



Beth Blackwell

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT - 2025

I continue to be deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve my community as a member of Council. 2025 certainly had its ups, its downs and its curveballs but it remains an incredible honour to represent the residents of Ward 1 and contribute to our Municipality alongside my colleagues.

Perhaps the biggest change this year was the unilateral imposition of Strong Mayor powers. Alongside other members of Council, I have strongly objected to these unwelcome governance changes, which were forced onto hundreds more municipalities by the provincial government. I have always believed in the power of collaboration and the benefits of working together to achieve the very best for our community. Regardless of the changes to my role under this new model, I will always do my best to bring that vision to life.



Over the course of 2025, a lot of groundwork was laid that will bear fruit in 2026 and beyond. Plans were solidified for the new skate park, the reconstruction of the boardwalk, upgrades at Victoria Park, new playgrounds, water services and future developments. Conversations and advocacy at the provincial level through formal meetings or personal conversations with Ministers highlighted local issues - such as the unequal property tax assessments for nuclear generation facilities - that require attention and correction. There is always more work to be done, especially in the realm of affordable housing, and I intend to make my final year on Council a productive one. I look forward to working alongside Council, staff and residents as we build a stronger Municipality together.

Beth Blackwell

CONNECT WITH ME



519-386-1669



bblackwell@kincardine.ca



www.bethblackwell.ca

ON SOCIAL MEDIA



[Beth Blackwell - Ward 1 Councillor
Municipality of Kincardine](#)



councillor.beth.blackwell



YEAR 3 ON COUNCIL - BY THE NUMBERS

COUNCIL & COMMITTEES

28 Regular and Special Council Meetings Attended

15 Committee Meetings Attended

4 Committee Appointments

- Community Safety & Well-Being Committee
- Heritage Kincardine
- Recreation Ad-Hoc Committee
- Committee of Adjustments

COMMUNITY OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT

950+ Calls, Emails and Messages from Constituents

37+ Outreach Activities
Meeting with local groups, hosting open houses and attending public consultation sessions to hear from residents and constituents

30+ Community Events Attended
Highlights of the year include volunteering, presenting or participating at:

- No Stone Left Alone
- Canada Day Celebrations
- Rock with Your Docs
- Multicultural Festival
- Walk for Wenjack
- Afro-Caribbean Youth Awards
- McHappy Day
- Kincardine Kidney Walk





2025 HIGHLIGHTS

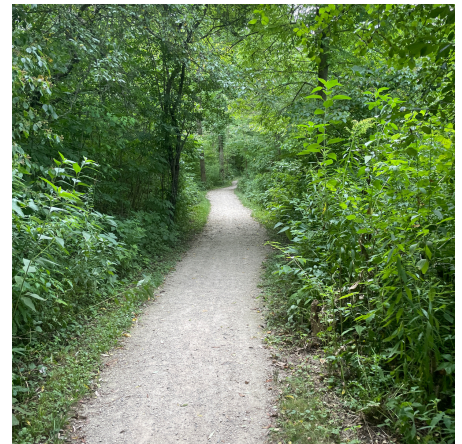
The Municipality of Kincardine provides a wide range of essential services that residents rely on - from roads to clean water, emergency services to recreation programs, garbage collection to playgrounds. While it would be impossible to capture all day-to-day activities, organizational achievements or the work I have undertaken as a member of Council, I have gathered together some of the items that I believe deserve to be highlighted and shared with the community.

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

- In July, The Well Community Collective officially opened their Kincardine Youth Hub, designed to provide a safe and supportive environment where youth can access care, connect with peers and build brighter futures. I strongly advocated for The Well to open a youth hub within our municipality and appreciate the hard work and the supporters who brought this to life.
- The Municipality provided a grant to support the Lake Huron Coastal Centre's Conservation Youth Corps summer program. 14 local youth spent a week engaged in education-focused environmental projects, including dune restoration, nurdle removal and native tree planting.
- Council passed a Priority Resolution in August, directing staff to continue advocating with the school board and the Province while prioritizing any Municipally related development applications or approval reviews required for the new Senior School

With a goal of celebrating the contributions of local youth, I initiated the creation of a new 'Youth Citizenship' award at the Kincardine & District Chamber of Commerce's Community Achievement Awards. I am grateful to my Council colleagues Mike Hinchberger and Jennifer Prenger, who joined me in sponsoring an award to recognize "youth who have made a positive impact within their family, neighbourhood, school or community, have demonstrated perseverance while overcoming adversity or otherwise embodied qualities such as bravery, leadership and care for others". I would like to extend my congratulations again to the nominees Liam Lynch Morrison, Adalee Turland and winner Madison Forster.

- As part of the 2025 budget deliberations, I brought forward a motion to make a financial contribution to the construction of the All Wheels Park project, spearheaded by the Kincardine Lions Club. Council's support of the resolution advanced the project into the final planning stages and paved the way for construction to begin in 2026.



