

MEET THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TEAM:

There have been a few changes to the community development team at the Township. Ryan Stelter recently joined as the Director of Community Development. Originally from Manitoba, Ryan brings a background in journalism, public affairs, and government, having worked in communications and stakeholder relations at the provincial level before making the move back to Northwestern Ontario. He spent a few years working in various positions at the Kenora Miner and News, winning a National Newspaper Award in the process.

Passionate about community-building and public service, he is excited to work alongside residents, businesses, and community partners to help support the Township's continued growth and success. Outside of work, Ryan enjoys reading, writing, exploring the outdoors, and spending time on the water and in the communities that make the Lake of the Woods region such a special place to live and visit.

Katie Rimmer-McGuire is the Trail Maintenance Lead with the Township and focuses on the world class trail network within the community. Katie enjoys helping people connect with nature as she's always loved being outdoors, and fishing is a huge passion of hers. Some may say obsession!

Between the lakes, trails, and strong sense of community, it didn't take long for Sioux Narrows Nestor Falls to feel like home for Katie. The community is welcoming; the adventures are endless and getting to work with the community in an outdoor setting feels incredibly rewarding to her. One of the most cherished parts of Katie's job is seeing people enjoy the trails, hearing stories from visitors from around the world, and watching the town go from hundreds of people in winter to thousands once spring arrives.

When Katie is not working, there's a good chance you'll still find her outside somewhere fishing, exploring, or chasing another sunset.

Brooke Hatfield is the Community Programmer for the Township. Sioux Narrows has always held a special place in her life, as it is where her family cabin is located and where many of Brooke's most cherished memories were made. Having the opportunity to work within this community and connect with everyone here is very meaningful and rewarding to her.

In Brooke's role, she plans, organizes, and coordinates engaging activities, programs, and community events that bring people together to support overall wellness within the community. Brooke works out of the Health Hub office, where she helps oversee and coordinate a variety of services and support available to community members.

Brooke's work also involves communication and community outreach. She helps create and shares information about upcoming programs, events, and services to ensure everyone stays informed and connected.

One of the highlights of Brooke's role is connecting with the people who come out to our events. She really enjoys meeting people, hearing their stories, and learning what brings them to Sioux Narrows – Nestor Falls and the connection they have to the area.

If you see a member of the community development team around, don't be afraid to stop and say hello to share your idea on how to make Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls a better place to live, work, and play.



Ryan Stelter, Director of Community Development rstelter@snnf.ca
Brooke Hatfield, Community Programmer bhatfield@snnf.ca

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People working together in a strong community with a shared goal and common purpose can make the impossible possible.

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– Tom Vilsack

WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT IN
THE TOWNSHIP

The Township is currently part of early discussions around a regional application to the Province of Ontario through the Regional Economic Development through Immigration (REDI) initiative.

This is a partnership effort bringing together communities across the Kenora and Rainy River Districts to look at new ways to address ongoing workforce shortages. The idea behind REDI is to create a more coordinated, regional approach to helping local businesses find workers, including through immigration, while also improving supports to help people settle and stay in our communities.

