

Community Profile



Small Community, Big Heart

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Vision Statement

(WHAT THE PRESS WILL SAY ABOUT US IN 2050)

BONFIELD OFFERS THE BEST
BALANCE BETWEEN QUALITY OF
LIFE, ACCESS TO NATURE,
INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES,
AND AFFORDABILITY IN
ONTARIO.



The Township of Bonfield Community Profile

3

VOYAGEUR  COUNTRY

The Township of Bonfield at a glance

This Community Profile is intended to serve as a reference document for potential investors, the community, and development projects. The purpose of the profile is to provide the necessary information needed to make informed decisions. The profile offers the basic social and economic data of the Township and also highlights the various amenities of the Township of Bonfield. In addition, the profile provides a list of contacts and links to Federal, Provincial, and Municipal Government agencies that can provide information to those who are currently in business and those wishing to start one within the Township. Township has a vast rural area and consists of the Hamlets of Rutherglen and Bonfield. The Township is located approximately 27 Km east of North Bay, in the District of Nipissing. The Township was established by an act in Parliament in October of 1886 to take effect on January 01, 1887. The former Town of Bonfield was established in 1906 and was amalgamated with the Township in 1975.. The Township of Bonfield has a population of ~2,100 with 1122 permanent households, 153 seasonal, and 35 commercial/industrial. The total land area of the Township is approximately 208 square kilometers. The Township of Bonfield is a safety-minded community, with a rich history and a clear vision of its future. Through economic growth and development, the Township is committed to providing the community with the resources and infrastructure required to maintain and improve the quality of life that is currently enjoyed by its citizens.



Contact Information

Table 1: Contact information of the Township of Bonfield

Address	365 Highway 531, Bonfield, ON, P0H 1E
Contact	Director of Planning and Development
Telephone	(705) 776 - 2300
Fax	(705) 776 - 1154
Email	webmaster@bonfieldtownship.com
Website	www.bonfieldtownship.com



Table 2: Other useful contacts

Organization	Note	Contact
North Bay – Mattawa Conservation Authority	Information on septic system approvals, fill, construction, alteration to waterways	15 Janey Ave, North Bay, ON P1C 1N1 Phone: (705) 474-5420 http://www.nbmca.on.ca
Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry (NDMNRF)	Information about working in waterways, building over water	3301 Trout Lake Road, North Bay, ON P1B 8G4 Phone: (705) 475-5550 https://www.ontario.ca/page/crown-land-work-permits
Ministry of Transportation (MTO)	Information about Entrance and/or land use/ construction permits on lands adjacent to Provincial Highways	447 McKeown Avenue, Suite 301, North Bay, ON P1B 9S9 Phone: (705) 472-7900 https://www.hcms.mto.gov.on.ca/PermitWizard
The Township of Bonfield Public Works Dept.	Information on entrance permits	Bonfield Public Works Garage, 356 Line 3 South, Bonfield, ON P0H 1E0 Phone: (705) 776-2659 Fax: (705) 776-1169 Email: pwmanager@bonfieldtownship.org
Fisheries and Oceans Canada	Information on projects near water	520 Exmouth St, Sarnia ON N7T 8B1 Toll-free: 1-866-290-3731 Fax: 519-464-5128 Email: info@dfo-mpo.gc.ca
NDMNRF	Information on the fishing season	https://www.ontario.ca/document/ontario-fishing-regulations-summary/fisheries-management-zone-11



Demography

This section contains information about the characteristics of the population of Township of Bonfield and the distribution of age ranges along with gender. As can be seen in the table below, the population of Bonfield has increased in recent years. The rate of this increasing trend is more than other municipalities in the area, according to the 2021 Census.

Table 3: Population in Bonfield (source: Statistics Canada)

Year	Population
2021	2146
2016	1975
2011	2016
2006	1981
% change 2016-2021	7.8%

As can be seen in Figure 1, Bonfield has an aging population. This is the trend in many northern communities as the youth tend to move to the south to seek more opportunities. It is worth mentioning that many residents move (or return) to Bonfield after retirement.

