








MAY 2025 | ISSUE 14

Town News

THE BLUE MOUNTAINS NEWSLETTER

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-  **Hours of Operation:**
Monday to Friday
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
-  www.thebluemountains.ca

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Please Recycle
After Reading

Supporting The Blue Mountains Community One Purchase at a Time

Shopping local in The Blue Mountains is more important than ever. Every purchase made at a local store, restaurant, or service provider directly supports your neighbours – the business owners and employees who make our community vibrant and unique. When you shop local, you create jobs, keep dollars within The Blue Mountains, and contribute directly to the economic health of the Town.

With uncertainty impacting global supply chains and product availability, shopping local gives a reliable and rewarding alternative. Businesses in The Blue Mountains proudly feature high-quality Canadian-made products, allowing you to find the perfect item while supporting local and staying *Canada Strong*.

Local businesses aren't just places to shop. They're meeting places, social hubs and the backbone of our community. They're part of what makes The Blue Mountains special. Whether you're looking for handmade gifts, locally sourced food, or expert services, you'll find it right here at home.

Want to learn more about the incredible businesses in our community? Check out the Business Spotlight series on www.exploreblue.ca. Get to know the faces behind the storefronts and discover new favourites in The Blue Mountains!



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To stay up to date on all Town
news and notices, please visit:

www.thebluemountains.ca/news



Message from the Mayor

Welcome to spring! It was an eventful winter in The Blue Mountains and while it brought us an extended ski season, we also faced challenges as a community during extreme weather events.

I'd like to extend a heartfelt "thank you" to The Blue Mountains Fire Department, our roads crew, our water & wastewater team, The Blue Mountains OPP and Hydro crews for their efforts and dedication during the ice storm. They spent long hours making sure our roads were accessible, our critical services were running and that residents were okay through door-to-door wellness checks.

We've had many triumphs to start the year, including the 2nd Annual Sustainability Summit, which saw nearly 200 attendees learn what local organizations are doing to champion social sustainability and how local businesses are adapting and thriving through sustainability. The Volunteer Recognition Awards held last month showcased the groups and individuals who are going above and beyond in making The Blue Mountains a strong, passionate community. And the Youth Climate Action Fund just closed its second round of funding, giving young leaders from our area an opportunity to take initiative and drive real change.

I encourage everyone to continue to shop local and **Buy in Blue**. It's more important than ever to support Canadian businesses and Canadian products, especially those located in our own backyard. Please take the time to explore The Blue Mountains, whether it's downtown Clarksburg, Craigleith, Blue Mountain Village, Thornbury or one of the many great rural businesses in our Town.

Here's to a beautiful summer ahead, more time spent with friends and family, and more adventures and experiences in The Blue Mountains. Enjoy the newsletter and remember to visit the Town website for additional news, information and updates.

Andrea Matrosos

Message from Interim CAO Adam Smith

As I step into the role of Interim Chief Administrative Officer, I am deeply honoured to lead such a dedicated team and vibrant community. Throughout my time with the Town, staff have demonstrated exceptional dedication, working diligently to advance key priorities and impactful projects for the community. These efforts are central to maintaining and enhancing the quality of life for all residents. From infrastructure improvements to managing growth to enhancing community services, the tireless work of our team continues to shape a brighter future for our Town.

I am also pleased to confirm that staff and Council worked collaboratively in the first quarter of the year to complete the Town budget. This process allowed staff and Council to allocate resources efficiently and focus on delivering essential services and projects. We are eagerly preparing for an active summer season filled with events and activities designed to build a sustainable community and bring us together.

I would be remiss if I did not take a moment to express my gratitude to former CAO Shawn Everitt, for his exemplary dedication and service to the community. Over his 30-year career with the Town, Shawn played an integral role in steering numerous initiatives with full commitment. As he embarks on his new role with the Municipality of Meaford, we wish him well in his future endeavours and thank him for leaving a lasting legacy.



Looking ahead, one of our most significant initiatives for this year is the update of the Town's Corporate Strategic Plan. Through the process, staff worked with a Council Task Force to develop a request-for-proposal and retained StrategyCorp to lead the project. Their expertise will help us craft a goal-oriented and outcome-focused strategy that will be carefully measured and tracked to ensure progress and accountability. In proceeding with the update, I am committed to an inclusive approach that reflects input from the community, Council and staff.

