



Machin Messenger

Serving Minnitaki, Eagle River, Vermilion Bay
And surrounding area

Volume 28 issue 1
PHONE 807-227-2633

www.visitmachin.com

January 1, 2026
FAX 807-227-5443

JANUARY

Municipal Notes

COUNCIL NEWS

Mayor and Council would like to wish everyone a very Happy New Year and hope you enjoyed a safe, restful, and joyful holiday season and break. As we welcome the year ahead, we would also like to extend a thank you to everyone who participated in and volunteered their time for the Santa Claus Parade and Skate with Santa. These events would not have been possible without the dedication, enthusiasm, and community spirit shown by our volunteers, participants, and supporters. We truly appreciated everyone's help and support in making both events fun, welcoming, and successful for residents and visitors alike. Thank you for helping bring our community together and for making the holiday season so special. We would like to offer a special thank you to Sandra King for her dedication in coordinating and leading the parade. Her time, effort, and commitment were key to the event's success, and we are sincerely grateful for all of her hard work.

Mayor, Council, municipal staff, and members of our Volunteer Fire Department recently participated in our annual emergency plan meeting and training session at the municipal office. These meetings are essential in ensuring that all parties remain informed, prepared, and up to date on current emergency protocols, roles, and responsibilities. Regular training and review help strengthen coordination, communication, and decision-making during emergency situations, when timely and effective action is critical. As a municipality, we play a key and vital role in emergency preparedness and response, working together to protect public safety and support our community during challenging situations. Ongoing collaboration and preparedness are essential to ensuring we are ready to respond efficiently and effectively when emergencies arise.

The Municipality would like to thank Jennifer Loewen, Dr. Gagnon, and the Points North Family Health Team Board for taking the time to meet with the Municipality and Steenhof Mining Services staff to discuss a new strategic direction for our Health Clinic and EMS Base project. Their insight, collaboration, and willing-

ness to engage in meaningful discussion are greatly appreciated. While our application to the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation was unfortunately declined for this project, the need for a modern, well-supported Health Clinic and EMS Base remains a priority for our community. Access to local health care and emergency services is essential to the safety, well-being, and long-term sustainability of our municipality and the surrounding region. Moving forward, the Municipality is committed to clearly demonstrating the significance and regional importance of this project to the appropriate provincial ministries and partners. We will continue to explore alternative funding opportunities and advocacy efforts to advance this much-needed initiative. Through continued collaboration and persistence, we remain focused on working toward a solution that supports quality health care access and emergency services for our residents now and into the future.

The Municipality continues to work toward finalizing the 2026 municipal budget. With several major project plans under consideration and increasing downloading costs, Council and staff are carefully reviewing all expenditures to ensure the most efficient and responsible budget possible. Our goal is to deliver a budget that maintains essential services and supports community priorities while avoiding a significant tax increase. As in previous years, we believe this balanced approach can be achieved again and that a final budget number will be determined that provides the level of service our taxpayers expect at an affordable and sustainable rate.

Economic Development:

The Municipality is looking forward to announcing some exciting grant news in 2026. Over the past year, we applied to a total of 12 grants (excluding the Multi-Use Facility) to support a wide range of projects across the community. These applications focused on important infrastructure upgrades at municipal facilities, as well as new programs and service deliveries at key community hubs such as the Woodland Arena and the Eagle River Recreation Centre. Through these efforts, the Municipality was declined approximately \$200,000 in requested funding, successfully approved for \$805,480, and currently has \$212,338 in grant funding still pending. Grant funding plays a vital role in meeting our infrastructure needs and, in many cases, directly determines our ability to move projects forward without placing

Cont'd on Page 2

MESSENGER DEADLINE

Submissions for the **Machin Messenger** must now be in by the **LAST WEDNESDAY** of the month, by noon. **The deadline for February Messenger will be January 28, 2026.** Send your submissions to pilmar@sympatico.ca, subject line "Machin Messenger". Ads will need to be pre-paid prior to insertion in the Messenger.

Please note that there are price changes for ads. Call the Municipal Office for details.

MESSENGER ADS

If you wish to advertise in the **Machin Messenger**, please call the Municipal Offices at 227-2633 to find out the charge for your ad. Ads will need to be pre-paid.