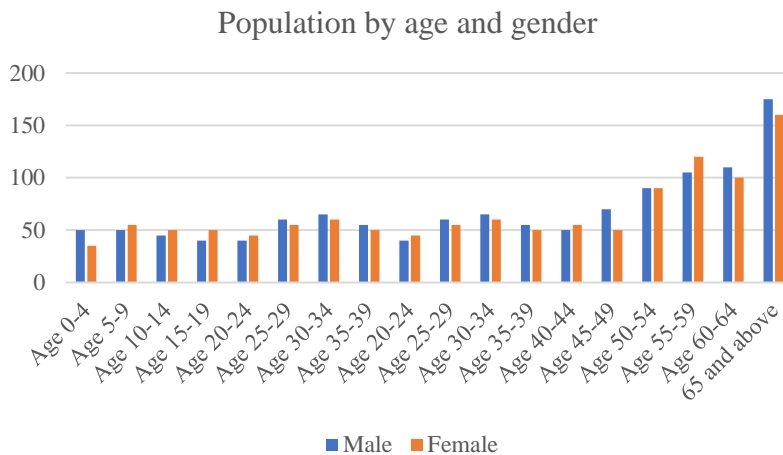


Figure 1: Distribution of the population in Bonfield versus age and gender



In Bonfield, more than 70% of the residents introduce English as their first official language, and more than 26% know French as their first language. Nearly 40% of our residents can speak both languages. Bonfield residents with aboriginal identity are more than 14% of the total population which is significantly higher than the provincial average i.e., 2%. According to the 2016 census, 78% of residents have a certificate or diploma, which is slightly less than the provincial average. The median income of Bonfield residents is \$31,232. The median income in Bonfield is ~7% less than the provincial average. In Bonfield, the unemployment rate is 7.6% which is comparable to the provincial average.

Quality of Life

Bonfield is a family-oriented community. In Bonfield, more than half of the population are either legally married or living common law, as can be seen in the table below. There are numerous amenities and facilities in Bonfield that make this community a safe, accessible, and liveable place for families, seniors, and young professionals.

Table 4: Marital status in Bonfield

	2011	2016
Never married	575	335
Legally married – living common law	1145	1145
Separated	55	459
Divorced	85	95
Widowed	85	80

Parks, Nature, and Environment

Bonfield has several parks that offer a wide range of activities. Kaibuskong Park and Centennial Park are along the Kaibuskong River. Kaibuskong Park contains sports fields such as a soccer field, a beach volley court, a basketball court, badminton nets, several picnic areas, a skate park, and a covered skating rink. The public beach is also in this park.



Centennial Park is at the east end of lake nos with a public dock and boat launch which facilitates aquatic recreational activities and fishing. Lake Nosbonsing covers ~18 km² i.e., 4447 acres, and has an average depth of ~5 meters i.e., 16 feet. Lake Nosbonsing is home to several fish species including pike, bass, musky, and walleye. Even though some algal bloom warnings have been issued by the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit, the lake is among the tourist attractions of Bonfield. Other lakes in the Township include Pine Lake and Talon Lake. There are two campsites in the Township, including one at Talon Lake. Bonfield is an environmentally rich community as it is surrounded by forests. This gives the residents and those who come to experience the area, a unique opportunity to benefit from magnificent walking and horseback riding trails. Besides, Bonfield is a local hub for snowmobile and ATV trails. There is ~150 km of high-quality snowmobile trails that are part of the OFSC trail system, which provides excellent riding.

Future Developments

At the time of creating this document, the Township of Bonfield has plans to improve Kaibuskong Park and Centennial Park with an upgraded boat launch to accommodate kayaking, and canoe, install a splash pad, and outdoor fitness equipment play structures. The Township is in the process of securing the required funding to improve Rutherglen Park as well.

Education

Bonfield currently has a catholic French school, Ecole Lorraine. Secondary schools and higher-level education are available in North Bay. Elementary schools are available in North bay and Corbeil.

Health Care Services

Bonfield has a medical centre with a family doctor, accepting patients from 8 am to 5 pm from Monday to Friday. In the lower level of the building, a pharmacy serves the residents. There is also a medical centre Astroville, and hospitals in North Bay and Mattawa.