Thank you for your continued support and trust as we plan for a successful year and vibrant future for the Town of The Blue Mountains.

Summer Projects Start with Cloudpermit

As the snow melts and the days get longer, many residents begin to turn their attention to exciting summer projects. Whether it's finally building that dream deck, adding space for a growing family, or constructing something entirely new, the first step is obtaining the necessary planning approvals and building permits.

This year, the Town has simplified the process by introducing Cloudpermit for Planning and Building Services. Cloudpermit is a cloud-based platform designed to make applying for and tracking planning and building applications easier than ever. This user-friendly system allows property owners, developers, and members of the business community to complete applications from

anywhere, at any time—eliminating the need for trips to Town Hall, or sifting through paperwork. By enhancing efficiency, reducing administrative burdens and streamlining communication between applicants and staff, Cloudpermit aims to provide a smooth, transparent experience that ensures exciting projects move forward without unnecessary delays.

Ready to begin? Start your summer projects off right with Cloudpermit. For details on obtaining a building permit, visit:

www.thebluemountains.ca/building-permits

To begin a development application, visit:

www.thebluemountains.ca/DevelopmentApplications

Stormwater Solutions: Low Impact Development in The Blue Mountains

In the Town of The Blue Mountains, growth isn't just about building more – it's about building responsibly. As new neighbourhoods take shape and more people are drawn to the area's natural environment, the Town is faced with an important question: How can it support growth without sacrificing the landscapes, waterways, and ecosystems that enrich the community?

One answer lies in a commitment to Low Impact Development (LID), an engineering approach that prioritizes nature as an essential part of infrastructure. The Hillside development project, located in Craighleith, is a strong example of this commitment in action.

WHAT IS LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT (LID)?

Low Impact Development (LID) uses techniques that are aimed at managing stormwater runoff in urban and suburban areas. As new developments are built in Town, natural permeable surfaces like grass and soil are typically replaced with more impermeable

surfaces like roads, sidewalks, and buildings. These impermeable surfaces prevent water from being absorbed into the ground, leading to increased stormwater runoff. As a result, the excess runoff can carry pollutants into local water bodies, posing risks to local ecosystems and water quality. LID practices aim to mimic the natural water cycle by ensuring that stormwater can effectively be absorbed into the ground, mitigating the impact of flooding, erosion, sedimentation, and pollution.

HILLSIDE DEVELOPMENT: LID IN ACTION

The Hillside development was originally granted draft plan approval in 1998, permitting a 20-lot subdivision fronting on a new municipal road. The initial design proposed a conventional urban cross-section with storm sewers and curb and gutter systems. However, the site's unique conditions, including sandy soil and a naturally low water table, presented an ideal opportunity to apply an LID approach to stormwater management.



Recognizing this potential, Town staff worked closely with the developer to revise the design to feature a rural cross-section with ditches to incorporate infiltration trenches. With a recently executed pre-servicing agreement now in place, the project has moved into the development engineering phase, with LID at the forefront.

Some of the key LID features within the Hillside project include:

- **Grassy Ditches:** Grass-lined ditches help naturally filter stormwater by removing debris and pollutants before water reaches the primary stormwater system, reducing the risk of clogging.
- **Water Filtration Systems:** LID techniques incorporated into the site filter out fine pollution particles, keeping them from entering nearby water bodies and helping to protect aquatic ecosystems, in alignment with Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) standards.
- **Stormwater Flow Control:** While the surrounding area is prone to flooding during heavy rainfall and snowmelt, LID systems ensure post-development runoff closely matches pre-development conditions, helping to reduce strain on existing stormwater infrastructure while mitigating the risk of flooding.
- **Maintenance and Durability:** The LID systems are designed for low maintenance, allowing clogged filtration systems to be easily cleaned by removing the top layer, ensuring continued effectiveness without the need for extensive reconstruction.
- **Sandy Soil:** Unlike much of the Town, which is situated on clay-like soil, the Hillside property has sandy soil that allows water to absorb more easily into the ground.
- **Low Water Table:** The site's naturally low water table is essential in preventing groundwater mounding.



