



# Town News

## THE BLUE MOUNTAINS NEWSLETTER

### STAY CONNECTED:



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Town Hall, 32 Mill St.  
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Hours of Operation:  
Monday to Friday  
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

### STAY UP-TO-DATE:

Stay up-to-date on Town news, operations, projects and more by subscribing to the Town Email Newsletter. Never miss an update!

To sign up, visit:  
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## Community Campus of Care

Through an innovative and unique partnership, the Town is working with the Province of Ontario and the Ministry of Long Term Care to develop a new long-term care facility, known as the Community Campus of Care.

The partnership was announced in January when the Province of Ontario, through the Ministry of Long Term Care, provisionally allocated 160 long-term care beds to the Town. When fully constructed, the Community Campus of Care project is expected to feature a 160 bed long-term care facility, retirement living accommodation focused on healthy seniors' living, and a variety of attainable housing units and dwellings to support the staff working at the Community Campus of Care.

The Community Campus of Care is proposed to be built on Town-owned lands located at 125 Peel Street in Thornbury. Purchased last year, the 32-acre property has been long considered a key strategic property of interest by the Town with its proximity to Highway 26 and the Tomahawk Recreation Complex, providing future opportunities for both properties.

To ensure success, the Town has retained SHS Consulting to help guide the project forward. SHS Consulting will be responsible for working with the Town's 125 Peel Street Task Force and Council to source a private sector partner (or partners) to develop, own, manage, operate, and maintain the various components of the Community Campus of Care.

SHS Consulting is a leading expert in developing Community Campus of Care projects throughout Canada. In addition, SHS Consulting has strong local knowledge of The Blue Mountains through their ongoing work with The Blue Mountains Attainable Housing Corporation.

The Town and SHS Consulting will create a pre-qualification process to attract and qualify developers and long-term care providers. Once pre-qualified, the shortlisted providers will be invited to move on to the final request-for-proposal that will be issued later in 2022. Construction is expected to start by summer 2024, with the long-term care facility expected to open by the end of 2026.

To learn more about the project, visit [thebluemountains.ca/campusofcare](http://thebluemountains.ca/campusofcare)

# Message from the Mayor

As I write this, we are starting to see signs of progress in the fight against COVID. I want to thank everyone who has adhered to all public health advice, and thereby contributed to the progress we have made in keeping the most vulnerable in our community safe.

I am proud of how our community has pulled together and of the progress made on a number of initiatives. Among these is the recently announced Campus of Care, the centerpiece of which will be a new 160-bed long term care home. As the second fastest growing community in Canada these kinds of facilities are badly needed to serve our current and future needs.

This newsletter contains information about a variety of initiatives. As taxpayers, I encourage you to participate and contribute your ideas to the various projects underway, and particularly the Official Plan Review. The Official Plan will shape what our community will look like for years to come. With the rapid growth, it is vital we get the Official Plan right, so we build a community that will serve us all as a place to live, work and play, in all ages and stages of our lives.

Mayor Alar Soever



## Deputy Mayor Peter Bordignon

As we enter further into 2022, we can clearly see the uptake continuing in population growth. The latest information from CMA/CA shows that the Town of The Blue Mountains is the second largest growing community in Canada due to a combination of development and the shift from seasonal to permanent residences. As a town, we must remain cognizant of this growth, both in and above ground, and ensure that our infrastructure and operations can keep pace. At present, we have over 100 projects scheduled for the next 3 to 5 year period. Staff and council continue to work towards hitting these targets and projects from both an operational and fiscal point of view.

## Councillor Paula Hope

Since I was sworn into Council during its first-ever virtual meeting on March 30, 2020, there has been a whirlwind of exciting opportunities and possibilities to help our beautiful Town reach its full potential. From enhancing the Town's communication efforts through exciting initiatives including this newsletter, a fully redeveloped website, and a comprehensive Social Media Strategy, to supporting our local businesses through the Town's 2021-2025 Economic Development Strategy and the recently launched Official Plan Review – I am pleased to join the Town in its quest to better serve the needs of its taxpayers. I also hope that you will join us for Wee Willi Winkels day on March 5, 2022 when the Town celebrates its very own snowboarding pioneer.



## Councillor Andrea Matrosovs

As your appointed member to the GSCA and NVCA, I thank all community groups and individuals who have provided input to the dialogue with the Province leading up to the transition process underway in Conservation Authorities across Ontario. As Co-Chair of the Sustainability Advisory Committee, we appreciate the community's participation in the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan process as we now enter the final phase together! As the Agricultural Advisory Committee Chair, we have also had a robust year of discussion and advice on agricultural and rural matters within our town, such as the impact of Wild Chervil, which you will see in this issue. This kind of vital interaction is what informs us at the Council table in our decisions.



