TRI COUNCIL AGENDA
April 30, 2026
6:00 pm
Village of Sundridge – Host Municipality

Join via zoom:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86363286635?pwd=2BcEScUDI98TZ3WgNvd3AkTxTcmZHl.1

1. Approval of Agenda

2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

3. Delegation - None

4. Fire Smart Presentation – **Postponed** as FPO/Assistant Training Officer is unavailable to attend due to prior training/course commitment

5. New Business/Follow Up Items

   5.1 Volunteer Recruitment (Standing Item)
   5.2 Parades (Strong)
   5.3 Staff Appreciation / Holiday Event (Strong)
   5.4 Shared Weather Station (NNEEC, LBPOA, SSJ) (Strong)
   5.5 Almaguin Highlands Health Council – Annual Deficit Billing Delays/ Cost Sharing Model (Strong)
   5.6 Tree Planting Program (f/u) (Strong)
   5.7 Shared Recreation Coordinator (Strong)
   5.8 Salt Pollution from Road Salt (resolution follow up) (Strong)
   5.9 SSJ Recreation – Village of Sundridge Vendor Fee for Canada Day (Strong)
   5.10 Transportation: Northlander (Sundridge)
   5.11 Civic Addressing: potential issues within municipal and emergency services databases (Sundridge)

6. Adjournment

The Corporation of the Township of Strong

Report Number: 2026-001TRI	Date: April 30, 2026
Report Title: Shared Weather Station	Related Documents:
To: Council	From: Caitlin Haggart, Clerk Administrator

Recommendation:

Be it resolved that each Council receive Report 2026-001TRI regarding the merits of installing a shared weather station;

And Further That Council approve the purchase of a shared weather station Davis Wireless Vantage Pro2 at a cost of $1,845.69, plus $1,000.00 for installation and membership fees; and that the cost be shared equally between the Lake Bernard Property Owners' Association, the Near North Enviro-Education Centre; Township of Strong; Township of Joly and Village of Sundridge; and

Finally that the shared weather station be installed at the Near North Enviro-Education Centre at 140 Main Street, Sundridge.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with information on the operational, financial, and public safety benefits of installing a weather station within the immediate community area, and to outline potential uses and advantages for municipal operations and community services.

Background:

Municipal weather stations are increasingly being used by municipalities across Ontario to provide localized, real-time weather data that supports municipal operations, infrastructure management, emergency response, and public communication.

Currently, Sundridge, Strong and Joly rely on regional weather data sources such as nearby Environment Canada stations (North Bay, Huntsville, Parry Sound) and private forecasting services. While these sources provide useful information, they may not reflect localized weather conditions specific to the community, particularly given the variability of the geographic area, terrain, lakes, and rural road networks. Staff have identified current private weather stations located in Township of Strong (Hwy 124/O'Brien Rd area) and the Village of South River, however there are none currently known about in the central Village of Sundridge area.

A locally installed municipal weather station would provide site-specific data relevant to the partners operations and decision-making.

Analysis:

Operational Benefits

A municipal weather station provides accurate, localized data that can improve day-to-day municipal operations, particularly in Public Works. Key operational benefits include:

Winter Road Maintenance;

- Localized weather data supports;
- Improved timing of snow plowing and sanding operations
- More accurate deployment of winter maintenance crews;
- Identification of freezing rain and black ice conditions
- Reduction of unnecessary salt and sand application

Summer Operations and Maintenance:

- Monitoring rainfall intensity and accumulation
- Identifying localized flooding risk
- Supporting culvert and drainage management
- Scheduling road construction and grading activities
- Monitoring drought conditions affecting municipal lands
- Localized rainfall tracking can be particularly valuable in rural municipalities where storm intensity varies significantly across geographic areas.

These improvements can:

- Enhance road safety
- Reduce material costs
- Improve environmental outcomes
- Strengthen documentation for winter maintenance defence under liability claims

Reliable weather data is increasingly important in defending municipal winter maintenance operations under Ontario's Minimum Maintenance Standards, as it provides timestamped evidence of weather conditions and support documented maintenance decisions.

Emergency Management and Public Safety

Weather stations can support municipal emergency preparedness and response, including Severe weather monitoring, Early identification of high-wind events, Rainfall intensity tracking during storms, Extreme temperature monitoring, and Wildfire risk awareness. Data collected can assist the Municipal Emergency Management Program and support response coordination during severe weather events. The data is also instrumental in the Municipality's eligibility under the Municipal Disaster and Recovery Assistance (MDRA) Program with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. MDRA recognizes the limitations of Environment Canada information

specifically in the Almaguin region, therefore the Municipalities are responsible for collection of local weather data to support the claim of an “extraordinary event” under the program.

