

# WELCOME HOME

NEW RESIDENT WELCOME GUIDE



SMITHS FALLS

RISE AT THE FALLS



# Welcome to Smiths Falls!

On behalf of the Mayor and Council of the Town of Smiths Falls, we extend a warm and heartfelt welcome to you and your family. We are thrilled that you have chosen Smiths Falls as your new home, and we are confident that you will find our community to be a wonderful place to live, work, and thrive.

Smiths Falls is a town renowned for its rich history, natural beauty, and welcoming community spirit. As the proud home of the UNESCO World Heritage site, the Rideau Canal, our town offers breathtaking views and endless recreational opportunities. Whether you enjoy boating, fishing, or cycling along its scenic paths, the canal will surely capture your heart.

In addition to our stunning heritage and scenic attractions, Smiths Falls boasts a diverse culinary scene offering a variety of cultural and culinary experiences you are sure to enjoy! Explore our local eateries and embark on a culinary journey that will leave you wanting more.

Smiths Falls prides itself on being a welcoming and inclusive town. We have embraced newcomers from various backgrounds, including the recent influx of residents from Ukraine. Our community celebrates diversity and inclusivity, as exemplified by the unveiling of not one, but two pride crosswalks. These colorful crosswalks are a symbol of our commitment to equality and acceptance. We believe that every individual should feel safe, respected, and valued in Smiths Falls. We invite you to join us in fostering an environment that is truly Smiths Falls for All.

Our vibrant downtown is a hub of activity. The newly unveiled Town Square, supported by local businesses, features a magnificent bandstand where live music and community events come alive. You'll also find the new Cantina at Victoria Park, run by the Chamber of Commerce, serving mouthwatering tacos and Mexican-inspired fare. Immerse yourself in art and tranquility at the Artscape Mural and Parkette on Russell St. W. This stunning outdoor space showcases a vibrant mural and provides a peaceful retreat where you can relax and connect with friends.

Smiths Falls is a family-friendly town with excellent schools, recreational facilities, and parks. We take pride in creating a nurturing environment where children can thrive and grow. Throughout the year, our town hosts a variety of community events, from festivals and parades to farmers' markets and art exhibitions. These gatherings foster connections, create lasting memories, and showcase the vibrant spirit of Smiths Falls.

As you settle in to your new home, we encourage you to explore and engage with our incredible business community. Get to know the friendly faces and experience the personalized service that comes with shopping locally. Our businesses are the heart and soul of our town, we have a strong service and retail sector here to meet all your needs. By supporting local businesses, you contribute to the growth and vitality of our town.

We encourage your active involvement in our community. Volunteer, join local clubs, and attend town council meetings to make your voice heard. Your contributions will shape the future of Smiths Falls, ensuring it remains a place we are all proud to call home. This is a place where history, community, and natural beauty come together to create a truly special home. We are here to support you every step of the way.

Welcome to Smiths Falls - a town that embraces diversity, celebrates its heritage, and thrives on the strength of its welcoming community.

Sincerely,

*Mayor Shawn Pankow*

## SMITHS FALLS BY THE NUMBERS

**Population:**  
**9,500**

**Average Age:**  
**45**

**Average Household Income:**  
**\$72,100**

**Average Home Value:**  
**\$305,527**



**Shawn Pankow**  
Mayor of Smiths Falls



## NEW RESIDENT CHECKLIST

When things seem overwhelming, make a list! We've taken the liberty of providing one to help you get started...

### Connect With My Community

- Explore local Service Organizations
- Learn about Smiths Falls
- Learn about Police and Fire Services
- Learn about schools in Smiths Falls
- Get to know your local council
- Read the latest Town news
- Stay connected with Town social media
- Subscribe to receive Town information

### Get Active in My Community

- Discover Smiths Falls' amenities
- Explore community events
- Get a library card
- Locate the Smiths Falls Dog Park
- Participate in youth sports associations
- Register for activities and classes
- Get out and explore Smiths Falls

### Help Me Transition

- Apply for new driver's license
- Change my address
- Find answers to frequently asked questions
- License my dog(s)
- Register my vehicle(s)
- Register to vote
- Find a new doctor
- Find a veterinary clinic for my pet

### Start My Utilities

- Learn about residential garbage pickup & recycling services and schedules
- Activate water and sewer utilities
- Contact other utility providers