## Councillor Rob Sampson

I am truly excited that the Ministry of Long Term Care has agreed to embark on an innovative way to partner with the Town to get a much-needed increase in long-term care beds for our community. According to Statistics Canada, the Town of The Blue Mountains is the second-fastest-growing community in the country, with most of that growth coming from individuals looking for long-term care, assisted living, and retirement housing options in this area. Our "Campus of Care" project will help meet the growing need for seniors living options in our community. The Province has also just released the results of the Provincial Housing Task Force, and many of the recommendations will have a direct impact on planning in our area. The review of the Official Plan will ensure that it reflects the direction provided by the Provincial Policy Statement on managing growth in the Province. Stay tuned as we work to implement new policies that will ensure that we have a community that people of all stages and ages of life can call home.



## Councillor Jim Uram

A winter greeting to fellow Town of The Blue Mountains residents. The recent release of population statistics has indicated that our Town is one of the fastest-growing municipalities in the country. Interestingly, there has been a definite upward trend of permanent residents living within our community, with a 30% increase from 2016 to 2021. With such growth, we must continue to acknowledge the issue of affordable housing within our community. Many news articles across our province have indicated that the affordable housing crisis is being met with various proposed solutions, including the Provincial Affordable Housing Task Force. As a member of Council, the Official Plan Review Committee, and a citizen of this community, I encourage all residents to provide feedback on the affordable housing issue and the direction proposed by the Task Force to help guide the needs of this community.



## Tax Bill Information

Helpful information regarding the enclosed 2022 Interim Tax Bill.

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## Helping Our Neighbours Grow

We all play a role in protecting & respecting our agricultural lands.

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## Town-Wide Drainage Master Plan Underway

Building a long-term strategy for managing stormwater resources.

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Explore the Potential

exploreblue.ca



# Tax Bill Information

The enclosed 2022 Interim Tax Bill is based on 50% of 2021 total taxes and is payable in two instalments dated March 25, 2022 and May 25, 2022. The 2022 Annual Tax Bill in August will indicate the total tax for 2022 less the interim tax amount.

**Tax payment options are noted on the reverse of the Tax Bill.**

## Please Note:

If tax is paid by preauthorized withdrawal “PAP” or with your mortgage, the interim tax bill is for your records only – no payment is required.

## Tax Inquiries?

If you have questions about your tax bill, please email [tax@thebluemountains.ca](mailto:tax@thebluemountains.ca) or call **1-888-258-6867 ext. 221**.

## Assessment Inquiries?

For information on your property assessment, please contact the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC). Please call **1-866-296-6722**, email [enquiry@mpac.ca](mailto:enquiry@mpac.ca) or visit [mpac.ca](http://mpac.ca).

## Online Information

To view your tax and utility account detail online, or to receive future bills by email, please visit [thebluemountains.ca/online-services](http://thebluemountains.ca/online-services) under the **Tax & Utility eBilling & Account Information** drop-down tab. From there, you'll see a link to access Virtual Town Hall and the “My Town” section. To activate an account, you will need the customer ID from your tax or utility bill and your name exactly as it appears on the bill.

### Example:

Customer ID: SMITH0001, Name: SMITH JOHN.

For more information, please visit [thebluemountains.ca](http://thebluemountains.ca) or email [tax@thebluemountains.ca](mailto:tax@thebluemountains.ca).



# Helping Our Neighbours Grow

## The importance of respecting agricultural lands throughout The Blue Mountains

With over 17,000 acres of agricultural lands and 119 farms, agriculture and farming contribute significantly to the local economy and the social fabric of the Town of The Blue Mountains community. As there are many acres of wide-open fields, orchards and pastures in The Blue Mountains, the Town would like to remind the public about the importance of respecting private land and in particular, agricultural lands.

Trespassing on agricultural lands poses risks to everyone and everything that's involved, including the public, the grower, crops and livestock. What may seem like a harmless shortcut or photo op, can greatly interfere with agricultural production, food production and the livelihoods of farmers, growers, and producers. Just as you would not enter the kitchen at a restaurant out of respect for safety and contamination risks, you should also be mindful not to trespass on agricultural lands.



