





Smiths Falls

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



SMITHS FALLS
RISE AT THE FALLS
|||

Smiths Falls

FAST FACTS

LAND & LIVING

- 9,500 residents
- 9.66 km² area
- 958.1 persons per km²
- 4,500 private households
- 45.4 - Average Age
- 47.2 - Median Age
- \$72,100 - Average Household Income
- \$57,100 - Average (Full-time Worker)
- \$165,000 median assessed value
- 2.5 minute median commute time
- Five elementary schools
- Three secondary schools
- Six child care centres
- Three seniors residences

CULTURE & COMMUNITY

- Heritage House Museum
- Railway Museum of Eastern Ontario
- The Station Theatre
- Bascule Bridge
- UNESCO World Heritage Site: The Rideau Canal
- 33.27 hectares of designated parkland
- Cataraqui Trail
- Rideau Trail
- Smiths Falls ATV Trail
- Smiths Falls Snowmobile Trail
- Ottawa Valley Recreational Trail
- Smiths Falls Walking Trail
- Memorial Community Centre Arena
- Youth Arena
- Smiths Falls Curling and Squash Club
- Smiths Falls Seniors Activity Centre

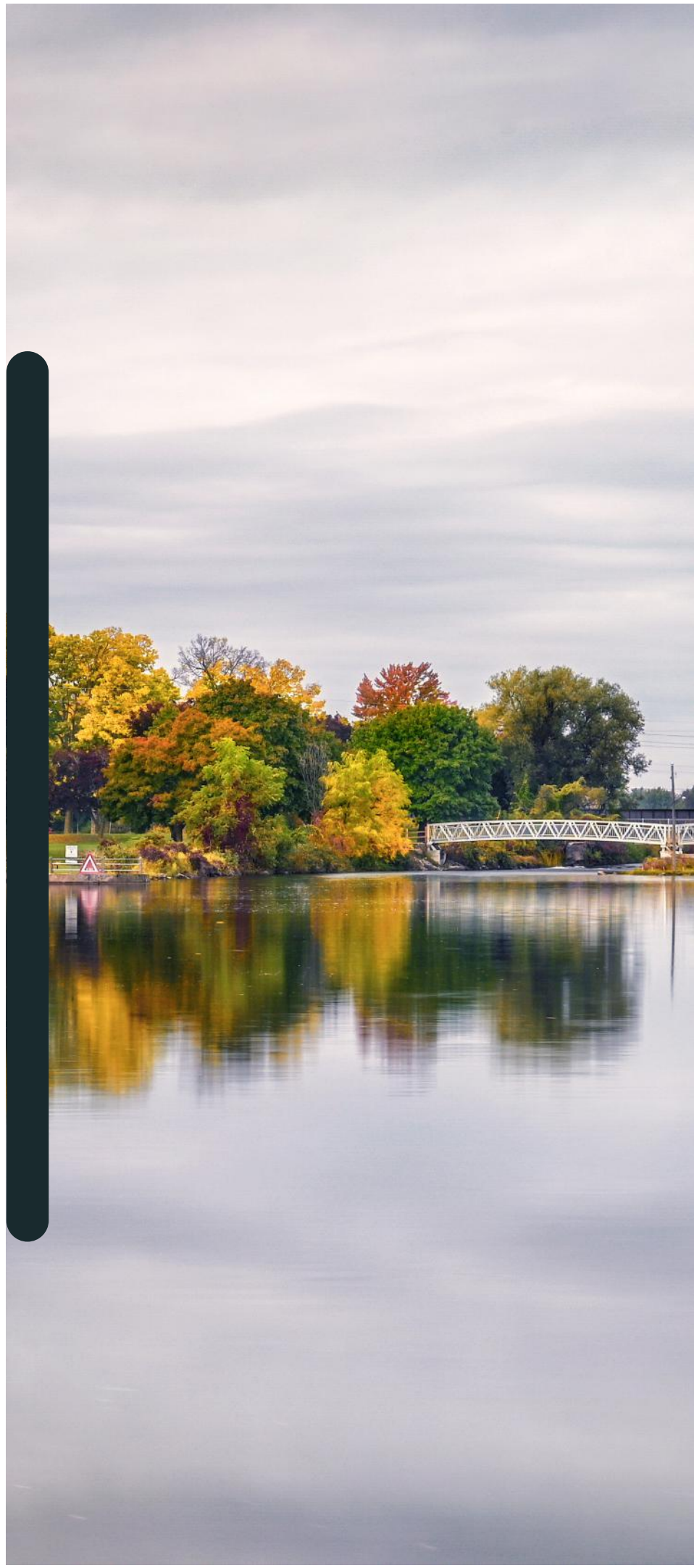
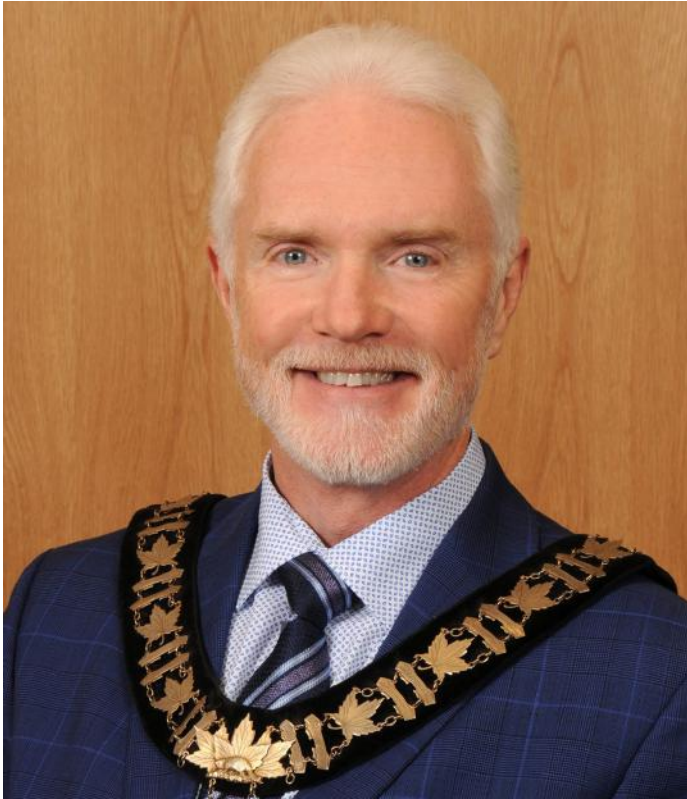