The Lockmaster's  
TAPHOUSE

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

**Town Hall 613-283-4124**

**Economic Development ..... 1107**  
**Building Department .....1132**  
**Planning Department ..... 1136**  
**By-Law/Parking .....1106**  
**Public Works ..... 3302**  
**Taxes ..... 1118**  
**Water Billing ..... 1149**

**Fire Department ..... 613-283-5869**  
**Police Department ..... 613-283-0357**  
**(\*Non-Emergency Lines)**

[www.smithsfalls.ca](http://www.smithsfalls.ca)

Smiths Falls Public Library



MEET YOUR 2023-2026  
**COUNCIL**



**Top row:** Mayor Shawn Pankow

**Middle Row:** Councillor Jay Brennan, Councillor Peter McKenna, Councillor Jennifer Miller

**Bottom row:** Councillor Chris McGuire, Councillor Dawn Quinn, Councillor Stephen Robinson.





## WHEN TO VISIT TOWN HALL

- Apply for a Marriage License
- Apply for a Business License or Permit
- Apply for a Building Permit
- Submit plans for a building project
- Apply for a Lottery Permit
- Pay Property Taxes or Water bill
- Inquire about Property Assessments
- Request information on zoning bylaws
- Request information on property development regulations
- Pay a parking ticket
- Purchase a Dog/Cat tag for your pet
- File a complaint or report an issue with municipal services such as garbage collection or road maintenance
- Register to vote
- Attend a Town Council meeting to voice concerns or make a presentation on a particular issue
- Obtain information on Town services
- Access promotional information like town maps, community guides and information
- Purchase Downtown Dollars through the Downtown Business Association office

[www.smithsfalls.ca](http://www.smithsfalls.ca)



# LEARNING

## Elementary Schools

**Calvary Christian Academy (Private)**  
 9749 Highway 15  
 613-283-5089

**Chimo Elementary School**  
 11 Ross St.  
 Smiths Falls  
 613-283-1761

**Duncan J. Schoular Public School**  
 41 McGill St.  
 Smiths Falls  
 613-283-1367

**École catholique Sainte-Marguerite Bourgeoys**  
 (French; in Merrickville)  
 306 Read St., Merrickville  
 613-521-4213

**St. Francis de Sales Catholic Elementary School**  
 4 Ross St.  
 Smiths Falls  
 613-283-0220

## Secondary Schools

**Smiths Falls District Collegiate Institute**  
 299 Percy St.  
 Smiths Falls, ON  
 613-283-0288

**St. John Catholic High School**  
 2066 Scotch Line Rd.  
 Perth, ON  
 613-267-4724

**St. Luke Catholic High School**  
 (alternative ed.)  
 5 Catherine St.  
 Smiths Falls  
 613-283-4477

## Post-Secondary/Continuing Education

**T.R. Leger School of Adult Alternative & Continuing Education**

10 Ontario St.  
 Smiths Falls, ON  
 613-283-5418



# UNIVERSITIES & COLLEGES

Smiths Falls is in close proximity to several universities and colleges

School	Location	Distance
Algonquin College	Perth Campus	15 minutes
	Ottawa Campus	<60 minutes
Carleton University	Ottawa	<60 minutes
University of Ottawa	Ottawa	<60minutes
St. Lawrence College	Brockville Campus	35 minutes
	Kingston Campus	60 minutes
Queen's University	Kingston	60 minutes
Royal Military College	Kingston	60 minutes

# CHILD CARE & YOUTH SERVICES

Smiths Falls offers many programs and services for youth of all ages.

## Child Care:

**Smiths Falls Child Development Centre**  
4 Ross Street

Daycare is available for toddlers, pre-schoolers, and school-age children. Programs are designed to meet a child's emotional, social, physical, and cognitive requirements. Hours are 6:30am–5:30pm, Monday-Friday.

Contact: Judy Arthur, Director of the Smiths Falls Child Development Centre  
Phone: 613-283-4124, ext. 6601

Email: [jarthur@smithsfalls.ca](mailto:jarthur@smithsfalls.ca)

You can pay for child care fees online through the online payment portal.

**Nursery Rhyme Day Care Centre**  
11 Elmsley Street North

A nursery school/daycare facility offering Full-time daycare for infants, toddlers and preschoolers, licensed by the Ministry of Education

Contact: Sue Adams  
Phone: 613-284-0769

**Rideau Child Care Centre Inc.,**  
2 Gould Street

A child care centre that offers services for infants, toddlers, pre-schoolers, kindergarteners and a before and after program for school-age children.