2025 IN REVIEW - THE HIGHLIGHTS



- The 2025 budget included funding to replace the Ladder Truck at Station 12 (Kincardine) and a Mini Pumper Truck at Station 11 (Tiverton).
- “Ready When the Time Comes” is a pilot project involving Kincardine’s Emergency Management team, the Red Cross, Kincardine Lions and the Kincardine Rotary Club. It involves training service groups to support emergency response activities, such as assisting with Evacuation Centre set up
- South Bruce OPP received a grant to work collaboratively with front-line providers and enhance their response to mental health, addictions and homelessness related calls for service within the Municipality of Kincardine. This project builds on the success of the Mobile Crisis Response Team (MCRT) program launched in 2023. The MCRT program pairs a mental health nurse with a police officer to respond to calls as well as provide follow up supports.



COMMUNITY SAFETY

- The Municipality of Kincardine’s Emergency Management programs achieved full compliance with all 13 elements of the Emergency Management Civil Protection Act.
- A successful application for a Community Emergency Preparedness Grant enabled the purchase of a drone, which will increase capabilities for many departments, most notably Emergency Services
- Efforts continue towards implementing recommendations included within the Pier Safety Report, including pilot projects to direct visitors away from the ‘no swim’ areas. These recommendations also influenced the final approved design for the Station Beach Boardwalk replacement project

I continue to advocate for safety improvements for Highway 21, particularly around KTTPS. I have raised this issue repeatedly with the Minister of Transportation as well as directly with Premier Ford. Community concerns about speed and traffic volume in front of the school were validated by a third party traffic study completed in 2024.

In response, a Community Safety Zone (CSZ) application was formally submitted in 2025, with the support of the OPP. The application is focused on the portion of Highway 21 between Sutton St and the North Line. If successful, the application could result in reduced speed limits (potentially tied to school hours) as well as increased fines.

- The MTO completed the installation of the long-awaited traffic signals and intersection improvements along Highway 21 at Kincardine Ave and Russell St. To aid response times in emergencies, Council previously approved funds to install signal prioritization



2025 IN REVIEW - THE HIGHLIGHTS

RECREATION AND PARKS

- The Municipality provided supplemental funding to the Bruce County's Child Activity Assistance Program (CAAP), enabling more local children to access subsidized swimming, dance, hockey, summer camp, volleyball and more.
- Playgrounds were installed on Birchwood Ave, Scott's Point and the Seashore development

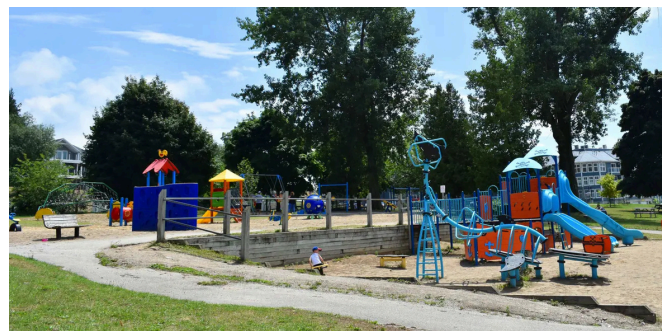
I am eternally grateful to local Canadian Tire owner John Satosek, who has been nothing but enthusiastically supportive about our shared dream of creating a fully accessible playground within the Municipality. Thanks to John's support and personal contributions, the Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charity has committed \$350,000 towards the upcoming playground replacement project at MacPherson Park. The new playscape will ensure children have a safe, inclusive and engaging place to play. Combined with the accessible washrooms, boardwalk and Mobi Mats, the north waterfront area will become even more of a cherished destination for families and children of all abilities.

- An 'all inclusive membership' was launched, with access to the pool, health club and fitness classes. The biweekly affordable payments proved popular, with total membership numbers nearly doubling over the past year

- The new electric Zamboni arrived and was given the winning nickname of 'Chillzilla'
- The 50th Anniversary of the Davidson Centre was celebrated in style, with a day of free swimming, skating and open gym capped off with a Bulldogs vs Toronto Maple Leafs alumni game. The puck was dropped by former recreation director and the centre's namesake, Keith Davidson
- Major investments were made into recreation facilities. In Tiverton, these included more than \$1 million invested into ball diamond upgrades, washroom renovations, a new ice plant refrigeration plant and rink board replacements. At the Davidson Centre, a new generator was purchased, appliances and lighting systems were upgraded, the pool HVAC and diving board were replaced and the exterior ramp renovation was completed.

ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

- With the passing of the 2026 budget, the Municipality has contributed a total of \$2.4 million towards the local share of the hospital redevelopment campaign
- The Kincardine Family Health Organization was approved as an residency physician training site by Western University. Beginning in 2026, Kincardine will host a full time Family Medicine Residency Program. The Municipality's Access to Health Care funding will support this initiative by assisting with start-up costs, housing support and retention incentives.