## The impact of trespassing can contaminate or disrupt production.

### Here's How:

**Livestock, such as cows are not accustomed to people they don't know and can behave in a manner that endangers trespassers.**

**Bacterial and viral diseases can be introduced to livestock unknowingly by trespassers, with far-reaching implications.**

**Humans are a great transmitter for disease and invasive species to become introduced to agricultural lands as contaminants can often travel on the sole of your shoe or hiking boots.**

**Even during the winter, snow provides important ground cover for winter crops that are harvested in early spring. The impact of vehicles travelling across the land (e.g., snowmobiles) can disrupt the growth of valuable crops such as winter wheat.**

Agricultural lands are protected by the Trespass to Property Act, R.S.O. 1990, and the Security from Trespass and Protecting Food Safety Act, 2020 which was enacted to protect Ontario's farms and farm animals from trespassers and other forms of interference and to prevent contamination of Ontario's food supply. The fines for violating these laws are steep, and the risks are not worth it.




Whether on foot, bike, or snowmobile, always abide by signage on trails and roads. Growers are not required to post 'No Trespassing' signage, so it's best to use common sense and good judgement; stick to marked trails, don't cross over fences or property boundaries and never interfere with livestock. In The Blue Mountains, farmers, growers, and producers are our neighbours too. Let's show them the same respect we extend to those that live next door.

## 2022 Municipal Election:

The Municipal and School Board Elections will be held this year on October 24, 2022. Elections for municipal government are held every four years, on the fourth Monday of October, and are facilitated by the Town Clerk's Office.

## Who Can Vote?

Anyone can vote in a municipal election who, on the day of the election, is:

-  A Canadian citizen
-  18 years of age or older
-  A resident of the Town, property owner, tenant, or the spouse of such person

For more information regarding the upcoming election, please visit [thebluemountains.ca/elections](http://thebluemountains.ca/elections).

2022 ONTARIO  
MUNICIPAL ELECTION



## ON THE LIST TO VOTE? HAVE YOUR SAY!

- ✓ Confirm or update your electoral information
- ✓ Add an elector name to an address
- ✓ Change school support for purpose of voting in a school board election

VISIT: [VOTERLOOKUP.CA](http://VOTERLOOKUP.CA)



## Did You Know?

The Town serves as one of the largest apple-producing regions in Ontario, accounting for over 15% of total acres in apple crops in the province. The Town is also home to over 11% of total agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting jobs in Grey County, with over 340 jobs, and a total gross farming revenue of over \$21 million.





# Town-Wide Drainage Master Plan Underway

The Town of The Blue Mountains is in the process of completing a comprehensive Drainage Master Plan Environmental Assessment.

Once complete, this study will be used as a long-term strategy for managing stormwater resources in the municipality's settlement areas including Lora Bay, Thornbury, Clarksburg, Camperdown, Craighleith, Swiss Meadows, Blue Mountain Village and Castle Glen.

### What is a Drainage Master Plan?

The Drainage Master Plan will identify the existing and future deficiencies in the Town's drainage system based on forecasted growth. It will also include an evaluation of several proposed solutions to fix these deficiencies.

### How is the Town able to identify all of the drainage deficiencies within the municipality?

Using computer modelling software and LIDAR data, several virtual storm scenarios evaluate the existing and future conditions of the Town's drainage system. Multiple storm scenarios are evaluated, up to and including the 1 in 100-year storm and the 1961 Timmins storm.

### How can community members share their feedback or get involved?

There will be two Public Information Centres (PIC) for residents to review the study findings and share their feedback. The first PIC was presented as a pre-recorded video presentation, followed by a virtual

question and answer session. Anyone interested can review this presentation and a recording of the question and answer session on the project page of the Town's website.

A second PIC will be held later this year to present the assessment and evaluation of the proposed solutions. The final report will be presented to Town Council in the third quarter of this year.

Project updates and PIC registration details can be found on the project page at [thebluemountains.ca/MasterDrainagePlanEA](http://thebluemountains.ca/MasterDrainagePlanEA).

# Town Launches Official Plan Review

The Town of The Blue Mountains Official Plan Review has officially started, and with it comes a comprehensive public engagement process to gain feedback from The Blue Mountains community.

The Official Plan is a Town document that guides all future land-use decisions in the Town, including residential and commercial development, the type of permitted housing, and density and intensification standards.

Given the significant impact the Official Plan will have on the community, public input is essential for crafting and creating this document. Beginning in April, residents will have the opportunity to provide feedback with the

launch of the first Official Plan Survey. The survey will be available on the Town website for all full and part-time residents to complete.

