



THE BLUE MOUNTAINS NEWSLETTER

March 2019

Message from the Mayor

The warm Spring weather is just around the corner, and this will be an exciting year for The Blue Mountains community!

I encourage all residents to sign up for the weekly email to stay up-to-date on Town news and community events. To sign-up, please visit the Newsroom page on the Town website.

In February, Council conducted a variety of budget workshops and sessions to review the 2019 budget. Council reviewed the staff proposed budget and made amendments. The theme for this year's budget is doing more with less, and the focus has been on reducing consulting fees and doing more in-house. Of every tax dollar collected 40 cents goes to Grey County, 18 cents goes to Education, leaving the Town with 42 cents. This year's proposed tax increase is 5.85% (or 3.31% blended), or \$180 dollars per average household. This assumes a 25% reduction in provincial funding, which is yet to be confirmed. Assuming no reduction the increase would be only 3.75% (or 2.44% blended).

A public information meeting on the budget has been scheduled for March 11, 2019, with a formal public meeting on March 18, 2019. Both meetings are a great opportunity for residents to learn about the budget and to ask any questions to members of Council.

I have hosted 'Meet the Mayor' meetings in Thornbury and Lora Bay to provide an open, informal opportunity for residents to ask questions and meet members of Council. Many great ideas and discussion have resulted directly from the meetings. Upcoming meetings are scheduled for: March 16, 2019 at 9am: Craigleith Community Centre, and April 20, 2019 at 9am: Ravenna Hall. Thank you and have a great Spring in The Blue Mountains! - Mayor Alar Soever



Tax Bill Information

The enclosed 2019 Interim Tax Bill is based on 50% of 2018 total taxes and is payable in two installments dated March 28 and May 28, 2019. The 2019 Annual Tax Bill in August will be based on the phased-in property assessment for 2019 multiplied by the 2019 tax rate, minus the interim bill amount.

Tax 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 the Town promptly of any name or address changes or corrections.

For information on your property assessment, please contact the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC). The application deadline for submission of Requests for Reconsideration for 2019 Assessment to MPAC is March 31, 2019. • Phone: 1-866-296-6722 • Email: enquiry@mpac.ca • Website: www.mpac.ca

Budget 2019

The 2019 Budget Process is underway! The staff proposed budget was made available on January 14, 2019 and several Committee of the Whole budget meetings were scheduled and completed in February 2019.

Upcoming Budget Key Dates

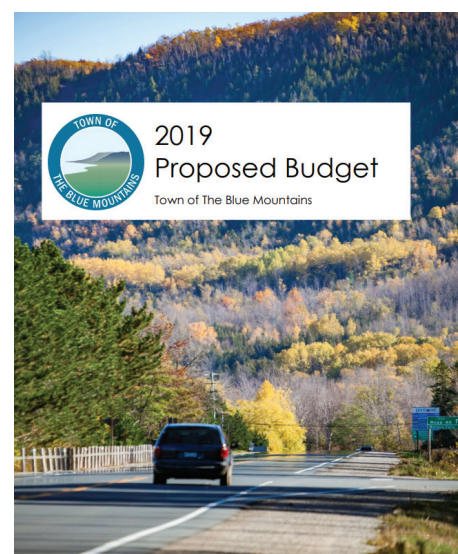
February 21, 2019 - Updated draft budget will be made available

March 11, 2019 from 5:00pm - 6:00pm - Budget Public Information Centre

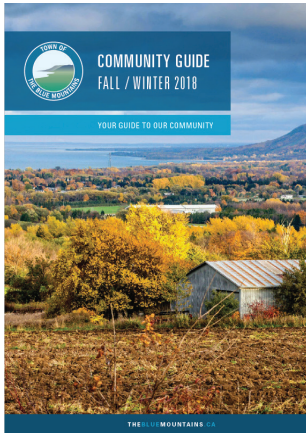
March 18, 2019 at 5:00pm - Budget Public Meeting

All meetings will be held at the Blue Mountains Town Hall. The above schedule is subject to change. For more information on the 2019 budget or to view the draft budget, please visit:

www.thebluemountains.ca/budget.cfm



Community Guide



The Community Guide provides important information about Town departments, services, facilities, resources, programs and general business.

To view the guide online, please visit: www.thebluemountains.ca/public-engagement.cfm

Voters' List

Don't wait until the next election to be added to the Voter's List. Contact the Clerks Department today to be added!

You have the right to vote in municipal elections if:

- You are a Canadian citizen; and
- You are 18 years of age or older; and
- You reside in or own or are a tenant of land in The Blue Mountains or you are the spouse of such a person.

To be added, please visit:
www.thebluemountains.ca/election.cfm



Gravel Road Winter Maintenance

The 2018/2019 winter season has experienced a number of rain events and with the increasing frequency of mixed winter weather, the Town would like to remind residents and visitors to drive according to the road conditions and to be mindful of changing weather conditions. Special attention should be given when travelling on gravel roads as they may be ice covered which results in reduced traction.

To help remove ice from gravel roads, the Town dispatches heavy equipment graders to 'ice-blade' the affected gravel roads. The ice-blade carves a grooved pattern onto the road or snow-covered surface which provides significantly better tire traction. However, since the ice is generally caused by rain, the Town typically waits until the rain has finished before ice-blading occurs; otherwise, no progress would be made as the gravel roads would refreeze once the grader has passed.

In addition to ice-blading, the Town spot sands on hills, curves and intersections where required based on the local conditions. However, ice-blading is generally required before the sanding trucks can operate. The sand mixture contains 7% salt which may be applied to both gravel and paved roads. Using straight salt is not recommended as the salt only temporarily thaws the road which creates potholes and leads to further problems.

The Town operates according to the Town's Winter Maintenance Policy, which is available on the Town website. The Town's Public Works Department operates on a single shift with operators assigned to a specific route as directed by the Town's Winter Maintenance Standards and Level of Service Policy.

For more information or to view the policies, please visit: www.thebluemountains.ca/roads-drainage.cfm



Municipal Information



The Blue Mountains Town Hall
32 Mill Street, Thornbury, ON, N0H 2P0
Hours: Monday - Friday 8:30am - 4:30pm
www.thebluemountains.ca • (519) 599-3131



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