



# MUNICIPALITY OF THE MONTH



**December, 2013**  
**The Township of Severn**

**Where is it?**

The Township of Severn is located in the County of Simcoe, north and west of the City of Orillia. It is bounded on the north by the Severn River, on the east by Lake Couchiching and on the west by Georgian Bay. Severn is a developing municipality, expected to see high population growth in the next few years.



**What are the biggest attractions?**

The Trent-Severn Waterway brings thousands of boaters through the Township each year. The Big Chute Marine Railway, the only marine railway of its type still in use in North America, carries boats over a 60 foot change in elevation, and draws tourists from all over the world.

The vibrant community of Coldwater hosts various events annually such as the Coldwater Fall Fair and the Coldwater and Area Studio Tour, which showcases the many talented local artists.



**Big Chute Marine Railway**

**What makes the municipality unique?**

The Township of Severn contains a unique mixture of agricultural land, "Muskoka" style cottage properties and fully serviced settlements such as Coldwater, Washago and Westshore.

A large part of the northern area of the Township is undeveloped Crown land, dotted with hundreds of lakes. This area is a part of "the land between", being a transition zone that lies between two ecoregions - the Canadian Shield and the St. Lawrence Lowlands. As such it is a meeting ground of species and habitats from both ecoregions resulting in high levels of biodiversity, which draws naturalists and land conservation groups to the area.

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

The Township's Committee of Adjustment, made up of five members chosen by Council from the community, hears a variety of applications for Consent and Minor Variance. Because of the diverse nature of the Township's geography, these range from farm consolidation severances to issues surrounding waterfront development. Many of the lakes in Severn Township were developed many years ago with cottages, however the current trend is towards redeveloping those cottage properties into year-round homes. The Committee is faced with maintaining a difficult balance between permitting an appropriate amount of development while still protecting the character and ecology of the shoreline.



**Township of Severn Municipal Building**

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More information about the Township of Severn can be found on the Township's website at [www.townshipofsevern.com](http://www.townshipofsevern.com).

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