2025 IN REVIEW - THE HIGHLIGHTS

WELCOMING AND CONNECTED COMMUNITY

- The Municipality's volunteer program continued to grow in 2025, with new roles in horticulture and at the Kin Dog park. There are more than 200 active volunteers assisting with the trails, supporting special events, beautifying public spaces and acting as ambassadors with the Tourism Department

In June, the Municipality hosted a Journey to Reconciliation event in Victoria Park, where dancers and the Women's Drum Group from Saugeen First Nations graciously showcased their talents and culture. Later that month, I attended a learning circle, where conversation focused on ways to build meaningful nation-to-nation relationships with Indigenous leaders and communities. Lastly, I participated in the Walk for Wenjack in October, where I had the opportunity to listen as residential school survivors and their family members share their experiences.

- There were more than 65 special events held in the Municipality, including new shoulder season events such as the movie night hosted with Kincardine Pride, the Food Truck Festival and the Art Crawl
- The Lighthouse lantern was restored and repainted,
- The Municipality collaborated with the Kincardine Environmental Action Network, Huron Bruce Nature and Bar Down for Earth Week clean-ups

GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT

- The new 'Community Improvement Plan' (CIP) was launched with extended eligibility and new incentives. In 2025, funds were allocated for pre-development studies and design costs, assisting local property owners and businesses to move development projects closer to construction readiness

The long awaited Comprehensive Zoning Bylaw was adopted in April. With a focus on modernization, the new bylaw seeks to reduce barriers, increase flexibility and allow new types of development - such as mixed use, accessory dwellings and tiny homes.

- A revamped 'Development Dashboard' went live on the Municipality's Maps portal. The interactive visual tool enables the community to explore development proposals, rezoning requests and more.
- The Concession 5 bridge was replaced (significantly under budget!) with a two-lane structure. Final work on the bridge will be completed next spring.
- The Municipality continues to plan and prepare for the transformative potential of the Bruce C project, focusing on growth and infrastructure impacts
- Multiple development projects continued to progress through the approvals process. This includes 3 proposed apartment buildings, 6 subdivisions, several new businesses and expansions to existing buildings. In 2025, 189 building permits were issued, totally approximately \$31 million in construction value.

CANADIAN PRIDE

- A new plaque created by the Heritage Committee was formally unveiled on Marine Heritage Day. The plaque highlights the legacy of the local salt industry and its role in shaping Kincardine's growth.
- Given the economic pressures and international upheaval, Council updated the procurement policy to prioritize buying Canadian made goods





Beth Blackwell

STAY CONNECTED TO THE MUNICIPALITY OF KINCARDINE

MUNICIPAL CONNECTION

Municipal Connection is the main e-newsletter of the Municipality and is published on a monthly basis. Subscribe to the Municipal Connection receive information on everything from programs to upcoming events, opportunities and more, directly to your email inbox!

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEWSLETTER

Stay on top of business news and supports in the Municipality of Kincardine by subscribing to the monthly Economic Development e-newsletter.

WEBSITE CHANNELS

There are 4 **Municipal Website Channels** that send updates and news releases directly to subscriber mailboxes. You can subscribe to one or more of the following Municipality of Kincardine website channels:

- Bids and Tenders
- Emergency Alerts
- News and Notices
- Road and Sidewalk Closures
- Service Interruptions

WEBSITE CALENDARS

Never miss a Council meeting, event or activity in the Municipality of Kincardine. Subscribe to the:

- Community Events Calendar
- Recreation Calendar
- Municipal Calendar

KINCARDINE ALERT

This is the official emergency notification system. Sign up to receive alerts from the Municipality of Kincardine via text message, e-mail, and/or voice message.

CONNECT WITH COUNCIL

Find the full list of Council members, email addresses and phone numbers on the Council webpage. Unsure which Ward you live in? Enter your address into the Ward Map to find out!

WATCH MEETINGS

Council meetings are held twice a month on Wednesday evenings at 5pm. The Municipal Calendar lists upcoming meetings as well as agendas. The public can watch meetings in person at the Municipal Administration Centre or live on YouTube.

SUBMIT A PETITION

Public Petitions must adhere to the Petitions Policy and be submitted to the Clerk. A fillable Petition Form is available for download. Please note that online petitions such as Change.org are not accepted.

DELEGATE TO COUNCIL

The public is invited to address Council or a Committee directly. Delegations are generally limited to 5 minutes. Delegation Request Forms must be submitted before 12:00pm the Wednesday before the meeting.

JOIN A COMMITTEE

Council appoints non-elected community members to a number of standing and ad-hoc Committees or Boards. Committee members be qualified electors in the Municipality of Kincardine. Learn more about existing committees and apply for current opportunities on the Board and Committees webpage.

MAKE A SERVICE REQUEST

Have a concern or see something that requires attention? Make a Service Request online to ensure the right staff are notified.

For after hours emergencies, call 519-396-3468
For after hours water issues, call 519-396-4660
For By-Law Enforcement, call 1-226-910-1322 ext. 0



Beth Blackwell

CONTACT COUNCILLOR BLACKWELL



519-386-1669



bblackwell@kincardine.ca



www.bethblackwell.ca