

Township of North Kawartha

280 Burleigh Street, PO Box 550, Apsley, ON K0L 1A0
Tel: 705-656-4445 | 1-800-755-6931 | Fax: 705-656-4446
www.northkawartha.ca

Report to Council

To: Mayor and Council Members
From: Kelly Picken, Clerk
Date: August 19, 2026
Subject: Short-Term Rental Advisory Summary Report

Recommendation:

That Council recognize the Short-Term Rental Advisory Committee Members, Councillor Colin McLellan (Chair), Councillor Ruth Anne McIlmoyl and public appointees Janet Lambert, Shane Paquette and Ian Smith for their efforts and success in preparing the Short-Term Rental Advisory Committee Recommendations for North Kawartha Council; and further that staff be directed to send the committee public appointees thank you letters on behalf of council acknowledging their service to this community.

Background:

This report provides an overview of the accomplishments of the Short-Term Rental Advisory Committee.

The Short-Term Rental Advisory Committee was established in 2024 to act in an advisory capacity to Council in matters pertaining to short-term rentals in the Township of North Kawartha. The committee engaged a public in a survey in 2024, held eighteen public committee meetings between January 9, 2024, and February 10, 2026. The committee entertained delegates, researched, and consulted to prepare the recommendations to council. Once prepared with draft recommendations to council the committee held a public open house on May 23, 2026. The final deliverables of the committee were provided to Council on March 3 and June 16, 2026. The Terms of Reference indicate that the Committee is in place until the completion of its mission or for the term of Council.

Short Term Rental Advisory February 10, 2026, motion:

26 – 10

Moved by – Shane Paquette



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Seconded by – Janet Lambert

That Committee approve the recommendations to Council. Carried.

On March 3, 2026, North Kawartha Council made the following motion:

26 - 70

Moved by – Deputy Mayor Whelan

Seconded by – Councillor O'Shea

That Council receive the North Kawartha Short-Term Rental Advisory Committee's Recommendations to Council document including Stages 1 to 6 and Appendices with appreciation; and further that Council schedule a Public Open House to be held on a Saturday in May to receive public comments on the Recommendations. Carried.

On June 16, 2026, North Kawartha Council made the following motion:

Short Term Rental Advisory Committee Final Recommendations

26 - 192

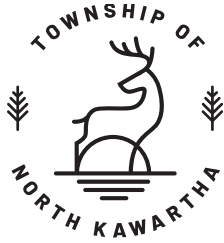
Moved by – Deputy Mayor Whelan

Seconded by – Councillor McLellan

That Council receive this report regarding public feedback on the Short-Term Rental Advisory Committee (STRAC) Final Recommendations; and further that Council direct staff to continue to monitor short term rentals and report back to Council in the Fall if any changes or updates are required. Carried.

The motion made by council on June 16, 2026, to monitor short term and was directed to staff with the understanding that if staff feel there is further action required in response to Short Term Rentals that a report will come back to council for consideration of implementing further steps.

At this time the Short-Term Rental Advisory Committee Recommendation of Stage 1 – Education was completed through the creation of the Good Neighbour Guide that was developed and released in July 2025. We are pleased that since its release this page has been viewed 1,297 times! The complaint process available on the Township website was updated and provides a more transparent and simplified process. In addition, the By-Law complaint form now provides an option to upload photos or documents.



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Analysis:

The Short-Term Rental Advisory Committee Terms of Reference Mission, Scope and Objectives states:

“The Committee will act in an advisory capacity to Council in matters pertaining to the operation of short-term rentals in the Township of North Kawartha and will be responsive to the needs of the Township, the North Kawartha Community and property owners.

The Committee will have due regard for the following:

- Township of North Kawartha Strategic Plan
- Township of North Kawartha Strategic Economic Development Plan
- County and Township Official Plan and Zoning By-Laws
- Township Enforcement By-Laws (Noise, Property Standards etc....)
- Township Procedure By-Law
- Applicable Legislation
- Applicable Township of North Kawartha Policies and Procedures
- Available resources

The Committee will communicate and collaborate in a professional and respectful manner with other levels of government, ministries, agencies, municipalities, applicable groups and associations as approved by Council.”

And further states:

The Committee shall provide a final report to Council that includes the following:

- An overview of existing practices and regulations related to short term rentals in North Kawartha and in other jurisdictions in central and eastern Ontario.
- A set of recommendations for Council consideration with respect to short term rentals in North Kawartha.
- An assessment of the financial, operational, and administrative impact of each recommendation or program.
- Proposed enforcement mechanisms to ensure compliance with the existing and proposed program or regulations.
- An evaluation of the potential impact on traditional roofed accommodations.
- An evaluation of the potential impact on the Townships long term housing supply



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- Recommendations on the number of STR's, and location based on the Township's current zoning by-laws.
- Any proposed amendments or updates to the Township of North Kawartha's comprehensive zoning bylaw 26-2013 as amended.
- Any proposed amendments or updates to the Township of North Kawartha's by-laws.
- Any new bylaws to be proposed relating to STR's.
- A proposed 'Short-Term Rental Information Document' for the public which may include current by-laws applicable to Short Term Rentals (noise etc...), enforcement, recommended guidelines / best practices and responsibilities for property owners who currently operate a STR.

Financial Implications:

n/a

Strategic and/or Other Plans:

3. Governance – Maintain a Strong, Accountable Municipal Government

Strategic Economic Development Plan: Tourism: Short-term Rentals

Consultant(s) Sourced:

Shannon Hunter, CAO

Attachment:

Short Term Rental Advisory Recommendations
Short Term Rental Advisory Terms of Reference