating budget.

Several factors influenced these changes,

including the provincial assessment freeze, rising solid waste collection costs in preparation for weekly garbage pickups and the need to maintain service levels. After reducing reserve transfers and trimming expenses where possible, Council determined that a small tax increase was necessary to sustain quality services and fund critical upgrades.

Plans are underway to apply for funding to replace the Becaguimec picnic shelters, add solar crosswalk systems, and install air conditioning in the front lobby, canteen and washroom areas at the Day & Ross Community Centre.

Looking ahead, budgeted projects for 2026 include landscaping at the Park on Main Street and the waterfront revitalization project. We're also planning to celebrate the Canada Day and 125th anniversary of the Hartland Covered Bridge this summer, supported primarily through external grants to avoid additional pressure on the municipal budget.

With these projects and upcoming grant applications, we're making steady, thoughtful improvements that help our community grow sustainably.



CLICK FOR
UPCOMING
EVENTS

Want to know what's happening in Hartland?

Visit our Upcoming Events page to see
all the events taking place near you!

Have an event you want added to our calendar?

Complete the form below our online
calendar and submit at least 2 business
days in advance of your event, and
we'll get it on for ya!

townofhartland.ca/upcoming-events

Help Hartland Bloom This Season



We're putting together a new Beautification Committee and are looking for community members who enjoy getting their hands in the soil and helping our public spaces look their very best.

This volunteer group will support seasonal planting in the downtown and help bring fresh colour and life to our shared spaces. It's a great opportunity for anyone who loves gardening and wants to play a part in shaping the look and feel of our community.

Volunteers will work with our staff to plan and carry out seasonal planting, along with light ongoing maintenance such as deadheading spent blooms and keeping small garden areas tidy.

Our maintenance crews will continue to look after the heavier work including watering and fertilizing. Your time and care will help keep key spaces in the downtown bright, welcoming,

and ready for the changing seasons.

The committee will also help organize community cleanup events and support future participation in programs like Communities in Bloom.

These efforts bring people together, encourage local pride, and highlight the hard work that residents put into the places we share. Whether you can join regularly or just lend a hand during special projects, every bit of help makes a difference.

If you're interested in joining or learning more, we'd be happy to hear from you. Reach out to the Town Office and let us know you'd like to get involved. Together, we can help Hartland continue to grow beautifully.

Julie Stockford, CAO

506-375-4351 extension 200

julie.stockford@townofhartland.com

Bin There, Done That!

Every item you recycle makes a real difference — not just for the environment, but for our community. Recycling reduces landfill waste, cuts greenhouse gas emissions, and conserves resources. Municipalities don't pay for recycling services, so every item you keep out of the garbage helps lower Hartland's disposal costs.

Our curbside recycling program makes it easy to do your part. You can place paper (including shredded paper in a clear bag), cardboard, plastic containers, aluminum, cartons, and metal containers in your blue bin. Items like books, ceramics, pots and pans, toys, diapers, and organics don't belong in recycling and should be included in your garbage. Materials such as white foam packaging (like takeout containers, foam packaging, and deli meat trays), glass packaging (such as glass bottles and jars), and flexible plastics (including chip bags, candy wrappers, and sandwich or bread bags) can be taken to participating redemption centres. Learn more at circularmaterials.ca/redemptioncentres.

When we take a few extra moments to sort our recyclables correctly, it's not just about saving money or protecting the environment — it's about supporting a circular economy right here at home. Every item you place in the blue bin helps close the loop and shows that Hartland residents care about the future of our community.

Together, we can make recycling a simple habit that benefits everyone.

Recycling guide



Shredded paper in a clear bag.
Paper



Cardboard



Plastic containers



Aluminum



Cartons



Metal containers



Books



Ceramics



Pots and pans



Toys



Diapers



Organics



White foam packaging



Glass



Flexible plastics

Bring these to a participating redemption centre near you: circularmaterials.ca/redemptioncentres



2025/2026
recycling guide
Western Valley Region