Utilities

Bonfield is powered by the Hydro One network. The natural gas pipeline owned and operated by Enbridge covers only a small part of Bonfield at Trans-Canada Highway. The rest of Bonfield uses propane or oil provided by private companies and electricity to cook and climatize their houses. In Bonfield, there are no public potable water and municipal wastewater collection system. Properties are serviced by private wells and septic systems.

Climate and Geography

Location

Bonfield is located in the northeast portion of Ontario. The area is covered by forests, wetlands, creeks, and lakes. 62% of Bonfield is covered by vast boreal forests. The soil is classified as rather unsuitable for some agricultural purposes; however, farming activities are currently being pursued by local and hobby farmers. The climate of Bonfield allows for the completion of one growing season.

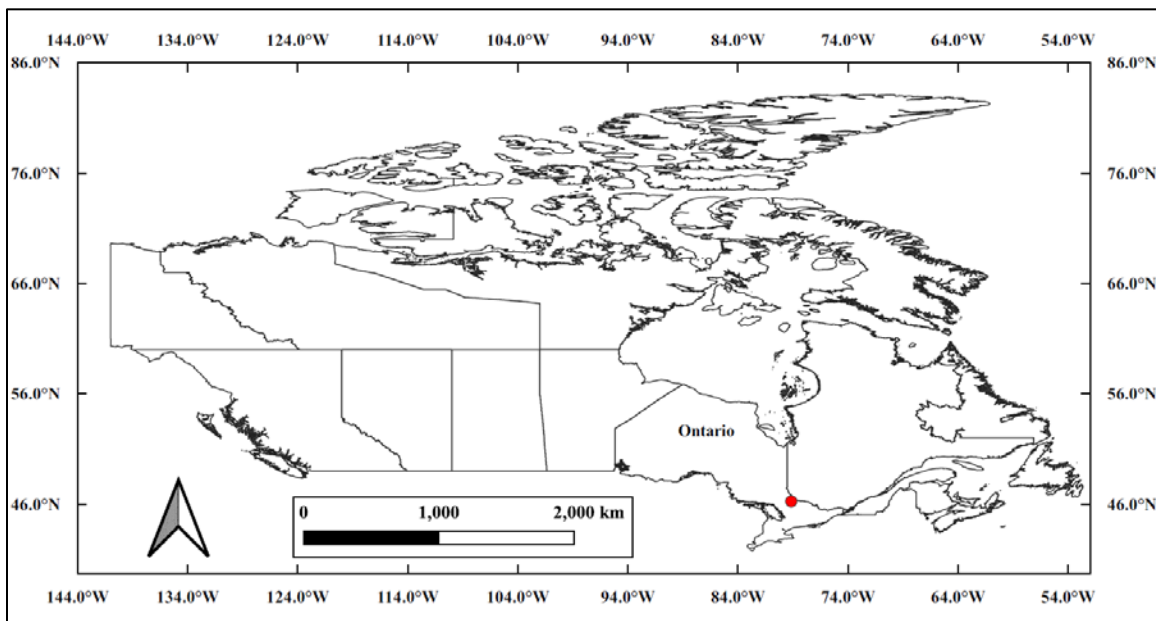


Figure 2: Location of Bonfield (red dot) in the Province of Ontario



In Bonfield, there are two flooding-prone seasons each year. One is at the end of the cold season when the thaw begins (fluvial flood) and the other is when a large amount of rain is likely to fall at the beginning of autumn (pluvial flood), as can be seen in the figure below. It is worth mentioning that in August 2008, a massive flood from heavy rainfall after a wet July caused serious damage in Bonfield, washed-out roads, and destructed culverts.