Property Owners in Vermilion Bay with Aqua Flow units are reminded to turn them on to prevent your water from freezing. Please ensure that they remain on until the middle of April. Should you have any questions please call Shawna Alberts at 227-2064.

undue pressure on the local tax base. While we are very pleased with the funding that has been approved, we continue to believe there should be a stronger emphasis on supporting the unique funding challenges faced by smaller, rural communities—particularly when it comes to critical road infrastructure. Limited tax bases and extensive infrastructure responsibilities make external funding essential for long-term sustainability. The Municipality remains committed to pursuing every relevant funding opportunity available and will continue to actively seek out and apply for applicable grants in 2026 to support our community's ongoing growth, safety, and infrastructure needs.

The Municipality would like to thank Kennedy Maidment for her assistance in completing the filming required for the Economic Development Committee's promotional videos and the Santa Claus Parade! Her time and effort have been greatly appreciated and have played an important role in moving this project forward. We are excited to share that some of these videos are expected to be released in the new year. The goal of this initiative is to highlight and recognize local businesses and community groups, showcasing the valuable services they provide and expressing our appreciation for their contributions to our community. Please stay tuned for upcoming releases and be sure to follow and check our municipal Facebook page, where the videos will be posted as they become available.

Max Nagy, EDO

Public Works:

December has been a challenging month due to heavy snowfall combined with unexpected equipment breakdowns. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused and appreciate everyone's patience and understanding. Our team is doing everything possible to continue operations while equipment repairs are underway, and we remain committed to keeping roads and services maintained as effectively and safely as possible.

Revitalization Committee:

The Revitalization Committee would like to thank everyone who has supported our projects throughout the year. Your participation, donations, and encouragement have made a meaningful

difference. Funds raised through our initiatives go directly back into our community, helping to support improvements, programs, and projects that benefit residents and visitors alike. We truly appreciate the continued support and community spirit that makes these efforts possible.

The Municipality of Machin is looking for members for the following committees:

- Committee of Adjustment
- Dryden OPP Detachment Board 3
- Accessibility Committee

If you have any questions about these boards please contact Tammy Rob, Clerk Treasurer at (807)-227-2659.

We would like to Thank anyone in advance for considering taking part in making our community a better place to live.





MUNICIPALITY OF MACHIN

P.O. Box 249
Vermilion Bay, ON
POV 2V0
(807) 227-2633 phone
(807) 227-5443 fax

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Municipality of Machin is seeking applications for

**Part Time (Call In) Public Works
Position (Machine/Truck
Operator)
(Wage \$30.00 per hour)**

- Interested applicants must be 18 years or older and must have a DZ License. Please submit their resume no later than January 15th, 2026 to:

**Tammy Rob, Clerk-Treasurer
Municipality of Machin
Box 249, 75 Spruce Ave.
Vermilion Bay, Ontario
POV 2V0
or
Fax to: 807-227-5443**

Only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

Comprising The Townships of Langton, Temple, Sanford and West Aubrey



[Need a Ride to Dryden?](#)

[Try Out Our Seniors Bus.](#)

This is a Door to Door Service – you do not have to worry about parking or walking. We drop you off right at the door of your medical appointment or essential shopping and return to pick you up.

The cost is \$15.00 per person to ride to and from Dryden on Tuesday or Thursday. Should you have mobility issues both getting on and off the bus or shopping and carrying your items, thanks to the Happy Go Lucky Seniors Club they have provided funding for an Assistant to ride on the bus to help with these issues. Please call the Municipal Office at 227-2633 to book your ride or if you have any questions.

You do not have to be a senior to use this service. Any adult can ride, however seniors do come first for this service.



**January is Alzheimer Awareness Month
A Resource for Caregivers of People with Alzheimer Disease or Related Dementia**

Alzheimer Disease is a progressive, degenerative brain disease that destroys vital brain cells. As a result of the changes to the brain, it no longer works as it used to. People with this disease become less and less able to make sense of information from the outside world. They become unable to think, remember, understand, and make decisions as before. If a fire were to occur in their home, people with Alzheimer Disease or other dementia would be extremely vulnerable to serious injury, or even death. The following fire safety information can help make a safer environment for persons with Alzheimer Disease - and those who live with them.

Smoking: Careless smoking is the leading cause of fire deaths in Ontario. For people with Alzheimer Disease, the risk is even greater. As the disease progresses, they are less likely to follow safe smoking procedures making it important to supervise the individual while they are smoking. Purchase large, deep ashtrays and consider putting water in the bottom for added safety. Cigarette butts and ashes should be submerged in water before being dumped in the garbage. Placing a cookie sheet under the ashtray can prevent cigarette and hot ashes from falling onto furniture or clothing. Smoking outside, or while seated at a table, is safer than smoking on upholstered sofas or chairs. No one should ever smoke in bed, nor in a home where oxygen is in use.

