








Town News

THE BLUE MOUNTAINS NEWSLETTER

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-  Town Hall, 32 Mill Street
Thornbury ON, N0H 2P0
-  Hours of Operation:
Monday to Friday
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
-  www.thebluemountains.ca

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After Reading

Small Course, Big Game

Have you played a round of 18 yet this year? Hundreds have booked their tee times and tackled the Par 3 course already. Whether it's your first time on the fairway or you're a professional with the putter, the Municipal Golf Course offers the perfect atmosphere for a day on the greens.

Tee times can be booked by calling **(519) 599-3131 ext. 350** or sending an email to teetimes@thebluemountains.ca. Please note that tee times are reserved on a first-come, first-served basis and can only be booked up to five days in advance. Tee times are booked every ten minutes, with the first being at 8:00 a.m. and the last at 6:00 p.m.

A round of golf is \$25 for adults and free for children 16 and under. If you're looking for savings on your short game, season passes are available for residents and non-residents beginning at \$320.



So next time you're on the course, make sure to stop in and say hi to Andrea, Dave and Laura at the starter shack. If you see any of the hardworking grounds crew, extend a tip of the hat and a quick thanks for keeping the greens pristine. Here's to sweet strokes and if you're lucky, maybe even a hole-in-one!



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Message from the Mayor

Happy summer from The Blue Mountains!

It's been a season of momentum and milestones already in the municipality. Council recently passed the Town's updated **Official Plan**, which is now with Grey County for final approval. This document will help guide how and where we grow in the years ahead.

We're also excited to celebrate the reopening of **Bayview Park**. The park now features accessible playground equipment and a rubberized play surface that ensures more children and families can enjoy this beautiful space, including wheelchair users and individuals with decreased mobility.

Public engagement continues for our **Corporate Strategic Plan**, which will set the Town's vision and priorities for the future. I'd like to thank everyone who took the time to fill out our survey and participate at our open house or at different pop-up events across the community. Your feedback is helping shape Our Path Forward.

Ongoing infrastructure improvements, like the **Thornbury West Reconstruction**, and projects like the **Craigleith Community Park** and **Moreau Park Revitalization** highlight our commitment to strong, inclusive and connected neighbourhoods.

I encourage everyone to get outside, explore our wonderful community and support local businesses this summer as we enjoy the best of what The Blue Mountains has to offer.

Warm regards,

Andrea Matrosos

2025 TAX BILL INFORMATION

2025 Final Tax Bill Payment Due Dates: [August 21, 2025](#) and [October 21, 2025](#).
Please note that payments made after July 4, 2025 may not be reflected in the Past Due amount on the final tax bill.

PROPERTY TAX INQUIRIES:
If you have questions about your tax bill, please email tax@thebluemountains.ca, call **(519) 599-3131 ext. 221** or visit www.thebluemountains.ca/property-taxes.

ASSESSMENT INQUIRIES:
For information on your property assessment, please contact the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC). Please call **1-866-296-6722** or visit www.mpac.ca/en/contact.

E-BILLING (PROPERTY TAXES & UTILITIES):
Property tax and utility account information, as well as e-billing sign-up, are available online through the Town’s ‘Virtual Town Hall’ system. To access or to activate your account, visit www.thebluemountains.ca/online-services.

TO CALCULATE YOUR TAXES:
The residential tax rate for 2025 is 0.00994952. The following example shows how to calculate property taxes levied on a residential property valued at \$530,000 (exclusive of local improvements, if any):
 $\$530,000 \times 0.00994952 = \$5,273.25$.

The Town issues two tax bills each year and each tax bill has two installments. The Interim Tax Bills are based on 50% of last year’s annualized taxes. The Interim Tax Bill due dates for 2025 were March 21, 2025 and May 21, 2025.

The Annual (Final) Tax Bills are sent out in early July. The bill includes total taxes and special charges (if applicable) for the year, minus the interim amount. The Final Tax Bill due dates for 2025 are August 21, 2025 and October 21, 2025.

PAYMENT OPTIONS:
Please see the reverse of your tax bill for payment options. A Pre-Authorized Payment Plan (PAP) application for your taxes is available on the Town’s website at www.thebluemountains.ca/pap.

