

2026 NEWSLETTER

Township of Cockburn Island

YOUR MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Brenda Jones, Mayor 705-542-8093

Lee Chappell 587-226-9316

Simon Lacombe 819-210-9581

Jeff House

519-428-9313

Scott Stewart

705- 989-5876

COUNCIL MEETINGS are usually held on the second Wednesday of each month by Zoom online starting at 5:00 PM. Email the Clerk if you want to join the meeting as an observer. The August Civic Holiday meeting is an in-person meeting on the island on Saturday morning with Zoom available.

Effective as of April 30th Brent St. Denis has retired and the **new Clerk-Treasurer is Lynn Jackes** of Manitoulin Island. We wish Brent the best of health and success on his future endeavours and we welcome Lynn aboard to administer the Council and business affairs of our special community. Her contact information is below.

CONTACTING THE CLERK-TREASURER

Lynn Jackes by phone at **519-270-5230** or at

cockburnislandclerk@gmail.com or by regular mail

Cockburn Island Twp, 172 Bell Rd., Evansville, ON,
Canada P0P 1E0



MAIL-IN VOTING FOR FALL 2026 TOWNSHIP ELECTION - the township will again use a mail-in voting system for the fall municipal election. Each qualified ratepayer who wishes to vote must complete Mail-In Ballot application and send it to the Clerk-Treasurer by email or regular mail before the deadline later this year in the fall. The downloadable application form and details will be on the township website. As per past practice ballots will only be sent to those who have applied and who qualify (Canadian citizen, 18 years of age or older on polling day October 26th and the owner (solely or jointly) or spouse or tenant of island property.

GENERAL CONTRACTOR - To contact Cockburn Island Logging (CIL) for work, gravel etc. contact Scott Richards at 705-971-5168. To contact township Public Works, call Darren at 705-842-7679 or text/call PW Supervisor Scott Stewart (705- 989-5876) or email Scott at sscott012001@sympatico.ca. CIL will again provide general contracting services to the township.

BUDGET 2026 AND TAXES Council has approved a 2026 tax rate increase of 2% to partially account for 2025-26 inflation. Fees for docking and general services have also been raised by 2%. Feel free to ask the Clerk-Treasurer about the 2026 municipal budget. The budget bylaw is on the township website or you can receive a copy by email upon request including rates for docking and various services.

NOTICE 2026 DOCK PARKING - Parking Lot Maintenance - all vehicles must be removed from the parking lot from July 1 to July 31 to allow for maintenance equipment access and operation. You will be asked to provide your vehicle and contact information to assist in this effort. Vehicles not removed by June 30 may be relocated by the Township to your property or other location **AT YOUR RISK AND EXPENSE** including that the township will not assume responsibility for any vehicle damage if the township must remove your vehicle. Your cooperation is appreciated.

COCKBURN ISLAND DOCKMASTER – Beverley (Bev) House will again be our Dockmaster at the municipal marina. Please welcome her when you see her this summer.

ISLAND ROADS ARE SEASONAL – just a reminder that the township does not maintain the island roads during the period from late November to early May while the Public Works crew is typically off for the "winter" season. In particular no snowplowing. Road use is therefore at Your Own Risk.

ISLAND WEATHER STATION – here's the link for real-time local conditions.
<http://tempestwx.com/station/178158>

STREETLIGHTS PROJECT – the Township Council has approved a significant improvement to the hamlet streetlights totalling about \$35,000. The improvements include new fixtures and modern lighting. The lights being replaced are in key public areas as we are not replacing all of them.

WIFI Hotspots – the township has made available 3 internet WIFI hotspots located at the Dock building, Telephone building and Community Hall. With your own personal VOIP plug-in you can also make phone calls. Your cooperation in sharing this service with others will be appreciated.

OPEN FIRES are prohibited in Public areas except Cooking Fires which are permitted in the provided fire sites.

Non-Owner Dock Parking – No Charge for one vehicle for ratepayers. Owners of vehicles, who are not property owners, must pay an annual fee of \$100 per vehicle if parking in the Dock area. Please remove your derelict vehicle(s) from the dock parking lot.

HERITAGE COMMITTEE - the Cockburn Island Heritage Committee does a terrific job hosting events, raising funds and helping to preserve our heritage buildings. Besides organizing the annual August long weekend celebration, the Committee is nearing completion of a Hall renewal project which includes the new well. The efforts of the Committee and volunteers are greatly appreciated. Let's all show our appreciation and support for their leadership and great work – the Heritage Committee Executive Committee is Chair Dwight Phillips, Secretary Dave Hale, Treasurer Cheryl Papineau, and Bev House.



FIRE SAFETY – The Township owns a tank truck and “pack-pumps” for use in case of an emergency, **BUT** we do not have a municipal fire department. Use of any fire equipment and/or your voluntary involvement at a fire scene is **at your own risk and liability**. At your property, please have your own fire extinguishers. The

municipality and its agents cannot assume any responsibility for fires on private property. Smoke detectors and Carbon Monoxide detectors in your home are mandatory by provincial law. Several free safety pamphlets from the Fire Marshal are available. Please note that the MNR fire emergency number is 310-FIRE for fires on public and forest lands. The Township has opened road allowances around the village area to create a fire break.

The Township no longer a municipal agreement with MNR for forest fires which means that you may be held personally liable for causing a forest fire through your negligence or otherwise. **BE CAREFUL WITH OPEN FIRES—THEY ARE AT YOUR RISK AND LIABILITY.**

With the support of Ontario’s Community Emergency Grant Program (CEGP) the township is in the process of upgrading its wildland fire equipment including gas-powered water pump for remote tank filling, forest-rated fire hoses and water-packs.

MEMORIALS - Memorials (donations) may be made at times of bereavement. “Charitable receipts” suitable for income tax purposes will be issued upon request.

RECYCLING OFF ISLAND – to extend the useful life of our Township landfill you are required to take your recyclables off-island. This includes, but is not limited to, jars, bottles, cans, used engine oils, plastics and Styrofoam. The eventual replacement of the landfill will be costly and we want to protect our environment. Council has adopted a by-law to enforce the off-island removal of such items as large appliances, mattresses, furniture, derelict vehicles etc. and imposing a \$100 fee to be levied upon individual ratepayers for such items left at the landfill. A copy of the by-law is available upon request. **The Township can no longer accept tires at the landfill. Please remove your used tires from the island. To access the scrap metal bin contact Public Works.**



TOWNSHIP WEBSITE – check out the Township’s website at <https://cockburnisland.ca/> This excellent site was created by and is maintained by experienced web designer and fellow islander Justin Dzama.

DOGS - all dogs should be on a leash while you are out and about in the hamlet area. Otherwise keep unleashed dogs on your property. Please have regard for others.

CALCIUM CHLORIDE - Road calcium will be applied to the roads in the busiest traffic areas of the hamlet by the Public Works crew.

SCHOOL HOUSE



USE OF MUNICIPAL EQUIPMENT AND GARAGE – The Council has adopted the following policy – *“That Township equipment including weed-whackers, cement mixer, mowers etc. is not available for use by non-Township personnel. And further (a) that the Township garage be kept locked at all times unless open for Township use (b) access is by permission only from Darren Rogers, Alex Nicolson or a Council member...”*.

Municipal Zoning By-law (ZB) – our township is a member of the Manitoulin Planning Board. The Official Plan and Zoning Bylaw which implements the details of the Official Plan have both now been adopted by the Council. The Zoning By-law is available on the website.





