



## **Message from the Mayor of Three Rivers** **2025 - Year in Review**

**Report to:** Members of Council  
All Members of the Administration  
Residents of Three Rivers

**Dated:** January 12, 2025

As we look back on the past year in Three Rivers, I'm filled with gratitude for the people, partnerships, and community spirit that make our municipality such a special place to call home. It has been a year marked by progress, collaboration, and countless moments that highlight the strength and resilience of our residents.

Our business community has had a strong year. From regular meetings with our Economic Development Committee to a highly successful Small Business Week that showcased more than 80 local businesses, it's clear that entrepreneurship and innovation continue to thrive in Three Rivers. Attending the National Federation of Canadian Municipalities Conference in Ottawa also provided valuable opportunities to learn from other municipalities and bring new ideas home.

Infrastructure improvements were another major focus. The long-awaited sidewalks on Queen's Road and Queen's Road Extension were completed, improving safety for pedestrians. For the first time we had e-bike rentals available at the Montague Marina, Georgetown Visitors Center, and Cardigan, throughout the summer months. The Sewer and Water Extension Project continued to move forward, and although provincial construction on Main Street and Robertson Road caused delays, we know these upgrades will benefit the community for years to come. Throughout the year, our staff worked tirelessly preparing ballfields, maintaining parks, managing marinas, and transitioning arenas between seasons.

Of course, no year in Three Rivers would be complete without the festivals and celebrations that bring our communities together. Winterval, Canada Day in Cardigan, Georgetown Summer Days, the Montague Arts & Cultural Festival, Diverse City, and so many other events were incredibly well attended. I'm grateful to the volunteers, staff, and community groups who pour their hearts into making these celebrations possible. Whether it was passing out parade prizes, greeting visitors, or enjoying fireworks with residents, these moments truly showcased the spirit of Three Rivers.

I also had the privilege of spending time with students and youth throughout the year—from the Crib Club at Georgetown Elementary to multiple Career Bridges graduations. These interactions

are always a highlight for me, and they remind me how important it is to support programs that help young people learn, grow, and find opportunities close to home.

We also took time to honour and remember important members of our community. The loss of Fire Chief Tony VanDenBroek was deeply felt across Three Rivers. His 42 years of service and leadership left a lasting legacy. We also thanked Councillor John VanDyke for his dedicated service following his resignation. As well as congratulating Councillor Martina MacDonald on her retirement after 17 years. She played a vital role in advancing economic development in Eastern Kings and we thank her sincerely for her service. Moments like these remind us of the impact individuals can have on their community.

Throughout the year, I continued to attend meetings, training sessions, and community events, always with the goal of bringing information back to Council and ensuring residents' voices are heard. I remain in the Town Hall most days, and I appreciate every conversation—whether in person, by phone, or through email. Your feedback, ideas, and concerns help guide our work and shape the future of Three Rivers.

As we move into a new year, I'm proud of what we've accomplished together and excited for what lies ahead. Thank you to everyone who contributed to making this year a success—our staff, Council, volunteers, community partners, and residents. Three Rivers is stronger because of you.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Debbie Johnston', with a stylized, flowing script.

**Debbie Johnston**

*Mayor of Three Rivers*