



The Corporation of the Township
of Stirling-Rawdon
PO Box 40, 2529 Stirling-
Marmora Road, Stirling, Ontario
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(613) 395-3380



2026 Municipal Election Candidate Information May 1, 2026

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Section A: Introduction

Thank you for your interest in serving the public as part of Municipal Council!

Serving the public as an elected official requires a four-year commitment of considerable time and energy. You are getting ready to embark on a journey that will be both rewarding and frustrating. If you are a first-time candidate, you will find running for office to be a challenging and exciting experience. We hope that with this package, your journey through the election process will be made a little easier.

The [Municipal Elections Act, 1996](#) sets out in detail the requirements to be met by candidates for office. These requirements have been summarized for your convenience. We urge you to obtain your own updated copy of the Municipal Elections Act which can be downloaded from the [Province of Ontario E-Laws](#) website.

It is most important to note that the contents of this package are intended only as a guide to certain provisions of relevant legislation and do not purport to recite all applicable statutory references. Prospective candidates must satisfy themselves through their own determination that they have complied with the election financing regulations and that they are in fact qualified to vote and run for office.

As this election year progresses, additional information will be available regarding the specifics of the election process. We will be providing you with this information as it becomes available. You are advised to read the enclosed material carefully. It is important that you are aware of your responsibilities as a candidate. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have.

Best wishes for a successful campaign and please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions.

Becky O'Hara

Becky O'Hara, Clerk
(613) 395-3380 ext. 2224
clerk@stirling-rawdon.com

Sydney Dodson

Sydney Dodson, Deputy Clerk
(613) 395-3380 ext. 2221
deputy-clerk@stirling-rawdon.com

Section B: Frequently Asked Questions

Key Dates

Date	Description
May 1, 2026	Nominations open on Friday, May 1 st
August 21, 2026	Nomination Day Nominations accepted on Friday, August 21 st from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
August 24, 2026	Nominations to be certified or rejected by the Clerk List of Candidates posted by 4:00 p.m.
October 16, 2026, to October 26, 2026	Advance Voting Days Friday, October 16 th at 10:00 a.m. to Monday, October 26 th at 8:00 p.m.
October 23, 2026	Final day to register as 3 rd party advertiser
October 26, 2026	Voting / Election Day
October 28, 2026	Declaration of Official Results
November 14, 2026	2022-2026 Term of Council Ends
November 15, 2026	2026-2030 Term of Council Begins

What is the Term of Office?

The term of the Township of Stirling-Rawdon Municipal Council will be four years, commencing from November 15, 2026 and ending November 14, 2030.

Who can be a candidate?

Any person who is qualified to be a voter in the Township of Stirling-Rawdon's 2026 Municipal Election is also eligible to be a candidate.

To qualify, you must be, on the day that you file your nomination:

- A Canadian Citizen
- At least 18 years old

- A resident of the Township of Stirling-Rawdon, or an owner or tenant of land in the Township of Stirling-Rawdon, or the spouse or same sex partner of such an owner or tenant
- Not prohibited from voting by law

A candidate for School Board Trustee must reside within the Board area and be a supporter of that Board.

Please note that if you were a candidate in the 2022 Municipal Election and failed to file a financial statement, you are ineligible to be elected or appointed to any office, until the 2030 Municipal Election.

What offices are to be elected?

The offices to be elected are:

- Mayor (one) (Note: member of Council for Hastings County)
- Councillor Ward 1 (two)
- Councillor Ward 2 (two)

When can interested candidates file their nomination paperwork?

Individuals can file their nomination paperwork beginning on Friday, May 1, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. and up until Friday, August 21, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.

Is it possible to file your nomination online?

No. Candidates must file their nomination papers in-person or by an agent, by appointment.

What do I need to file my nomination paperwork?

The nomination must be completed in full and filed in person by the candidate and include:

- Form 1 – Nomination of Candidate
- 25 endorsement signatures on the prescribed form (Form 2 – Endorsement of Nominations) who are eligible to vote in the Township
- Nomination Filing Fee to be paid by cash, debit card, certified cheque or money order payable to the Township of Stirling-Rawdon
 - \$200 for Head of Council (Mayor)
 - \$100 for all other offices (Ward 1 or 2 Councillor)
- Photo ID or proof of identity and residence as prescribed in [O. Reg. 304/13: Voter Identification](#), as amended

How does a candidate choose which ward to run in? Do you have to live in the ward you are running for?