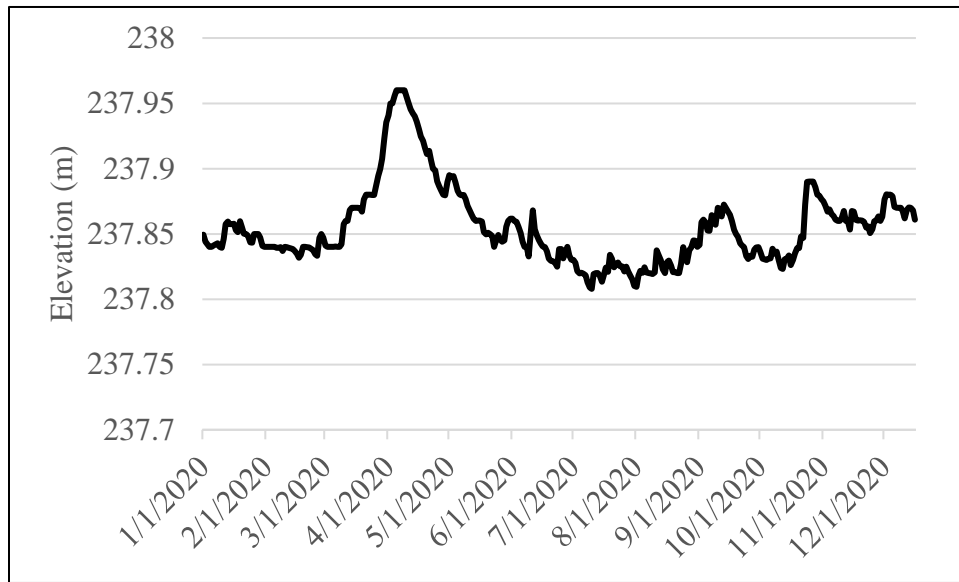


Figure 3: Elevation of Lake Nosbonsing in 2020 (low head dam – Kaibuskong Park)

On average, Bonfield receives 1044 mm of precipitation per year, of which 802 mm is in the form of rainfall. The average annual daily temperature in Bonfield is 4.2°C, which varies between -12.5 °C and 18.9 °C in January and July, respectively, as can be seen in the figure below. It is worth mentioning that the climate in Bonfield is slightly different from the climate in North Bay, and therefore, the climate in North Bay can fairly represent the general trend in Bonfield.

Hamlets

Township of Bonfield comprises two hamlets, Rutherglen and Bonfield. Rutherglen is located on the east side and is a neighbor to Calvin township, and Bonfield is on the west side, adjacent to East Ferris.



Transport

Bonfield has around 120 km of roads; however, there is no public transport system. Bonfield is accessible through several key highways i.e., Trans-Canada Highway on the north side and Highway 11 on the west. The closest passenger airport to the Township is the Jack Garland airport in the city of North Bay. Bonfield historically sits on the voyageur route. The Route currently serves as a cycling trail that attracts cyclists from all over Canada. after the closure of the Greyhound bus line from North Bay to Toronto in 2021, the Ministry of Transportation announced reviving a train line that was shut down in 2012. The line is planned to start serving in 2022 after a test run in November 2021.

