

IGNACE INFO

AUGUST
2025



TOWNSHIP OF IGNACE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM MAYOR AND COUNCIL

As Mayor and Council for the Township of Ignace, we are extremely proud to launch this new look and dedicated communication newsletter "INFO IGNACE" for the residents and stakeholders of our community and others throughout our regional network.

Our message this quarter is simple: **Let's build a solid tomorrow for the citizens and youth of this community, by working together today, as a close-knit group of concerned and dedicated individuals who truly care about the wellness and future development of this Township.**

Over the course of the last year, this community has made incredible strides to advance our economic and social well-being. We should all be proud of the process that we have undertaken to become Canada's first ever site for a deep geological repository, as this has been considered by many in the nuclear industry as "trailblazing."

We will provide information to the public as we move along the project and begin to fulfill our agreement guidelines. We will be dedicating an entire page within this newsletter to the NWMO/Ignace DGR project, and residents should look to that for updates on the projects we will be engaged with over the coming year. These include Initial Project Description sessions, Centre of Expertise design and concept reviews, and the official launch of the regulatory and licensing process for the DGR project.

Far too often, we have encountered challenges in our community and Township. We have inherited some very difficult situations and circumstances from previous administrations that we have had to take on directly, including an unstable political platform and financial concerns. We have not shied away from these challenges. *Continued on page 2.*

TOWNSHIP OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY TO
THURSDAY
9:00 - 4:30

NEWS LETTER CONTENT

MESSAGE
FROM MAYOR
AND COUNCIL

BUDGET
DELIBERATION

NWMO AND
THE DGR
PROJECT

STAFF
PROFILE
HIGHLIGHTS

INFO IGNACE



LANDFILL HOURS

MONDAY
12 - 4 PM

WEDNESDAY
12 - 4 PM

SATURDAY
12 - 4 PM

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We have taken the necessary steps as a Council to correct the wrongs, improve the circumstances and move forward in a progressive and positive manner. We have taken a period of time to reflect and adjust, and now it's time to move forward and renew our friendships, relationships and reflect on the new vision for Ignace of "Building tomorrow by working together today"!

As a Council, we want you to understand this message and hear it often. Our process to bring in professional guidance, communication advice, and leadership on the NWMO project and at a Council level has paid off and we are in good hands as we transition our role into an overall governance mandate that allows our professional staff and team to carry on with their important procedural work both on Township business as well as with the DGR project.

HIRING UPDATES

We are pleased to report that we are in the process of hiring a By-law Officer/ Chief Building Official, and we will be continuing our search for a Project Lead for the NWMO project. We are seeking to expand our strong team with dedicated, experienced, and passionate individuals who will work with Council in Ignace to ensure we stay in a Governance capacity role while they undertake the important day-to-day functions of Township business and the hosting duties under our new NWMO agreement.

NEW ELECTRONIC SIGN

Over the past few months, we launched a new Electronic Sign on the arena to provide valuable information and updates to the public, and continue to welcome visitors to the area. A new policy was developed to ensure that both the Township and our local charitable and community groups all have an opportunity to provide the important public messages that we need to communicate.

2025 BUDGET

After careful deliberation and research presented by the CAO and Clerk Treasurer, Council approved the 2025 Budget at the July 7, 2025 meeting. Council approved a modest 3% increase to property tax levies to support ongoing initiatives, as well as a 10% increase to wastewater (sewer) usage rates.



MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Visit www.ignace.ca to read our press releases about these other exciting announcements:

- Township of Ignace and Kenora District Services Board Announce New Seniors Housing Project
- Ignace Recreational Centre Receives Just Under a \$1 Million for Upgrades and Enhancements
- Centre of Expertise Design/Build Concept Awarded by NWMO
- Initial Project Description Sessions for DGR Move Forward
- Recruitment Efforts for Community Engagement Committee Continue

INFO IGNACE

Ignace Welcomes Lesley Sterling – New Clerk/Treasurer

Lesley Sterling is a dynamic and experienced business professional who is excited to launch the next stage in her diverse career in the municipal sector.

As a real estate agent and the former General Manager of Northwest Community Futures Development Corporation in North Battleford, Saskatchewan, Lesley is passionate about community economic and residential development and is skilled at establishing partnerships and working collaboratively with individuals, business owners, developers, municipal administration and supporting agencies. Her attention to detail, commitment to exceptional customer service, and focus on fiscal responsibility, financial accuracy, governance transparency, legislative compliance and records management make her a fit for the Clerk/Treasurer role.

"I'm originally from a small town, and after visiting Ignace and meeting the municipal team, I felt like I had found home. Everyone I've met around town has been so welcoming, and my family and I are looking forward to making Ignace our home," stated Ms. Sterling. "I'm excited to get to know everyone and to help support the new projects that will continue to make Ignace a great place to live and work."