Cooking: If the person likes to cook, it is important to provide supervision and assist where necessary. Removing the fuses or knobs from the stove will prevent its use during unsupervised times. Other appliances, such as toasters and electric kettles, should be unplugged and stored out of sight when not in use. Even though microwaves are less hazardous than stovetops, they can still cause burn injuries and fires, so should only be used with supervision.

Heating Appliances: If space heaters are used in the home, make sure they are kept at least one metre (three feet) away from anything that can burn. The surfaces of woodstoves and fireplaces get extremely hot, so keep metal fire screens around them to prevent contact burns.

Candles: All candles should be removed from the home of a person with Alzheimer Disease or related dementia as they can easily be knocked over or brushed against.

Home Fire Escape Planning: If a fire occurs in the home, caregivers need as much time as possible to assist the person with Alzheimer Disease to safety. Having working smoke alarms on every storey and outside all sleeping areas as required by law helps to ensure the earliest detection and warning of fire. Test smoke alarms once a month following the manufacturer's instructions and replace batteries once a year. If the alarm is more than 10 years old, it needs to be replaced.

In a fire situation, it is critical that everyone in the household knows what to do and where to meet outside of the home. Develop a home escape plan, indicating two ways out of every room, if possible, and review the plan with every member of the household. The plan should also identify who will assist the person with Alzheimer and any other vulnerable occupant(s) to safety outside of the home.

When the smoke alarm sounds and there is smoke or fire, everyone must get out right away. Call the fire department from outside the house on a cell phone or from a neighbour's house.

For additional tips, education and support on Alzheimer Disease visit www.alzheimerontario.org

Machin Volunteer Fire and First Response can be contacted on Facebook, by email: machinfire@bellnet.ca or mail: PO Box 249 Vermilion Bay ON P0V2V0



Vermilion Bay Lions Father's Day Raffle

**2026 CF Moto U10 Pro Highland Side
by Side & 2025 True North Trailer**

*Side by Side comes complete with: Full cab,
Heat & Air Conditioning, Power Windows,
Power L.H. Box & Winch.*

**May not appear exactly as shown on image.*

Prizes by lot only.
Total prize retail value \$35,129.63 *Includes HST
Winner is responsible for Licence & Insurance.

**Draw Date: June 21st, 2026 at the
Vermilion Bay Lions Hall at 5:00 pm
78 Spruce Street, Vermilion Bay, Ontario**
Proceeds Support: Local Lions Initiatives
Winner will be posted at vermilionbaylions.org



\$20⁰⁰
PER TICKET
4000 printed

Lic. No. 9: M287/35 Tickets can only be purchased by, for or on behalf of
persons under the age of 18.
Prize must be accepted as awarded.

Ticket #:

Tickets can be purchased at participating stores in Vermilion Bay and Dryden as well from Vermilion Bay Lions members. You may also contact the Vermilion Bay Lions by email: vbaylions@gmail.com and state your name, address, phone number and declare you are over 18 years of age. We will email you a picture of the completed ticket stub. Payment can be made by cheque, cash or EMT.

Purchases must be done in the province of Ontario



WOW! What a nice parade on December 12th. Thank to all who braved the weather and came with their floats, thank you to the spectators who also lined the streets to watch the parade. True Canadian Spirit stood out and it looked like everyone enjoyed themselves despite the very cold weather. To Santa & Mrs. Claus thank you for participating in our parade during your busiest time of year, and thank you Santa for stopping by at the Holiday Train, many little cold smiling faces were very happy to see you.

I would like to thank Erin for helping me with signing up and organizing the start up of the parade. To all the floats who participated, Vermilion Bay Lion's Club, Co-op, Clark's, R & R Mechanical, Nelson Granite, Bruyere's Bob Cat Service, Bobby's, Piston Ring. To The Fire Dept. for leading the parade as well as OPP and the shinny Fire Trucks, Ben and Tommy for assisting the Santa float handing out candies, Gord and Ray for pulling the Santa Float. Cheryl, Conrad for helping to direct traffic, Jerry, Sandy, Brandon for setting and removing the barricades for the parade. If I have missed anyone, I am sorry and incredibly grateful for all the help and participation. Happy New Year! Hope to see you all next year and Santa if you are reading this, we would like warmer weather next year!