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Message from the **MAYOR**



Warm, welcoming and full of heart! Yes, that is our town!!

Smiths Falls is a community that welcomes everyone with open arms. Whether you have moved here in recent years, or visit on occasion, Smiths Falls has long been recognized as a town that greets everyone with its warm small-town charm and regularly does all it can to ensure our quality of life is exceptional.

Although this is the norm, 2025 will long be remembered as the year our community shared its pride with thousands of visitors, over a multitude of events. If you didn't finish 2025 both exhilarated and exhausted, you may have missed out on an outstanding year of fun and celebration.

Driven by the creativity and commitment of numerous organizations armed with dozens and dozens of volunteers, 2025 will long be remembered as the year we honoured our past, toasted our present and packed away a little bit of everything from our lives today in a time capsule to be opened in 2050!

From the Opening Parade to the Farewell Concert and everything in between, the once in every 25-year-celebration, Old Home Week, was an outstanding success. Floatfest saw over a hundred participant beating the heat by floating down the Rideau from the old combined lock to Lower Reach Park on their favourite floatie and as was the case with Old Home Weeks past in 2000, 1976, 1950 and 1925, former residents returned home to reconnect with their community, family and friends from years past, especially at the Homecoming Dance.

With the Heritage Walking Tour and Old Home Week Retrospective honouring our past, the Nightshirt Parade, Downtown Ghost Walk and Dinosaur Show and Park Picnic providing unique experiences and the Northstar Drone Star Lighting up our nighttime sky, the Old Home Week Committee delivered on its promise to keep us inspired and entertained.

After a one-year hiatus, the Spirit of the Drum Pow Wow delivered an incredible cultural experience. The park was alive with the customs, colours, dancing and drumming of indigenous friends from across Turtle Island. It was an opportunity for residents and visitors to truly immerse themselves in the traditional celebrations of First Nations people in a beautiful setting along the banks of the Rideau River.

Events dominated our weekends throughout the summer, but it was a new event, Bike Night, which ran once a month from June to September that drew the biggest crowds. The adage that all roads lead to Smiths Falls was never truer than on these nights when the rumble of Harlies and motorcycles of all brands and models rolled into town from across Eastern Ontario, filling our downtown with brilliant colours and chrome. This event, conceived and delivered by the Downtown Smiths Falls Business Association, drew thousands of participants and curious enthusiasts from one end of Beckwith Street to the other. The downtown was alive with music, vendors and entertainment and the success of these events ensured they will return in 2026.

Another highlight of the year was watching our new water tower rise from the ground and grow into the 40-meter tall storage tank that will serve our community's needs for the next century. With capacity of 5 million liters, approximately 6 times

the volume of the old water tower, the \$9.6 million investment was built to meet the long-term demands of a growing community, and was supported by a \$3,666,500 grant from the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) — Green Infrastructure Stream.

Another highly anticipated infrastructure project began to take shape when sections of it arrived in town last summer – the new bridge at the site of the former Confederation Bridge. Crews soon started assembling the 52-meter, timber-framed structure. It features tapered Alaskan Yellow Cedar glulam arches which support a doubly-curved metal roof that reaches nearly 9 meters above the bridge deck.

The footbridge incorporates traditional materials including timber, steel, and stone to complement with the historical context of the Rideau Canal. This active transportation bridge features symmetrical viewing platforms on each side of the bridge, offering a unique opportunity to appreciate the river and surrounding scenery once it opens in the spring of 2026. Supported by a \$495,000 grant from Natural Resources Canada's Green Construction through Wood Program, this new crossing will be a landmark both residents and visitors can enjoy for generations.

Two long-awaited initiatives opened and will bring benefits to our community in many positive ways. The first, the new Broadview Nursing Centre off Pearl Street, is a modern, innovative 128-bed long-term care home dedicated to delivering exceptional long-term care and nursing services designed to cater to the unique needs of our residents while enhancing their overall well-being. The second long-needed community asset, a new HART (Homelessness and Addiction, Recovery and Treatment) Hub opened in December to provide vital access to treatment that has long been out of reach for most people struggling with substance use and addiction in our community. This much-welcomed treatment centre, operated by Lanark, Leeds Grenville Addictions and Mental Health, provides the entire continuum of care, from withdrawal management, recovery and supportive housing.