Planning and Asset Management Benefits

Long-term weather data collection supports infrastructure planning, climate trend analysis , road lifecycle management and asset management planning. Weather trend data can also support climate resilience initiatives and long-term municipal infrastructure planning.

The Township of Strong did budget for the purchase of a weather station in 2025, however did defer this purchase due to the second year of unexpected washouts that occurred causing financial pressures. When the Community Emergency Preparedness Grant intake opened in late 2025, the Township did include a weather station but unfortunately was denied funding in March of 2026. The Roundtable on Lake Health group discussed the possibility of a shared weather station at their March meeting between the Lake Bernard Property Owners’ Association, the Near North Enviro-Education Centre; Township of Strong; Township of Joly and Village of Sundridge. It is proposed that the weather station be installed at the Near North Enviro-Education Centre at 140 Main Street, using their internet connection.

This shared partnership may reduce upfront costs and improve regional data coverage.

Financial Consideration:

In discussing the best weather station options with the Roundtable, it was recommended to consider the Davis Wireless Vantage Pro2 Weather Station at a cost of $1,845.69. A higher quality unit will assist withs successful long term data collection, and reduction of potential overall maintenance. This unit contains both solar and battery power, and is Wi-Fi capable for automatic download of data every hour. Some costs will need to be allocated for installation, and to pay a monthly membership to access data.

Ideally, the station would be >5’ from a building (residual heat radiation) and at a distance of 4x the height of any obstacle to prevent interference in wind and rain collection. Also mounting it somewhere that vandalism won’t be an issue (high enough to be out of reach from passersby but accessible for regular maintenance (~every 3 months for cleaning)).

Monthly membership would be recommended under the “Pro” plan at $3.95/month https://www.davisinstruments.com/pages/weatherlink-cloud

Councils may wish to request a legal opinion on creation of a shared agreement by-law to cover expectations with on-going maintenance and costs.

Options:

1. That Council approve the purchase of a shared weather station Davis Wireless Vantage Pro2 at a cost of $1,845.69, plus $1,000.00 for installation and membership fees; and that the cost be shared equally between the Lake Bernard Property Owners’ Association, the

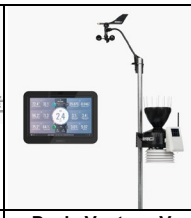
Near North Enviro-Education Centre; Township of Strong; Township of Joly and Village of Sundridge

2. That Council provide alternate direction on another weather station option;

3. That Council not approve the purchase of a shared weather station.

Attachments:
Weather Station Options provided by the Lake Bernard Property Owners' Association

Weather Station Options

						
	ECOWITT Wittboy Pro Weather Station HP2564 7-in-1 Outdoor Solar Powered Weather Sensor	**Tempest Weather System with Accurate Weather Forecasts, Wireless, App and Alexa Enabled**	**Ambient Weather WS-5000 Ultrasonic Smart Weather Station (AKA ECOWITT HP2553)**	**Davis Vantage Vue Wireless Sensor Suite with Weatherlink Console**	**KestrelMet 6000 WiFi Weather station**	**Davis Wireless Vantage Pro2 Weather Station**
Cost	**$360**	**$649**	**$1,008.60**	**$1,319.63**	**$1,813**	**$1,845.69**
Brand	ECOWITT	Weatherflow	Ambient Weather	Davis	KestrelMet	Davis
Material	Plastic	Plastic	Metal	Plastic	Plastic	Plastic
Power Source	Solar w Battery & DC	Solar w Battery	Solar w Battery	Battery	Solar w Battery	Solar w Battery
Battery		1 Lithium Ion	5 AA	Lithium Polymer	na	1 Lithium Ion
Special Feature	Haptic Rain Sensor	Advanced Weather Forecasting using Machine Learning	Ultrasonic Wind Technology - no moving parts, more sensitive to wind changes, updates every 5 sec	Self-contained	24-hour Aspirated fan for Accurate Readings	24-hour Aspirated fan for Accurate Readings, Radiation Shielded
Connective Technology	WiFi	433 MHz or 868 MHz	Radio Frequency	WiFi	WiFi	WiFi
Temperature Accuracy	±0.3 °C	±0.5 °C	±1 °C	±1 °C	±0.5 °C	±0.3 °C
Sensor Technology	Haptic/Ultrasonic	Ultrasonic	Ultrasonic	Wireless	Capacitive/Thermistor	Ultrasonic
Upper Temperature Rating	70 °C	60 °C	50 °C	50 °C	na	50 °C
Display Type	LCD	None - Cell App	Full Colour LCD	Colour Touch Screen	LCD LED	HD Touchscreen
Frequency	915 MHz	0.33 Hz	915 MHz	spread-spectrum technology	na	0.4 Hz
Features	Temperature, Humidity, Wind Speed and Direction, Light and UV, Solar Irradiance,Rainfall Rate, Rain Accumulation, Barometric Pressure	Temperature, Humidity, Dew Point, Heat Index, Barometric Pressure, Sea Level Pressure, Lightning Detection, Wind Speed and Direction, UV, Solar Irradiance,Rainfall Rate, Rain Accumulation, Historical Data Graphs	Rain Cup, Indoor/Outdoor Thermo-hygrometer-barometer, Wind Speed, Wind Direction, Wind Gust, Humidity, Solar Radiation	Temperature, Humidity, Rainfall, Wind, Solar Radiation	Temperature, Humidity, Wind Speed and Direction, Rainfall, Barometric Pressure, Dew Point	Temperature, Humidity, Wind Speed and Direction, Rainfall, Barometric Pressure, Dew Point, Heat Index
Other Parts (incl in Cost)	Complete mounting kit	Mounting Bracket, Power Booster Accessory	Pole Mounting Kit	Mounting Tripod	Tripod	Mounting Tripod
Pros	Decent accuracy, DIY friendly	Super quick setup, Outstanding lightning detection, fairly accurate instrumentation, ready for smart home	Full-colour console, Smart home connectivity, Improved barometer and rainfall accuracy	Durability, Reliability, Integration, Advanced Features, Precision - best in-class accuracy for temperature, humidity, barometric pressure, rainfall, windspeed and direction	High accuracy, durability, easy setup, real-time data, comprehensive features. Overall, robust choice for serious weather users.	High accuracy, Expandable sensor suite, durability, Weatherlink Console
Cons	Haptic rain gauge is no better	Haptic rain sensor doesn't measure rainfall accurately enough, no expandability	Cumbersome console setup, some sensors had to be reset to connect to console	Higher price due to console, Connectivity issues requiring internet access, requires regular cleaning and maintenance, Installation requires consideration of surrounding obstructions	High cost, restricted to fixed installation, large size	Higher price, limited connectivity, installation complexity
Rating	4.5	4.2	4.3	4.3	1	4.5
Reviews	214	1,773	194	89	1	38

