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# HARTLAND

## HAPPENINGS

2025 – vol 5

THANKS to Andrew Smith (Hartland), Dawn Nevers (Somerville) and Renée Crouse (Hartland) for the photos featured above!

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# Hartland's 2025 Financial Roadmap

Each year, Council approves two operating budgets and one capital budget. The operating budgets cover short-term expenses for staff and Council, recreation, policing and fire protection, waste collection, roads, and water and sewer systems. The capital budget covers long-term investments in municipal assets and infrastructure. Most revenue in the general operating budget comes from property taxes, while most in the utility operating budget comes from water and sewer fees. Revenue from other sources provides less than 15% of total revenue in these two operating budgets.

Most expenditures in Hartland's general operating budget are non-discretionary. For example, policing service from the RCMP will cost more than \$1M in 2025, which represents more than 25% of the general budget. Other non-discretionary costs, such as fees for waste collection and regional services, are set externally. In 2025, most of these non-discretionary costs will increase between 5% and 10%. In addition, Hartland will see higher costs for its new Day & Ross Community Centre, about \$250,000 more to cover debt repayment, additional staffing, and higher energy costs.

Beyond these commitments, like its residents, Hartland will pay more for everything from office supplies to electricity and fuel. Since Hartland

must pay more to provide services, it must also save more for critical investments.

Over the next five years, Hartland plans to invest \$3.6M to replace fire and public works vehicles, upgrade its aging water and sewer system, and develop the downtown and waterfront.

To execute this capital plan, Hartland must put some of its operating revenue into capital reserves, or savings, about 2.5% to 5% each year. The funding that Hartland receives from donations and government grants will not be enough.

Therefore, to cover increased operating costs and save capital funds for Hartland's future, Council has decided to increase property tax rates and water and sewer fees.

The property tax rate in old Hartland will increase by 1.5 cents per \$100 of property assessment value, while the property tax rate in Brighton, Simonds, Somerville, Peel, and Wakefield will increase by 3.0 cents per \$100. Coldstream will see a 0.0044 cent decrease to further harmonize rates. The increase for former LSDs reflects the agreement that the LSDs made years ago to accept a 7.5 cent increase to help cover the costs of the new centre. Considering past rate increases, Council has agreed to implement less than 50% of the 7.5 cent increase

in 2025. Council has also decided to reduce the commercial multiplier to 1.6, to protect and promote the health of local businesses.

With respect to its water and sewer fees, which only apply to "old" Hartland, fees will increase by about 5%. Council approved this increase to cover the higher costs of maintaining its water and sewer system, and to save funds for future upgrades, for example, to install new lines for housing developments, which are expected to add about 100 new dwellings in Hartland by 2026.

While adjusting rates and fees for 2025, Hartland continues to aggressively pursue grants from provincial and federal programs such as the Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF). As Hartland moves forward with housing developments and critical infrastructure investments, it expects to receive substantial funding from these programs, which will help keep rates and fees lower in the future.

Council made the difficult decision to raise rates and fees to strengthen Hartland's fiscal health, services, and infrastructure, while supporting growth and development in both housing and industry. Council believes strongly in these investments and has confidence that they will benefit Hartland in 2025 and for many years to come.

# Town Supports Local Organizations

The Town of Hartland is proud to support local organizations and community groups through our Municipal Grant Program. In 2024, we've had the opportunity to assist several incredible groups with funding for a variety of important projects, including:

- ▶ Heartland Culture on the Green – \$1,000 to assist with operating expenses for their August 3 event
- ▶ Hartland Community School Graduates – \$4,200 for scholarships and bursaries
- ▶ The Scene Productions – \$600 to cover costs of Rock of Ages musical event
- ▶ Coldstream War Memorial – \$750 to assist with ongoing maintenance costs
- ▶ Knowlesville Arts & Nature Centre – \$3,000 for municipal tree planting program
- ▶ Hartland Helpers – \$1,000 for food security programs
- ▶ River Valley Cancer Support Group – \$1,500

to support cancer patients in the municipality of Hartland

- ▶ Big Bridge Fest – \$5,000 to assist with operating expenses for their August 1-5 event
- ▶ Hartland Legion – \$2,500 for their roof repair project
- ▶ Triple C Rec Centre – \$4,000 towards the repair of their driveway
- ▶ Waterville Community Centre – \$4,000 to assist with operating expenses
- ▶ Coldstream Women's Institute – \$1,000 to assist with operating expenses

These organizations provide invaluable services to our community, and we're so thankful for all the incredible work they do!