In May, Council unanimously supported a motion, initially proposed by the Smiths Falls Equity for All Committee, declaring food insecurity an

emergency. The committee had investigated the state of food insecurity in town and drafted the motion in response to the growing cost of food, the explosion in demand at the Smiths Falls Community Food Bank and the volume of people seeking meals through the Falls Food Hub.

A working group continues to meet to better understand the realities of hunger and to develop solutions and actions that can help improve food security. Since 2019, the town has contributed over \$225,000 in the fight against hunger. Another initiative taken up by the SFE4ALL committee was an invitation to twin or partner with a city in Ukraine. As we know, Russia invaded Ukraine in February, 2022. Hundreds of thousands of lives have been lost and millions displaced, including some in our own community, as Ukraine continues to defend its sovereign territory and push back Russian invaders. Council formalized its new alliance with Zolochiv, a small city in L'viv Oblast in Western Ukraine. This agreement aims to foster collaboration in areas such as education, culture, and economic development, and focuses on sharing strengths, supporting education, and cultural exchange. Although far from the front lines, Zolochiv is still deeply impacted by war, including the loss of approximately 200 of its citizens to the war effort, regular black outs and the ever-present threat of attack.



Message from the **MAYOR (CONT'D)**

It was heartwarming to watch the video of our community and nation being honoured in a ceremony attended by Zolochiv officials and citizens as O'Canada was played and a Canadian flag rose above city hall.

Over 600 Christmas cards, many hand-made by children in town, were sent to Zolochiv before Christmas to spread some cheer during these difficult times. Approximately 200 sent to soldiers recovering from war injuries at a military hospital in Zolochiv.

2025 was also the year Council learned that our Youth Arena is reaching the end of its useful life and needs to be replaced. The feasibility study completed mid-year outlined numerous options for Council's consideration, and a decision was reached to advance a plan that includes the development of a new NHL-sized ice pad adjacent to the Memorial Community Centre and the addition of a multi-purpose field house to accommodate indoor sports, including pickle ball, soccer, basketball and volleyball. Detailed design will occur in 2026 and the town has already initiated conversations with upper-level governments in our quest to secure funding critical to the future of this project.

Of course, no year in review would be complete without mentioning another successful season for hometown girl Brooke Henderson. The most successful professional golfer in Canadian history nailed down her second-ever CPKC Women's Open by a single stroke last August in Edmonton. Brooke now has fourteen career wins on the LPGA tour. Once again, as has been the case for all but one of Brooke's victories, Brittany was with her every step of the way as caddy. Cheers to 2026!

CAO Strategic Plan **REPORT**

Council and staff have committed to the principles of strategic planning. A solid strategic plan is an effective way to communicate municipal priorities to citizens, businesses, stakeholders, and investors.

It forms the basis of future decision making and keeps the organization focused on the big picture accomplishments that matter. Town Council adopted the current strategic plan early in their 4-year term and have been guided by its objectives with twice annual updates on progress being made. The key strategic priorities for this term of Council are:

Transportation Networks - To enable improved mobility by examining existing transportation networks both within Town and beyond in a way that supports employment and accessibility.

Housing - Support more diverse built housing stock to ensure all our citizens have a home they can afford.

Redevelopment of the Waterfront &

Downtown - Enhance the waterfront experience for our residents and visitors by developing places that attract people.

Infrastructure Renewal - To manage our infrastructure in a proactive manner and position the Town for growth.

New Business Attraction - Create employment, expand economic activity and broaden the tax base to build a thriving local economy.

Parks, Trails & Recreation - To enhance quality of life and provide diverse recreational opportunities for residents & visitors.

There are 35 initiatives within the plan to support the 6 strategic priorities. All 6 priority areas advanced considerably in 2025.

Priority #1 - Transportation Networks

The new Confederation Bridge project is one of the most visible initiatives of 2025. The structure was assembled and placed into position with all bridge related construction completed before the early arrival of winter conditions. Hardscaping of the bridge approaches along with landscaping features will be completed in the spring of 2026. The bridge will open to the public immediately following the finishing touches.

The Transportation Master Plan element of the Official Plan project and nearing completion and will be presented to the public in early 2026.

The Smiths Falls/Lanark County Rural Transit Feasibility Study is now complete with a series of recommendations to provide improved mobility options within town and beyond.

Priority #2 – Housing

The objective of building more affordable housing is being incentivized through the Community Improvement Plan (CIP). The CIP features programs to support attainable housing projects through planning fee rebates and other financial incentives.

The other key policy development initiative within the Housing priority is the Official Plan (OP) update. This project is approaching the finish line and will be presented to Council in the second quarter of 2026.

Priority #3 – Waterfront & Downtown

This priority area features a range of plans, studies and programs to enhance the waterfront and downtown experience. The Heritage Conservation District project was largely completed in 2025 and will be presented in its final form in the 1st quarter of 2026.