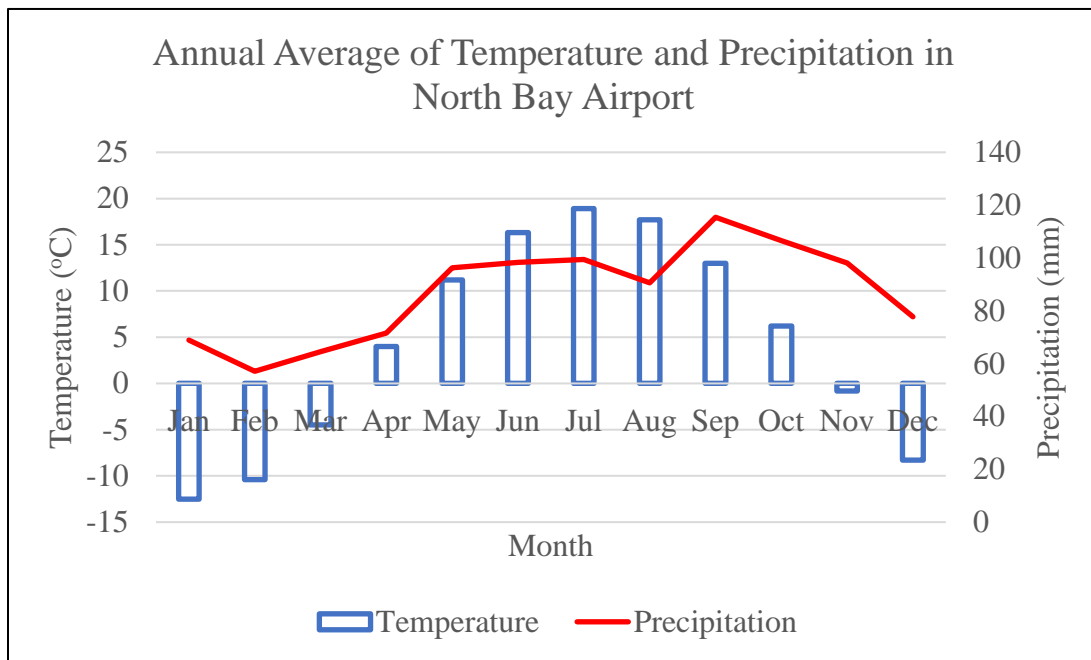


Figure 4: Average temperature and precipitation in North Bay

Community Services

In Bonfield, there are a variety of options to enjoy life other than the beautiful nature and amenities in Bonfield. There are clubs, charities, and a well-equipped library that are described below. In this section, services such as emergency and waste management are



also explained so that the readership will have a better understanding of what to expect in Bonfield.

Clubs

Life in Bonfield is vivid and dynamic. There are several social, religious, and cultural clubs . To name some, please see the table below.

Table 5: A selection of clubs in Bonfield

Club	Contact	Telephone
Bonfield and District Lions Club	bonfieldlions@hotmail.ca	705-242-7622
Knights of Columbus	Richard Lamarche	705-776-2244
Bonfield Golden Age Club	Janet Labreque	Contact the Township for details
Bonfield Agricultural Society	Jean Chaput	705-776-7807
Bonfield Snowmobile Club	Kenneth Prescott	705-492-6830

Library

Bonfield has an active library with over 5,000 books available, operating except on Fridays and Sundays, see the table for the hours of operation. books unavailable in the library can be ordered from a network of libraries in the area i.e., interlibrary loans.



Table 6: Hours of operation and contact information – Bonfield library

M	T	W	T	F	S	S	Email	Phone
10 AM- 1 PM	4 PM- 7 PM	4 PM- 7 PM	4 PM- 7 PM		10 AM- 1 PM		bonfieldlibrary@gmail.com	705 776 2396

Emergency

There are two fire stations in the Township. Fire Hall 1 is located in the hamlet of Bonfield and can be reached at the address below. Fire Hall 2 is located in Rutherglen. First responders are always ready to serve the community member as required. There is a bright history of collaboration between the Township and firefighters. The evacuation center for the municipality is Parish Hall. The parish hall is also used for a variety of other purposes than evacuation e.g., wedding, new year.

Table 7: Emergency centers (fire, police, ambulance) of Bonfield

	Address	Phone	Email
Fire Hall 1	107 Railway St, Bonfield, ON P0H 1E0	705 776 2257 705 499 8968	firechief@bonfieldtownship.org
Fire Hall 2	440 Rutherglen Line, Rutherglen, ON P0H 2E0	705 776 7477 705 492 7684	deputychief@bonfieldtownship.org



Waste Management

Bonfield has one of the cleanest landfills in Ontario, thanks to the residents and landfill operators. The landfill is among the most expensive municipal assets to maintain and decommission, and therefore, it is highly desirable to keep our landfill in its current shape, while using opportunities to further improve it. The Township issues electronic landfill cards that are loaded with two bags per week and unlimited recycling bins or bags. This allows the landfill attendants to monitor the intake of garbage per family per year and to modify the total numbers i.e., 104 per year if required. Exceeding 104 bags and dumping large items e.g., mattress or refrigerator is chargeable at the landfill. The Township does not offer garbage pickup; however, external parties offer such services. For more information, please contact the landfill at the address/phone number below.

