



# Official Plan Review

*Our Town, Our Plan*

May 2011 – ISSUE 1

**The Town's current Official Plan was adopted by Town Council in 2002, and approved by the Ontario Municipal Board on September 29, 2006. Much has changed in the last nine years that requires The Blue Mountains to review and update the Official Plan. There has been considerable growth and changes in the planning landscape with respect to policy direction.**

**The Official Plan needs to be updated to ensure that it is consistent with the changes to the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.P.13 legislated by Bill 51, the 2005 Provincial Policy Statement and brought into conformity with the County of Grey Official Plan.**

## WHAT IS AN OFFICIAL PLAN?

An Official Plan:

- contains goals, objectives and policies to manage and direct physical change and the effects of that change on the social, economic and natural environment of a municipality
- establishes the basic framework for how the community will evolve over time
- is a policy document that describes how land should be used, and implements a municipality's planning, development and growth management vision

Official Plans have legal status and derive their authority from the *Planning Act* of Ontario.

## OFFICIAL PLAN REVIEW - WORKPLAN -

To ensure that the Official Plan Review takes into account all considerations and issues, and involves the community throughout the process, a two-phase comprehensive workplan has been established.

**Phase 1, Background Issues and Review**, will focus on understanding:

- the vision, aspirations and concerns of Council and the community
- the current Official Plan
- all relevant studies prepared to date
- relevant Provincial and County policy, and the types of choices and decisions the Town must make
- relevant background information and policy relating to a range of study or theme areas including natural heritage, agriculture, cultural heritage, design and employment

**Phase 2, Plan Preparation** will focus on preparing policy for the Official Plan Review.





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## PUBLIC CONSULTATION

*Consultation with the community is an important component of this project and thus is integrated throughout the workplan. The consultation workplan involves a variety of methods to outreach to the community including:*

- a series of visioning workshops with the community to explore themes, issues and policy areas*
- ensuring a transparent and open process*
- providing web content that provides a range of information respecting the review, and that is constantly updated*
- providing opportunities for youth engagement*

## PUBLIC WORKSHOP #1

**Provide your input to the review of our Official Plan!**

You are invited to help set directions for the future by participating in a public workshop, consisting of a series of themed sessions. Though encouraged to attend the entire workshop, you may choose to attend only the part of the session focused on the topic in which you are most interested.

**Saturday, June 18, 2011 (9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.)  
at the Beaver Valley Community Centre  
58 Alfred Street West, Thornbury**

### AGENDA

Welcome and Session Overview	9:00 a.m.
Official Plan Review Project Overview	9:15 a.m.
Agricultural Lands	10:00 a.m.
Natural Heritage and Hazard Lands	10:50 a.m.
Commercial and Employment Lands	11:40 a.m.
Lunch and Open Forum	12:30 p.m.
Growth Management, Intensification, Transportation and Design	1:00 p.m.

## GETTING INVOLVED

The Town is looking to you to provide information, opinions and ideas to assist us in preparing the Official Plan Review. There will be several public sessions conducted throughout the process and notification of these sessions will be advertised and dates will be posted and regularly updated on the Town's website - [www.thebluemountains.ca/official-plan-review.cfm](http://www.thebluemountains.ca/official-plan-review.cfm).

## CONTACT US

If you have questions or comments about any items in this newsletter, please contact:

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Visit our Official Plan Review Web site at  
[www.thebluemountains.ca/official-plan-review.cfm](http://www.thebluemountains.ca/official-plan-review.cfm)