

Hi North Kawartha! Mayor Carolyn here with a very important video update. Today is April 4th, 2025, and it's been almost a week since we were hit by the devastating ice storm. Compounding the devastation in our region was the significant rainfall we received overnight on Wednesday which has led to fast rising water levels and flooding in many areas.

One of those areas was Jack Lake Road near Shady Lane which washed out yesterday morning. Township and County Staff responded quickly, and the road was reopened for single lane traffic last night. The repairs are continuing today to restore the full road width by end of day. County Public Works staff will monitor and maintain the gravel surface until permanent resurfacing can be scheduled.

The Municipal Office has been closed all week due to ongoing service disruptions resulting from limited internet and phone communications. However, office staff are working hard to adapt and carry on with municipal business. The best way to communicate with staff is to call the direct lines or email. Please use the Contact Us directory on our website www.northkawartha.ca for specific numbers and emails. The main office number is 656-4445.

Our Roads Department has been working tirelessly to get all our roads open to a minimum of a single lane and are currently working to restore 2 lane travel and dealing with debris removal.

Speaking of debris removal, our waste transfer sites will be accepting brush free of charge as we did during the Derecho storm of 2022. Peterborough County is also accepting brush at several of their public works depots free of charge from all county residents until April 14th.

The North Kawartha Fire Department continues to provide assistance and support responding to 911 calls, doing wellness checks, monitoring water levels and flood prone areas, and helping our roads crews to clear our roadways.

The North Kawartha Community Centre and our Public Library are operating as warming centres for folks who need it.

Peterborough County remains in a State of Emergency along with many other counties across the province. As of this morning, approximately 50% of Peterborough County residents remain without power and have limited phone, cell and internet communications. Municipal staff, hydro workers and other response organizations continue to collaborate on clean up and restoration efforts. The damage is extensive. For further details on all these efforts and available supports, please listen to local radio stations, check out the North Kawartha and Peterborough County websites and follow us on social media. We have gathered a lot of information to help people get the resources and the support that is needed right now.

Folks, this is an incredibly challenging time for all of us and I am very grateful for the dedication and hard work of township staff. They are going above and beyond to meet the needs of our community despite suffering the same hardships. Many of us remain without power, internet and phone service. I also want to extend my deep appreciation for Hydro One, which has mobilized an incredible amount of workers and resources to assist over a million Ontarians who have been impacted by the storm. Their coordination and communication with our local governments and the province has been amazing and I can't thank them enough for all their efforts. Every update that I receive from Hydro states that 'they will not stop until every customer is restored' and from what I have witnessed this past week, I know that to be true.

Please take care of yourselves and look out for each other, North Kawartha. It is kindness, understanding and working together, that will see us through this difficult time. Stay safe everyone, thank you.