Originally from Vita, Manitoba, about five hours west of Ignace, Lesley is well versed in small town living. A prairie girl at heart, she strives to establish genuine relationships and develop thriving, supportive, active communities. After moving numerous times for her husband's career with the RCMP, Lesley and her family hope to make Ignace their long-term home.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

The Community Engagement Committee (CEC) undertakes specific engagement tasks directly related to the implementation of the Deep Geological Repository (DGR) project. This committee consists of representatives from NWMO, the Township, Council, and community members who are dedicated to ensuring the residents of Ignace and Northwestern Ontario are kept informed about this major development project.

The committee began meeting in mid 2025 and will continue to meet on the third Monday of each month. A recruitment process is currently underway to invite representatives to join the committee.

Meeting minutes will be posted on the town website, and anyone interested in attending, making a presentation, or providing input or feedback to the committee should contact Shelley McKay at shelley@ignace.ca or Jake Pastore at outreach@ignace.ca or by calling (807) 747-0323.



LESLEY STERLING
Clerk Treasurer
Township of Ignace



INFO IGNACE

SPRING & SUMMER 2025 INITIATIVES

Small Modular Reactor Canada Summit

The Township of Ignace participated in an important panel on community engagement and presented to over 500 municipal delegates from across Canada at the summit on March 4-5, 2025, in Sherwood Park, Alberta.

Implementation Committee Structure and Advancement

The Township has appointed the CAO and Deputy Mayor as the two Ignace representatives on the newly established Implementation Committee, alongside two NWMO Executive representatives. This committee will continue to guide the process and adhere to the Municipal Hosting Agreement between both parties.

Community Engagement Committee (CEC)

The first few meetings of the the newly established CEC took place in Ignace. Councillors Jodie Defeo and Janet Lett were appointed to the committee, and Councillor Defeo and Chantal Moore were named Co-chairs. The committee continues to seek youth representation as well as two members at large, and welcomes all applicants. A recruitment campaign continues into August. The committee will be planning Town Hall Updates for fall 2025, an NWMO and Township Community Celebration event to be held in September, and other lunch information meetings with community groups.

Ontario Good Roads Conference

The Township of Ignace was represented at the annual Good Roads conference in Toronto on March 30 - April 2, 2025 by the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and CAO. NWMO sponsored some very important sessions, and Mayor Baigrie had an opportunity to update the audience on the Deep Geological Repository (DGR) project and to introduce the NWMO keynote speaker at the conference.

Nuclear Safety Commission of Canada

Mayor Kim Baigrie, Deputy Mayor Wayne Minnear and staff members met with the Nuclear Safety Commission of Canada to begin the communication and advancement of the regulatory and licensing process around the DGR project.

Canadian Nuclear Association Annual Conference

The Annual Canadian Nuclear Association National Conference was held in Ottawa on April 15 - 17, 2025, and the Township of Ignace was once again represented by the Mayor, CAO, Deputy Mayor and Project Lead at this critical networking session with world leaders in the nuclear industry, including municipal partners and communities in Canada.

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MORE SPRING & SUMMER 2025 INITIATIVES

Community Open House - Deep Geological Repository (DGR) Project

A variety of agencies including the Township of Ignace held a Public Open House on May 13, 2025, at the Recreational Centre in Ignace. The event was attended by the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO), the Nuclear Safety Commission of Canada, Impact Assessment Canada, the Township of Ignace and other stakeholders. This unique opportunity gave concerned citizens more information on upcoming events and activities related to the long-term DGR project and the NWMO Centre of Expertise to be built in Ignace in the near future.

Indigenous Corporate Training

On May 21 - 22, 2025, Township of Ignace Council, staff and committee members participated in two half-day sessions to receive Indigenous Corporate Training to advance networking and reconciliation understanding with members of First Nations communities in Northwestern Ontario. We are committed to recognizing and acknowledging the history of the land we share, and especially to establishing lasting partnerships with our neighbours from Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation and the Ojibway Nation of New Saugeen.

International Atomic Energy Association (IAEA) Presentations

Mayor Kim Baigrie and Councillor Jodie Defeo represented the Township of Ignace at an important IAEA conference in Vienna, Austria, on May 27 - 31, 2025. Alongside representatives from Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation and NWMO, the Township of Ignace participated at the special request of the Director General of the IAEA. The Ignace group was praised for the hard work, determination, courage and leadership it took to become Canada's first ever DGR site.

Ontario Association of Police Services Boards (OAPSB) Conference

Mayor Kim Baigrie represented the newly renamed Ignace/Ojibway Nation of New Saugeen O.P.P. Detachment Board (formerly known as the Ignace Police Services Board or Dryden O.P.P. Detachment Board 2) at the OAPSB conference in London, Ontario on June 3 - 5, 2025.

AMCTO Conference

Aaron Gullins, the CAO for the Township of Ignace, and Lesley Sterling, the new Clerk Treasurer, attended the annual Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) Conference on June 8 - 11, 2025 in Windsor.



INFO IGNACE

Ignace Featured in Japanese Documentary

In February of 2025, the Township of Ignace was spotlighted in a Japanese Docu series which highlighted the work of the Township, NWMO, and other stakeholders in a process to approve willingness for the community. Japan is currently undertaking a similar approach to its deep geological repository process.