Email: [rccc@bellnet.ca](mailto:rccc@bellnet.ca)  
Phone: 613-283-3400

## Before & After School Programs:

**St. Francis Before and After School Program**  
4 Ross Street  
Hours of operation: 6:30am–8:30am and 3:00pm– 6:00pm, Monday-Friday.

**Chimo Before and After School Program**  
11 Ross Street  
Hours of operation: 6:30am–8:30am and 3:00pm– 6:00pm, Monday-Friday.

**Duncan J Schoular Before and After School Program**  
41 McGill Street  
Hours of operation: 6:30am–8:30am. and 3:00pm–5:30pm, Monday-Friday.

These programs are part of the *Smiths Falls Child Development Centre*. Please contact Judy Arthur, Director of the Smiths Falls Child Development Centre for more information at 613-283-4124, ext. 6601 or by e-mail at [jarthur@smithsfalls.ca](mailto:jarthur@smithsfalls.ca).

## Youth Services:

**Big Brothers Big Sisters of Lanark County**  
[lanark.bigbrothersbigsisters.ca](http://lanark.bigbrothersbigsisters.ca)  
613-283-0570

**Children's Resource on Wheels**  
[www.crowlanark.com](http://www.crowlanark.com)  
613-283-0095

**Open Doors for Lanark Children and Youth**  
[www.opendoors.on.ca](http://www.opendoors.on.ca)  
613-283-8260

**RNJ Youth Services**  
[www.rnjyouth.com](http://www.rnjyouth.com)  
613-284-8304 or  
1-866-349-0538





## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SMITHS FALLS?

The Town of Smiths Falls is excited to offer the "What's Happening" Events Newsletter, a weekly e-newsletter to stay up to date on the community events, programs and activities taking place in Town.

What's Happening is a snapshot of the week ahead, outlining all the fun things to do and see in the coming days. Events featured in the newsletter include trivia nights, children's day camps, musical and theatre performances, festivals, sports games and other community programming or classes, etc.

Sign up today at [smithsfalls.ca/WhatsHappening](https://smithsfalls.ca/WhatsHappening) to get direct notifications each week, or check the Experience Smiths Falls social media for weekly posts!

You can also subscribe to the Events Calendar on the Town's website, or use the direct link here: [calendars.smithsfalls.ca](https://calendars.smithsfalls.ca)



## DOWNTOWN DOLLARS

The Downtown Dollars program allows residents and visitors alike to support our stores and boutiques, while still giving them the choice of where they would like to spend them! These certificates are purchased through the Downtown Business Association office, located at Town Hall and can be spent at any participating retailer. For more details and a list of participating businesses visit: [smithsfalls.ca/DTDollars](https://smithsfalls.ca/DTDollars)

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## LOCAL BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Consider joining one of the many Boards and Committees available to participate in shaping our community - Have your say! For more information go to [smithsfalls.ca/boardsandcommittees](https://smithsfalls.ca/boardsandcommittees)

- Drug Strategy Committee
- Heritage House Museum Advisory Board
- Public Library Board
- Municipal Heritage Committee
- Planning Advisory Committee (includes Committee of Adjustment and Property Standards Committee)
- Climate Protection Working Group
- Smiths Falls For All Committee
- Police Services Board
- Downtown Business Association ( DBA )



# LOCAL EVENTS & PROGRAMS



The famous Smiths Falls PICNIC program runs annually from June - October



*Smiths Falls*  
**PRIDE!** First Saturday in June



**Spirit of the Drum POWWOW**

Traditional drumming, dancing and cultural workshops on Duck and Turtle islands in June



**MOVIES UNDER THE STARS**

Thursdays in July and August- check the events calendar on town website



**Truth & Reconciliation Ceremony**  
September 30th at Sunset, on Duck and Turtle Islands



A local retail Christmas Gift box program, it runs from mid-November to Christmas eve



# COMMUNITY RECREATION



Cool off during the hot days of summer at the splash pad, located at Lower Reach Park. The splash pad is free to use and is maintained by the the Town of Smiths Falls Community Services department.



Take advantage of the indoor walking concourse located in the Community Center - no matter the weather you can be sure to get your steps in.



The Smiths Falls Memorial Community Centre is home to the Smiths Falls Bears hockey teams, two ice surfaces, and many recreational leagues. The Community Center Hall is available to rent for event venues and receptions.



