



Town News

THE BLUE MOUNTAINS NEWSLETTER

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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.

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After Reading

Fish Culvert Installed in Little Beaver River

Thanks to a fish culvert funded and installed by the Beaver River Watershed Initiative, movement of fish in the Little Beaver River is once again possible. The culvert was installed at the railway bridge located along the Georgian Trail, west of Lansdowne Street North in Thornbury.

The celebration and ribbon-cutting ceremony for the culvert was held on Saturday, April 22. The new culvert will increase the diversity of fish species in the Little Beaver River by allowing the movement of fish to access spawning beds and habitats throughout the watershed. The new culvert will allow fish movement through the area for the first time since 1872.

A fish culvert is an artificial stream bed that allows fish to pass through a series of culverts and over obstacles such as small dams by slowing the flow of water and maintaining a series of deep resting pools.

The Town of The Blue Mountains would like to thank the Beaver River Watershed Initiative, their volunteers and community partners for their work on the fish culvert project and their continued environmental stewardship. To learn more about the Beaver River Watershed Initiative, visit www.facebook.com/www.brwi



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Andrea Matrosovs



Greetings on behalf of Council as we embrace the changing season and welcome the spring weather! In April, we celebrated National Volunteer Week by recognizing members of our community who give their time volunteering in so many ways. The Volunteer Fair was a great opportunity to meet staff and volunteers from many organizations and to learn about volunteer opportunities. If you're interested in getting involved, I encourage you to visit the 'Volunteer Opportunities' webpage on the Town's website.

Spring is also a chance for renewal and many volunteers came out in full force at several community pitch-in clean-ups held around Town. Last month we also celebrated the opening of the new fish culvert thanks to the hard work of the Beaver River Watershed Initiative with support from the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority and the Town, which is detailed in this newsletter. In May, we are also looking forward to the annual Tree Care Day hosted by The Blue Mountains Tree Trust. I would like to thank community members for joining us in this environmental stewardship activity.

I hope this edition of the Town newsletter will provide you with information regarding ongoing projects. I would like to remind everyone that the Town website contains detailed information on each project, including an overview of each project's process. I hope you enjoy the warmer weather with friends and family as our surroundings come alive with new growth this spring.

Andrea Matrosovs



The Blue Mountains Fire Department

A behind-the-scenes look at what the fire department does to keep all residents and visitors safe.

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Town Celebrates Volunteers at Recognition Awards

Seven individuals and organizations honoured at annual event.

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Explore the Potential

www.exploreblue.ca

Staff Spotlight: Carter Triana

In this ongoing series, Town Staff will be introduced to the public with a glimpse into their roles and how their service impacts the community.

From the Pacific coast in San Diego, California to the shores of Georgian Bay in The Blue Mountains, Carter Triana has some far-reaching roots. After earning his Masters of Urban Planning at McGill University in Montreal, Carter started his career as a Planner for the Town of the Blue Mountains in October 2022.

Prior to pursuing a career in planning, Carter earned his undergraduate degree and worked for a non-profit organization that provided temporary housing to a vulnerable population in North Carolina for two years. Shortly after the pandemic started, Carter and his partner packed their Prius to the brim with their two cats and all their possessions, driving straight to Montreal overnight! There, he pursued an education in planning and subsequently applied his skills to his new vocation in Canada.

Since starting his career with the Town last fall, Carter has adjusted to his new role with an eagerness to learn and an earnestness for the community. He views the role of a Planner as a resource for residents

and openly encourages questions and dialogue with locals.

Helping people understand processes and possibilities has been a fulfilling part of his day-to-day. Although his days are far from typical, Carter always makes time for resident questions and engagement. Additionally, his days are busy reviewing development proposals, minor variance applications, and more. There's never a dull moment in a growing community!

As an avid outdoors person and having grown up visiting the mountains in California often, the recreation options and natural landscapes of The Blue Mountains attracted Carter and his partner to the area. Settling in Collingwood in October, Carter has been enjoying his two-wheeled commute to work along the Georgian Trail in the warmer weather, and skiing at Blue Mountain in the winter.