Table 8: Landfill Access in Bonfield

Address	Telephone	Operation – Hours and Days
185 Bluesea Road Bonfield ON P0H 1E0	705-776- 2659	Winter: Saturday 8 to 16 Summer: Wednesday 16 to 19 and Saturday 8 to 16

Charity

Living in rural areas has many advantages, namely being bonded to your community. Thanks to the social fabric in Bonfield, the residents care about each other and the community. A recent survey indicates that around half of the population participate in voluntary activities and feel a good sense of belonging. There are several charity groups in Bonfield, namely:



Table 9: Charities in Bonfield

Bonfield Food Bank (Every third Tuesday of the month 1 PM - 4 PM)	705-776-1091	Bonfield Church, 408 Gagnon St, Bonfield, ON, P0H 1E0
Bonfield and District Lions Club	bonfieldlions@hotmail.ca 705-242-7622	351 Line 3 S, Bonfield, ON, P0H 1E0
Family life centre	705-776-1091	Bonfield Church, 408 Gagnon St, Bonfield, ON, P0H 1E0

Postal Services

Bonfield receives mails from Canada Post and home deliveries from all major couriers in Canada. Currently, there are two Canada Post outlets in the Township.

Table 10: Canada Post outlets in Bonfield

	Bonfield	Rutherglen
Address	107 Railway Street, Bonfield ON P0H 1E0 Phone: 705-776-7058	1402 Hwy 17 E Rutherglen ON P0H 2E0 705-776-2452
Hours (may change)	Monday to Friday 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM Thursday 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM	Monday to Friday 11:00 – 12:00 AM and 1:00 to 4:00 PM Thursday 11:00 – 12:00 AM and 1:00 to 5:00 PM



Employment in Bonfield

Bonfield was built by hard-working laborers. Back in 1880, Bonfield was established by railroad and lumber workers. The former Town of Bonfield was established in 1906 and was amalgamated with the Township in 1975, forming the Corporation of the Township of Bonfield. Today, sales, trades, and transport are key employers in Bonfield, followed by business, finance, education, and government services. Historically, Bonfield has roots in forestry and logging. Even though there are no active sawmills nowadays in Bonfield, still, there are workers in this field in Bonfield, as the area is surrounded by woods. In Bonfield, some residents work in various fields related to the mining industry and also construction. Despite being densely covered by vegetation and the abundance of water resources, the quality of soil in Bonfield is not the most suitable for many agricultural purposes. This has prevented Bonfield from being heavily farmed as a rural township. Currently, there are active farms in Bonfield; however, the agricultural industry is not the prime employer. It should be emphasized that there are limited active cattle farms in Bonfield as this is one of the oldest businesses in Bonfield. In recent years, thanks to the scenic nature of Bonfield, lakes, snowmobile, and ATV trails, Bonfield has become a tourism hot spot. This has significantly promoted tourism-related businesses, namely lodging. Currently, there is an active motel, two campgrounds, and a resort along with several rental cottages and b b in Bonfield.

Governance

The municipal government for Bonfield has 5 members that includes a mayor and 4 councilors that are elected every four years. Bonfield has three key departments, Planning and Developments, Public Works, and Admin/Finance. Planning and development dep offer both planning and building. The Township offers animal control and livestock valuation services as well. The Department of Public Works is responsible for managing and maintaining assets e.g., roads, parks, and the landfill.



Planning

Bonfield takes pride in being proactive. Council adopted an Official Plan (OP) and a Zoning By-Law (ZBL) in 2013 with a focus on sustainable development. At the time of creating this document, the OP and ZBL are under review (before the mandatory 10-year review requested by the Province). Following this plan, the Township continued supporting economic growth and development with a focus on using resources with a forward-thinking mindset. This can be tracked in the Waterfront Management Plan, Climate Change Adaptation Plan, Municipal Energy Plan, Asset Management Plan, Community Safety and Well-being Plan, etc. All these plans are being developed with an outreach to the community as engagement is a priority for the Township. Using these plans, the Township aims at making Bonfield a resilient, accessible, affordable, and healthy community.

Tax

The Township mails tax bills twice a year in February and July. The bills cover a wide range from as low as ~ \$150 to as high as ~ \$10,000 and there are several ways to pay the municipal tax including online payment, pre-authorized payments, cheques, and online.

