

MEDIA RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 12th, 2025

Marathon and Manitouwadge Announce Shared Fire Chief Position for 2026

The Municipalities of Marathon and Manitouwadge are pleased to announce an agreement to share a Fire Chief position beginning in early 2026. This partnership builds on a long history of regional collaboration in Northwestern Ontario, reflecting the communities' commitment to working together for shared success.

Like many northern municipalities, Marathon and Manitouwadge face staffing pressures, recruitment challenges and difficulty retaining specialized leadership in rural communities. By working together, both municipalities are adopting an innovative, sustainable approach to ensure resilient and stable fire service delivery.

Under this shared model, the Marathon Fire Chief will oversee both departments while working closely with local volunteer firefighters in each community. Splitting time between the two municipalities allows for hands-on support for firefighters and daily operations, while maintaining consistent oversight and coordination.

Despite being 100 kilometers apart, the model allows for aligned training standards, stronger emergency planning and consistent leadership across both communities.

This partnership reflects both municipalities' dedication to efficient planning, responsible resource management and delivering dependable, high-quality fire services to residents.

“This agreement reflects how communities in Northwestern Ontario build strong, sustainable services by working together. Sharing a Fire Chief strengthens both departments, supports long-term planning and ensures our residents continue to receive high-quality fire protection.”

- **Daryl Skworchinski, CAO/Clerk, Town of Marathon**

“Manitouwadge is happy to continue our strong partnership with a neighbouring community. By Collaborating with Marathon, we're enhancing service capacity and taking a proactive approach to ensure strong, consistent leadership within our fire services. This is a positive step for both communities.”

- **Joleen Keough, CAO/Clerk, Township of Manitouwadge**

This shared agreement highlights the commitment of both Marathon and Manitouwadge to provide safe, reliable and responsive fire services while demonstrating the value of collaboration in Northern Ontario communities. Residents can expect continued service and strengthened emergency preparedness through this partnership.

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About Marathon

Marathon is a collaborative community in Northwestern Ontario, located on the north shore of Lake Superior along Highway 17. Home to approximately 3,500 residents, Marathon is focused on providing strong municipal services, and supporting local economic development.

About Manitouwadge

Manitouwadge is a resilient northern community in Ontario, located about 100 km west of Marathon along Highway 614. With a population of roughly 2,000, the township is committed to delivering reliable municipal services, supporting residents, and building strong regional partnerships.