SETTING THE STANDARD FOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

While Hillside is just one of many development projects in the Town of The Blue Mountains, it reflects a larger priority that is shaping how the Town grows. The integration of LID and sustainable engineering practices is becoming a standard consideration for how the Town approaches stormwater management in new development projects.

“LID offers an alternative perspective on infrastructure—it asks us to work with natural systems instead of replacing them,” says Olivia Dinsmore, a Town Development Engineering Reviewer. “When applied thoughtfully, it leads to solutions that are not only environmentally responsible but also practical and resilient over the long term.”

As the Town continues to grow, the focus remains on protecting natural assets while ensuring that infrastructure supports long-term community needs. Projects like Hillside are helping to set this standard, demonstrating that environmental stewardship and growth can go hand-in-hand.

A New Chapter in Community Value

The Blue Mountains Public Library (BMPL) provides Gallery, Library, Archives and Museum services to the Town, acting as a dynamic centre of community engagement where everyone can connect, explore and create. While anyone who has visited the L.E. Shore Memorial Library & Gallery, or the Craigleith Heritage Depot lately could tell you about the great services offered, a recent study has put a dollar amount on their contributions to the community.



According to the Social Return on Investment (SROI) report, for every \$1 invested in the Gallery, Library, Archive, and Museum (GLAM) services offered by BMPL, the community benefits by receiving \$2.54 in value, which represents a robust return of 254%. This figure was derived using the Ontario Library Service's Valuing Ontario Libraries Toolkit (VOLT), which emphasizes both the tangible and intangible advantages that libraries provide to residents.

UNDERSTANDING SOCIAL RETURN ON INVESTMENT

Social Return on Investment (SROI) evaluates the broader impact of public services by attributing monetary values to often priceless benefits, such as access to knowledge, culture, and community spaces. Unlike traditional ROI, which is profit-centric, SROI focuses on the comprehensive benefits generated from each dollar invested. Using VOLT, libraries in Ontario can effectively measure their impact in several key areas, including Education, Culture, Inclusion and Well-Being, Entertainment and Leisure, Economic Development, Civic Engagement, and Space. These assessments are customized to reflect the unique characteristics of each community, ensuring that the data is both accurate and relevant.

What the Numbers Say

The analysis results provide notable insights:

\$4,221,353
Total Community Benefit



\$450
Value Per
Permanent
Resident



\$970
Value Per
Household



\$390
Value Generated
Per Hour Open



\$1
For every
\$1 invested



\$2.54
BMPL generates
\$2.54 in value

LOOKING AHEAD

The SROI report highlighted the important contributions of public libraries and their role in fostering community development. The Library's leadership plans to use this data, along with updated reports and statistics, to collaborate with Town Council and staff on future growth opportunities, including addressing accessibility and space requirements.



To learn more about the Blue Mountains Public Library, visit the L.E. Shore Memorial Library & Gallery or the Craigleith Heritage Depot in person, or visit online at: www.thebluemountainslibrary.ca



Greener Pastures: Celebrating a 38-Year Career & Legacy

This is a special entry in an ongoing series where Town staff are introduced and highlighted, giving a glimpse into their roles and how their service impacts the community.

With a last name like Green, it's fitting that Terry Green dedicated 38 years to a career tending parks, trails, and greenspace in the Town of The Blue Mountains. After nearly four decades, Green, Manager of Parks, Trails, and Cemetery, is set to retire at the end of 2025.

Terry's career began in 1987, plowing snow in Loree, Banks, and Gibraltar. The majority of his career, however, was spent tending the 300 acres of parkland, 40 kilometres of trails, seven heritage cemeteries, as well as soccer fields, tennis courts, and public beaches in The Blue Mountains. "I enjoy my job, so retiring is bittersweet," Terry laments. "But I'm confident I'm leaving the Town in good hands." That confidence comes from building a team of 15 employees, seven of whom are full-time. "I've got an amazing crew. Many of them started working as teenagers and are now lead hands," Terry says with pride. "That's what I'll miss most—my team and the gardens."

Once he retires, Terry won't be far. Born and raised in the municipality, Terry still lives in The Blue Mountains, and his roots run deep, with local ancestry dating back to 1863.

