TOWNSHIP OF
SOUTH
STORMONT

TERM OF COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS 2022-2026



www.SouthStormont.ca

MAYOR & COUNCIL

The Township of South Stormont is governed by a five-member elected Council comprised of a Mayor, a Deputy Mayor, and three Councilors elected at large by the whole Township. A Council term lasts for a period of four years. Council meetings are generally scheduled for the second and fourth Wednesday of each month; however, in summer months and as required, one meeting is held per month and special meetings are scheduled as they are required.

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor are also appointed to sit on County Council, along with representatives of the six neighboring municipalities that make up the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry.



Mayor
Bryan McGillis



Deputy Mayor
Andrew Guindon



Councillor
Jennifer MacIsaac



Councillor
Reid McIntyre



Councillor
Cindy Woods

A Message from Your Mayor



Mayor Bryan McGillis

As this term of Council comes to an end, I find myself reflecting not only on the past four years, but on the nearly 25 years that I have had the privilege of serving our community as a Councillor and Mayor.

Public service has been an incredible part of my life. Over the years, I have had the opportunity to work alongside many dedicated members of Council, municipal staff, community partners and volunteers, all of whom have shared a commitment to making South Stormont a better place to live, work and raise a family

I am particularly proud of what this Council has accomplished together. We have not always faced easy decisions, but we approached our work with respect, collaboration and a shared desire to do what was best for South Stormont. From major investments in infrastructure and emergency services to recreation, our waterfront and community services, the accomplishments highlighted in these pages demonstrate what can be achieved when we work together with a common purpose.

As my time in municipal office comes to a close, I am grateful for the trust placed in me over the years and for the many important initiatives that have come to fruition.

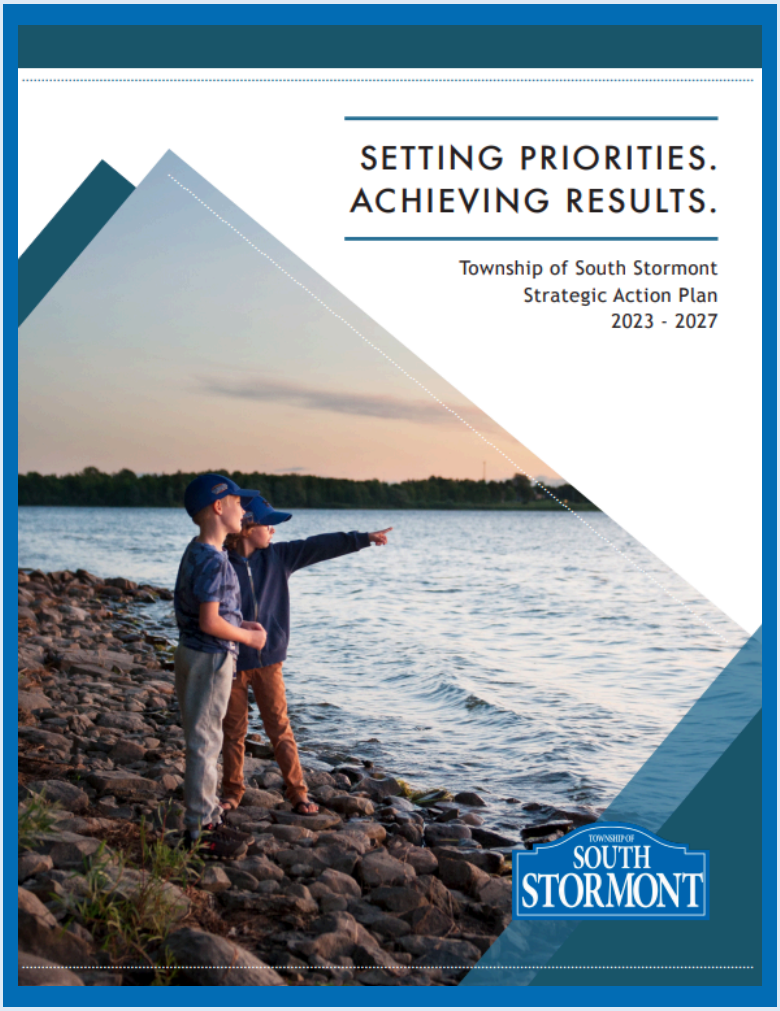
Sincerely,

Bryan McGillis



STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN

BUILDING THE PLAN



A Strategic Action Plan is a critical document for municipal governments as it outlines an overall vision for the community. Each community is faced with many divergent needs, such as mandates and expectations from upper levels of government, the need to foster development and business needs to maintain a strong local economy, the need to provide required services at a reasonable and affordable cost to ratepayers, and of course, the desires of the community as a whole.

In 2023, the Township undertook a Strategic Action Plan development exercise to help guide the direction of the community and Council decisions over a four-year period. We gathered input from residents and business owners through community engagement exercises, considered the known needs of the community based on requirements from the upper-levels of government, the current position of the Township, and the expected growth of our communities.

Following interviews, surveys and data collection, Council set four goals, each with actionable items for the employee team to work towards achieving during the 2023-2027 period.