Options are being considered to develop the former water treatment plant property on Old Mill Road now that the structures have been removed. The Canal District Revitalization Master Plan encompasses the waterfront area formerly occupied by the Frost and Wood manufacturing complex along the Centre Street corridor. A series of recommendations from the Plan are being advanced to create the conditions for this prime waterfront precinct to be redeveloped. Engagement with Parks Canada has become more regular providing a formal opportunity to discuss projects/initiatives of mutual interest. Parks Canada officials confirmed the timeline to complete a site plan for the Smiths Falls lock stations is now 2027.

Priority #4 – Infrastructure Renewal

The infrastructure priority places emphasis on asset management planning and climate protection initiatives. The Town's revised Asset Management Plan was approved by Council over the summer months; it not only meets provincial regulatory requirements but will, importantly, more accurately inform our capital spending programs. Additional work is underway as it relates to facility conditions, an IT strategy, and a road/sidewalk needs analysis.

The Climate Protection Working Group is diligently advancing our obligations within the Partners for Climate Protection framework.

Milestone 2 (targets) were approved by Council in 2025. A draft Climate Action Plan (Milestone 3) to be released for public feedback and consultation in the first quarter of 2026, with final Action Plan to be presented to Council within 2026.

Priority #5 – New Business Attraction

A BR&E (Business Retention and Expansion) plan was crafted and presented to Council in 2025. This priority item will be a focal point for the new Manager of Economic Development and Tourism in 2026.

Work continues to advance on making more industrial land investment ready. The environmental impact study for the Walker Road area of the industrial/business park was commissioned over the summer and will inform opportunities/restrictions to fully develop these employment lands.

The High-Speed Rail project being led by Alto was deemed to be one of several nation building projects by the Federal government. The project has advanced to the development stage now that Cadence has been selected as the Design/Build/Operate proponent. The Prime Minister announced the first phase of the 1000km passenger rail system connecting Toronto to Quebec City will focus on the section between Ottawa and Montreal. Public engagement lead by Alto is slated for 2026 with a decision on the preferred alignment to come before the end of 2026. Advocacy efforts to support a system presence in Smiths Falls to provide local and regional access to the proposed high speed rail service are expected to continue in 2026.

Priority #6 – Parks, Trails & Recreation

Progress continues to be made on the suite of initiatives within this priority area all focused on enhancing quality of life offerings in the community. Council approved a series of plans to provide the framework for improving connectivity and the quality of the off-road trail network. A Trail Standards Plan, a Parks & Open Space Connectivity Plan along with an accompanying Implementation Plan are now in place to inform future build out of trails and access to parks. The new trailhead facility to support and encourage use of the Catarauqui Trail was opened to the public in October.

Public WORKS + UTILITIES

	34 full-time staff
	Operated and maintained <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 69 km of roadways • 58 km of sewer mains • 61.9 km of water mains • 6 bridges
	Prepared 25 Council reports
	Treated <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,483 ML of Drinking Water • 3,624 ML of Wastewater
	Produced 174.1 tonnes of fertilizer from wastewater solids
	Collected 2,860 tonnes of residential solid waste
	Diverted 568 tonnes of recyclable material from landfill
	Collected 412 tonnes of yard waste



Road and Sidewalk Improvements

The following surface improvements were completed under the Asphalt, Concrete, Milling and Paving (ACMP) Capital Program:

- Asphalt, concrete, milling and paving were completed on Chambers Street from Market Street to Beckwith Street, and on Toulon Street from Brockville Street to Percy Street.
- New sidewalks were installed on two streets that previously had no pedestrian facilities. Toulon Street (from Brockville Street to Percy Street) and Greig Street (from Union Street to Condie Street) now have sidewalks on one side of the roadway to improve pedestrian connectivity and safety.
- The parking lot and surrounding sidewalk at the intersection of Market Street and William Street were fully reconstructed. Site upgrades included revised vehicle access to improve traffic flow, enhanced site drainage, upgraded underground electrical infrastructure, and installation of a new light standard.
- New curb installation, roadway regrading, and resurfacing on Elmsley Street North improved surface drainage along approximately 120 metres of roadway north of Johnston Street.
- William Street West, from Abbott Street to Cornelia Street, was resurfaced to improve the driving surface. The roadway was also widened to accommodate buffered bike lanes on both sides, enhancing cycling infrastructure and road user safety.

George Street Phase 2

Town Engineering staff successfully administered Phase 2 of the George Street Reconstruction project, which extended from William Street W. to Gladstone Avenue. This major capital project was completed by K. Mulrooney Trucking Ltd. of Kingston, Ontario, between the months of June 2025 and December 2025. The scope of work mirrored that of Phase 1, including full sewer separation, upgrades to PVC sanitary sewers and water mains, replacement of lead residential water services with copper, and replacement of clay residential sewer laterals with PVC. The surface features were upgraded to include new sidewalks constructed in compliance with the Ontario Accessibility Standards and the roadway in accordance with Ontario Provincial Standards.

Confederation Bridge Replacement

The former Confederation Bridge was removed and replaced with a new landmark timber bridge,

reinstating connectivity from Victoria Park to the downtown core and enhancing the visual character of the area. The balance of minor works will commence and finish Spring 2026.