For more information about Hartland's Municipal Grant Program, please visit our website at <https://townofhartland.ca/p/bylaws>, select Policies from the list, and then click P-015 Municipal Grant Policy.



*Triple C Rec Centre*



*Heartland Culture on the Green*

## Newly Branded Signage Unveiled



As part of Hartland's ongoing rebranding project, exciting changes have happened throughout the municipality. The town has installed updated "Welcome To" and wayfinding signs, designed to reflect a unified aesthetic. The new signs follow a consistent design and color scheme that align with Hartland's refreshed logo package, bringing a cohesive look to our public spaces.

These signs are strategically placed to point the way to municipal buildings, parking areas, public parks, the industrial park, and recreation facilities, enhancing both the visitor experience and local navigation.

While it was not feasible for all 35 communities

within the municipality to receive "Welcome To" signs, Hartland Council opted to install them at key entrance points along the 100-series provincial highways. Be on the lookout for these vibrant new signs in Lower Brighton, Upper Brighton, Simonds, Somerville, Victoria Corner, Coldstream, Cloverdale, and Waterville.

The existing Hartland sign in the grass median by the library was also replaced to coordinate with this updated signage. This exciting project was made possible with funding from the provincial government. Watch for these fresh additions as they help guide residents and visitors through Hartland's vibrant community.





# New Community Centre Opens Doors

After 57 years of memories and countless games, Hartland's beloved arena, affectionately known as "The Barn," has closed its doors. Built in 1967, The Barn earned its nickname from its bone-chilling temperatures that everyone in town remembers. For generations, the old arena was the heart of Hartland's sports scene, providing a place where the community gathered for hockey, skating, and special events. Though it was time to say goodbye, the legacy of The Barn will live on in Hartland's history.

On Friday, November 15, Hartland welcomed the future with the opening of the long-awaited Day & Ross Community Centre. The new facility, designed to meet the growing needs of the community, includes an ice surface, walking track, community room, community kitchen, and fitness room. These additions will serve as a modern hub for sports, fitness, and gatherings, reflecting Hartland's commitment to providing top-notch amenities for residents of all ages.

Excitement filled the air as the doors to the complex officially opened to the public. Hundreds of locals and visitors streamed through the upper and lower entrances, eager to explore the new space. From hockey games to family skating sessions, the facility came alive with activity. Many stopped by on opening weekend to marvel at the features that will benefit the town for years to come.

Included in the action was the Huskies Grill, operated by Perry and Rebecca Phetvongkhem. They're returning faces in the local hockey scene, having operated the grill during the final season of the old arena. It was only fitting that they continued their role in the new complex, serving up delicious food and keeping the crowd well-fed during the opening weekend festivities.

The highlight of the weekend was the opening Huskies game. An estimated 800 people filled the bleachers and lined the walking track to witness the historic kick-off of the building, and cheer on their hometown Huskies as they faced off against Nackawic Nighthawks.

Before the game officially began, a brief ceremonial puck drop included a few of the people who had been involved in fulfilling the dream of a new Hartland arena. The moment marked not only the opening of the ice surface but also the beginning of a new chapter for the Hartland community.

Hartland Mayor Tracey DeMerchant sang a heartfelt rendition of O Canada. The sense of pride in the new arena and the continued support for local sports was palpable.

The puck drop was met with applause and

excitement as the first game on the new rink got underway.

Though the November 15 opening was considered a "soft" launch, it was a memorable start to what will be a busy season at the complex. Hockey games, recreational skating, and fitness activities are scheduled, and the new facility has quickly become a popular destination for residents of all ages. Its modern design and multifunctional spaces make it an ideal venue for both sporting events and community gatherings.

As the weekend wrapped up, the consensus was clear: Hartland's Day & Ross Community Centre is a hit. The new arena has successfully blended the nostalgia of The Barn with the needs of a growing and vibrant community. Families and individuals of all ages are already making it a part of their routines, whether they're hitting the ice or enjoying a few laps around the track.