Health Centre Deficit Contributions

Municipality	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total Amount Received by Municipality	Received VS Deficit Difference
Armour	$0.00	$3,300.00	$2,646.00	$0.00	$5,348.00			$11,294.00	-$18,838.85
Joly	$4,545.00	$3,300.00	$0.00	$2,602.85	$5,348.00			$15,795.85	-$14,337.00
Kearney	$4,545.00	$3,300.00	$2,646.00	$2,602.85	$6,007.00	$6,007.00	$6,007.00	$31,114.85	$982.00
Magnetawan	$4,545.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$3,000.00	$3,000.00		$10,545.00	-$19,587.85
McMurrich	$3,122.87	$0.00	$2,646.00	$2,602.85	$5,348.00	$3,338.00	$8,353.00	$25,410.72	-$4,722.13
Perry	$4,545.00	$3,300.00	$2,646.00	$2,602.85	$5,348.00			$18,441.85	-$11,691.00
Strong	$4,545.00	$3,300.00	$2,646.00	$0.00	$5,348.00			$15,839.00	-$14,293.85
Sundridge	$4,545.00	$3,300.00	$2,646.00	$2,602.85	$3,000.00	$12,014.00		$28,107.85	-$2,025.00
Ryerson	$4,545.00	$3,300.00	$2,646.00	$2,602.85	$3,267.57			$16,361.42	-$13,771.43
Burk's Falls	$4,545.00	$3,300.00	$2,646.00	$2,602.85	$5,348.00	$3,338.00	$8,353.00	$30,132.85	$0.00
Municipal Contribution	**39,482.87**	**26,400.00**	**21,168.00**	**18,219.95**	**47,362.57**	**27,697.00**	**22,713.00**		
Deficit		$36,266.00	$23,818	$26,028.41	$53,479.00	$33,376.00	$83,527.00	**Total Shares**	
Municipal Annual share	$4,545.00	$3,300.00	$2,646	$2,602.85	$5,348.00	$3,338.00	$8,353.00	$30,132.85	
Shortfall covered by BF		-$9,866.00	-$2,650	-$7,808.46	-$6,116.43	-$5,679.00	-$60,814.00	-$92,933.89	

Municipality	Resolution#	Amount	Year	Amount	Year
Armour	2026-60	$0.00	2024	$0.00	2025
Joly					
Kearney					
Magnetawan	2026-42			$8,353.00	2025
McMurrich	2026-48	$3,338.00	2024	$8,353.00	2025
Perry					
Strong					
Sundridge	2026-056	$0.00	2024	$0.00	2025
Ryerson					

Anomalies

Year

2020 Calculation based on 11 Partner included Machar but did not participate

2021 Calculation based on 9 partners