A candidate can run for office in the ward of their choice. You do not have to live in the same ward you are running in; however, you do have to vote from the address at which you reside. For example, if you live in Ward 2, but are running in Ward 1, you must vote in Ward 2. Ward maps are included as Appendix A.

What are the responsibilities of these offices?

The Mayor is responsible to provide leadership and act as a spokesperson to the public and work with other levels of government as well as **holding a seat with the Council of Hastings County**.

Each Ward Councillor is responsible for representing their ward on Council while also, with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, working together as a whole as the primary decision-making body for the Township.

Per Section 224 of the [Municipal Act, 2001](#), the role of Council is:

- (a) to represent the public and to consider the well-being and interests of the municipality;
- (b) to develop and evaluate the policies and programs of the municipality;
- (c) to determine which services the municipality provides;
- (d) to ensure that administrative policies, practices and procedures and controllership policies, practices and procedures are in place to implement the decisions of council;
- (d.1) to ensure the accountability and transparency of the operations of the municipality, including the activities of the senior management of the municipality;
- (e) to maintain the financial integrity of the municipality; and
- (f) to carry out the duties of council under this or any other Act.

Per Section 225 of the [Municipal Act, 2001](#), the role of Head of Council (or Mayor) is:

- (a) to act as chief executive officer of the municipality;
- (b) to preside over council meetings so that its business can be carried out efficiently and effectively;
- (c) to provide leadership to the council;

(c.1) without limiting clause (c), to provide information and recommendations to the council with respect to the role of council described in clauses 224 (d) and (d.1);

(d) to represent the municipality at official functions; and

(e) to carry out the duties of the head of council under this or any other Act.

What is the time commitment if I am elected?

A Councillor can expect to devote time for a minimum of three (3) meetings per month along with various duties on outside Committees as appointed by Council. Meetings are held generally during the day with some evening meetings.

Time commitments would include:

- Council meetings (1st & 3rd Tuesday of every month)
- Planning Advisory Committee / Committee of Adjustment meetings as required (3rd Tuesday of every month)
- Community Events (i.e., ceremonies, parades, etc.)
- Telephone calls, emails and contact with constituents
- Reading and research time

For reference, the 2026 Township of Stirling-Rawdon Council, Boards and Committees [schedule](#) has been included at the end of this package. The annual meeting schedule is subject to change to accommodate Council attendance at conferences and any Administration Office closures.

In addition to attending regular Council, Board and Committee meetings, members are required to attend meetings of other boards / committees to which they are appointed. These committees are established for a specific purpose and currently include the following:

- Building Inspection Services Board (BISB)
- By-Law Enforcement Services Board (BESB)
- Central Hastings O.P.P. Detachment Board
- Central Hastings Support Network – Transit Committee
- Committee of Adjustment (CofA)
- Crowe Valley Conservation (CVC) Authority Board

- Eastern Ontario Trails Alliance (EOTA) Board
- Joint Fire Services Board (JFSB)
- Lower Trent Region Conservation (LTC) Authority Board
- Medical Board
- Quinte Conservation (QC) Authority Board
- Stirling-Rawdon Business Improvement Area (BIA) Board of Management
- Stirling-Rawdon & District Joint Arena-Recreation Centre Management Board
- Stirling-Rawdon Public Library Board
- Stirling Festival Theatre Board
- Parks & Recreation Committee
- Planning Advisory Committee (PAC)

How do I find out what is currently going on at Council, Board and Committee meetings? How do I get my agendas?

You can access our Council, Board and Committee meetings [online](#) or watch them on our YouTube [channel](#).

The Clerk's Office provides all meeting materials electronically via email and members are expected to use their Township-provided device to access meeting agendas. Further, all members are expected to check their Township email regularly as it is the primary means of communication.

How much do the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors get paid?