Looking ahead, the town has big plans for the Community Centre. An official Grand Opening is in the works for 2025, promising even more excitement and events as the facility reaches its full potential. With the arena now open, the future of Hartland's recreational and community life looks brighter than ever.

As Hartland moves forward with this new chapter, the Day & Ross Community Centre stands as a testament to the town's dedication to providing a space where everyone can come together. From hockey fans to fitness enthusiasts, this new facility is truly for everyone in the community.



*L-R: Tina Pelkey, Ken Seeley, Melanie Clark, Travis Dickinson, Mayor Tracey DeMerchant, Matthew Sheen, Ken Harding, Kent Kuhn, Murray Dickinson, Hartland Huskies Captain Parker McLean, Nackawic Nighthawks Captain Jonathan O'Grady*



# Explore Hartland's New Community Hub

## A Virtual Tour of the Day & Ross Community Centre



Step inside Hartland's new Day & Ross Community Centre and take a virtual stroll through the facility.

As you enter through the main doors, you'll find yourself in a spacious and welcoming lobby. This lobby area is more than just an entrance—it serves as a dynamic gathering space, with monitors displaying upcoming events, activities, and programs that the Complex has to offer.

To your right, the canteen offers a convenient spot for grabbing a bite to eat. Ample seating is available with views onto the walking track and ice surface below.

The lobby doubles as a dining and social space, ideal for meeting friends, fueling up before a game, or simply enjoying the lively atmosphere of the Centre. Its design fosters a sense of community, making it the perfect spot to connect with neighbors and fellow attendees before heading to your chosen activity. Whether it's a casual meal at the canteen or catching up on local news and events on the monitors, the lobby sets the tone for an engaging visit.

Continuing past the canteen, you'll find the elevator that provides access to the first-floor amenities, ensuring that the entire facility is accessible to all. The thoughtful design of the Complex ensures everyone can easily navigate

between the different areas, making it a truly inclusive space for the Hartland community.

As you pass through the doors into the arena, the grandeur of the space comes into view. Here, you'll step onto a walking track that surrounds the ice surface, making it accessible for year-round use. Whether you're a fitness enthusiast or just looking for a relaxing walk, the track is just looking for a relaxing walk, the track is perfect—5.6 laps around it is equivalent to walking one kilometer. Its placement around the arena allows you to enjoy the atmosphere of the games or events taking place while getting your steps in.

Heading to the left side of the track will bring you to the bleacher seating area, where fans can enjoy a clear view of the ice. The bleachers are designed to give spectators an ideal vantage point for hockey games, figure skating events, and more. It's the perfect place to gather with friends and family and cheer on your team.

At the back of the building, the Community Room, Community Kitchen, and Fitness Room offer even more ways to engage. The Community Room, with its ample space, is ideal for meetings, workshops, or group gatherings. This versatile space can be transformed to suit various needs, making it perfect for both formal events and casual get-togethers.





# Explore Hartland's New Community Hub

## A Virtual Tour of the Day & Ross Community Centre (con't)

Adjacent to the Community Room is the fully equipped Community Kitchen, which will serve as a hub for food preparation during events. Whether it's preparing meals for meetings or hosting cooking classes, the kitchen is set to be a vital part of the Centre's offerings. Its modern design makes it an ideal space for culinary-related events or simply providing refreshments for groups using the Community Room.

For those looking to stay active, the Fitness Room at the Centre is convenient. This bright and welcoming space will host yoga and small cardio classes, as well as offering free weights for independent workouts. It's a versatile fitness area that caters to a variety of wellness goals, ensuring there's something for everyone, whether you're new to exercise or a seasoned athlete.

At the far end of the arena hangs the bright and colourful scoreboard, marking the center of action for all ice-related activities. The arena is set to host a range of sporting events, from local hockey games to skating programs, providing a home for Hartland's athletes and fans alike. With its modern features and community-oriented design, this space is sure to become a cornerstone of Hartland's sports culture.

The facility will be open from 8am to 8pm weekdays, and 9am to 8pm on weekends. These

hours ensure ample time for public access, whether you're attending a game, taking a fitness class, or enjoying the walking track. Once the ice is removed in the spring, the facility's hours will be re-evaluated to best meet the needs of the community during the warmer months.