The Smiths Falls Curling and Squash Club is a unique facility offering both Curling and Squash to all members. Come and enjoy four sheets of some of the best curling ice around as well as two squash courts, a well equipped exercise room and a comfortable lounge for relaxing and rehashing that crazy 8th end! Equipped with a full kitchen, a spacious lounge with tables and chairs, a dance floor and bar, the facilities are available for rentals by outside organizations.



Lower Reach Park - Over 60 acres of parkland along the Rideau Canal. This impressive area features a play structure and splash pad, along with ball diamonds, soccer fields, beach volleyball, basketball court and tennis courts. A walking trail surrounds the park area and continues along the waterfront. Treed areas provide good shade and multiple picnic tables create the ideal place to enjoy this beautiful park.



The Senior Activity Centre is located at 61 Cornelia Street West. SAC activities include pickleball, euchre, bridge, carpet bowling, cribbage, darts, shuffleboard, dancing, knitting, crocheting, quilting, and a pot luck every third Thursday. There is something happening every day of the week. The club also gets support from outside groups with exercise classes. For more information, call Bud at 613-283-0817 or the club at 613-283-4684



# HEALTH CARE & HOSPITAL



**The Perth and Smiths Falls District Hospital** is a fully accredited acute care health care organization located on two state-of-the-art sites. The hospital is situated in the heart of the Rideau Canal region on unceded Algonquin territory and proudly provides health services to more than 60,000 people in the surrounding communities. The hospital delivers a broad range of primary and secondary services and programs such as emergency care, diagnostic imaging, MRI beginning Fall of 2023, obstetrics, general and specialty surgical services, dialysis as well as laboratory and infection control services.

The Smiths Falls site is located at 60 Cornelia St W. Open 24 hours  
**(613) 283-2330** [www.psfhdh.on.ca](http://www.psfhdh.on.ca)  
Emergency room: Open 24 hours

Are you looking for a Family Doctor or Nurse Practitioner? The hospital does not keep a list or connect people with physicians. You can register with Health Care Connect Ontario to have a nurse find a physician for you. Go to <https://www.ontario.ca/page/find-family-doctor-or-nurse-practitioner> to sign up. You can also call around to local physicians and nurse practitioners to inquire if they are taking any new patients.

Other helpful Health Resources:

**Lanark Leeds & Grenville Ontario Health Team :** [www.lanarkleedsgrenvilleoht.ca](http://www.lanarkleedsgrenvilleoht.ca)

**Lanark Leeds & Grenville Health Unit:** <https://healthunit.org/contact-us/smiths-falls>

## WORKING IN SMITHS FALLS

Are you looking to level up your skills or find something new? We are fortunate to have excellent Employment Services in Smiths Falls. Whether you're needing to secure work yourself, for a spouse or teenager, we have several resources that are here to help! To learn more visit: [smithsfalls.ca/EmploymentServices](http://smithsfalls.ca/EmploymentServices)

*Delivering services in the Smiths Falls community since 2002!*

**WORK. TRAIN. HIRE. GROW.**

**ontrac Smiths Falls**  
smithsfalls@getontrac.ca  
613-283-6978  
www.getontrac.ca  



**The Small Business Advisory Centre**  
provides entrepreneurs the tools  
they need to start and grow their business

## **BUSINESS DIRECTORY**

Smiths Falls is home to almost 400 businesses - whether you're looking for restaurant options, retail or professional services, we have conveniently listed them in our online Business Directory. To view our Business Directory, visit [directory.smithsfalls.ca](https://www.smithsfalls.ca/directory)

## **HOUSING RESOURCES**

The Town of Smiths Falls is a vibrant and growing community that offers a range of housing options. For a list of resources and housing related programs visit [smithsfalls.ca/Housing](https://www.smithsfalls.ca/Housing)

## **GARBAGE & RECYCLING**

The Town provides weekly garbage and recycling collection. This contracted service is done by Glenview Iron and Metal. Collection occurs on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday, depending on the collection zone that you live in. Use the Recycle Coach application or view the Waste Collection Routes Map to determine your collection day. You can find these by visiting the Garbage & Recycling page on the Town website here: [smithsfalls.ca/garbageandrecyclingcollection](https://www.smithsfalls.ca/garbageandrecyclingcollection)

## **BE A VOLUNTEER**

The Town of Smiths Falls is home to many community organizations who are in need of volunteers throughout the year. We encourage you to consider sharing your time and talents to help them continue their great work in our community. For more information visit [smithsfalls.ca/Volunteer](https://www.smithsfalls.ca/Volunteer)

