

Otonabee-South Monaghan an OSM Township

P.O. Box 70, 20 Third Street, Keene, Ontario K0L 2G0

Tel: (705) 295-6852 • Toll Free 705 area code only: (800) 999-4861 • Fax: (705) 295-6405
info@osmtownship.ca • www.osmtownship.ca • Facebook & Twitter @OSMTownship

NEWSLETTER

WINTER/SPRING 2026

Interim Taxes Due Dates:

Friday, February 27, 2026 / Friday, April 24, 2026

Please note that a 1.25% penalty is imposed on unpaid balances on the 1st day of each and every month the default continues. Township staff do not have the authority to waive penalties.

Property Tax Payments

Property taxes can be paid by pre-authorized withdrawal from your bank account on either the installment dates or monthly, depending on your preference. Payments can also be made online, as a bill payment, through your bank. If paying online through your bank, please allow 3 business days for the municipality to receive payments to ensure your payment is not received late.

The municipal office in Keene, accepts in-person payments by cash, cheque, or debit. We are open Monday to Friday from 8:30am to 4:30pm. Payment options are listed on the reverse side of your tax bill as well as at www.osmtownship.ca under "Property Taxes". Sign-up forms for pre-authorized payments can be found there.

Public Works

Equipped with plows, sand and salt, the Public Works Department clear your roads and sidewalks as quickly and effectively as possible.

Routes are set so that one complete cycle can be done within a five to eight hour time period. There are strict laws that govern hours of work and hours of driving time, therefore careful planning is required for handling each snow/ice storm. The Public Works Department appreciates everyone's cooperation and patience during winter snow removal.

Reminders:

- ✓ The Highway Traffic Act Section 170, Subsection 12, states *no person shall park or stand a vehicle on a highway in such a manner as to interfere with the movement of traffic or the clearing of snow from the highway*. Motorists who breach these winter parking regulations may be towed and will be responsible for all costs incurred.
- ✓ The Highway Traffic Act Section 181, Part X states *no person shall deposit snow or ice on a roadway without permission in writing so to do from the Ministry or the road authority responsible for the maintenance of the road*.

Road Jurisdiction

Roads within the Township are maintained by different governing bodies. Typically, higher volume roads are owned and maintained by the Province or the County of Peterborough. Provincial highways and County roads will receive more frequent plowing and sanding than roads maintained by the Township. Township roads are maintained in accordance with the Township's Level of Service Policy. The Township does not maintain private roads.

Street Signs & Streetlights

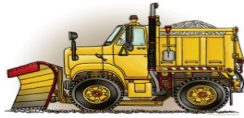
If you notice a missing or damaged street sign or malfunctioning streetlight, please contact the Township Office at 705-295-6852 to report.

Locates

Call before you dig to locate underground infrastructure. Ontario One Call 1-800-400-2255 or visit ontarioonecall.ca.

24-Hour Public Works Emergency Phone Number

24-Hour Public Works Emergency Phone Number "705-926-0223" this number is to be used only for roads or water related emergencies. All non-emergency Township Road maintenance or drinking water related issues in Keene Heights, Crystal Springs or Elgeti Systems should continue to contact the Municipal Office 705-295-6852 or the Public Works garage at 705-745-3595.



2026 Budget

The 2026 Total Township Budget is \$16,395,652 which includes operating costs of \$9,570,918, capital plan projects of \$4,112,495 and \$2,712,238 provision for reserves to fund future infrastructure replacement. The **2026 Total Township Tax Levy** is \$8,389,862 with the balance funded through grants, user fees, development charges, reserve transfers and other revenue. This results in a 5.43% increase in the Township property tax rate. Each property is impacted differently based on the assessed value determined by the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation and the property type. For more information about how your property is assessed, please visit the MPAC site at www.mpac.ca. To find out more about your particular property assessment, register online at www.aboutmyproperty.ca. Any assessment-related tax increases are identified on your property tax bill.

Building Department

As of November 2025, the Building Department has taken on new responsibilities, including regulating permits for Part 8 on-site sewage systems (for systems up to 10,000L/day). Applying for permits is now easier than ever using our online Cloud Permit and Planning system. The direct link is always available on the Township website.

Need a hand with your application? Starting in 2026, you can use our new computer kiosk at the Township Office. Staff are available to assist those without internet access or struggling with the permit application process.

Starting a project? Let's talk first!

Before you begin a renovation, build a new home, add a pool, install a septic system, or create a secondary suite, please contact us. Call the Building Department at 705-295-6852 ext 233. We're here to answer your questions and guide you through the requirements for permits, drawings, zoning, and conservation authority approvals.