To reach Carter with any planning-related questions or to welcome him to the community, contact planning@thebluemountains.ca.



Municipal Recreation Complex Now Open

The Municipal Golf Course & Pickleball Courts are officially open for the 2023 season. For more information, please visit: www.thebluemountains.ca/golf-course.



Behind-The-Scenes: The Blue Mountains Fire Department

In recognition of Emergency Preparedness Week (May 7 – 13), we're taking you behind the scenes of The Blue Mountains Fire Department. Peek behind the curtain at what the small but mighty team of firefighters does to keep all residents and visitors safe.

Serving and responding to a coverage area of over 300 square kilometres, The Blue Mountains Fire Department provides a variety of emergency response services and fire prevention services to help keep the community and everyone within it, safe.

Led by Fire Chief Steve Conn, the Fire Department has a team of 12 full-time staff, consisting of two platoons and administrative staff. 24/7 emergency response coverage is supported by a complement of 44 paid-per-call firefighters (formerly known as volunteer firefighters). Together, the team of dedicated and hardworking firefighters undergo rigorous training to ensure they are ready to respond and serve the community.

In 2022, the Blue Mountains Fire Department responded to 334 calls for service from its two stations in Thornbury and Craigleith. These calls included, but were not limited to, fire-related incidents, medical assistance, water rescue, high-angle rescue, and motor vehicle collisions (MVCs). Although water and high-angle rescues are rare, they are very high risk.

The Blue Mountains Fire Department undergoes additional training and has specialized equipment to manage these calls safely.

In addition to responding to emergency calls, the Fire Department also works with the public to reduce safety risks and provide education around how to respond to an emergency properly. While this year's Emergency Preparedness Week: 'Be Prepared. Know Your Risks', runs from May 7-13, these lifesaving reminders can and should be practiced all year long.

Make an Emergency Plan: include emergency exits, meeting places, copies of important documents, and plans for pets and children.

Build a Kit: an emergency kit should equip you to manage without power or tap water for up to 72 hours. Include food, water, and a battery or crank-operated flashlight, among other essential supplies.

These commonly known but sometimes forgotten or not implemented practices can drastically reduce your risk and ensure you're prepared if an emergency strikes.

As for the number one way to protect yourself, Town of The Blue Mountains Fire Chief Steve Conn says that installing smoke and carbon monoxide detectors is the most important, "Just as you follow the law and wear a seatbelt when you drive, you should not sleep without a working CO and smoke detector. In Ontario, it's law that you install a working CO and smoke detector adjacent to each sleeping area of the home."

All residents in the Town of the Blue Mountains can contact the Fire Department to complete a free fire prevention assessment of their home. Fire Prevention Officers will review the placement of smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, ensure they're working correctly, and make recommendations to safeguard your family in your home.

To learn more about the Blue Mountains Fire Department or to arrange an inspection, call (519) 599-3131 ext. 105 or visit www.thebluemountains.ca/fire-services.

Town Celebrates Volunteers at Recognition Awards

Seven individuals and organizations honoured at annual event.

On Saturday, April 22, the Town of The Blue Mountains celebrated some exceptional individuals and community groups who dedicate their time and energy to the Town at the Volunteer Recognition Awards Ceremony.

Held at the Beaver Valley Community Centre, seven awards were handed out at the event. The Arts & Culture Council won the Arts and Culture Award for their work with artists in the community. The Gallery at L.E. Shore has held more than 325 exhibits, with thousands of artists in the community showcasing their work through the guidance of the Arts and Culture Council.

Kathryn Robson received the Sustainability Award for her work with the BVO Shop at the Lillypad Spa. Using her donated space, as well as her keen eye and display prowess, the BVO Shop at the Spa has raised over \$60,000 for Beaver Valley Outreach in the past three years, with 100% of the proceeds directly funding BVO programs and activities.

The Sports and Recreation Award went to the husband-and-wife duo Bruce King and Val Jones.