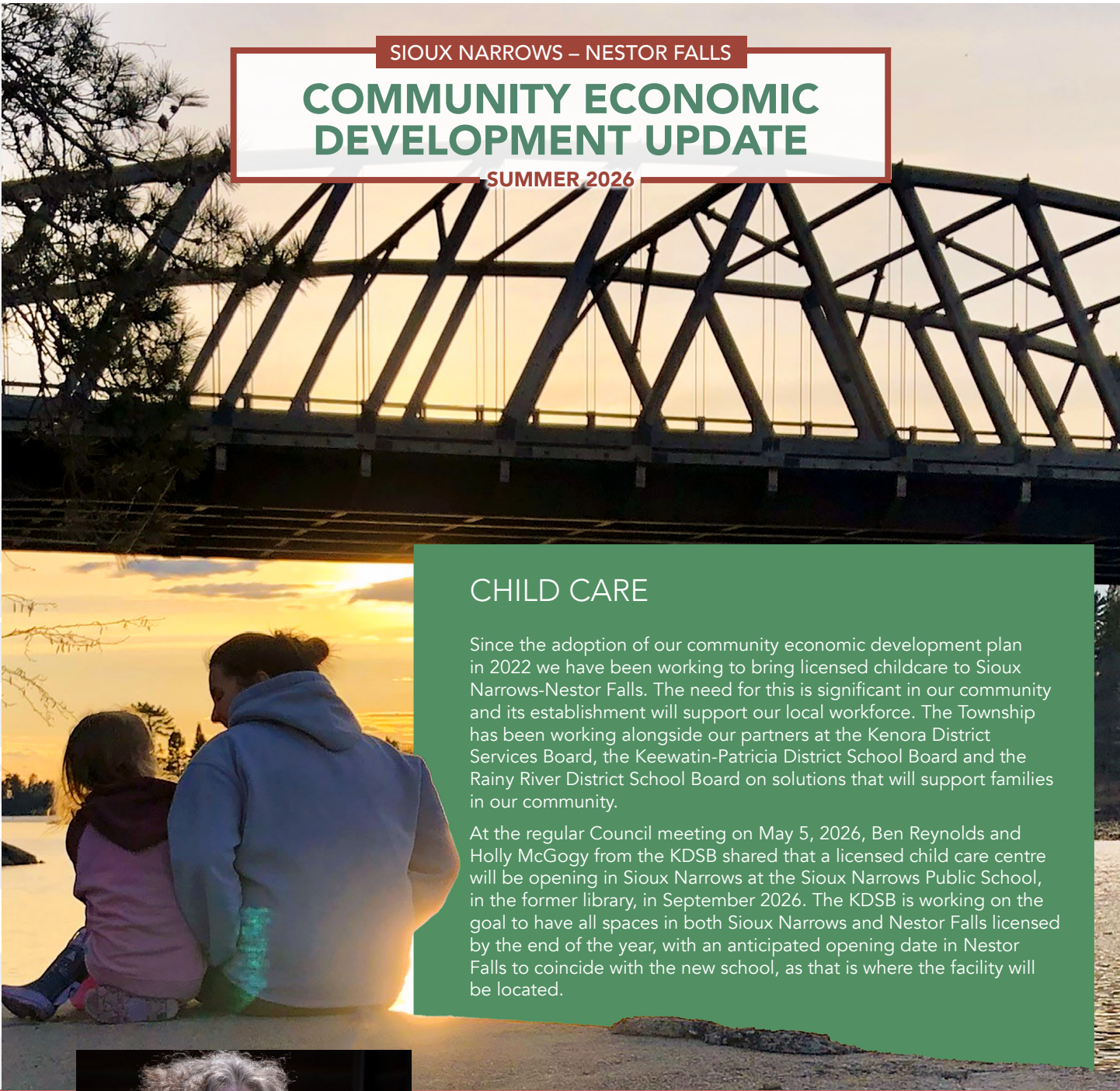
Right now, the Township is in the information-gathering stage. Staff are working with regional partners to better understand what participation could look like, what resources might be available, and how it could support local employers, particularly in tourism, construction, and service sectors where workforce pressures continue to grow.

This potential application aligns with Goal 2.1 of the Township's Community Economic Development Strategy, which is to support the growth, retention and establishment of businesses in the community. We'll continue to share updates as this work progresses and what it could mean for businesses and the community.

SIoux NARROWS – NESTOR FALLS

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

SUMMER 2026



CHILD CARE

Since the adoption of our community economic development plan in 2022 we have been working to bring licensed childcare to Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls. The need for this is significant in our community and its establishment will support our local workforce. The Township has been working alongside our partners at the Kenora District Services Board, the Keewatin-Patricia District School Board and the Rainy River District School Board on solutions that will support families in our community.

At the regular Council meeting on May 5, 2026, Ben Reynolds and Holly McGogy from the KDSB shared that a licensed child care centre will be opening in Sioux Narrows at the Sioux Narrows Public School, in the former library, in September 2026. The KDSB is working on the goal to have all spaces in both Sioux Narrows and Nestor Falls licensed by the end of the year, with an anticipated opening date in Nestor Falls to coincide with the new school, as that is where the facility will be located.



SIoux NARROWS CLINIC

The Township is continually looking for ways to improve access to services and care in our community. When the opportunity arose to expand the operations of the former nursing station in Sioux Narrows to a satellite clinic of the Sunset Country Family Health Team the Municipality was very supportive. It is understood that this is a significant change for the community, but it will ultimately result in improved service and care for our residents. On May 20th, Mayor Black attended an event with Minister Greg Rickford, Colleen Neil Executive Director of the SCFHT, and staff from the All Nations Health Partnership, Municipality and Sunset Country Family Health Team to celebrate this accomplishment and our partnerships.

GRANITE RIDGE

On April 14th, 2026, the Township held a community open house to discuss the potential Granite Ridge Housing Development, in Sioux Narrows. At the open house Ayrie Development presented their plan for a 20-unit development, with access off Father Moss Road. The development consists of 2- and 3-bedroom homes, in a land lease model to ensure unit affordability. The response to the development was favourable. Over 20 community members attended to learn more and engage in meaningful discussion with municipal staff and the developer. A strong public discussion was held.

On April 28th, 2026, at a special meeting, the Municipal Council for the Township voted in favour of proceeding with the development, including the transfer of land, once the rezoning for the property is complete. We expect this development to commence within the next 12-18 months.