Public Works Equipment

The Public Works Department received the following equipment:

- 2 - Fully outfitted single-axle plow trucks and a street sweeper to replace equipment lost in the February 2025 Public Works Garage fire
- 1 - New Case backhoe
- 1 - New Trackless sidewalk plow

2025 Wastewater Systems Capital Projects

- Primary and Secondary Tank gates were replaced with new Stainless Steel slide gates, to replace broken and corroded Aluminum gates for 1993 plant upgrades.
- Sewage lift pump from wet well preventative maintenance performed to extend life of unit.
- New Sulzer Blower purchased and installed for Aeration Tank operation, with Dissolved Oxygen online analyzers, significant energy savings experienced.
- Solids Handling Study for Water Pollution Control Plant started, 4 options presented for future consideration.

- New Sewer Camera purchased for Collection system operations.
- Diesel Tank replacement for Emergency backup system.
- Tree removal around property and site clean up. Re-establish hydro line access, and perimeter fencing.
- Sewer lining under youth arena and parking lot lined.

2025 Water Systems Capital Projects

- New 5050 cubic meter Water Tower completed and commissioned.
- SCADA replacements completed for Water Treatment Plant with alarm system upgrades.
- Parks Canada water service replaced and upgraded for Rideau Canal National Historic Site at 34 Beckwith St. South.
- Total Chlorine Analyzer upgrade and replacement.
- Water Meter Replacement Program commenced to replace 2300 residential meters with new radio frequency units.
- New MSA self-contained breathing apparatuses purchased for emergency response within the Water Treatment Plant.



Smiths Falls FIRE DEPARTMENT

At a Glance

2025 started off the year with an amazing ice/water rescue of a young boy who had fallen through the ice in the Rideau Canal, crews arrived on scene quickly and were able to rescue the boy.

Our year continued on a high note as we responded to 349 emergencies, an increase of 14 % over 2024, Smiths Falls dispatch witnessed an increase in the number of calls dispatched and an increase in radio transmissions.



Fire Services

Our training division had another busy year as we hired 3 recruit volunteer firefighters, continued our compliance for the NFPA training standards and the continued advancement of our full-time firefighters. We were also invited by CPKC to send two firefighters to Denver Colorado for railcar firefighter training at their newly renovated facility.

We have continued to work with the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs (OAFC) on a Provincial committee to review the medical tiered response program and the new Ambulance patient colour coding.

Smiths Falls dispatch center secured 3 new additional dispatching contracts which resulted in the hiring of 3 full-time dispatchers.

Our Fire Prevention division experienced an increase in requests for plans review which included a proposed long-term care facility, the redevelopment of residential/commercial building and the inspection of a new long-term care facility.

Mutual Aid

0	Beckwith
0	Carleton Place
3	Drummond/North Elmsley
1	Lanark Highlands
1	Montague
1	Perth
1	Rideau Lakes

And closing out the year, our automatic aid agreement with the Township of Rideau Lakes ended in December of 2025, ending an agreement that had been in place for over 20 years providing fire protection services.

In 2025 Smiths Falls Fire Department attended 63 Automatic Aid Calls:

- Rideau Lakes – 48
- Drummond North Elmsley – 15

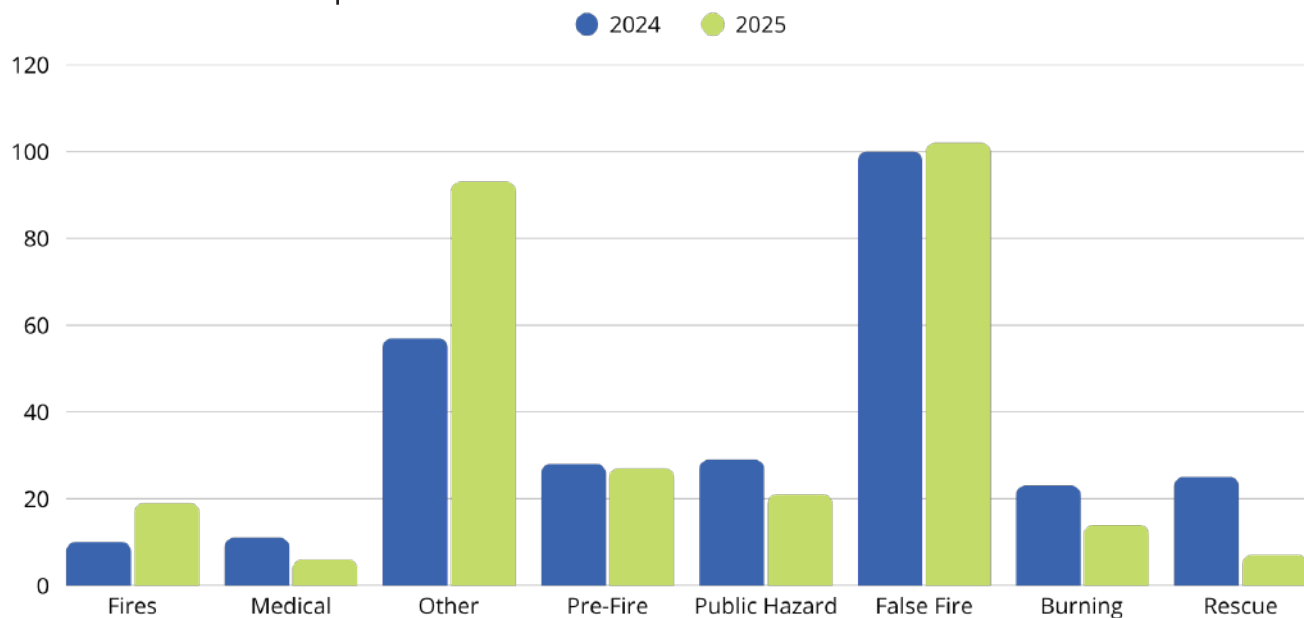


Fire Prevention Activities



The Ontario Fire Marshall categories are as follows:

Property Fire/Explosions	Fire, explosion, no loss outdoor fire
Medical/Resuscitator	Accident or illness related (cuts, fractures, etc.) Chest pains or suspected heart attack, CPR administration Aid not required upon arrival/no action required, other medical
Other Response	Assistance to other agencies, assistance to Police Assistance to other Fire Department (mutual aid, automatic aid, etc.) Call cancelled on route, other public service
Pre-Fire Conditions/No Fire	Other cooking/toasting/smoke/steam (no fire) Overheat (no fire), pot on stove (no fire)
Public Hazard	CO incident, gas leak – propane or natural gas, spill (gas/miscellaneous) power lines down/arcng
False Fire Calls	Alarm (accidental/malfunction/human/malicious, other false fire call
Burning (controlled)	Open air burning/unauthorized controlled burning
Rescue	Other rescue, person trapped in elevator



Economic DEVELOPMENT + TOURISM

Tourism Initiatives

- Worked to improve communication & collaboration with partners to implement tourism marketing & program initiatives.
- 8,000 Visitor Guides were distributed to local Info Centres, hotels, and tourism offices; 2,000 new event rack cards were distributed and well-received; The Heritage Walking Tour pamphlet was updated and reprinted; The Thrift Guide was created and distributed in collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce & The DSFBA.
- Approved 26 special events from local organizers, plus the 100th anniversary of Old Home Week.
- On our social channels, there was a 2,042% rise in impressions, 2,678% rise in engagements and a 305% increase in reach over 2024, on the Experience Smiths Falls Facebook page. On Instagram, there was a 368% increase in impressions, and a 120.3% increase in engagement.
- On Facebook, 1,173 new followers were added growing the account to 4,384 followers; On Instagram, 1,390 followers were added growing the account to 4,626 followers.
- The What's Happening Newsletter added 252 new subscribers, and the open rate increased 1% to 59%, which is 23% higher than the industry average.
- The Public Arts Advisory Committee was implemented; The inventory of existing public art was completed, and processes and documents created to provide a framework for accepting new public arts proposals.
- Work continued on the multi-year, multi-regional Eastern Ontario Rail Trail Loop project; the Trail Readiness assessment was completed and reviewed, branding was chosen, and the group will be proceeding with community engagement in 2026 to generate awareness, with an international launch slated for 2030.
- Organized & hosted 7 community events, including Canada Day, the Truth & Reconciliation ceremony, The Holiday Train and new events like The Big Thrift & The Art Walk, in collaboration with The Chamber of Commerce and DSFBA.

Economic Development Initiatives

- Administered the Community Grants Program

- BR&E and Investment Attraction Plan
- Hosted 3 business workshops (Social Media, Marketing 101, AI For Small Business)
- Produced and Promoted 7 Business Highlight articles (Big Rideau Tackle, My Place Restaurant, Up Wellness, Uplifted Medical Aesthetics, SPX TAMCO, Coxy Cottage)
- Organized Community Awards and Citizen of the Year Award ceremonies
- Administered Winter & Summer Local Eats program
- Economic Edge eNewsletter
- Worked with partners to host the Annual Smiths Falls Job & Volunteer Fair
- Engaged with 100+ individual businesses throughout the year, providing information, resources and business support services
- Provided Tariff resources to our local businesses and manufacturers
- Facilitated 3 Land Acquisition inquiries

Heritage House Museum

Programs & Special Events

- Spring Carnival
- SFDCI Prom Photos
- Rideau Artist of the Year Competition
- Paint with Janet in the Garden
- Canada Day
- Movies Under the Stars
- National Tree Day (Tree Planting)
- Fall Fest
- Haunted House
- Paranormal Investigations
- Pumpkin Carving Contest
- Holiday Heritage House
- Candlelit Christmas
- 14 Weddings and Private Events
- Two Television/Film Bookings
- March of the Museums
- March Break Camps
- 11 School Groups
- PA Day Kids Camp
- Kids Summer Day Camp

Special Exhibitions

- Smiths Falls: The Heart of the Rideau
- Treasures from the Attic: Historic Framed Photo Collection
- Rideau Artist of the Year
- Old Home Week Retrospective: 100 Years in the Making
- Forged in the Falls: Smiths Falls Manufacturing History

- Annual Smiths Falls Art Show
- Holiday Heritage House

Cultural Partnerships & Outreach

- Trivia Nights at TapRoom Inc.
- Partnership: KAM FAM Tour (Kingston)
- Alzheimer’s Smiths Falls
- Tarot Card Readings
- Historic Places Days
- Old Home Week
- Letters to Santa

Small Business Advisory Centre

Core Services

In 2025, the Small Business Advisory Centre conducted business advisory meetings in person, virtually, and by phone. Most trainings were conducted as webinars (this allowed them to be offered free and to be recorded so that businesses that could not get away from their businesses could receive the recording and watch at their convenience). In-person workshops were conducted on “How to Start a Business” at local employment centres/municipal offices.