The 2025 salaries for the elected positions are:

- Mayor \$19,999.98
- Deputy Mayor \$18,000.06
- Councillor \$15,000.18

The Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors also receive extended health benefits and are paid a per diem should they attend conferences, seminars or meetings for boards and committees they have been appointed to.

Can I withdraw my nomination?

Yes, the last day to withdraw a nomination is Friday, August 21, 2026 by 2:00 p.m.

When is the Inauguration of Council?

The 2026-2030 term of Council Inaugural meeting will be held on Monday, November 16, 2026.

How do I contact the Clerk's Department?

For more information on all election matters, please contact the Township of Stirling-Rawdon Clerk's Department at 613-395-3380 extension 2234 or clerk@stirling-rawdon.com. You can also book an appointment with the Clerk's Department by clicking [here](#).

Section C: General Election Information

Use of Township Logo and Corporate Resources

Use of any corporate Township logo, crest, or images by candidates on signs, brochures, social media, websites, or any other election-related material is strictly prohibited. Please reference the [Use of Corporate Resources for Election Purposes Policy By-Law 24-2026](#) for clarification regarding the use of other municipal facilities and resources.

Enumeration

Enumeration and the Preliminary List of Electors is prepared by Elections Ontario and contains the names and addresses and school support of each person who meets the qualifications of an elector. Electors can check whether or not they are on the Voters' List online through RegisterToVoteON.ca

The Voters' List will be available to candidates on September 1, 2026 on request. Candidates are only provided access to a copy of the part of the Voters' List that contains the name of electors who are entitled to vote for the office for which they have filed nomination papers.

Revision to the Voters' List

Applications for revisions, changes and additions to the Voters' List will be accepted by the Clerk commencing on September 1, 2026 and ending at 8:00 p.m. on October 26, 2026 (Election Day) at the Municipal Office.

Proxy Voting

As the Township of Stirling-Rawdon is providing an alternative voting method, being online voting, there will be **no proxy votes**.

2026 Voting Method

The Township of Stirling-Rawdon is using a combination of Internet and Telephone Voting for the 2026 Municipal Election.

Additional information on the voting method, including detailed elections procedures will be made available for electors and candidates throughout 2026.

Certification of Nominations by Clerk

Section 35 of the [Municipal Elections Act, 1996](#) states:

- 1) The Clerk shall examine each nomination that has been filed, in accordance with the following timetable:
 - i. All nominations filed on or before Nomination Day shall be examined before 4:00 p.m. on the Monday following Nomination Day.
 - ii. All additional nominations filed under subsection 33 (5) shall be examined before 4:00 p.m. on the Thursday following Nomination Day.
- 2) If satisfied that a person is qualified to be nominated and that the nomination complies with this Act (Municipal Elections Act, 1996), the Clerk shall certify the nomination by signing the nomination paper.
- 3) If not satisfied that a person is qualified to be nominated or that the nomination complies with this Act, the Clerk shall reject the nomination.
- 4) When the Clerk rejects a nomination, he or she shall, as soon as possible, give notice of the fact to the person who sought to be nominated and to all candidates for the office.
- 5) The Clerk's decision to certify or reject a nomination is final.

Note: It is the responsibility of the candidate to ensure they meet all the qualifications and file proper nomination papers. Each candidate should contact the Clerk to ensure that their Nomination Forms are in order.

Section D: Election Financial Responsibilities

The [Municipal Elections Act, 1996](#) imposes limitations on the expenses for candidates in municipal elections and also imposes requirements on the candidate to report the contributions received and the funds expended.

Detailed information on campaign finances, reporting, contributions, and expenses may be found within the [Province of Ontario Candidate Information Guide](#).

Candidates are encouraged to reference the [Municipal Elections Act, 1996](#) for the exact details.

When may a candidate conduct fundraising and incur campaign expenses?

The candidate may incur campaign expenses and may accept donations starting on the day they file their Nomination Form.

What limits are there on campaign spending?

A preliminary maximum campaign expense limit will be provided to the candidate when the nomination is filed.

For reference only, the 2022 maximum spending limits were:

Mayor	\$11,126.95
Ward 1 Councillor	\$7,200.65
Ward 2 Councillor	\$6,426.30

An Interim Certificate of Maximum Expenses will be issued upon filing of nominations.

