Message from the CAO- Shawn Everitt

It’s been a great Winter season in The Blue Mountains. I hope that everyone has had the opportunity to enjoy the fantastic lights of the Blumination Dream Trail at Blue Mountain Village and that you took the time to experience the holiday festivities of Olde Fashioned Christmas in downtown Thornbury.

As you can see, there is always something to do. I encourage all residents to sign-up for the Town’s weekly events email and newsletters to stay up-to-date on all Town business and events.

2019 was a very busy and productive year throughout the municipality. Council, staff and committee members worked collaboratively to manage a variety of projects and initiatives. A few highlights include:

- Launch of the Town’s new community engagement software “Your View”
- Council declared Climate Change Emergency
- Continued commitment to engage the community through the establishment of Committees of Council
- The draft of a new Municipal Licensing By-law to govern Short Term Accommodation rentals
- Launch of Uber within The Blue Mountains

2019 was also an important year as groundwork was established to aid in the development of strategic documents including the Corporate Strategic Plan, Economic Development Strategy, Communications Strategy, Master Drainage Plan, and the Master Transportation Plan. Collectively, the development of strategic plans will ensure that the Town is guided by a well developed and Council supported strategic direction. This will ensure that projects move forward efficiently and effectively, with all community members being well informed through early and regular communication.

I am also pleased to report that great progress has been made by The Blue Mountains Attainable Housing Corporation to address the need for attainable housing solutions within our community. With the goal of having shovels in the ground by the end of 2020, the work of the Attainable Housing Corporation will extend the Town’s commitment to help address our regional labour shortages and workforce challenges. Throughout the year, the Attainable Housing Corporation will be conducting public consultation to gain input and feedback regarding designs and concept plans to help facilitate the project construction. Residents and interested parties are encouraged to watch for updates on the Town website.

In addition, the Agricultural Advisory Committee has been doing excellent work representing both the rural and agriculture community interests throughout the municipality. The work of the Committee has been extremely valuable in helping Town Council, staff and residents understand the perspective of the agricultural community. I would also like to mention that our agricultural heritage, along with many current farm operators, including many local innovators will be on display as the Beaver Valley Agricultural Society prepare to celebrate their 150th anniversary this coming September. The Fall Fair is happening on September 11 and 12, 2020. Watch www.beavervalleyfallfair.ca for details.

Subscribe for Town Email Updates!

Stay up-to-date on municipal and community news, updates and information by subscribing to the Town Email Newsletter. Never miss an update!

www.thebluemountains.ca/subscribe-for-updates.cfm

Follow the Town on Twitter @Town_Blue_Mtns
The 2020 Budget Process is underway! The staff proposed budget was made available on January 10, 2020 and several Committee of the Whole budget meetings were scheduled and completed in January and early February.

Developing an annual Budget involves several months of planning and coordination among staff, Council, and stakeholders. The Town's budgeting goal is to ensure, through prudent fiscal planning, the long-term economic sustainability of our municipality.

All meetings regarding the 2020 Budget will be held at The Blue Mountains Town Hall. For more information on the 2020 budget, key dates or to view the draft budget, please visit: www.thebluemountains.ca/budget.cfm

The enclosed 2020 Interim Tax Bill is based on 50% of 2019 total taxes and is payable in two instalments dated March 27, 2020 and May 27, 2020. The 2020 Annual Tax Bill in August will be based on the property assessment value for 2020 multiplied by the 2020 tax rate, minus the interim bill amount. Payment options are noted on the reverse of the Tax Bill.

Tax Inquiries? If you have questions about your tax bill, please email tax@thebluemountains.ca or phone 1-888-258-6867 extension 221. Please advise Town promptly of any name or address changes for corrections.

Assessment Inquiries? For information on your property assessment, please contact the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC). The application deadline for submission of Requests for Reconsideration for 2020 Assessment to MPAC is March 31, 2020. MPAC Phone: 1-866-296-6722 Email: enquiry@mpac.ca Website: www.mpac.ca

Every four years, the Municipal Property Association (MPAC) sends out a Property Assessment Notice to all Ontario property owners.

Property Assessment Notices will be mailed from May to September, and will reflect the updated value of your property as of January 1, 2019. Municipalities will use your assessment to calculate your 2021-2024 property taxes.

When you receive your Notice, review it and keep it for your records.

Want to learn more?
Visit mpac.ca and log onto AboutMyProperty, an online tool to:

- Learn how your property was assessed
- See the information MPAC has on file for your property
- Compare your assessed value to other similar properties in your area
- File a Request for Reconsideration if you disagree with your property’s assessed value

The 2020 Budget Process is underway! The staff proposed budget was made available on January 10, 2020 and several Committee of the Whole budget meetings were scheduled and completed in January and early February.