Building permits **are required** for the following:

- Additions, renovations, or alteration to a house, adding a secondary suite
- New industrial, commercial, and institutional buildings
- Change of use to existing buildings
- New septic systems and repairs/replacements to existing septic systems
- Making new openings for larger windows/doors
- Swimming pools
- Decks, fireplaces, adding plumbing fixtures, finishing a basement.
- Tents greater than 60 sq m (646 sq.ft.) in ground area (including multiple tents)
- Demolition of part or whole structures

Building permits **are not required** for the following:

- Roof re-shingling
- Replacement of existing, same-size windows and doors, hot water tank, furnace
- Replacing exterior siding
- Minor Interior renovations such as replacing cabinetry
- Accessory shed under 15 sq.m (161 sq.ft.) but must conform to zoning setbacks
- Demolition of a building located on a farm

For a more complete list and additional information visit our website at www.osmtownship.ca.



Development Charges for 2026

The 2026 Township Development Charges under By-Law No. 2020-60 are as follows: **Residential** (Single and Semi-detached) \$11,911.61

Non-Residential (per sq ft of building space) \$4.85

For a full list of development charges by building type see osmtownship.ca

Note: The Township also collects development charges for the County of Peterborough, and the PVNCCDSB and KPRDSB school boards (not included in the above prices).

The Township is undertaking a Development Charges Study that will be completed in 2026 and may result in a change in development charge fees.

DEPARTMENTS

Municipal Administration - 705-295-6852 / 1-800-999-4861

Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk, Heather Scott Ext. 223

Deputy Clerk, Liz Ross Ext. 214

Director of Finance/Treasurer, Dane Smith Ext. 211

Deputy Treasurer, Stephen Whitnall Ext. 216

Receptionist/Office Assistant, Prudence Cameron-Jordan Ext. 213

Tax Inquiries - 705-295-6852

Accounting and Tax Clerk, Jessica Glendinning Ext. 210

Building & Planning Department - 705-295-6852

Director of Building Services (CBO), Paul Monks Ext. 222

Deputy Chief Building Official, John Smallwood Ext. 231

Planner, Emily Baker Ext. 232

Building Inspector, Steve Wigboldus Ext. 212

Building & Planning Assistant, Christine Zurosky Ext. 233

Parks & Recreation Department - 705-295-6862

Recreation, Parks and Facilities Manager, Mike Nelson

Recreation, Parks and Facilities Lead Hand, Payton Crough

Public Works Department - 705-745-3595

Director of Public Works, Craig Brooks

Dog Control - 705-939-6791 / 1-866-709-6083

Dog Control Officer, Debra Haigh

Fire and Emergency Services - 705-295-6880

Fire Chief/CEMC, Chuck Parsons Ext. 217

Fire Admin/Public Education/Fire Prevention Assistant - Candace Hurlock, Ext. 215

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor - Joe Taylor 705-295-4886, mayor@osmtownship.ca

Deputy Mayor - Bonnie Clark 705-295-4434, deputymayor@osmtownship.ca

Councillor at Large - Mark Allen 705-295-1544, atlargecouncillor@osmtownship.ca

Councillor for Otonabee Ward - Nick Powers 705-875-8245, otonabecouncillor@osmtownship.ca

Councillor for South Monaghan Ward - Terry Holmes 416-899-0740, southmonaghancouncillor@osmtownship.ca

Garbage and Recycling

OSM Transfer Station - 1594 Drummond Line, 705-749-2331
Hours: Mon. & Fri. 1-6 pm / Tues. 9 am – 3pm / Wed. 9 am – 6 pm / Sat. 9 am – 3 pm

Garbage Collection Inquiries/Missed Collection
Waste Connections Canada – 705-742-4268 or
Marilyn.jewer@wasteconnections.com
or Stephen.bye@wasteconnections.com

Clear Garbage Bag Program. Thank you to all residents for helping to make this program a continued success. The Township is very pleased to report that since the launch of the program there has been a significant decline in waste generation and a huge increase in recycling. Garbage may be left at the curb **subject to the 2-bag curbside limit** or taken to the Drummond Line Transfer Station for a fee in the following ways: 1) in a clear bag inside a garbage container; 2) in a clear bag on its own; or 3) in an opaque small grocery-size privacy bag to shield private items. **Garbage must be at the road before 7:00am to avoid missing collection.**

For clear bag program details please see the Township website www.osmtownship.ca.

The County of Peterborough website (www.ptbocounty.ca/recycling) has a Searchable Waste Portal to find information regarding recycling and garbage collection schedules as well as a recycling and disposal information tab that will assist you in finding the appropriate place for your recyclables.

Recycling Program – Circular Materials Ontario (CMO)
For missed Recycling Collection call
Emterra Environmental at 1-888-597-1541

Remember the Big Three when recycling:
1. Have your blue boxes to the road by 7am.

