



Youth Friendly Designation

Georgian Bay Youth Roots

Who we are?

- Georgian Bay Youth Roots coalition is committed to ensuring all local youth are healthy, engaged and contributing members of the Municipality of Meaford and Town of the Blue Mountains. We are committed to supporting families, building assets and mobilizing our community.
 - Melri Wright – Beaver Valley Outreach
 - Jason Wepler and Lisa Prowd, Grey Bruce Health Unit
 - Amber Knott and Jaden Calvert, Municipality of Meaford
 - Shawn Everitt and Jennifer Perks – Town of the Blue Mountains
 - Maryann Almas – Meaford Chamber
 - Melissa Barfoot - OPP

Goal

The Town of the Blue Mountains is viewed as a youth friendly community by both residents and visitors.

Youth Roots is hoping for municipal support in submitting an application to become a youth friendly in community by January 2017



Criteria and Application

We are doing really well in many criteria.

Some criteria (activities) will need attention, direction and advocacy.

CRITERIA 1:

Youth have options for play

CRITERIA 2:

Youth are formally connected to the community

CRITERIA 3:

Facilities are dedicated to youth play

CRITERIA 4:

It is easy for youth to find information about play activities in the community

CRITERIA 5:

The community supports public youth events

CRITERIA 6:

The community celebrates and recognizes youth

CRITERIA 7:

The community commits funding for youth play

CRITERIA 8:

The community supports positive youth development

CRITERIA 9:

The community supports youth volunteerism and leadership development

CRITERIA 10:

The community has effective partnerships that support youth play

CRITERIA 11:

Youth activism and advocacy for play is nurtured

CRITERIA 12:

Youth feel valued by their community

CRITERIA 13:

Youth can get to the play programs that are offered

CRITERIA 14:

Schools support the youth friendly approach

CRITERIA 15:

Adults champion the cause for youth play

CRITERIA 16:

Play is inclusive

What do we mean by PLAY?

Play is any non-school activity that has elements of choice, leads to satisfaction, and encourages progressive learning and enjoyment. Activities can include, but are not limited to, recreation, sport, leisure, arts, drama, dance, civic engagement, youth activism, volunteerism, social clubs and youth leadership.

Process

- Coalition meetings
- Presentations to community youth organizations
- Collection of evidence/data for each criteria
- Reviewed by youth
- Analysis of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities

Decreased crime
Increased high school and post-secondary completion

Skills development
Civic participation
Leadership
Volunteerism

Population recruitment
Family attraction
Doctor recruitment
Business/industry attraction

**YOUTH IN OUR
COMMUNITY
WANT AND NEED
A YOUTH
FRIENDLY
COMMUNITY**

Increased physical and mental health for youth
Decreased risk of addiction and youth suicide

**Youth Friendly
Designation**

Youth re-attraction to settle after post secondary studies

Community capacity building
Youth empowerment
Youth voice heard

Provision of mentors and role models
Encourages cross generational interaction

Inventory of youth friendly assets and maintenance of those assets

Fosters multi-agency collaboration in community

What the Town can and does contribute?

- In-kind space, resources and staff time
- Supporting youth through community grant program
- Council resolution supporting Youth Roots in this process
- Letters of support for the Youth Friendly Designation
- Maintenance/enhancement of existing opportunity for youth play
- Partnership to provide youth voices e.g., youth council
- Celebrate, recognize and value youth in our community

Because
youth
matter...

Thank-you
for your time!



Be the person you needed
when you were younger