Throughout 2025, SBAC continued to attend and speak at events, breakfast meetings, and networking sessions hosted by various Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development offices. Additionally, they were part of the career fairs in Smiths Falls, Elgin and Carleton Place. Co-hosted an International Woman’s Day event in Brockville with the Leeds and Grenville Small Business Centre, in March 2025. Attended and had a booth display at the Carleton Place Business Summit in May 2025, attended and spoke at a Teen Expo, was part of the judging panel for the Business Awards in Rideau Lakes, and collaborated with many other small business centres to offer the Foodpreneur Advantage program (6 part series that runs quarterly).



The SBAC had over 1275 business inquiries via email, in person and social media. They conducted 296 consultations with businesses and potential businesses, discussing start-up, expansion, purchasing, hiring, and funding opportunities. The Centre hosted 28 webinars and 7 in-person workshops, attracting a total of 790 attendees from January to December 2025.

As part of the Small Business Centres (SBC) Ontario network, which includes 54 Small Business Enterprise Centres (SBECS), they provided business owners with access to further e-learning opportunities.



Starter Company Plus

The Centre conducted 2 intakes of the Starter Company Plus program in 2025, involving 23 participants. Of these, 17 successfully obtained grant funding after attending over 25 hours of in-class training, including a business plan boot camp and other relevant business training, pitching their businesses to a grant committee, and participating in weekly group coaching sessions. The total amount of grants issued was \$78,000.

Summer Company Program

Throughout the year went into high schools/youth centres to talk about the Ontario Government youth program that we are the local service provider for. The Summer Company program had 2 student participants who received training, mentoring, and funding throughout the summer while running their own businesses. The total amount of grants issued were \$6,000.

Community SERVICES

The Community Services Department continued to play a central role in strengthening community life in Smiths Falls throughout the year, supporting major events, advancing long-term planning initiatives, and enhancing public spaces used by residents and visitors alike.

Community Services staff played a key role in supporting Old Home Week, providing leadership on logistics and operational coordination to help ensure the success of the one-every-25-years celebration. The Department also partnered with community leaders to help bring the Spirit of the Drum Pow Wow back to Smiths Falls for 2025. The event was a significant cultural gathering and an important step in continuing to build relationships and honour Indigenous culture within the community.

Significant progress was also made on several planning initiatives that will help guide the future of recreation and park development in Smiths Falls. The Department completed Phase One of the Youth Arena Feasibility Study, an important step in understanding the long-term recreational infrastructure needs of our region. In addition, staff finalized the Lower Reach Park Master Plan: "Reimagine the Reach," which provides a clear vision and strategic direction for the future development and revitalization of one of the community's most valued waterfront parks.

Work also began on the refresh of Alexander Park, which will see ongoing improvements to park



amenities and the overall experience for residents in the surrounding neighbourhood.

Alongside these larger initiatives, staff continued to focus on the care and enhancement of everyday community spaces. Throughout the year, crews commenced the refurbishment of aging park furniture in both Centennial and Victoria parks, helping to improve comfort and usability for park visitors. Staff also coordinated the installation of seasonal flower displays throughout the downtown and in parks and public spaces, contributing to the beautification of the community and creating welcoming spaces for residents and visitors.

Ice Programming Expansion and Services Enhancement (2025-2026)

The 2025–2026 ice season reflects a focused expansion of public programming within the Town's arena facilities, with an emphasis on accessibility, inclusivity, and maximizing



community use. Programming increased across all core public skate and shinny offerings. Parent and Tot was expanded with an added weekly timeslot, while public skating moved to a daily schedule.

Targeted enhancements supported more inclusive participation. Sensory skating is now offered five days per week. Adult shinny saw the largest growth, with three new weekly sessions to meet demand.

New programs were introduced to broaden participation, including Evening Skate, Women’s Shinny, and Teen Stick and Puck, each designed to better serve different age groups and user needs. A Family Stick and Puck pilot is scheduled for April 2026 to further support shared recreational opportunities.

Looking ahead, the Department is developing summer programming to maintain year round use of facilities, including ball hockey opportunities for adults, teens, and families.

These enhancements reflect a more responsive and inclusive approach to programming, ensuring recreation services continue to meet the evolving needs of the community.

Corporate SERVICES

The Town’s Corporate Services Department focuses on corporate-wide support services, based on specialized knowledge, legislation, best practices, and technology to serve both tax payers as well as internal staff.

The Corporate Services Department is made up of a variety of services:

- Clerk’s Office
- Human Resources
- Information Technology
- Finance
- Asset Management



Licensing

26	Business Licences Issued
77	Animal Tags (cats and dogs)
226	Death Registrations
128	Marriage Licences
3	Break-Open Ticket Licences
25	Raffle
3	Regular Bingo

Freedom of Information requests completed: 22
 Reports presented to Council: 130
 By-laws passed: 53
 Resolutions passed: 92
 Council Meetings held: 26
 Committee of the Whole meetings held: 38

Planning SERVICES

The Planning Division helps guide the community's long-term growth and development vision. Through thoughtful planning, we support economic prosperity, community vitality, environmental responsibility, and a strong cultural identity. Our team oversees development review under the Planning Act, manages land use policies and by-laws, administers the Community Improvement Plan, supports heritage programs under the Ontario Heritage Act, and leads climate action planning. Guided by provincial legislation, the Town's Official Plan and Zoning By-law are key tools used to encourage sustainable, well-designed development while minimizing impacts on the community and environment.

