

**Ontario Building Stronger Community Infrastructure in the Northeast***Provincial investments enhancing community well-being***NEWS**

May 8, 2023

**PARRY SOUND** – The Ontario government is providing more than \$5 million through the [Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation](#) (NOHFC) to 27 community infrastructure projects in Northeastern Ontario. This investment will help municipalities improve quality of life for northerners and create more social, economic and tourism opportunities in the North.

“Our government is proud to support our municipal partners with investments that make a real difference to Northeastern communities and improve the safety and well-being of residents,” said Greg Rickford, Minister of Northern Development. “Through the NOHFC, our government is providing the certainty that municipalities need to expand operations and diversify the local economy, making the North an excellent place to live, work, and play.”

The NOHFC is funding the following projects:

- \$275,420 for the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands for the purchase, delivery and installation of a new 306-foot floating dock system to upgrade the Spider Bay Marina; and \$246,694 to revitalize the Manitoulin East Municipal Airport with upgrades to their fuel systems
- \$500,000 for the City of Elliot Lake to make upgrades to the Ruben Yli-Juuti Aquatic Center such as replacing the HVAC system, boiler, dehumidifier and air conditioning
- \$500,000 for the Township of Laird to rehabilitate the Bar River Hall, with capital improvements to the community centre, including a new concrete foundation and interior and exterior renovations
- \$375,000 for the Town of Espanola to replace the arena dehumidifier (HVAC system) and to complete roof remediation at the Espanola Regional Recreation Complex
- \$300,000 for the Town of Blind River to complete refrigeration plant upgrades and equipment changes to its Community Centre/Arena, including a new electrical panel, chiller, compressors and dasher boards
- \$288,750 for the Town of Thessalon to upgrade the Thessalon Coastal Trail (TCT) to improve accessibility and function of the trail for users of all abilities

- \$250,430 for Kap Nordic Skiers – a non-profit recreational cross-country ski and snowshoe club – to purchase a new groomer to improve the club’s ability to groom and maintain its trail network
- \$223,125 for the Township of Johnson to rehabiliate the arena and community centre to ensure the building meets the safety and accessibility requirements
- \$200,000 for the Incorporated Village of Hilton Beach to renovate and repair the Hilton Beach Marina building to serve local residents and enhance the tourism industry
- \$199,200 for the Town of Gore Bay to improve the overall condition, safety and accessibility of the Harbour Centre and waterfront boardwalk
- \$180,000 for the Township of Plummer Additional to structurally improve, update and diversify the Bruce Station Hall, which operates as the community centre and municipal hub
- \$180,000 for the Municipality of Temagami to revitalize the municipal outdoor public walking and biking track
- \$173,366 for the Township of Macdonald, Meredith and Aberdeen Additional to make capital improvements to the Echo Bay Sportsplex that will allow the facility to host programming and events in the township year-round
- \$167,500 for the Township of Tehkummah for upgrades to four-kilometre Bowerman Nature Trail and John Budd Park Outdoor Pavilion area that will allow both the trail and pavilion to better serve residents and tourists
- \$167,400 for the Aweres Local Services Board to make structural improvements and renovate the Fire Hall Station to improve safety, accessibility and efficiency and help firefighters provide quality emergency services
- \$159,750 for the Township of St. Joseph to upgrade and rehabilitate the Children’s Library provide a caring and safe environment for local and visiting children to develop a sense of community and a love of reading
- \$152,102 for the Municipality of St. Charles to renovate and upgrade their community centre to ensure that the building is up to code, more efficient and can host a variety of community events
- \$150,000 for the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) for economic development initiatives, travel to enhance northeastern representation at government consultations and for the annual FONOM conference

- \$83,591 for the Municipality of Huron Shores to extend the lifespan of the historic Sowerby Hall – a unique four-season hall used for special events and activities – with facility upgrades and renovations
- \$67,500 to the Town of Blind River for a new ice re-surfacer at the Blind River Community Centre to enhance rink safety and accessibility and contribute to the active lifestyle of residents and neighbouring communities
- \$66,870 for the Township of Cockburn Island to make structural improvements and interior upgrades to its community hall, a heritage building that hosts community and special events for local residents and tourists
- \$58,500 for The Echo Bay Elks Lodge No. 535, to make capital improvements to the Elk Lodge, which functions as a community centre and provides recreational opportunities for Echo Bay and communities nearby
- \$44,218 for Local Services Board of Wharnccliffe and Kynoch to make upgrades to the Fire Hall and adjacent Community Hall, including replacing the heating systems and air conditioning, to improve operating costs and energy efficiency
- \$22,050 for the Township of Prince to replace the heating system at the Fire Hall to improve operating efficiency and reduce costs to the municipality; and \$15,255 to install eight roll-up doors at the municipal pavilion to protect the building from outside elements; and
- \$20,900 for the Blind River Curling Club to finish replacing a 30-year-old ice plant compressor to ensure safe operation and to and to improve the mechanical efficiency and lifespan of the ice plant.

The NOHFC promotes economic prosperity across Northern Ontario by providing financial assistance to projects—big and small, rural and urban—that stimulate growth, job creation and skills development. Since June 2018, the NOHFC has invested more than \$639 million in 5,265 projects in Northern Ontario, leveraging more than \$2 billion in investment and creating or sustaining over 8,420 jobs.

### **Quick Fact**

- The Ontario government launched [new and improved NOHFC programs](#) that support more projects in rural northern communities and make it easier for more people and businesses to apply. The programs target existing and emerging markets, provide more work opportunities for Indigenous people and address the skilled labour shortage in the North.

### **Additional Resources**

- The [NOHFC](#), [Northern Development Offices](#) and [Small Business Enterprise Centres](#) are available to support northern communities, businesses and other stakeholders in identifying economic development opportunities and assist in accessing government funding programs.

## Quotes

“For the last 43 years, the Johnson Township Community Centre has been a central part of our community, providing a meeting place, a place of play and sport, and a safe space in the event of an emergency. Support from NOHFC allows us to make necessary facility upgrades to continue providing a space for diverse events, activities, clubs and organizations within the Algoma Region and along the North Shore.” Mayor Reg McKinnon, Township of Johnson

“Blind River has rejuvenated its treasured Community Centre, thanks to funding from the NOHFC. The facility has been beautifully retrofitted with sustainable, energy-efficient updates that ensure our residents of all ages have affordable access to recreation for decades to come. We’re eager to welcome our local and regional guests back in the fall. Thank you NOHFC for rebuilding ‘The Heart of Blind River’!” – Mayor Sally Hagman, Town of Blind River

“Through the generous support from NOHFC, the Municipality of Huron Shores could make significant repairs to the Sowerby Hall, which has a rich history serving the community and people across Northern Ontario. We thank Ontario for making it possible to continue for years to come.” – Natasha Roberts, CAO and Clerk, Municipality of Huron Shores

"Over half of our member communities have a population of fewer than 1,000 people, so the annual funding we get from the NOHFC helps us be a voice for all of our members" – Danny Whalen, President, Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities

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