A Certificate of Maximum Campaign Spending Limits will be issued to candidates by September 30, 2026.

A letter has been enclosed in this package for candidates to take to their banking institution to assist in the creation of their campaign bank account (Appendix B).

Financial Reporting Requirements

On or before March 30, 2027, each candidate shall file the necessary financial reports with the Clerk.

Compliance Audits

Per Section 88.33 of the [Municipal Elections Act, 1996](#) any elector may apply to the Clerk of the municipality or the secretary of a local board, in writing, for a compliance audit of the campaign of any candidate within ninety (90) days of the filing of the financial reports of the candidate.

Within ten (10) days after receiving the application, the clerk of the municipality or the secretary of the local board, as the case may be, shall forward the application to the compliance audit committee established. Upon receipt, within thirty (30) days, the committee shall consider the application and decide whether it should be granted or rejected.

Section E: Election Signs

The Township of Stirling-Rawdon has rules and regulations regarding the use and placement of election signs within the municipality.

A copy of the Township's Sign By-Law [606-07](#) is included in the Nomination Package for reference.

Signs may not be erected prior to the date set out in the [Sign By-Law 606-07](#).

Private Property

Election signs shall not be erected on private property without the owner's consent and shall have a maximum sign area not exceeding 3.0 square metres.

Public Property

Election signs are prohibited on public property, but are permitted on Township road allowances except:

- on the travelled portions of road allowances;
- within 1.5 metres of the travelled portions of road allowances; and
- within 15.0 metres of any intersection.

Election signs on public property shall be affixed to the ground and shall not be nailed or fastened in any way to a utility pole, traffic control sign or device or tree.

Please refer to Section 7.6 of the Township of Stirling-Rawdon's Sign By-Law 606-07 linked [here](#).

Signs erected in contravention of the Township's Sign By-Law [606-07](#) may be removed by Township staff and stored at the Works Yard located at 2529 Stirling-Marmora Road, Stirling ON.

Section F: Prohibition of Canvassing in Voting Places

Electioneering or campaigning in any nature is strictly prohibited and is not permitted on any premise used as a voting place. This premise includes the entire building and the property on which it is located.

Section 48 of the [Municipal Elections Act, 1996](#) provides as follows:

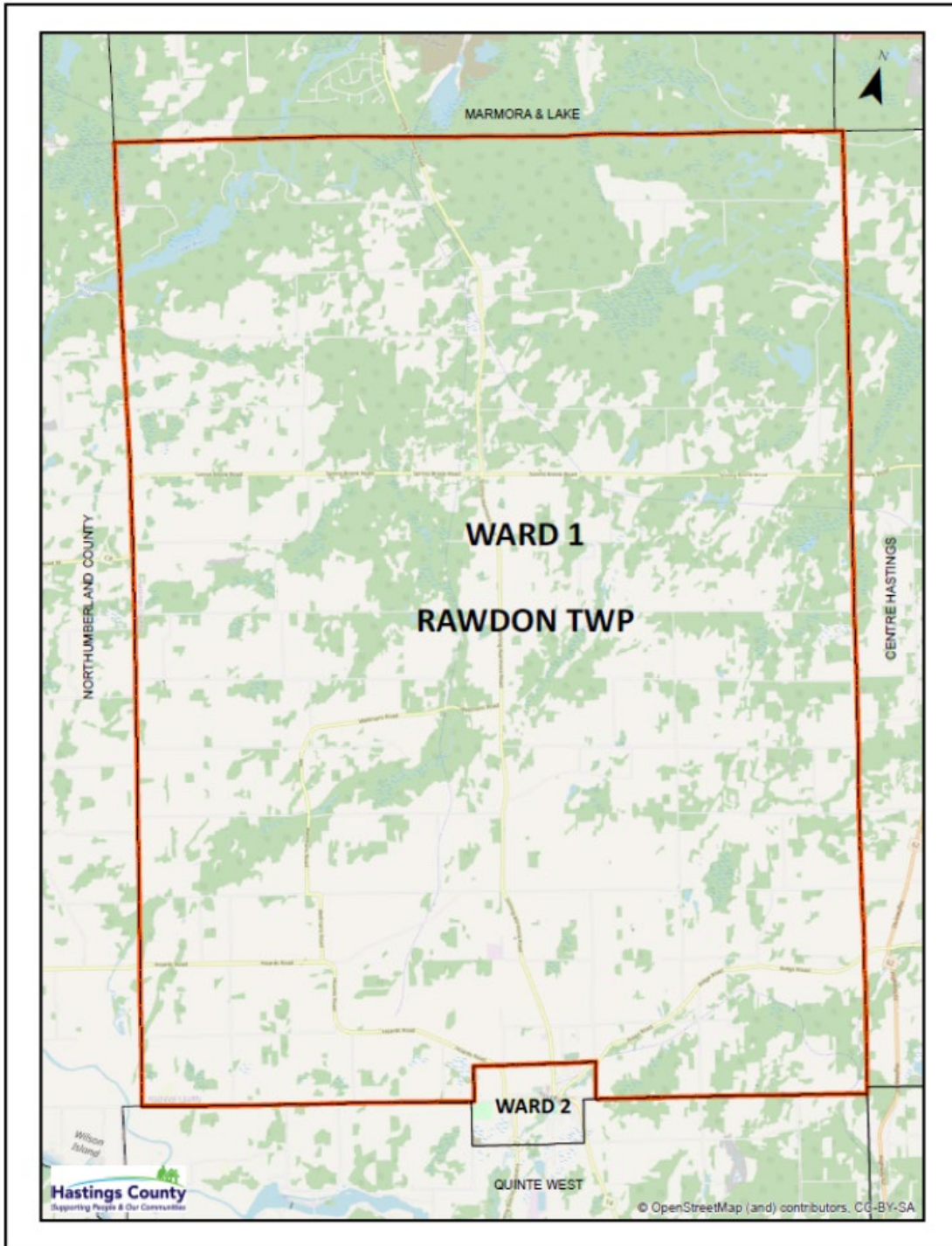
- 1) While an elector is in a voting place, no person shall attempt, directly or indirectly, to influence how the elector votes.