Thank you to everyone who came out for the skate with Santa on Saturday December 13 at the Woodland Arena. All were having fun, especially Santa Claus, out on the ice skating with the children. Thank you to Tasha and her volunteers for handing out free hot chocolate and hot dogs. Thank you also to Mayor Griffiths for coming out and supporting the event. We look forward to seeing you all again next year.

The Woodland Arena would also like to thank the following organizations for sponsoring Free Skate:

**OSSTF/FEESO Dist. 5A - December 24th
Vermilion Bay Early ON – December 28th
MCCY (Firefly) - December 31st**

HAPPY GO LUCKY SENIOR TRIATHLON GAMES

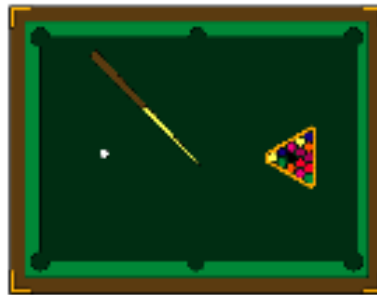
WHEN - JANUARY 15, 2026 (THURSDAY)
WHERE - BAYVIEW HOTEL
(WEATHER PERMITTING)

TIME - NOON TO ? \$10.00 PER PERSON

Shuffleboard



Pool



Darts



“SCHIBBLES” PROVIDED

No partners needed. No excuses. You DON'T have to know how to play these games. It's all on a point system. The only thing necessary will be a sense of humour!


This is a FUN Game Day.

Contact Sue (807 529-4388) for more information

JANUARY 2026 - HAPPY GO LUCKY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 HAPPY NEW YEAR 2026	2	3
4	5 COFFEE	6 Lorraine Brechtefeld Rose Favelle	7 COFFEE EXE MTG @ 9:30 am	8	9 COFFEE	10
11	12 NO COFFEE LUNCHEON	13	14 COFFEE Florence LaPointe	15 Senior Games Marcel Lebruve	16 COFFEE	17
18	19 COFFEE Judy Fowler	20 Robert Caquette	21	22 Anita Chandler	23 COFFEE	24 RENTED Candi Elyk
25 RENTED	26	27 Garry Parkes	28	29 Karl Huffman	30 HOT BREAKFAST	31



<p><u>EXECUTIVE:</u></p> <p>President: Garry Parkes 807 227-2895</p> <p>1st Vice: Joy</p> <p>2nd Vice: Marcel</p> <p>Secretary: Linda</p> <p>Treasurer: Martin</p>	<p>SHUFFLEBOARD, DARTS AND POOL TOURNAMENT JANUARY 15, 2026 at Bayview. Everyone welcome Phone Sue at 807-529-4388.</p> 	<p><u>MONTHLY ACTIVITIES</u></p> <p>Morning coffee will NOT BE SERVED BETWEEN DEC. 20 - JANUARY 5, 2026 Coffee will begin again on January 5</p> <p>Fridays - Mahjong 10 am</p> <p>For Room Rentals: Call 807 227-2818 or Text 807 227-5329 (call, text or mess)</p> <p>HAPPY NEW YEAR</p>
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**SHED POUNDS,
GAIN FRIENDS**
First visit is FREE!

**Join us for affordable, effective
weight-loss support!**

Vermilion Bay TOPS meets
Thursdays at 11:00 a.m.
at the Vermilion Bay Evangelical Church.
If you are interested in joining our group, please
call the number below for further information.

Marcia Pilipishen 807-227-2061

Real People. Real Weight-Loss.® www.tops.org



**Come out and Play
Free**



Pickleball
@
Lillian Berg School
6pm-7:30pm
EVERY WEDNESDAY STARTING OCT 2ND

**Lets Play
Pickleball**



FREE@
Eagle River Rec Centre
Every Monday Tuesday & Thursday
6:30pm-8:30pm
Adults & Seniors





NORTH COUNTRY PLUMBING
All your plumbing needs



• ESTIMATES • REPAIRS
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 • LICENSED PLUMBER

P.O. BOX 158
 Vermilion Bay, Ontario
 P0V 2V0 (807) 227-2162
 Fax (807) 227-2907
 Cell (807) 529-4458

Bob McGogy



The Vermilion Bay Co-op would like to let the shoppers know the following monthly dates for 2026

STORE HOURS: 9 A.M.— 6 P. M.
MONDAY—SATURDAY
CLOSED SUNDAYS


Shareholder Days	Senior Days	Flyer Days
Jan. 9	Jan. 21	Jan. 9—Jan. 15 Jan. 22—Jan 29
DON'T FORGET YOUR REUSABLE SHOPPING BAGS!		