What follows is a summary of the priorities that were set, and the results that were achieved during the last term of Council.

SAFE AND RELIABLE INFRASTRUCTURE

GOAL: Embrace healthy community growth by building, maintaining and continuously improving our municipally owned infrastructure assets.

Taking an Evidence-based Approach to Infrastructure Renewal Projects

- Completed Asset Management Plan for non-core assets.
- Established prioritized list of road reconstruction projects based on the Asset Management Plan.
    - Completed 55 km of asphalt surface overlay, 3.5 km of road reconstruction, and 1.6 km of sidewalk replacement based on prioritized list.
- Implemented a Speed Management Plan for Township roads, establishing a 40km/hr zone within residential hamlet areas.

Expanding Water and Wastewater Systems to Accommodate Growth

- Secured $21.9M in funding through the Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund (HEWSF) to support Phase 1 expansion of Ingleside Wastewater Treatment Plant and Long Sault Water Treatment Plant.
    - Phase 1 of Ingleside Wastewater Treatment Plant will support increased capacity for more connections, improved quality of treatment, less chemical consumption, and preparations for Phases 2 and 3 of expansion.



- Initiated public education campaign to stress the importance of water conservation.

Optimizing the Delivery of Essential Services by Maintaining & Upgrading Facilities and Equipment

- Completed condition assessment for all Township-owned buildings, including cost estimates and priorities.
- Completed an Accessibility Plan that established risk-based accessibility priorities and an implementation sequence/timeline within budget and staffing constraints.
- Completed construction of Station 2 Fire Hall in Ingleside to better serve the community and provide adequate training space for South Stormont Fire and Rescue.

Water and Wastewater Upgrades

A major achievement of this Council term was securing $21.9 million through Ontario's Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund (HEWSF) to support significant improvements to the Ingleside Wastewater Treatment Plant and Long Sault Water Treatment Plant. The funding covers approximately 73% of eligible project costs, helping South Stormont undertake critical infrastructure improvements while reducing the financial burden on local users.

Years of planning, engineering and advocacy helped make this investment possible. Work is now advancing to increase wastewater capacity in Ingleside and strengthen the regional water system serving Long Sault and Ingleside. These improvements will help unlock opportunities for new housing, commercial and industrial development, while ensuring essential infrastructure is ready to support future growth.

This investment represents an important step toward building a stronger, sustainable South Stormont and creating capacity for the homes, businesses and opportunities of tomorrow.



Station 2 Ingleside

After years of planning, Council brought a long-standing community priority to life with the construction of the new Station 2 Fire Hall in Ingleside. Council approved the location at 45th Parallel Drive and Farran Drive in 2024, followed by a $4.29 million construction tender in 2025. The new station officially opened in July 2026.

Careful financial planning also helped make the project possible, with Council contributing to reserves over several years in preparation for this major investment.

The new 7,000-square-foot facility features three truck bays, dedicated administrative and communications space, and improved training facilities. It provides South Stormont Fire and Rescue with a modern, purpose-built space that supports firefighter training, emergency preparedness and the growing needs of the community.

More than a new building, Station 2 represents a lasting investment in the firefighters who serve South Stormont and the safety of the residents who depend on them.



WELCOMING AND VIBRANT COMMUNITY

GOAL: Provide an enviable quality of life for everyone who calls South Stormont "home".

Expanding Opportunities for Healthy Living, Recreation and Culture

- Completed transfer of five (5) strategic waterfront parcels of land from the St. Lawrence Parks Commission to advance the Waterfront Development Plan.
    - Approximately 260 acres of waterfront land aquired, including Lakeview Waterfront Park, Long Sault waterfront areas (x2), Hoople Bay waterfront lands, and Ingleside Waterfront.
- Following Canadian Conservation Institute review, a go-forward plan for the Lost Villages Museum operations and building maintenance has been estbalished. Extension agreement for museum operations has been completed with Lost Villages Historical Society.
- Multi-Use Trail Network established in Long Sault, with approximately 2.7km of trails currently in place to connect communities.
- New play structures placed in parks throughout the Township, with more anticipated for 2027.
- Constructed Thompson Court, a new outdoor basketball court in Ingleside with assistance from community donations.

Providing a Greater Mix of Housing Options for Residents of All Ages and Income Levels

- Completed a Housing Needs Assessment to determine opportunities and areas of need for future growth of the Township.
- Revised zoning by-laws to establish zones where higher density housing is encouraged.
- Developed Area Development Strategies for Township-owned lands in Ingleside (Plan 279) and Rosedale Terrace (Plan 252)
- Assessed Township-owned property to determine feasible locations for more affordable housing options.
- Collaborated with Habitat for Humanity to build a partner family home in Ingleside.

Collaborating with Community Organizations/Groups and other Government Partners

- Coordinated with Raisin Region Conservation Authority (RRCA) to begin development of South Stormont's first Conservation Area, Limestone Ridge, on land donated by the Township.
- Established a partnership with the Rideau St. Lawrence Family Health Team to lease space in the Ingleside Medical Clinic to provide much-needed additional medicare care services.

