



MUNICIPALITY OF THE MONTH



April, 2014
Municipality of Hastings Highlands

Where is it?

The Municipality of Hastings Highlands is located in the County of Hastings, just south of Algonquin Park. It comprises the former geographic Townships of McClure, Wicklow, Bangor, Hershel and Monteagle.



What are the biggest attractions?

The Municipality's motto is "Beautiful by Nature" and with the proximity of Algonquin Park, eco-tourism brings people to such destinations as Algonquin Eco-Lodge, a rustic wilderness lodge near Maynooth. There are guided camping tours into Algonquin by dog sled or horseback offered by local guides such as Algonquin Wilderness Tours. Hastings Highlands is also home to a number of summer and winter events such as music festivals and the Hastings Cup snowmobile races. The historic Arlington Hotel, located at the corners of the four geographic townships of Herschel, Monteagle, Wicklow and McClure, is well known to travelers from near and far. Over the years the Arlington has played host to a wide range of music festivals from jazz to Celtic.

What makes the municipality unique?

The area is rich in natural beauty. The Group of Seven artists painted in Algonquin Park and travelled to Maynooth often. Their works depicting streetscapes and the countryside surrounding Maynooth can be seen at the McMichael Gallery. Hastings Highlands has another well-known artist, Kevin Hockley, whose studio (Hockley Studios) is known nation-wide as a source for quality natural history exhibit fabrications and wildlife sculptures.

What are the most common issues faced by the Committee of Adjustment?

The eight member Committee of Adjustment is made up of all members of Council and hears applications for Minor Variance.



New construction overlooking Baptiste Lake

The Hastings Highlands Zoning By-law, adopted in 2004, contains a 30 metre water setback. The Committee has heard a large number of applications for relief from this provision for dwellings and accessory structures. The Committee also realizes the importance of the required 15 metre vegetative buffer zone along all shorelines, and endeavours to maintain it through the planning process. Another common issue, as with all municipalities containing many lakes and rivers, is the request to exceed the maximum size of 30 sq.m. permitted for boathouses. As with all municipalities containing waterfront, the challenge to the Committee is to find the balance that permits development while protecting the natural features of the shoreline.



Hastings Highlands Centre

OACA would like to thank Cathy Bujas, Planning Secretary for the Municipality of Hastings Highlands, for submitting this material. More information about the Municipality of Hastings Highlands can be found on the Municipality's website at www.hastingshighlands.ca

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