Just a reminder that you can view the Co-op Flyers online at www.coopconnection.ca
 Thank you for your patronage.

G & G SPORTS
 Need something fixed or repaired
 Sports Equipment
 Bike Seats
 Zippers

Call Garry @ 807-227-2895 or
 807-529-4363

LITTLE JOE FEEDS
 LIVESTOCK - POULTRY - WILDLIFE - BIRD



Joanne Graham
 Box 13
 Waldhof, ON P0V 2X0
 Call or Text: 807-323-2797



Jim's Electrical Services
 jimselectrical.ca
 807 323 1543 (cell)
 welzjim@gmail.com

Licensed and Insured
 ECRA/ESA Lic# 7011937

Our Services




• Ontario Commercial Vehicle Safety Inspections
 • Fleet Maintenance
 • Auto and Commercial Vehicle Repair
 • Heavy Duty Equipment Repair
 • Maintenance Services
 • Diagnostic and Electrical Services
 • Mobile Service

Raymond Boilard
 807-728-1671
 Vermilion Bay, ON

**THIS SPACE
 COULD BE YOURS!
 CALL US
 FOR ADVERTISING RATES.
 227-2633**

The Reading Room



The Reading Room will be open during Municipal Office business hours (8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.).

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Machin Council Meeting: Monday January 12th immediately following the Public Works meeting, and January 26th 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, Machin Municipal Office.

Public Works Meeting: Monday January 12th at 6:00 p.m., in Council Chambers in Machin Municipal Office.

Lions Club—First and third Wednesdays of every month, 7:00 p.m., Lion’s Hall. **AA** - 7:00 p.m. Tuesdays and Sundays at the Evangelical Mission Church, 55 Willow St., Vermilion Bay.

Seniors Friendship Club of Eagle River—Third Wednesday of each Month.

Waldhof Wranglers—Contact Emma Benham at 807-220-0554, waldhofwranglers2011@gmail.com , or check out the Waldhof Wranglers Facebook page.

Contact Information for Mayor & Council

Mayor:
Gord Griffiths 807-227-2074, 807-221-8717 (cell)

Deputy Mayor:
Dennis Peterson 807-220-1558 (cell)

Councillor:
Tony Blair 807-227-5410 (cell)

Councillor:
Ray Pilkey 807-220-1502 (cell)

Councillor:
Greg Swanson 807-220-3615 (cell)

Building Permit Applications and general inquiries are available at the Machin Office. Any questions on building, please call the Chief Building Office, Shawna Alberts at (807)-216-8285 or the Municipal Office at 807-227-2633.

Area Church Services



Our Lady of Fatima
Roman Catholic Church
Hwy 17 Vermilion Bay
Mass: closed for the winter

St. Mark Lutheran Church
Hwy 17 Vermilion Bay
Services: Sundays 11:30 a.m.
Sunday School
Sunday mornings @ 10:15 a.m.

Evangelical Mission Church
55 Willow Street, Vermilion Bay
Services: Sundays 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School—10:00 a.m.

Upper Falls Baptist Church
Hwy 105 North
Worship: Sundays 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School/Bible Study:
10:00 a.m. (all ages)



Please note we will be switching to winter hours at the landfills

CLOSED THURSDAY'S TILL SUMMER

WINTER HOURS

WASTE DISPOSAL SITES

Effective October 1st, 2025

LOCATION	TUESDAY	SATURDAY
VERMILION BAY	1 p.m. – 5 p.m.	8 a.m. – 12 p.m.
EAGLE RIVER	8 a.m. – 12 p.m.	1 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Pease do not throw live ammuniton in the landfills

Copies of the water systems monthly summary, annual reports and the financial plan are available for viewing at the Municipal Office if any of the general public would like to review them. Also available at the Municipal Office the public may access the Water Quality System Policy for the Vermilion Bay water treatment plant and distribution system which forms part of the Operational Plan. Should anyone have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact Shawna Alberts at 807-227-2064.