



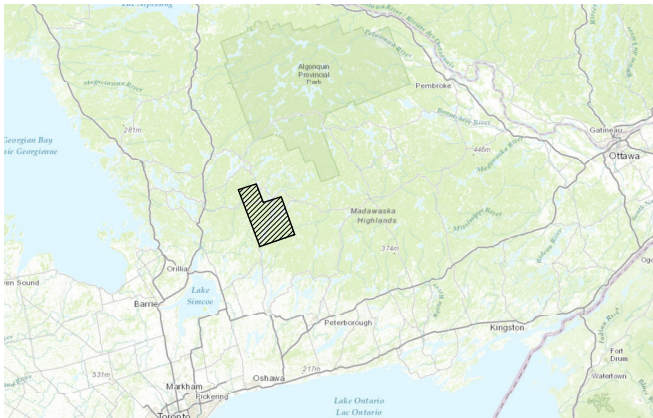
# MUNICIPALITY OF THE MONTH



## May 2015 The Township of Minden Hills

### **Where is it?**

Minden Hills is located about 2.5 hours north east of Toronto in Haliburton County. An amalgamation of the geographic townships of Snowdon, Lutterworth, Anson, Hindon and Minden, the Township of Minden Hills was formed on January 1, 2001.



### **What are the biggest attractions?**

Besides having some of the loveliest natural country in the province, the Township of Minden Hills is home to the Minden Hills Cultural Centre. Located in the town of Minden, the Centre features exhibits of local history, art and literature. The Dahl Forest, in the former Township of Snowdon, is a 500 acre nature reserve now maintained by the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust. The public can visit for 'silent' activities such as hiking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and birding. For those looking for less silent pursuits, there is a go cart track located just south of Minden. On the way by visitors can stop at the famous Kawartha Dairy bar on Hwy. #35 at Minden and enjoy an ice cream treat made with fresh local milk.



The Minden Hills Cultural Centre is owned and operated by the Township of Minden Hills and features local heritage buildings that have been relocated to the site, buildings containing art and literary exhibits, and the local branch of the Haliburton County Public Library.

### **What makes the municipality unique?**

The Township of Minden Hills has long been a destination for cottagers and for those who enjoy the outdoors in all seasons. The combination of rolling countryside and numerous lakes made it one of the earliest areas to be developed with cottages. The Gull River flows through the town of Minden (which was originally named "Gull River") and provided a historical route for early lumbermen to deliver their wares to sawmills downstream. Today, the river is a destination for a different kind of adventurer – white water canoeists and kayakers. The Minden Wild Water Preserve attracts enthusiasts from all over the world. This July, it will host the whitewater canoe/kayak slalom competition for the Toronto 2015 Pan Am Games.



The Minden Wild Water Preserve on the Gull River is considered one of the best whitewater canoe/kayak slalom runs in the world.

### **What are the most common issues faced by the Committee of Adjustment/Planning Board?**

The three-member Committee of Adjustment hears applications for Minor Variance only. Consent Applications are heard at the upper tier level by the County of Haliburton Land Division Committee. The Township of Minden Hills has a significant cottage community which enjoys the amenities of the natural areas. In order to protect the many lakes and rivers which serve as a draw to cottagers, as well as to local residents, the Township has attempted to balance restrictions on shoreline development while recognizing existing property rights for development that already existed prior to the adoption of today's development standards. The most common variances considered by the Committee are in relation to the expansion of non-compliant buildings adjacent to the shoreline.

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OACA would like to thank Ian Clendening, Planner for the Township of Minden Hills, for his help with this article. More information about the Township of Minden Hills can be found on the Township's website at [www.minden hills.ca](http://www.minden hills.ca)