LATE PAYMENT CHARGES:
Please advise the Town of mailing address changes. Failure to receive your tax bill does not relieve the liability for taxes or interest charges. Interest charges of 1.25% per month are added to unpaid taxes on the first day of each month.

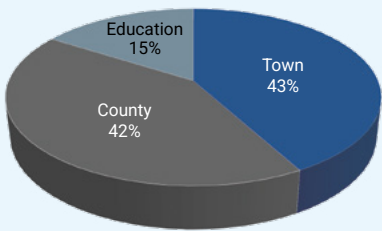
SUPPLEMENTARY TAX:
Supplementary tax bills are issued when the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) revalues a property based on new construction and/or improvements. MPAC has up to two years to provide the Town with the supplementary assessment used for property tax billing. Homeowners are encouraged to factor in these tax bills and set aside funds for future bills.

TAX ADJUSTMENTS:
Pending tax adjustments resulting from an assessment change provided by MPAC will be processed in due course after the final tax bill.

TAX INCENTIVE PROGRAMS:
To view information about tax incentive programs, including conservation land, farm property classes and managed forest tax, visit www.thebluemountains.ca/property-taxes.

HOW YOUR TAX DOLLARS ARE SPENT:
Property owners in all municipalities are required to pay municipal property taxes. The funds collected are used to ensure the Town can provide a variety of local services including road maintenance and repairs, parks and trails, fire services and more.

Of every residential tax dollar that is collected by the Town, \$0.42 goes to Grey County and \$0.15 goes to public education.



Our Path Forward: A Summer of Community Engagement

This summer marks a meaningful chapter in the Town of The Blue Mountains as an important conversation unfolds about the kind of community residents envision for the future.

Town staff and consultants from StrategyCorp have been engaging with residents at local parks, markets and community events, having important discussions and receiving valuable feedback. From attendees of the public Open House, to young families at Clarksburg Kid's Fest and shoppers at Thornbury Foodland, each conversation adds to a growing understanding of what matters most to the people who live here.

These conversations all play an important part in charting *Our Path Forward*, the Town's Corporate Strategic Plan. This project will shape long-term goals, set strategic priorities, guide how services are delivered and how resources are allocated. It will reflect the Town's vision, mission and values while addressing financial and operational goals in the context of today's social and economic challenges. To support this work, the Town has partnered with StrategyCorp, a Canadian consulting firm with experience in municipal planning and public engagement. StrategyCorp is working closely with staff and Council to help ensure the process is thoughtful, inclusive and community-driven.

Since the project began, public engagement has been at the heart of the process. In June, an open house at Town Hall provided residents with a formal presentation followed by a question-and-answer period. Attendees also had the chance to speak directly with staff and consultants and take part in hands-on engagement activities. Later in the month, project team members connected with families at Clarksburg Kid's Fest to hear their hopes for the future of the community.

Pop-up events will continue throughout the summer. From the Municipal Golf Course and the local Farmers Market to Music in the Park evenings, Town staff will be out in the community, ready to listen. These informal conversations are being



paired with consultant-led focus group sessions that bring together local organizations to explore their unique perspectives. Town staff are also meeting with community groups directly, offering to attend scheduled meetings to share updates and invite feedback.

To complement in-person conversations, a community-wide survey recently closed on July 7. The results, once analyzed, will offer important insight into the values and priorities residents want reflected in the final plan.

In addition to public engagement, one-on-one interviews have been conducted with the Mayor, Councillors and senior staff. These conversations are helping to build a shared understanding of the Town's current challenges and opportunities from a leadership perspective.

With so many ways to get involved, summer 2025 is proving to be a key moment for public engagement in The Blue Mountains. By sharing your thoughts, you can help to create a plan that reflects the community's hopes, challenges, and future vision. To learn more about the project and to sign up for email updates, visit

www.thebluemountains.ca/Our-Path-Forward.