Town Staff look forward to engaging with the public at a variety of events in 2022 through games, contests, scavenger hunts, and student engagement in schools. Using knowledge gained through the public engagement process, Staff will return to Council with their first information report.

After the report is brought to Council, two Public Information Sessions will be held to generate additional feedback before the Official Plan Amendments are drafted.

The Official Plan Review welcomes your questions and comments at any time during the process.

To provide your feedback, please email [OPReview@thebluemountains.ca](mailto:OPReview@thebluemountains.ca) or call **519-599-3131 ext. 248**.

Additional information is available online at: [thebluemountains.ca/OPReview](http://thebluemountains.ca/OPReview).

We look forward to hearing from you as we work together to build a bright future for the Town of The Blue Mountains.

# Paid Parking & Resident Parking Pass Reminder

The Town would like to remind residents that paid parking is being enforced at various parks, beaches and Town-owned properties throughout The Blue Mountains. Every vehicle must pay for parking, with the exception of vehicles displaying a 2022 Resident Parking Pass, or those who are registered with the Town under the paid parking program. All paid parking locations are clearly marked by signage.

Two Resident Parking Passes will be included within the tax bill mailing, and will remain valid for the 2022 calendar year. Displaying the Pass will allow residents to park for free at all paid parking locations.

Residents with more than two vehicles can register additional licence plates at Town Hall by providing proof of residency and vehicle registration.

Revenue collected from the paid parking program is used to support and offset maintenance costs associated with the use of parks, beaches, and Town facilities, including cleaning, waste collection and by-law enforcement.

For more information, to view a list of FAQ's and to see paid parking locations, please visit [thebluemountains.ca/parking](http://thebluemountains.ca/parking).



**STAY ENGAGED**  
with all Town Projects & Initiatives

Keep up to date with current and future projects, share your feedback, and help shape our community!

[thebluemountains.ca/current-projects](http://thebluemountains.ca/current-projects)

# Wild Chervil: Stay Ahead of the Spread!

Help protect your community in the fight against one of Ontario's most invasive weed species

With Wild Chervil season fast approaching, the Agricultural Advisory Committee would like to remind residents of the importance of identifying and reporting Wild Chervil infestations throughout the Town.

## What is Wild Chervil?

Wild Chervil is an herbaceous biennial from the carrot/parsley family, introduced to North America from Europe. This invasive weed spreads easily to new locations and can quickly take over an area, displacing native species and forming dense overgrowth that is difficult to control.

## Where Does it Grow?

Wild Chervil grows abundantly throughout The Blue Mountains, most commonly along ditches, road right-of-ways, fence lines, and pastures. Blooms begin to emerge in early March, and seeds appear in late May to June.

## Weed Control & Spraying

Under the Weed Control Act, if Wild Chervil is found on private property, residents are required to destroy the noxious weed. The most effective way is to remove the entire plant or regularly mow down the plant to stop it from going to seed. The Town also conducts roadside spraying



Wild Chervil has numerous compound umbel-shaped clusters of white flowers with alternately arranged, compound, fern-like leaves.

annually between May and June to control noxious weeds within the Town right-of-way.

## Reporting Wild Chervil

To stay ahead of the spread, the Town relies on residents to report the occurrence of Wild Chervil. If you suspect Wild Chervil is growing on your property, or you see Wild Chervil in the Town, please email [bylawinfo@thebluemountains.ca](mailto:bylawinfo@thebluemountains.ca) or call **519-599-3131 ext. 249**.

**The Blue Mountains PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
Your Gallery, Library, Archives, Museum

THE BLUE MOUNTAINS PUBLIC LIBRARY  
**OUT OF THIS WORLD**  
March Break 2022

Virtual Planetarium  
March 14

Galaxy Jars  
March 15

Galaxy Slime  
March 19

Constellation Box  
March 17

Winter Stargazing  
March 18

THE BLUE MOUNTAINS PUBLIC LIBRARY  
**Celebrating Friends**

Photo Contest: March 1 - March 31  
Visit our Event Calendar for Contest Details

EXPLORE · CONNECT · COLLECT

**2022**  
**BLUE MOUNTAIN POTTERY EXPO**  
Brought to you by the Craigeith Heritage Depot  
a Branch of The Blue Mountains Public Library  
and the Blue Mountain Pottery Collectors Club

Have a question? We're here for you! | 519-599-3681 | [LibraryInfo@TheBlueMountains.ca](mailto:LibraryInfo@TheBlueMountains.ca) | [www.TheBlueMountainsLibrary.ca](http://www.TheBlueMountainsLibrary.ca)



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