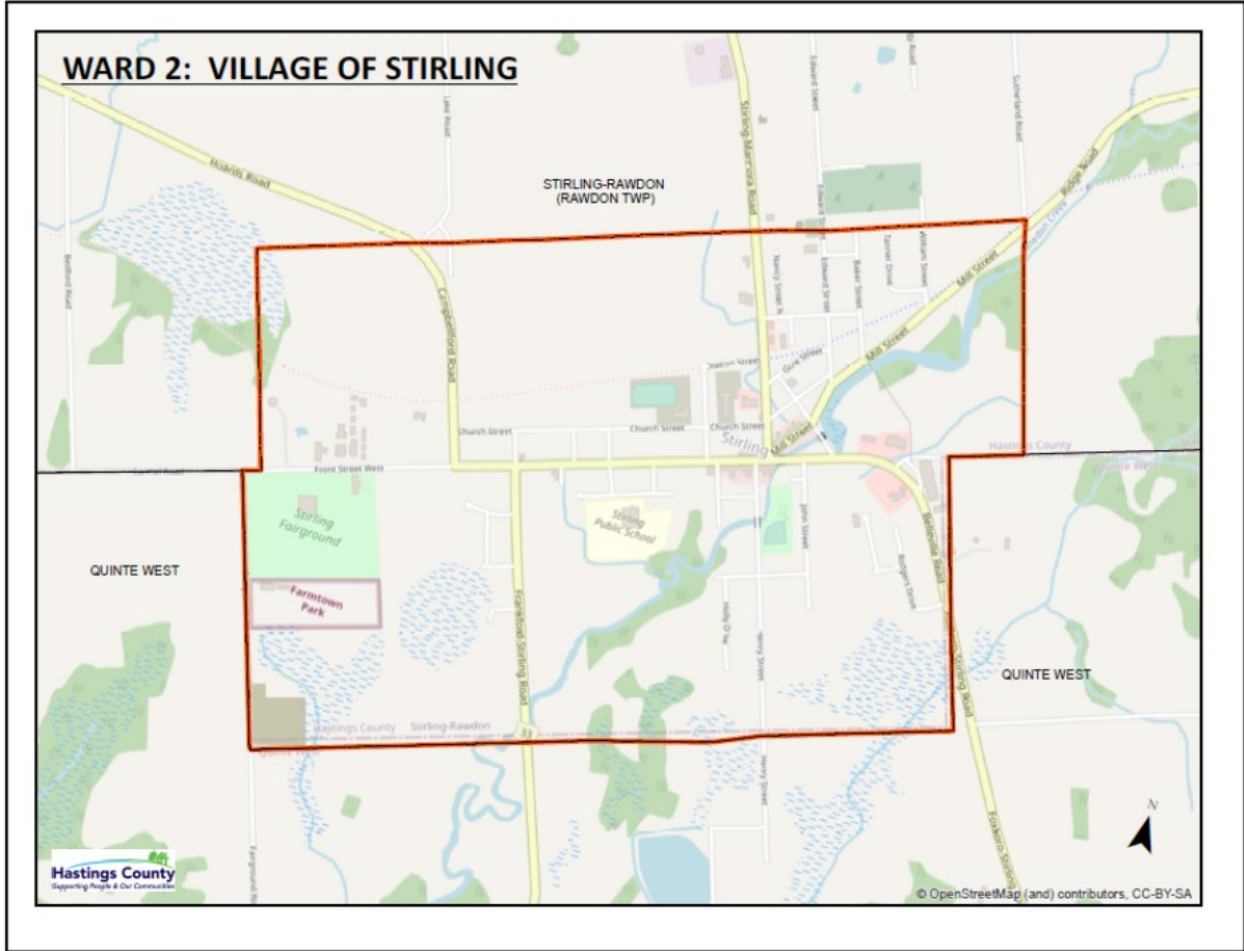
2) Without limiting the generality of subsection (1), no person shall display a candidate's election campaign material or literature in a voting place.