Bruce has been a member of the Bruce Trail Conservancy since 1976, and the pair have been key figures in the Kolapore Wilderness Trails Association for 50 years. The team have helped make hiking and cross country skiing accessible for Blue Mountains residents for many years.

Bill Abbotts took home the Good Neighbour Award for his volunteer work with countless community groups in the Town. Bill has volunteered with the Marsh Street Centre, the Seniors Network, Grants and Donations, St George's Church, Thornbury Community Theatre, and the cycling community.

Nine-year-old Calvin Bell was the recipient of the Blue Mountains Community Builder (youth under 26) award for his exemplary volunteer service. Calvin initiated the BOO! Bucks for BVO Program which raised over \$350 to help fund the school breakfast program, volunteering with the BVO Treasure Shop, collecting food donations, shoveling snow for neighbours and helping collect trash during Community Clean Up Day.

The Blue Mountains Community Builder (Adult 26+) award went to Cathy Smart, an active member of over 20 organizations. Cathy was President of The Blue Mountain Village Foundation, fundraised for the Alzheimer Society of Grey-Bruce and currently acts as the founding Executive Director of Living Better with Parkinson's. Cathy has dedicated her life to volunteer work and community programs.

Beaver Valley Outreach and their group of over 150 volunteers were the final winners, receiving the Outstanding Community Group Award. Providing 18 support programs & services for families, children, seniors, youth and individuals in The Blue Mountains, BVO is currently celebrating their 40th anniversary after beginning in Clarksburg in 1983.

The Town of The Blue Mountains would like to express heartfelt gratitude to all the award recipients and the countless volunteers who have selflessly devoted their time and efforts. Their collective contributions have shaped The Blue Mountains into a compassionate and thriving community.



Mayor Andrea Matrosovs & Councillor Shawn McKinlay present the Blue Mountains Community Builder Award to recipient Calvin Bell.



Mayor Andrea Matrosovs & Councillor Shawn McKinlay present the Sports and Recreation Award to recipients Bruce King & Val Jones.

Official Plan Review: Phase 2 Update

In 2022, the Town of The Blue Mountains began the process of updating its Official Plan. When complete, the Official Plan will guide all future land-use decisions in the Town, including residential, commercial, and other forms of development. Policies are being developed to consider how to manage growth, housing, density and intensification standards, protection of the environment, how agricultural and natural features will be protected and more. As required by the Planning Act, the Official Plan must be reviewed and updated every five years.

Phase 1 of the Official Plan Update was completed last year which included high-level action items, including the Official Plan vision, guiding principles, goals and objectives. Growth management and changes to housing, density, height, and character, were also developed.

Following Phase 1, the Town launched Phase 2, which takes a closer look at topics related to the natural environment, climate change, source water protection, rural/agricultural lands, parks, and open space, servicing, commercial/employment lands, transit and transportation, and downtown area building heights.

Engagement on the Phase 2 Background Papers and future policy development is planned for June 2023 with the following Public Information Centres proposed:

1. Agriculture and Rural Lands
2. Transportation, Infrastructure and Servicing
3. Environment and Climate Change, Parks and Open Space, Source Water Protection and Indigenous Engagement
4. Second Review of Housing, Density and Height