**OUR PATH
FORWARD**
TOWN OF THE BLUE MOUNTAINS
CORPORATE STRATEGIC PLAN



One of the Town's Waterfront Parks is Getting a Facelift this Summer

Brand new playground equipment has been installed at Bayview Park on the shore of Georgian Bay in Thornbury. The new playground equipment is accompanied by a poured-in-place rubberized play surface to increase accessibility for wheelchair users and individuals with decreased mobility. This type of surface treatment has other benefits including reduced maintenance requirements, and increased durability and lifespan when compared to other surface treatments like engineered wood fibre.

The Town of The Blue Mountains aims for a 25-year operational lifespan for playground structures. The original equipment located at Bayview Park was scheduled for replacement in 2024. At the time, a group of community members came forward to request that Council investigate using the rubberized surface as an alternative.

The total project budget is \$350,000, with approximately \$140,000 of the budget allocated for the rubberized play surface. The design of the new playground equipment was completed with the assistance of a community volunteer group focused on accessibility. The volunteers also took the initial concept designs and play elements to the 2024 Kids Day at Lions Park for further community feedback.

"This is a great step forward for Bayview Park and accessibility in our community parks," said Ryan Gibbons, Director of Community Services. "I'd like to thank the dedicated volunteers and the whole community for their feedback and commitment to accessibility."

In addition to the rubberized ground surface, some other accessibility and design features of the new playground equipment include:

- Spinning element that includes two seats designed to allow ease of transfer from a wheelchair
- Ground-level structures that create an inclusive area, with appropriately-scaled play features
- Deck edge buttons provide increased visibility for users with special needs and their caregivers
- Climbing elements that provide the impression of a natural tree house, including simulated rock and wood textures
- Built-in canopies that provide shade coverage, while also allowing natural light to come through leaf-shaped cutouts

Celebrating Service: Gary Huber Named 2025 Senior of the Year

At the June 2, 2025, Council Meeting, the Town of The Blue Mountains was proud to honour local resident Gary Huber as the recipient of the 2025 Senior of the Year Award.

Established in 1994, this provincial award recognizes one outstanding senior in each Ontario municipality who is over the age of 65 and who has made significant contributions to the social, cultural, or civic life of their community.

Gary's impact on The Blue Mountains has been felt for nearly three decades. Since moving to Thornbury in 1996 with his wife Claire, he has become a well-respected and deeply valued member of the community. As the Chief Pharmacist and owner of Pharmasave, Gary supported residents with care, compassion and dedication. In retirement, his commitment to helping others has only grown stronger.

Today, Gary remains an active part of the community through his volunteer work and civic involvement. He is a proud member of the Lora Bay Golf Community and volunteers with the Thornbury-Clarksburg Rotary Club and St. George's Anglican Church. He plays a key role in organizing and supporting well-loved local events, including Lobsterfest, the Fish Fry, the Plant Sale and the Legion's Canada Day Breakfast.



While many know Gary through these public events, perhaps his most impactful contributions often happen quietly. Several days a week, Gary devotes his time to driving patients to medical appointments and cancer treatments on behalf of Home and Community Services. These drives can take him as far as London or Toronto, and he waits as long as needed to ensure each person returns home safely. These full-day commitments reflect his deep care for others and his willingness to serve without recognition.

Gary Huber's story is one of steady service, quiet leadership and deep care for his community. The Town of The Blue Mountains is proud to recognize him as the 2025 Senior of the Year and thanks him for the many ways he continues to make a difference.

Town Launches New Digital Parking System

A new phase in parking enforcement has begun in the Town of The Blue Mountains. As of June 16, 2025, the Town has officially transitioned to a cloud-based parking enforcement system powered by GTechna, replacing the older paper-based process.

The change is more than a simple software upgrade. For municipal officers, this means the ability to issue tickets digitally using mobile devices, with all infraction details instantly recorded in the Town's system. For residents and visitors, it means more accessible and convenient ways to manage parking issues, whether paying a ticket or submitting an appeal.

Behind the scenes, the new system is helping staff work more efficiently. With automated features like ticket tracking, notice generation and direct access to vehicle ownership data from the Ontario Ministry of Transportation, the platform reduces administrative workload and speeds up processing times.

For those receiving a ticket, the process has become significantly easier. Residents and visitors who are not registered with the Town can now access a digital portal to pay or dispute a parking ticket at any time. For anyone who prefers in-person service, tickets can still be paid at Town Hall during regular business hours, where staff are available to help.