New Official Plan

Work is well underway on the Town's new Official Plan, which will replace the current 2014 Official Plan and sets the stage for planning the next 30 years. The new Plan will meet our 30-year growth projections and identify the areas for future residential, commercial and industrial development. The Plan is centred around five key themes: downtown revitalization, housing, sustainability, community spaces and transportation. Each of these themes work together and will help achieve Council's goal of building a complete, prosperous and safe community that is a great place to live. The Official Plan is a foundational plan for the Town which will help guide zoning, parks, roads and other capital investment decisions to keep up with growth. A first draft was released to the public in August, with a public open house held in October. Planning staff continue consultation with the public, the province and organizations throughout the Town to fine tune the draft and work towards a new Official Plan that is ready for Council approval.

Heritage Conservation District

Planning staff worked with the Town's Municipal Heritage Committee, downtown business community and others towards the completion of the Town's first Heritage Conservation District, which would cover the commercial core area of our Downtown.

The Plan recognizes the unique history and cultural landscape of the area and outlines a series of design policies and guidelines to help support development that brings out the best of

the historical character. A public open house and public meeting were held in late 2025, which will set the stage for final approval in early 2026.

2025 Planning Highlights

Planning approvals for infill commercial development and expansion at 7 William Street West and 110 Beckwith Street North, as well as multi-unit residential development at 19 Montague Street, with smaller infill development elsewhere in the Town. Several pre-consultation meetings held for a variety of larger and smaller projects that may become future applications.

Completed the third year of the new Community Improvement Plan. Council funded improvements to seven properties, totaling \$147,067, which leveraged an estimated private sector investment into the downtown core of \$358,904 once the approved projects are completed. Approved projects included façade improvements, accessibility upgrades and downtown interior renovations. The Planning Division began work on updating the CIP to introduce new heritage incentives (supporting the Heritage Conservation District) and make housekeeping amendments for clarity.

Council approved new multi-year Greenhouse Gas reduction targets for both the municipal sector and community sector, measured from the 2021 baseline. Planning staff, with the support of the advisory committee, are working on the Town's first Climate Action Plan to help make these targets a reality.

Municipal Heritage Committee hosted a successful Heritage Symposium in October at the Masonic Lodge – focus on residential heritage and what it means to own a heritage designated property.

Planning Applications

2	Consents
7	Minor Variances
21	Zoning/Work Order Certificates
3	Site Plans & Amendments
12	Other Planning Applications
9	Community Improvement Plan

Building SERVICES

2025 Highlights:

106	13,729,796	213,427.86
PERMITS ISSUED	IN CONSTRUCTION VALUE	IN PERMIT FEES

Major Projects for 2025

- Rabb Street (Campbell Homes) - permits were issued for single family dwellings
- Parkview -Phase 3 has opened

Building Reserve

The Building Reserve account balance ending December 31, 2025 is projected to be approximately \$1,853,945.

Financial SERVICES

Financial Services supports the Town by managing budgets, financial reporting, procurement, revenue collection, and overall financial accountability to ensure sustainable operations and informed decision making.

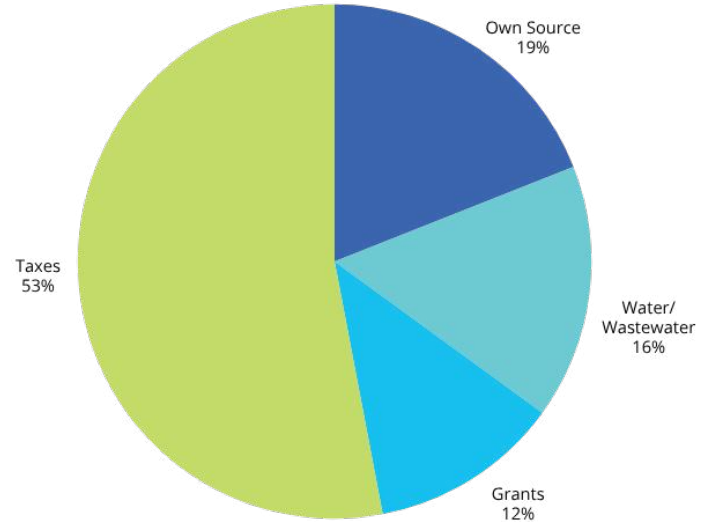
2025 Achievements

In 2025, Financial Services provided financial oversight for approximately \$17 million in capital works focused on renewing municipal assets and administered \$41 million in operating expenditures. The department also successfully collected \$41 million in revenues to support Town operations.

2026 Goals

In 2026, the department will focus on enhancing asset management data to support better decision making, modernizing systems to improve efficiency in Payroll, Human Resources, maintenance management, technology, and security, continue staff training and professional development. Financial Services will also continue to pursue grant opportunities, strengthen financial reserves, and support long term financial sustainability.

2025 Corporate Revenues



As part of its responsibilities, Financial Services issued tax bills to 4,006 properties, added 32 new properties and administered supplementary tax billings, processed more than 9,000 invoices, and collected \$6.5 million in water and wastewater revenues.

2025 Water/Wastewater Revenues