## **FREE PARKING DOWNTOWN**

Downtown Smiths Falls offers free 2 hour parking, making it easy to come down and shop your heart out! Residential parking is limited, if you require additional parking or parking permits, visit: [smithsfalls.ca/Parking](https://www.smithsfalls.ca/Parking)

## **#INSTAGRAMMABLE SMITHS FALLS**



1. Bascule Bridge
2. Town Square Bandstand
3. Yellow Airplane at Victoria Park
4. The Mural at the Artscape Parkette
5. The Pride Crosswalks at Beckwith & Church St.





SMITHS FALLS

RISE AT THE FALLS



# Town of Smiths Falls

# EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

If the Town experiences a power outage due to a significant weather event, information and updates will be shared via:



[smithsfalls.ca](http://smithsfalls.ca)



Social Media



Y101  
Radio Station



Lake 88.1  
Radio Station



Cogeco Cable 10



Town Hall  
613-283-4124

A water tower stands on the left side of the page, set against a background of a blue sky with scattered white clouds. The title is centered at the top in a large, bold, blue font with a white outline.

# A LIST OF THINGS TO SEE & DO AS A NEW RESIDENT OF SMITHS FALLS

**Rideau Canal:** Explore the historic Rideau Canal, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Enjoy a leisurely walk along the picturesque waterfront, or rent a kayak or canoe to experience the canal up close.

**Smiths Falls Heritage House Museum:** Visit the Heritage House Museum, a beautifully restored Victorian home that showcases the history and culture of Smiths Falls. Take a guided tour to learn about our Town's past, and enjoy the many events hosted there throughout the year.

**Railway Museum of Eastern Ontario (RMEO):** Discover the rich railway heritage of the region at the Railway Museum of Eastern Ontario. Explore vintage locomotives, railway artifacts, and interactive exhibits.

**Smiths Falls Public Library:** Enjoy your love of reading in our beautiful Carnegie style Library and take advantage of all programming for Adults, Teens and Children. Contact library for details.

**Smiths Falls Community Theatre:** Catch a live performance at the Station Theatre. From plays and musicals to concerts and comedy shows, the theatre offers a diverse range of entertainment options.

**Murals in Smiths Falls:** Take a stroll through downtown Smiths Falls and admire the vibrant mural on Russell Street West, with our recently completed Parkette. You will also find other murals depicting the Town's history and showcasing local talent.

**Victoria Park:** Enjoy the outdoors at Victoria Park, a beautiful green space in the heart of the town. Take a picnic, go for a walk or relax by the Rideau River

**The Farmers Market at the Falls:** Visit the Farmers Market and browse through a wide variety of local produce, artisanal goods and handmade crafts. It's a great place to connect with the community.

**Lower Reach Park:** Spend a day at Lower Reach Park, located along the banks of the Rideau River. Enjoy the picnic areas, playgrounds, splash pad and walking trails, or bring your fishing gear and cast a line!

**These are just a few of the many wonderful things to see and do in Smiths Falls. Explore the community, engage with local organizations, and embrace the rich history of the area as you settle in to your new home.**