Developing an annual Budget involves several months of planning and coordination among staff, Council, and stakeholders. The Town’s budgeting goal is to ensure, through prudent fiscal planning, the long-term economic sustainability of our municipality.

All meetings regarding the 2020 Budget will be held at The Blue Mountains Town Hall. For more information on the 2020 budget, key dates or to view the draft budget, please visit: www.thebluemountains.ca/budget.cfm

FAQ: How are Town Tax Dollars Spent?
Each year, Town staff prepares a draft budget that is presented to Council for consideration. The draft budget outlines the Town’s annual financial plan and acts as the foundation for guiding decisions throughout the year.

When the Town sends out a tax bill to residents, the Town is collecting taxes for its own use, as well as for Grey County and the School Boards. For every dollar that the Town collects in taxation, 41 cents is kept by the Town, 41 cents is sent to Grey County, and 18 cents is given to the appropriate School Boards. The following graphic illustrates how the Town allocates the taxation dollars that are collected for Town use. To learn more, visit: www.thebluemountains.ca/finance-information-technology.cfm
Deputy Mayor Rob Potter Sworn In

At the January 30, 2020 Special Meeting of Council, Councillor Rob Potter was sworn in as Deputy Mayor for the remainder of the 2018 - 2020 term of Council. Grey County Warden Paul McQueen was in attendance to show support and to congratulate Deputy Mayor Potter.

“I would like to thank members of Council, Town staff, residents and local business owners for their continued support”, explained Deputy Mayor Rob Potter. “Great momentum and progress has been made by Council and Committees of Council to address Town issues. I look forward to continuing my work on Council within the new role of Deputy Mayor. I encourage all residents to stay engaged with the Town to learn about upcoming projects and initiatives”.

Single Use Plastic Interim Voluntary Ban

At the June 3, 2019 meeting, Council passed a resolution adopting, supporting and encouraging an interim voluntary ban on the use of single-use plastic shopping bags, plastic straws and stir sticks effective July 1st, 2019.

Council supports the protection of the environment of the Town of The Blue Mountains through the reduction and future elimination of single-use plastic bags, straws, stir sticks and water bottles, and encourages all businesses, community members and visitors to avoid the use of these products whenever possible. Council recognizes and appreciates the efforts of all stakeholders towards measures that support the sustainability of the natural environment in the Town of The Blue Mountains.

Waste Resource Web & Mobile App

The Town’s Waste Resource web and mobile application is a tool that residents can use to confirm collection day and holiday collection information. It can also be used to determine what types of materials or waste are accepted curbside or at the Landfill Site.

Waste Wizard

Residents can use the waste wizard tool to find detailed recycling and waste collection information and tips. It’s easy to use, just type in the name of the item!

Online & Mobile App

The mobile app is available on both IOS & Android devices. Search for ‘TBM Waste Resource’ in the app store. To access on the Town website, visit: www.thebluemountains.ca/solid-waste.cfm

Stay Informed About Development Projects

Did you know... Information on all active development projects in the Town are available on the Development Projects page of the Town website. Click on any development project to obtain up-to-date information and to view an interactive web map.

www.thebluemountains.ca/development-projects.cfm

In addition, within the coming months, the Town will be rolling out a new look for public notice signs that will be posted at development projects where required. The new signs will contain information about the project, public meeting details, contact information and a link to the Town website.
Share Your View & Participate Online!

“Your View” is the Town’s online community engagement platform where residents can share feedback and opinions on Town projects and initiatives, participate in community discussions, complete surveys and enter into fun competitions such as the Your View of Blue Photo Contest.

The launch of the public engagement platform was supported by the Town’s Community Communications Advisory Committee to help facilitate the development of the 2020 - 2025 Communications Strategy.

All responses submitted through the online engagement platform will be reviewed by members of Council and staff. The goal is to create an open and positive online environment for idea sharing and collaboration. To participate, visit the link below and create your free account. Learn more and share your view by visiting: https://yourview.thebluemountains.ca

The Blue Mountains Winter Merchandise

New! Hoodies and Toques are available for purchase at select locations throughout Town. Proceeds directly support the Community Grants and Donations program. For details, visit: www.thebluemountains.ca/grants-donations-program.cfm

Available for Purchase at:

- Town Hall (Finance Counter): 32 Mill Street, Thornbury
- Thornbury Foodland: 105 Arthur St W, Thornbury
- Thornbury Pharmasave: 45 Arthur Street W, Thornbury

2020 Dog Licences

The Town of The Blue Mountains requires all dogs to be licenced in accordance with the Dog and Animal Care By-law. The By-law is applicable to both permanent and seasonal residents. Licence(s) must be purchased before March 31st each year.

Dog Licence Applications

Applications are available at Town Hall or online at www.thebluemountains.ca/animal-control.cfm

For more information

By-law Enforcement Department
(519) 599-3131 ext. 249
animalcontrol@thebluemountains.ca