Waterfront Acquisition



The transfer of five strategic waterfront properties from the St. Lawrence Parks Commission marked a historic milestone for South Stormont and the culmination of years of advocacy, collaboration and persistence. The lands include key properties in Ingleside, Hoople Creek, Long Sault and Lakeview Park.

Current and previous Councils, Township staff, community partners and provincial representatives worked for years to bring these lands into local ownership. For this Council, seeing that long-standing goal finally come to fruition represents an important legacy and opens the door to an exciting new chapter for South Stormont.

The acquisition also provides an important foundation for advancing the Waterfront Development Plan, adopted by Council in 2021 following extensive community consultation. The plan establishes a long-term vision for improved public access, recreation, tourism and vibrant waterfront spaces that better connect our communities with the St. Lawrence River.

While development will take place over time, securing these lands was a critical first step. It creates a generational opportunity to transform South Stormont's waterfront into welcoming public spaces that can be enjoyed by residents and visitors for decades to come.

Play time!

Throughout the Council term, investments in parks, trails and community facilities created more opportunities for residents of all ages and abilities to play, stay active and connect close to home.

New play structures were added in Newington, Lunenburg, Ingleside and Long Sault, while nearly 2.7 kilometres of multi-use recreational trails were added through the Arnold Bethune, Mille Roches Road and Chase Meadows corridors. Ingleside also welcomed the new Thompson Court outdoor basketball court.

Investments extended to important community facilities, with upgrades at the Long Sault Arena helping modernize the facility. At the Lost Villages Museum, new accessible ramps, porches and concrete walkways are making the site safer and more welcoming for visitors of all abilities.

Together, these projects represent an investment in healthy, active, accessible and connected communities across South Stormont.



Growing a Greener South Stormont

Throughout the Council term, South Stormont strengthened its commitment to environmental stewardship through practical projects, community partnerships and long-term conservation.

The establishment of the Environmental Action Committee helped launch successful rain barrel initiatives, support Community Clean-Up Week activities and create the Township's first community garden. Other initiatives included annual tree giveaways with Raisin Region Conservation Authority and South Nation Conservation, community tree planting events, and the launch of a Township-wide tree inventory and assessment.

A lasting environmental legacy was the donation of approximately 128 acres of Township land to the Raisin Region Conservation Authority to establish South Stormont's first conservation area, Limestone Ridge Conservation Area, protecting natural heritage while creating future opportunities for residents to enjoy the outdoors.



Limestone Ridge Conservation Area

DIVERSE AND PROSPEROUS ECONOMY

GOAL: Leverage our competitive advantages to retain and attract economic investment and local employment opportunities.

Creating the Right Conditions to Attract Investment and Create Local Jobs

- Initiated the development of an Economic Development Action Plan to guide future decisions to support commercial, industrial and institutional development to advance the local economy.
- Integrated the Economic Development duties with the Development Services department to better support local businesses and investors.

Strengthening Relationships with Local Businesses

- Strengthened relationship with the South Stormont Chamber of Commerce by jointly hosting local business events.
- Supported local businesses through financial incentives provided by the Township's Community Improvement Plan and the SDG Regional Incentives Program, helping businesses redevelop, expand and enhance their properties.

Optimizing Land to Promote Economic Investment and Employment Opportunities

- Executed a review of Township-owned lands to determine appropriate properties to bring to market to support investment within the community.



South Stormont Chamber of Commerce Mayor's Breakfast

EXCEPTIONAL & ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNMENT

GOAL: Deliver services effectively and efficiently while providing a first-class working environment for our employees.

Continually Improve Business Processes and Practices Ensuring Open Government and Financial Accountability

- Established long-term financial plan with a comprehensive reserve policy.
- Introduced vendor-of-record procurement arrangements and established a dedicated Procurement and Risk Management Specialist position to strengthening centralized oversight and organizational support.

Improving Communication and Customer Service

- Established improved communications procedures, including post-Council Meeting newsletters, a public engagement portal to solicit feedback for significant projects, and developed a new, user-friendly municipal website.
- Established an emergency notification system to keep residents informed about important local notices, including road closures, water advisories and other location-based alerts.

Diversifying Our Revenue Sources to Reduce Reliance on Residential Taxpayers

- Completed a review of all Township fees and charges and implemented changes to ensure cost-recovery for services and limit increases to the general tax base.
- Updated development charges to support the principle that growth-related capital costs should be funded by growth and continued the annual review of fees and charges to support cost recovery.



Thank you 2022-2026 Council

Serving on Council is a commitment that extends far beyond the Council table. It means countless hours spent listening to residents, studying important issues, attending community events and making decisions that will shape South Stormont for years to come.

The accomplishments highlighted throughout these pages reflect the dedication, leadership and commitment of the 2022-2026 Council. From major investments in infrastructure and emergency services to improvements in recreation, the waterfront, accessibility and environmental stewardship, this Council helped move our community forward.

On behalf of Township staff and the residents of South Stormont, thank you for your time, your service and your commitment to our community. We also recognize the families and loved ones who supported you throughout the many evenings, weekends and important moments dedicated to public service.

Thank you for serving South Stormont and for helping build a strong foundation for its future.