Getting to Know TBM Staff: Cat Cooper, Building Inspector

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

Cat Cooper joined the Town of The Blue Mountains as a Building Inspector in early 2022 - first on contract, and full-time by that summer. They bring a collaborative spirit and a strong foundation in residential construction, having worked as an assistant site supervisor with a large home builder in the GTA, followed by professional experience with a company focused on sustainable building practices.

Cat emphasizes that success in their role at TBM is contingent on keeping an open mind, especially when working on renovations or additions, where surprises are the norm. "Being adaptive is essential. Things don't always go to plan, and that's okay!"

The range of work in TBM: residential, commercial, agricultural, and resort, makes the job unique for a municipality of this size. Cat notes, "I truly learn something new every day. It's a very satisfying job, and I have a fantastic group of colleagues."

With summer building season in full swing, Cat wants to remind residents who may be planning to expand or build that they must check in with the Town's Building Division before beginning any home renovations or construction projects. The website is the first stop, www.thebluemountains.ca/building, where information regarding permits,



inspections, and frequently asked questions will guide you through the process. If you've never been through the process, Cat assures residents that the Building Inspector's job is to help guide you through a smooth and safe building process, "Don't be nervous about applying! We work hard to build positive relationships with homeowners, contractors, and tradespeople. The goal is safe, successful outcomes for everyone."

Outside of work, Cat stays active among the area's natural amenities - biking, hiking, skiing, and spending time by the water. They also frequent local Pride events and programs at the L.E. Shore Library. Cat is quick to shout out the talented local tradespeople, contractors, and designers who help make their work rewarding. "Our work has a real impact. It's a responsibility I take to heart."

To get in touch with a Building Inspector or start your journey to build or expand, visit www.thebluemountains.ca/building.



Water Use Restrictions

Annual water use restrictions are in effect from June 1 to September 1.

For up-to-date stage restrictions please visit:

www.thebluemountains.ca/resident-services/water-sewer-services/water-services

Shaping the Future of The Blue Mountains: Approved Official Plan

After a significant planning, collaboration and community engagement process, the Town of The Blue Mountains has reached a significant milestone in planning for future development.

On June 23, 2025, Town Council passed a By-law to adopt the updated Official Plan Amendment, which will serve as a guide to shape the Town's growth and development in the years ahead.

This accomplishment comes after an extensive process that brought together Town staff, Council, consultants and community members. From well-attended open houses and public workshops to the final rounds of revisions, local voices played a key role in informing policies that reflect the values and priorities of The Blue Mountains community.

"The final version of this plan marks an exciting step towards shaping the next generation of development in the Town," said Shawn Postma, Manager of Community Planning. "Through thoughtful collaboration and public input, we have introduced meaningful improvements, particularly in areas like housing and environmental protection, while laying the groundwork for future updates."

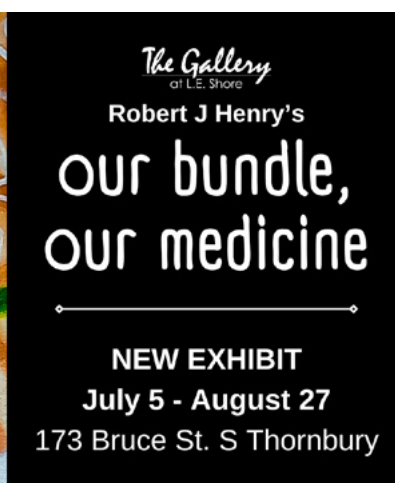


In recent months, Town staff have fine-tuned the draft plan based on public and Council feedback. As a result, the updated plan addresses a range of important topics, including growth management, affordable housing, the environment, agricultural and rural uses, building height and density, parkland and open spaces and tree protection.

So, what happens next?

The Official Plan journey is not over yet. With the By-law now enacted, the next step is to submit the Official Plan to Grey County for final approval, which is expected to happen in the upcoming months. Once approved, the new Official Plan will serve as a roadmap to guide all future land-use decisions in the Town, including residential, commercial and other forms of development. For more information on the Official Plan Review project, visit

www.thebluemountains.ca/OPReview.



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