Hartland's new Day & Ross Community Centre is more than just a facility—it's a vibrant hub where the entire community can gather, stay active, and connect. Whether you're here for a game, a meeting, an indoor walk, or a fitness class, this space has been designed with you in mind.

We invite you to explore the Day & Ross Community Centre in person and discover all it has to offer!





# Town Switches Notification Systems

## BOIL ORDER ALERT

Hartland is thrilled to announce an upgrade to our notification system! We're transitioning to a new provider, SimplyCast, bringing fresh features to keep you connected—all at a significantly lower cost than our previous provider. If you're already signed up for notices, you'll be automatically added to the new system, so no need to sign up again.

With SimplyCast, email subscribers will enjoy enhanced features, including formatted messages

with photos and customized layouts, making notifications not only informative but visually engaging. These “fancier” emails are perfect for upcoming events, community updates, and other news. For emergency or urgent notices, we'll continue to send quick, unformatted messages, so you'll get critical information in real time.

Not online? No problem! You can still receive phone notifications, where an automated voice will read the message aloud, which ensures that everyone can stay informed.

If you're new to our system, signing up is simple. Visit [www.townofhartland.com](http://www.townofhartland.com) and click the Notification System link under Latest Notices on the homepage, or call us at 506-375-4357, extension 211, with your name and details of your preferred way of receiving notices.

With SimplyCast, Hartland is able to provide you with a more advanced, cost-effective system to keep you informed and connected with ease.



## Haunted Trail was a Spooky Good Time



On Saturday, October 26, Hartland hosted its Haunted Trail event behind the Tracey Ballfield, right next to the Central Carleton Community Complex, and it was a fantastic success with over 100 spooky visitors.

A special thanks to Valufoods, Freshmart, M&A Automotive, BMR, Nevers Pharmacy, and Pharmacy For Life for their generous candy donations, which brought smiles to every trick-or-treater.

The night wouldn't have been the same without the thrilling scares from our Hartland Huskies Hockey monsters, who truly brought the spook factor up a notch.

Kids came dressed in their favorite costumes, exploring the trail filled with spooky surprises. Early in the evening, the trail was set up with a less-scary approach for our younger or more timid visitors, ensuring everyone could join in the fun without too many frights!

A big thank you to Ricky Springer for providing hay bales, Hunter Brothers for the corn stalks, and to Kathy Hawkes-Trecartin for the incredible decorations that set the perfect eerie atmosphere. Community support like this is what makes events like the Haunted Trail possible and shows the strength of our Hartland spirit. Thank you all for making Halloween so memorable!







# Honouring our Veterans

Every year on November 11, Canadians come together for Remembrance Day to honor the sacrifices made by veterans and active military personnel who have served our country. This solemn day marks the end of World War I in 1918, with the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month signifying a collective moment of silence observed across the nation. It is a time for reflection, unity, and gratitude, reminding us that the freedoms we cherish today were secured through the bravery and dedication of those who served in times of war and conflict.

Remembrance Day is not just about reflecting on history; it is about fostering a continued commitment to peace. Across Canada, ceremonies are held in communities large and small, featuring poignant recitations of "In Flanders Fields," wreath-laying at war memorials, and the playing of "The Last Post." These traditions help instill a sense of collective memory, emphasizing the importance of understanding our shared past and ensuring that younger generations grasp the profound cost of war. The sight of veterans standing alongside families, schools, and community leaders serves as a poignant reminder of their courage and resilience.

In Hartland, the dedication to remembrance is

exemplified by the thoughtful efforts of Gloria Foster. She coordinated the display of veteran banners throughout downtown, a moving tribute that highlights the town's deep respect for its heroes. These banners are displayed in the windows of many businesses, including the Hartland Town Office, Courtyard Developments, Courtyard BMR, Hartland Freshmart, Nevers Pharmacy, Dr. Walter Chestnut Library, Day & Ross Head Office, Hartland Valufoods, Pharmacy for Life, M&A Automotive, and RL Auto Service. This strategic placement not only honors those who served but also protects the banners from the elements, helping to preserve them and ensuring they remain in good shape.

These banners add a personal touch to Hartland's commemoration, making it a community-wide effort to recognize the bravery and dedication of veterans. Residents and visitors alike are reminded of the significant contributions made by local and national heroes as they walk through the town.