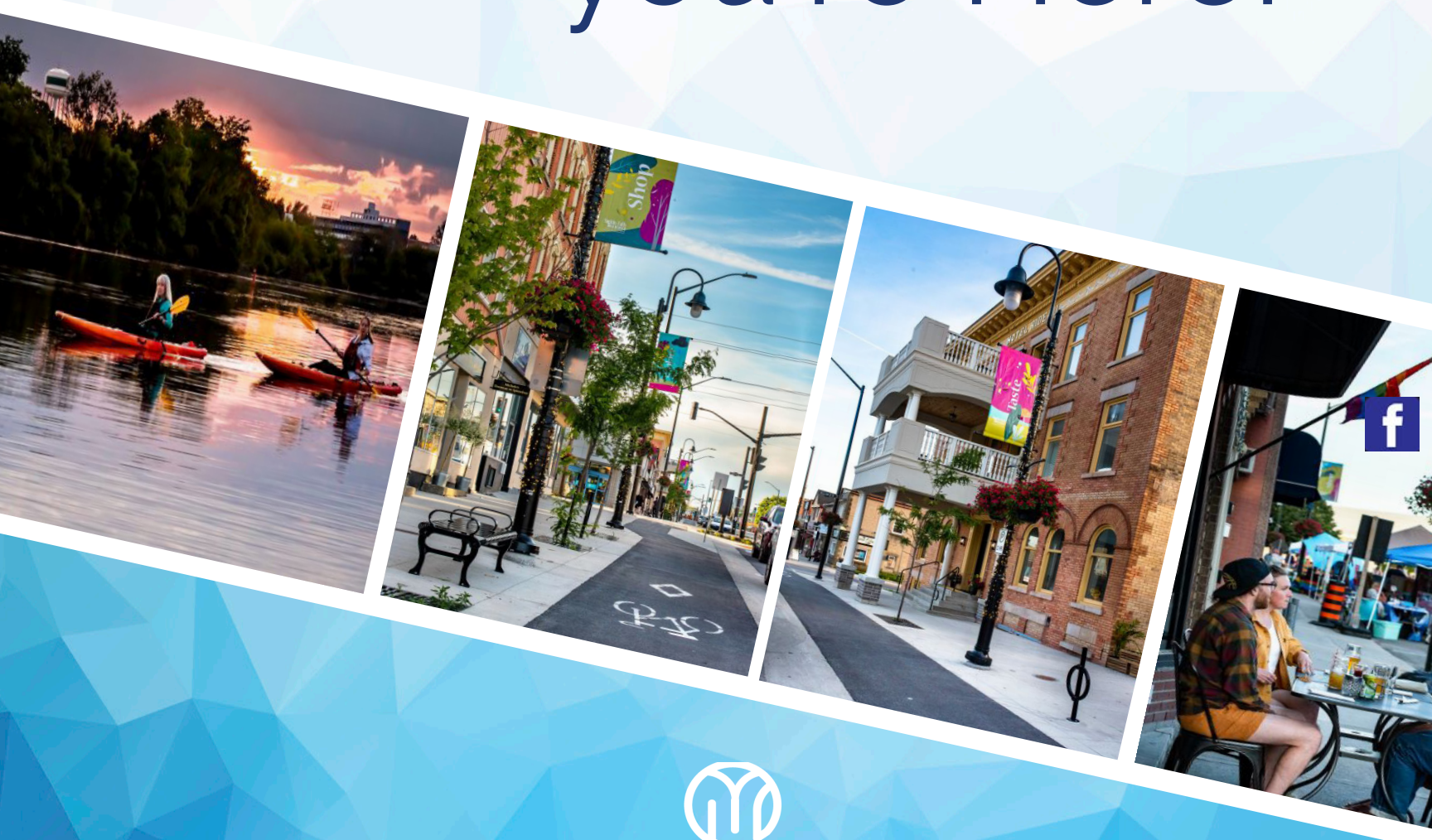


# 10 TIPS FOR SETTTLING INTO YOUR NEW HOME

Relocation, whether you're moving across town or across the country, is stressful. Here are several helpful strategies and reminders to make settling in to your new home and community a bit smoother

- 1** Identify a local physician, dentist & eye doctor and schedule a get acquainted appointment. Once established, contact your previous medical providers and request your files be transferred to your new doctors.
- 2** Review your insurance policies including homeowner's, renter's and vehicle insurance. Make sure you are adequately covered and your agent has your new contact information.
- 3** Say Hello! Meet your neighbours and build a good rapport with the folks who live on your street or in your apartment complex.
- 4** Contact the local Parks & Recreation department or sports leagues about camps and sports teams you and your family or children might join.
- 5** Be a recycling rockstar! If you haven't inherited the previous owner's recycling bins ( or they're broken ) come into Town Hall to pick up new bins. Be sure to pick up a community calendar while you're there, these have the garbage & recycling pick up schedules noted every week.
- 6** Spend time in your new home locating the fuse box, water main, heating and cooling systems and automatic sprinkler controls if applicable. Take time to learn the basic operation of each.
- 7** Check or install smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Make sure each has working batteries and is operational.
- 8** Complete a change of address with the post office as well as with your drivers license, credit cards, Health Card, investments, and any government correspondence you receive.
- 9** Register your children at their new school. Visit the local library and get a library card for each family member.
- 10** Relax and be a tourist for a day! Take a walk around downtown and get to know your local business owners. Find your favourite park and walking path. There are so many hidden gems in Smiths Falls, enjoy discovering them!

We're *Happy*  
you're Here!



**SMITHS FALLS**  
RISE AT THE FALLS  
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