- Sort your materials into 2 boxes, Containers and Papers.
 - ✓ Use as many boxes as needed, as long as Containers, and Papers are in separate boxes.
- Keep recycling loose in Blue Boxes.
 - ✓ Bagged recycling will not be collected.

Special Provisions for Individuals with a Medical Condition
The Application for Medical (Non-Hazardous) Waste Exception – Curbside Waste Collection can be found at www.osmtownship.ca on the Garbage page



News & Notices

Watch for details on community events and recreational registrations by following us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter at @OSMTownship.

All community news and events can also be found on our website at www.osmtownship.ca.

Running a community program or event? Submit the details to us by email at info@osmtownship.ca and your event may be promoted on our website, LED sign, Facebook, Instagram or Twitter, provided it meets the Electronic Information (LED) Sign Policy.



Dog Tag Renewal

Dog tags are good for life but must be renewed annually. Invoices are mailed in January and are due upon receipt. New and replacement dog tags can only be purchased at the Township Office.

Recreation, Parks and Facilities

Otonabee-South Monaghan Township offers *banquet facilities, ice surfaces (hockey & curling), ball hockey/lacrosse facilities, and baseball diamonds for rent.* To view availability and complete an online booking request, visit <https://app.univerusrec.com/osmtownshippub/calendars/facilities/index.asp>

Winter and Spring Events and Updates:

- ✓ Public Skating – **Thursdays @ 3:00pm – 3:50pm** and **Sundays @ 2:30pm – 3:20pm**
- ✓ Parent & Tot Skating – **Tuesdays @ 9:00am – 10:00am**
- ✓ Seniors Skating – **Tuesdays @ 10:00am – 11:00am**
- ✓ Men's, Women's and Mixed 3-Pitch Leagues –
Visit our OSM website for information on registration.



For more information including locations, booking details and availability, visit our website at www.osmtownship.ca

Elections

Information session - So You Want to run for Council
March 31, Market Hall - 140 Charlotte St., Peterborough

Fire Services

Smoke & Carbon Monoxide (CO) Alarms

As of January 1, 2026, carbon monoxide alarms are required on every floor of your house.

Do you know that smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms expire? You need to replace smoke and CO alarms according to manufacturer instructions. Replacing alarms is required every 7-10 years, depending on the alarm type.

If your alarms do not have a sticker indicating a replacement date, it is likely due for replacement. These replacement identifying stickers have been placed on alarms for over 10 years now.

When replacing alarms remember that you are required to replace your alarms with the same level of protection that was installed at the time of construction of your home.

For example, if you have hard-wired interconnected alarms with strobe lights, you cannot go to a stand-alone battery alarm. You must replace the alarms with the same level of protection that is existing.



Check



Change



Test

Chimney Maintenance

Cleaning and maintenance of chimneys and wood heating devices is important to ensure their proper operation. As we experience warmer temperatures moving closer to spring, there is an increased risk of creosote build-up. A blocked chimney will not ventilate properly and can cause carbon monoxide to draft into your home. Make sure all heating appliances are properly cleaned and maintained on a regular basis.

Open-Air Burning

Campfires do not require a burn permit in OSM Township. However, you are still required to follow the requirements of the open-air burning by-law #2022-50.

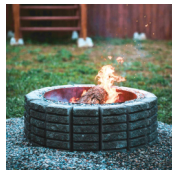
This by-law can be found on the OSM Township website, or you can obtain a copy by calling the Fire Department Administration Office for a copy to be emailed to you.

When you are enjoying a campfire or recreational fire, please be reminded that the only burnable items are wood and wood by-products.

And please be mindful of the smoke and how it could be affecting your neighbours.

If it is possible that the air is heavier than normal, preventing the smoke from clearing the area, and that it could be impacting someone nearby with a health issue or aversion to smoky air, please consider dousing the fire to mitigate the extra smoke until the air is lighter.

Be reminded that burn barrels are not permitted in OSM Township.




Emergency Management

Plan for Every Season –practice emergency preparedness throughout the whole year and ensure you are prepared of the unique challenges that can face us in our community.

For additional resources and information please visit:

www.osmtownship.ca/beprepared

Voyent Alert!

Have you registered yet for  VOYENTALERT! ?

If you have not yet registered for Voyent Alert!, register today to help you stay informed about emergency alerts and day-to-day information in our community.

You can choose to be alerted by way of:



- mobile app,
- text / SMS,
- Email and / or
- Voice calling to a landline.

Register by downloading the app, or by visiting:

<https://register.voyent-alert.com>

If you require assistance registering, please contact the Fire Department Administration office at 705-295-6880 Ext. 215 or fireadmin@osmtownship.ca