Observing Remembrance Day, whether by wearing a poppy, attending ceremonies, or pausing for a moment of reflection, is a collective act of gratitude. It unites Canadians in remembering and appreciating the sacrifices made, ensuring their legacy is carried forward every day.





# Stay Active this Winter

Winter is here, and Hartland Recreation has plenty of activities to keep you moving and having fun! On Wednesday afternoons, seniors can join a card group at the Day & Ross Community Centre from 1:30–3:30 PM to play Tough 13, a simple and enjoyable game for all experience levels. Sessions are held in the Community Room or Fitness Room on the upper level. To avoid stairs, park at the main entrance.



Public Skating at the Day & Ross Community Centre is a family-friendly activity every Friday from 5:30–6:30 PM, Saturday 6:45–7:45 PM, and Tuesdays and Thursdays from noon–1 PM. The cost is just \$2 per person, so bring the entire gang! Simply enter through the lower-level Player's Entrance and get ready to enjoy a great time on the ice.

For a mix of fun and moderate exercise, try pickleball at Hartland Community School on Sundays from 6:30–8:30 PM. This social and friendly game is perfect for all ages and skill levels. Admission is \$5, and it's a great way to learn the rules, improve your game, and meet new people in the community.

Lots more programs are in the works, so follow Hartland Recreation on Facebook for the latest news. Let's make this winter an active and enjoyable one together!



## Recycle Your Christmas Tree

When the holiday season wraps up, don't forget to recycle your Christmas tree! From December 26 to January 15, you can drop off your tree at convenient locations throughout the region to be chipped. Just make sure to remove all nails, wires, and decorations before drop-off!

Participating locations include the gravel lot behind the Tourist Bureau in Hartland, behind the NBCC in Woodstock, by the Shiktehawk Walking Trail in Florenceville-Bristol, and more.

Help keep our environment clean by giving your tree a second life as mulch! For more information, contact the Western Valley Regional Service Commission or visit their Facebook page.

[www.facebook.com/regionalservicecommission12](http://www.facebook.com/regionalservicecommission12)

(506) 276-3610 ext 201

[recycle@rsc12.ca](mailto:recycle@rsc12.ca)

# The Stokoe and Sullivan Podcast

Since September, Hartland's dynamic Recreation Coordinators, Dana Stokoe and Sean Sullivan, have been delivering a fresh and engaging way to stay connected with the community through their podcast, *We've Got You Covered with Stokoe and Sullivan*. Airing every Monday, this podcast is a must-listen for anyone looking to keep up with local events, activities, and everything happening in the town's recreation scene.

Hosted on YouTube, *Stokoe and Sullivan* gives listeners a fun, laid-back way to catch up on upcoming programming, important dates, and the latest news in Hartland's recreational world.

No matter if you're a sports enthusiast or simply want to know what family-friendly activities are coming up, Dana and Sean have got you covered.

In addition to keeping the community informed about what's coming up, the podcast also highlights the outcomes of the previous week's games and activities. If you missed the big game or couldn't attend the latest town event, tune in to hear about the key moments and standout performances.

One of the highlights of the show is the trivia segment, where listeners can test their knowledge on a range of fun, recreation-related topics.

Whether it's local sports history or general fun facts about Hartland, the trivia adds an interactive twist to the podcast, making it both informative and entertaining.

Special guests also make appearances on the podcast, adding a fresh perspective to each episode. From local athletes to event organizers, you never know who might pop up to share their experiences or discuss exciting upcoming events. Watch for these engaging conversations, and maybe even pick up some insider tips for participating in future activities!

The podcast is available to view on YouTube, where you can catch up on past episodes. You can find all previous broadcasts by visiting [Hartland Rec's YouTube Channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...) and be sure to hit subscribe so you never miss an update from Dana and Sean.

Interested in being featured as a guest on the podcast? Dana and Sean are always looking for passionate community members to join them on the show! Whether you're involved in sports, arts, or community projects, they'd love to hear from you. Reach out via email to get involved.

Stay tuned each week for the latest updates, some laughs, and a good time with *We've Got You Covered with Stokoe and Sullivan*!

[www.youtube.com/@HartlandRec/videos](https://www.youtube.com/@HartlandRec/videos)

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