NESTOR FALLS

At the April 28th special meeting, the Municipal Council for the Township also voted in favour of transferring the parcel of land immediately adjacent to the new Ambulance base in Nestor Falls to the Kenora District Services Board. The intention of the KDSB is the build up to 10 affordable family housing units. Once funding is secured, the KDSB is anticipating construction of this development to begin in 2027-28.

SENIORS HOUSING

The Township and the KDSB continue to investigate the possibility of 10 seniors housing units at a new location on Fickas Road in Sioux Narrows.

These developments are advancements on the strategic goals of improving housing affordability and availability in Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls.



OFFICE AT THE LAKE

We are excited to announce the Office at The Lake service, opening this summer. The Office at The Lake will provide a functional private workspace within the community. The space will be available to book for private office use.

The office will provide access to essential workplace resources, including a computer, internet access, printing services, and a quiet space to make phone calls, attend virtual meetings or to complete daily work tasks distraction free.

The service is intended to support remote workers, entrepreneurs, travelling professionals, and community members who require quiet office space and reliable technology. This service is also intended to support our seasonal residents who may require access to office resources while away from their primary residence.

By providing convenient access to professional amenities within the community, the space will help support productivity, connectivity, and flexibility for all residents. This new space aligns with Goal 2.1 of the Township's Community Economic Development Strategy, which is to support the growth, retention and establishment of businesses in the community.

More details of the service including the opening date, pricing, and booking will be shared on our website and social media in the coming weeks.



SUCCESS IN THE SHOULDER SEASON

While many visitors, residents, and businesses are probably still dusting off their boats in anticipation of the busy summer ahead, it may seem odd to think about the shoulder season. The spring and fall offer a unique opportunity for businesses, particularly in our neck of the woods, to capitalize on.

Tourism Excellence North recently held a seminar on ways for businesses to get more out of the shoulder season and there is a market for it, believe it or not. It requires a bit of creativity and likely will take a bit of effort but niche markets are out there looking for unique experiences that connect them to the areas they are visiting. Whether that is hosting creative retreats for writers or photographers, hosting one-off, unique events that have the potential to become mainstays, there are ways to get a bit more out of the seasons we typically spend preparing or recovering from the busy summer.

It's a mixed bag of people who are typically travelling in the shoulder season, be it groups travelling, couples, couples with young kids that aren't in school, and solo travellers. Niche market travellers are also looking for experiences to get after. Some examples include birders, writers, quilters, social groups, photographers and avid outdoorspeople. This part of the world lends itself well to offering unique experiences for these types of people and would likely be worth the effort. No one says you need to expand your profitable season by an entire month but take it one week at a time. If there are ideas you may have and want help with, reach out to the team and we can work together to make it a success.

BASS LAKE PARK REDEVELOPMENT

The Township is moving ahead with the planned redevelopment of Bass Lake Park in Nestor Falls to refresh a well-loved space within the community. The redevelopment includes a short connector trail from the Nestor Falls bike trail head to Bass Lake Park, new washroom facilities with running water, and flushable toilets, a new playground, and landscaping improvements to enhance and expand usability of the existing beach area. This redevelopment will aim to be completed by next summer. A revamped Bass Lake Park aligns with Goal 3.2 of the Township's Community Economic Development Strategy to develop Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls into a premier multi-user trails destination.

To: Mayor & Council of the Township of Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls and the community at large

On behalf of Peak Management Group and Ayrie Developments, we are pleased to share that we are moving forward with Phase One of a new residential project in Sioux Narrows. This initial phase will see the construction of six stand-alone housing units—an important step in supporting local growth, strengthening the year-round economy, and contributing to the vitality of this remarkable community.

As partners in Ayrie Developments and principal owners of Peak Management Group, Ashley and I are proud to continue our work in rural northwestern Ontario—where our roots run deep. We understand the character, resilience, and close-knit nature of communities like Sioux Narrows, and we approach this project with a strong sense of responsibility and respect for place.

We are excited to introduce Kominotay Landing—a new neighbourhood situated along the eastern shores of Lake of the Woods. Our vision is to create a neighbourhood that is safe, warm, and welcoming, where residents feel a genuine sense of belonging and connection.

What's in a Name?

“Kominotay” is a Michif-French word meaning “community.” It reflects the Métis cultural and linguistic heritage that is woven throughout northwestern Ontario, with roots in the French word communauté. The name was thoughtfully chosen for the site formerly known as Pioneer Park to signify a renewed focus on connection, gathering, and shared identity. The addition of “Landing” speaks to the area's lakeshore legacy. Historically, a landing was a place of arrival—a point where people gathered, traded, and built relationships along the water's edge. In this way, Kominotay Landing honours both the cultural heritage and natural landscape of Regina Bay and Lake of the Woods, while signaling a new chapter for the site.

Together, the name represents our intent: to develop a community-oriented neighbourhood grounded in local history and shaped by its connection to the land and water.

— Brian Kraynyk & Ashley Massey, Peak Management Group & Ayrie Developments