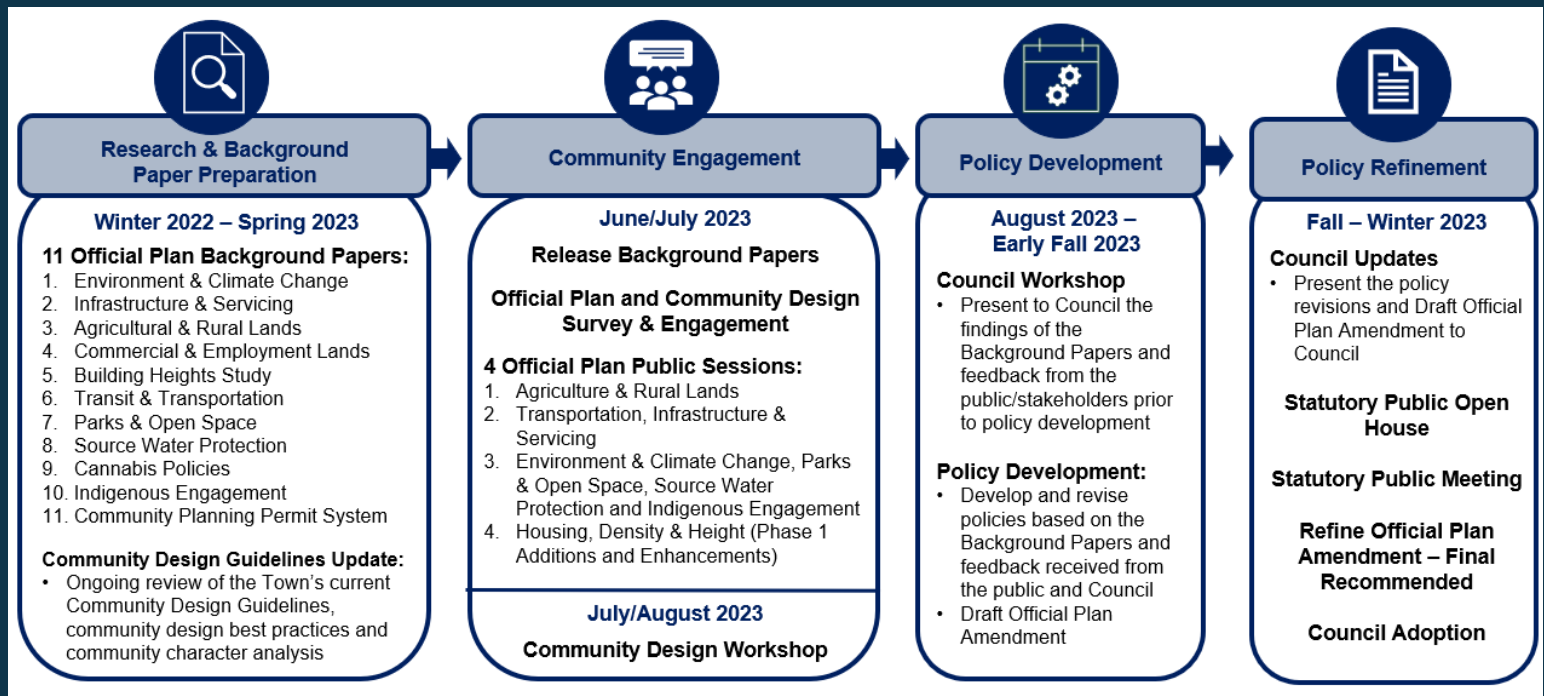
The Background Papers will be released and posted to the Town's website in groups based on the subject matter prior to each Public Information Centre event. This will ensure that each group of topics is presented separately to the public to allow for individual focus. The Town's website will also see upgrades to enable the opportunity to submit comments directly on specific subject matters.

In addition to the Public Information Centres, a public survey will be launched and available throughout the summer to allow ample opportunities for participation.

The previous Official Plan Survey at the beginning of Phase 1 received an overwhelming response and provided key direction on several Phase 2 topics. Based on its success, the upcoming Phase 2 Survey will focus on further analysis of key topics of interest to the public, such as community design, affordable housing, density and height, climate change and the environment.

Following the Public Information Centres and public survey, a Council Workshop is proposed to present the findings of the Background Papers and provide a fulsome review of the feedback received from the public and stakeholders before policy development and refinement begins.

Please stay involved in this important community project. Visit www.tbmbblueprint.ca to view all project information completed to date and subscribe to our email list to receive timely updates on Phase 2 directly to your inbox.



Contractor Secured for Thornbury Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion

The Thornbury Wastewater Treatment Plant (TWWTP) provides wastewater treatment for properties connected to Town sewers within the Thornbury, Lora Bay, Camperdown and Georgian Peaks areas. The plant's existing extended aeration system was constructed in 1994, which brought the rated capacity to 3,580 cubic metres per day. Currently, the facility is operating at approximately 80% of its total capacity and requires expansion to accommodate forecasted community growth, provide additional available capacity and improve service for current connected properties.