3) For the purpose of this section, 'voting place' includes any place in the immediate vicinity of the voting place designated by the Clerk.

Deputy Returning Officers and Election Officials will be instructed to remove any election campaign material or literature of any nature. The decision of the Deputy Returning Officer is final.

Appendix A: Ward Maps





Appendix B: Letter to Banking Institution



Municipal Campaign Account Municipal Elections Act, 1996 (MEA)

2026 Municipal Election Township of Stirling-Rawdon

Name: _____

As of _____, 2026

The above noted is a candidate or registered third party for the Township of Stirling-Rawdon and is required to have a campaign account in accordance with the following subsections of the MEA:

Section 88.22 (1) Duties of candidates
and
Section 88.26 (1) Duties of registered third parties

The MEA does not contain any prohibition against a candidate or registered third party from being signing officer on the campaign account, nor does it require a candidate or a registered third party to have a chief financial officer, as in the case with provincial or federal candidates.

Dated this 1st day of May, 2026

Becky O'Hara, Clerk
(613) 395-3380 ext. 2234
clerk@stirling-rawdon.com

Appendix C: 2026 Schedule of Council, Board and Committee Meetings

2026



JANUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

FEBRUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

MARCH

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

APRIL

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

MAY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

JUNE

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

JULY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

AUGUST

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

OCTOBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

NOVEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

DECEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Legend

- Council - 1st Tuesday @ 10:00 a.m.
- Council - 3rd Tuesday @ 5:30 p.m.
- Parks & Recreation Committee @ 5:00 p.m.
- Library Board @ 6:00 p.m. (at the Library)
- Arena Board @ 4:00 p.m.
- Conferences of Municipal Importance
- Medical Board @ 2:00 p.m.
- Building Inspection Services Board (BISB) / By-Law Enforcement Services Board (BESB) @ 1:30 p.m.
- Planning Advisory Committee / Committee of Adjustment (as needed) @ 6:00 p.m.
- Joint Fire Services Board (JFSB) @ 10:00 a.m. (at Tweed Municipal Office)
- Central Hastings O.P.P. Detachment Board @ 9:00 a.m. (at Centre Hastings Council Chambers)
- 2026-2030 Term of Council Commences
- 2022-2026 Term of Council Ends
- Statutory / Public Holiday & Remembrance Day
- Election / Voting Day
- Inaugural Council Meeting
- Council Orientation / On-Boarding (tentative)