Ignace to be Featured on CBC *The National*

A film and interview crew from CBC *The National*, one of Canada's top current affairs TV programs, was in Ignace in July 2025 to spotlight the work and process that the Township of Ignace and NWMO have undertaken over the past few years. Watch for announcements about when that episode will air!

GET INVOLVED! Join the Community Engagement Committee

Are you interested in having your voice heard and helping to plan community engagement events?

The Community Engagement Committee is seeking to add members who represent:

**YOUTH IN THE COMMUNITY
INDIGENOUS VOICES
LOCAL SENIORS**

Please email Jake Pastore at outreach@ignace.ca for details.

QUARTERLY UPDATE

The Township of Ignace and NWMO (Nuclear Waste Management Organization)

The Township of Ignace remains committed and excited on the advancement of the construction of a deep geological repository in the Ignace/Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation area. Over the course of the last few months, the Township of Ignace has been featured throughout Canada and internationally on this project. The project has placed Ignace on the world map, and we expect to host international visitors in the coming years as the project advances.

The NWMO has initiated and made considerable progress towards a "structure-wide" restructuring project which has led to a variety of positive and progressive improvements in the organization. Those changes will continue to be communicated throughout the next few months. Most notably, the Northwestern Ontario Advancement and Siting Team is now being led by Ms. Jessica Perritt, who will oversee much of the work surrounding NWMO progress on the project, working with both the community of Ignace, the Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation and other stakeholders in Northwestern Ontario.

nwmo

NUCLEAR WASTE
MANAGEMENT
ORGANIZATION

SOCIÉTÉ DE GESTION
DES DÉCHETS
NUCLÉAIRES

INFO IGNACE

NWMO STAFF SPOTLIGHT: Jessica Perritt

Jessica Perritt is a proud Anishinaabe-kwe (Ojibway) from Chippewas of Nawash First Nation located within the Saugeen Ojibway Nation traditional territory on the shores of Georgian Bay in Southern Ontario. She is a wife, mother to two boys, daughter, granddaughter, auntie and niece. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics and Physics from the University of Alberta. She has been able to bring Indigenous voice and perspective into the nuclear industry locally, nationally, and internationally. Her passion is amplifying the importance of relational intelligence by creating spaces of respect, reciprocity and collaboration.

Jessica comes into this role with 17 years experience at the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) in Indigenous engagement and relations. Throughout her time, she built meaningful relationships with both municipalities and Indigenous communities that have been involved in the siting process. She has been a primary contributor to the NWMO's Indigenous Knowledge and Reconciliation Journey and will bring that experience and perspective into her new role as Director of Indigenous and Municipal Relations.



JESSICA PERRITT
Director of Indigenous
and Municipal
Relations, NWMO

UPCOMING ENGAGEMENT EVENTS: August 2025

Initial Project Description (IPD) Engagement

August 6, 2025	IPD Engagement Webinars
August 12, 2025	IPD Feedback Workshop, Ignace Learn More Centre
August 12, 2025	Presentation and Discussion, Dryden Native Friendship Centre
August 13, 2025	Presentation and Discussion, Dryden Regional Training & Cultural Centre
August 21, 2025	IPD Feedback Workshop, Ignace Learn More Centre

Youth Engagement

August 7, 2025	Explore & Grow Youth Day Camp: Nature Quest
August 9, 2025	Ignace Annual Kids Fest
August 14, 2025	Explore & Grow Youth Day Camp: Trade Tech Explorers

Community Engagement

August 1, 2025	Sioux Lookout Home & Trade Show
August 21, 2025	Dryden Fall Fair: Mobile Learn More Centre
August 22, 2025	Dryden Fall Fair: Mobile Learn More Centre
August 23, 2025	Dryden Fall Fair: Mobile Learn More Centre



INFO IGNACE



FIRE SAFETY OPEN AIR BURNING OF BRUSH, WOOD OR CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL PILES IS PROHIBITED

**NO PERMITS WILL BE ISSUED FOR THIS TYPE OF BURNING
FROM APRIL 1, 2025 TO OCTOBER 31, 2025**

Permits are being allowed for small cooking and heating fires. Permits are required for ALL burning.

If there is a Restricted Fire Zone put into place because of High Fire Hazard, NO fires will be allowed.

The following are the governing bodies for all burning and issuance of fire permits:

The Corporation of the Township of Ignace, By-law 35-2021

Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997, S.O. 1997

Ontario Fire Code, O. Reg .213/07

National Fire Code of Canada

Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c.25 - Public Nuisances

For any further questions please contact the Ignace Fire Department at (807) 934-2211. Thank you and please be safe and considerate with your campfire.



CONTACT US

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General Inquiries: info@ignace.ca

Visit us online at www.ignace.ca for more information, to see our upcoming Council agendas, and to watch our upcoming Regular Meetings of Council via Zoom.