In Terry's early career days, it was just him, a push mower, and a weed eater. Everything was done manually, from cutting grass to paying invoices for gardening supplies. Over the years, Terry has adapted to the needs of a growing population keen for outdoor recreation, as well as advancements in technology.

Terry's hope for the Town in the coming years is continued growth in its green spaces so that future generations have places to kick a soccer ball or enjoy a quiet moment in nature.

As for what he's most looking forward to in retirement? "Woodworking, gardening, and no more meetings," he says with a chuckle. Heart bypass surgery in 2024 put things in perspective, and Terry made the decision to embrace retirement. No more work phone. No more schedule. Just the freedom to enjoy and appreciate each day.

With a career that has quite literally helped shape the landscape of The Blue Mountains, Terry Green is leaving behind more than parks - he's leaving a legacy. Congratulations, Terry!

Help keep our streets clean – Timing Matters!

Help keep our streets clean and safe by placing waste bins at the curb **after 7:00 p.m.** on the night before your collection day.



Learn more:
www.thebluemoorntains.ca/littering



Outfall Pipe Assembly at Lora Bay Park

As the Town of The Blue Mountains continues to grow, infrastructure needs to grow as well. As part of these efforts, in 2023, the Town started an expansion of the Thornbury Wastewater Treatment Plant. This project includes the installation of a new treated effluent outfall pipe which will allow the plant to meet its full capacity. The outfall pipe will be installed underneath Grey Street, and extend 1.5 km off the shore into Georgian Bay.

Installing the outfall pipe isn't a straightforward process. While the section of pipe under Grey Street can be completed while the street is reconstructed, there simply isn't enough room in the immediate area to stage and assemble the 1.5km offshore section of pipe. In 2024, Town Staff, along with the Town's Consultant performed a wide-ranging and comprehensive search of potential staging sites. Site selection criteria include many factors. The site requires sufficient space for storage of materials

and placement of construction equipment, and water that is calm and deep enough to float the assembled sections of pipe until they are towed to the installation location. Through the site evaluation process, Lora Bay Park was deemed the most suitable Town-owned location.

To accommodate the work, Lora Bay Park will be closed to the public while the assembly work is being completed. The use of Town-owned land for the assembly will eliminate costs associated with a lease agreement with a private landowner, therefore reducing the overall cost of construction. Additionally, the Town will be looking for input from residents and direction from Council on possible improvements that can be made to the park through the restoration process following construction.

Construction activity on the shoreline of Georgian Bay is restricted from the end of September to mid-July for the protection of spawning fish. This allows for two and a half months to complete the work in Georgian Bay. Pre-construction is expected to begin before July 15 to ensure that work on the shoreline can be completed on time.

For more information visit:

www.thebluemountains.ca/LBP-Outfall

Community Events:

MAY/
JUNE
29
-
1

BLUE MOUNTAIN FILM + MEDIA FESTIVAL

Enjoy international and Canadian films, TV, digital media, events and outdoor activities.

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

JUNE
20
-
22

SALSA AT BLUE

Blue Mountain Village comes alive with Latin music, dancing, and cultural festivities in this family-friendly street party.

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

JUNE
22

CLARKSBURG KID'S FEST

Experience a day filled with fun and games, enchanting entertainment, and a bustling kidpreneur vendor market where young entrepreneurs showcase their talents.

Location: Clarksburg
Visit: www.experienceclarksburg.ca

JUNE
28

RAINBOW DANCE PARTY

Join us for an unforgettable day of dancing, crafts, games, and fun at our Rainbow Dance Party – a celebration for the whole family in the name of pride!

Location: L.E. Shore Library Thornbury, 11am - 1pm
Visit: www.thebluemountainslibrary.ca

JULY
1

CANADA DAY

Experience Canada Day in The Blue Mountains with a festive parade, live entertainment, family fun activities and great food from Clarksburg to Thornbury.

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

JULY
4-6

PEAK TO SHORE MUSIC FESTIVAL

A multi-venue music festival featuring Canadian artists, with performances spanning Blue Mountain Village, Thornbury, and Clarksburg.

Location: Blue Mountain Village, Thornbury, and Clarksburg
Visit: www.bluemountain.ca

For a complete listing of events, visit: www.exploreblue.ca/events