To guide the overall project, the expansion was separated into three smaller projects. The first project within the Phase 1A expansion was an optimization study to evaluate strategies that could be incorporated to enhance the performance of the plant while minimizing operating costs. This included a detailed review of existing treatment unit capacities, identification of energy saving measures, consideration of potential alternative biological treatment processes and odour control opportunities.

The second project was to ensure there was sufficient standby generator capacity to support the expansion project.

Through review, it was identified that the standby generator located at the Thornbury Water Reservoir had surplus capacity which could be used to support the TWWTP.

The generator is now shared between the two facilities, each with its own automatic transfer switch.

The third project is related to the capacity increase of the TWWTP Phase 1A expansion. Through the expansion project, the Town has awarded the construction tender to North America Construction. Based out of Morriston, Ontario, North America Construction was founded in 1993 and provides construction services to municipal, civil, energy and biofuels marketplaces. The firm has completed many large-scale municipal wastewater projects including a \$75 million expansion project at Mississauga's Clarkson Wastewater Treatment Plant.

As part of the tender, Phase 1A of the project will include the construction and installation of all equipment required to increase the rated capacity of the TWWTP to 5,330 cubic metres per day. This includes:

- Doubling the plant's screening capability through the addition of a second Claro step screening unit. These units remove the items that can't be treated by the treatment plant, such as wipes.
- Construction of a new aeration tank and clarifier to increase the plant's activated sludge treatment by 50%.

- Upgrading the existing aeration and clarification systems through the replacement of blowers and installation of new monitoring instrumentation.
- Installation of equipment that will allow operators to utilize the final treatment plant effluent as wash water throughout the plant. This will reduce the amount of treated drinking water used at the facility.
- Installation of additional ultraviolet disinfection equipment to provide adequate disinfection of the final effluent.
- Incorporation of energy efficiencies throughout the plant

Construction of the Phase 1A expansion at the Thornbury Wastewater Treatment Plant is expected to begin in the summer of 2023, and be completed in late 2024.

The Town has also started the design engineering required to increase the treatment plant's outfall. The existing outfall currently discharges to the Beaver River. The new outfall will be larger and discharge directly to Georgian Bay.

For more information, please visit the dedicated project web page at: www.thebluemountains.ca/TWWTPExpansion1A





COMMUNITY EVENTS

JUNE
1-4

BLUE MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL

BMFF invites film lovers and filmmakers to connect, be inspired & enjoy the best of cinema!

Location: Blue Mountain Village
Visit: www.bluemtnfilmfest.ca

JULY
1

CANADA DAY

Celebrate Canada Day in The Blue Mountains: Clarksburg, Thornbury and the Village!

Location: The Blue Mountains
Visit: www.visitbluejuly1.ca

JUNE
23-25

SALSA AT BLUE

A family street party transforms the entire Village into a showcase of Latin life!

Location: Blue Mountain Village
Visit: www.bluemountain.ca

JULY
8

BLUE MOUNTAINS ARTS WALK

This Arts Walk includes galleries, businesses, restaurants, the L.E. Shore Library and more!

Location: Thornbury and Clarksburg
Visit: www.thebluemountainslibrary.ca/art-gallery/arts-walk-2023

JUNE
24

ARTSBURG CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL

The Artsburg Children's Festival is a family-friendly celebration of creativity!

Location: Downtown Clarksburg
Visit: www.visitclarksburg.ca

AUG.
12

ARTSBURG DAY

Experience Clarksburg through food, live music, art demonstrations, vendors & more!

Location: Downtown Clarksburg
Visit: www.visitclarksburg.ca



BROWSE THE LIBRARY OF THINGS

BLUE MOUNTAINS PUBLIC LIBRARY

AV EQUIPMENT, TABLETS, CHROMEBOOKS, NINTENDO SWITCHES, TECH TOYS, PARK PASSES, GAMES, PUZZLES, & MORE!

TheBlueMountainsLibrary.ca/Things





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