



is The Blue Mountains.

Resident Welcome Guide

Town of The Blue Mountains



Welcome

Located along the ridged landscape of the Niagara Escarpment and on the sparkling shores of Georgian Bay, the Town of The Blue Mountains is composed of communities built on a foundation of agriculture, processing, manufacturing and recreation. The municipality is located within the boundary of Treaty 18 region of 1818 which is the traditional land of the Anishnaabek, Haudenosaunee and Wendat-Wyandot-Wyandotte peoples.

Internationally recognized as a four-season tourism destination, The Blue Mountains offers a high-quality lifestyle that caters to families looking to build a solid foundation, adventurers looking to go off the beaten path and relaxation seekers taking in and experiencing the very best the area has to offer.

Established in 1998 with the amalgamation of the Township of Collingwood and the Town of Thornbury, the Town is now home to over 9,300 full time residents. The Town is also home to an extensive part-time and seasonal population and welcomes over 2.5 million visitors annually. The Town remains steadfast in its mission to deliver core municipal services to residents and businesses while also implementing initiatives to drive economic prosperity and promote community well-being.

TAKE A LOOK AT WHAT'S INSIDE:

- 01.** Engaging with Your Local Government
- 02.** Navigating Your Services
- 03.** Getting to Know Your Community
- 04.** Exploring Your Natural Playground
- 05.** Living in an Agricultural Community
- 06.** Building or Renovating Your Home
- 07.** Living in an Unassumed Subdivision
- 08.** Key Municipal Contacts

Engaging with Your Local Government



01

Mayor & Council

The Town of The Blue Mountains is a lower-tier municipality located in Grey County. Town Council is elected at large and is comprised of one Mayor, one Deputy Mayor, and five Councillors. Elections are held every four years, on the fourth Monday of October, and are facilitated by the Town Clerk. Members of Council meet regularly through a series of Committee of the Whole and Council Meetings. All meetings are live streamed on the Town website and residents are encouraged to participate.

Connect with Town Staff

Whether you are a resident or are interested in moving to the community, Town staff are here to help with any questions or concerns that you may have.



(519) 599-3131



info@thebluemountains.ca



**Town Hall, 32 Mill St., P.O. Box 310,
Thornbury ON, N0H 2P0**



**Monday to Friday
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

Share Your Feedback with Council & Committees

There are many ways that you can get involved and share feedback with Town Council and Committees of Council:



AGENDAS, MINUTES & REPORTS

Meeting agendas and staff reports are posted to the Town website one week before each meeting. Residents are encouraged to view meeting agendas to keep informed with Town business and operations.



SHARE FEEDBACK WITH COUNCIL & COMMITTEES

Residents are encouraged to share feedback with Council and Committees of Council. Make your voice heard by submitting correspondence, appearing as a deputation, or speaking during public comment period.



WATCH OR ATTEND A MEETING

Council and Committee of the Whole meetings are open to the public, with meetings also available to watch through livestream on the Town's website. If you miss a meeting, video recordings are archived to the Town website after the meeting.



LEARN MORE:

For more information about Council, Committees, how to get involved and share feedback, visit: www.thebluemountains.ca/council or scan the QR code.

Connect Online

Whether you're looking to pay your property taxes, submit a service request or engage through social media, there are many ways to connect with the Town online. Make sure to follow the Town's social media channels and visit the Town website for updates to keep a pulse on the community!



www.thebluemountains.ca



@townofbluemtns

SHARE YOUR VOICE & STAY ENGAGED

Feedback from the community plays an important role in the planning and management of Town operations. The Town encourages all members of the community to engage with Town projects and initiatives, and to share feedback throughout the planning and decision making processes. From public surveys, open houses, public information centres, public meetings, workshops and more – there are many ways to add your voice and help build a better community, together.



STAY ENGAGED!

To stay up-to-date on current and future projects and to share your feedback visit: www.thebluemountains.ca/current-projects or scan the QR code.



Stay Up to Date!

SUBSCRIBE FOR UPDATES

Sign up today to receive Town updates right to your inbox! Visit the Town website and subscribe to a variety of categories, including press releases, town news, maintenance and service disruptions, and more!

TOWN NEWSLETTERS

The Town publishes a variety of newsletters, including a quarterly mailed newsletter and a monthly e-newsletter, to help keep residents informed and engaged with Town news and operations.

BUSINESS E-NEWSLETTER

To stay connected to the business community, the Blue Means Business e-newsletter features important Town news, business resources, government support information and upcoming business training, workshops and events.

▶ To receive Town news & updates, please visit: www.thebluemountains.ca/subscribe

Navigating Your Services



02

Online Services

The Town uses two separate systems to process online requests 24/7. These are the Online Services Portal and the Virtual Town Hall. Each system requires users to login/create a separate account.

ONLINE SERVICE PORTAL

The Town's Online Service Portal allows residents to submit ticketed service requests and report issues for a variety of Town services. In addition, users can submit by-law enforcement complaints, apply for a permit/licence, request a building permit inspection, and search for a property. To access the Online Service Portal, new users must register to create an account.

VIRTUAL TOWN HALL

Residents can manage their property tax and utility accounts, as well as sign up for e-billing, using the Virtual Town Hall system. To access the Virtual Town Hall system, new users must provide their customer ID from a tax or utility bill and their name exactly as it appears on the bill.

Property Taxes

Residents in all municipalities are required to pay municipal property taxes. These funds 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. Property Tax Bills are mailed twice a year, in February and July, with four billing due dates throughout the year. You can view your property tax bill online through Virtual Town Hall and opt to receive it via email. Alternatively, sign up for a pre-authorized payment plan for automated payments.

Utilities

The Town provides municipal water and wastewater services to connected properties. Water and wastewater fees are billed bi-monthly, with a minimum bi-monthly charge which includes 10 cubic meters of water using the standard residential 5/8" meter. You can sign up for e-billing on the Town website to have your water and/or wastewater bill emailed directly to you. You can also sign up for a pre-authorized payment plan to make automated payments.

▶ For information regarding private well testing, please visit:
www.publichealthgreybruce.on.ca



ONLINE SERVICE PORTAL:

To submit a service request, by-law enforcement complaint or to apply for various permits and licences, visit:
www.thebluemountains.ca/online-services or scan the QR code.



VIRTUAL TOWN HALL:

Manage your property taxes and utility bills online using the Virtual Town Hall system. To create an account, visit:
www.thebluemountains.ca/online-services or scan the QR code.

Marriage Licences

To acquire a marriage licence, residents can book an appointment with the Clerks Division to complete the application process. Please note that there is a marriage licence fee.

- ▶ For more information on marriage licences, visit:
www.thebluemountains.ca/marriages

Garbage & Recycling

Waste collection in The Blue Mountains is provided by external service contractors. Have garbage, organics and recyclables curbside by 7:00 a.m. on your pick-up day.

One garbage bag is free each week. The second bag requires one bag tag, and the third bag requires two. Bag tags available at Town Hall, Landfill & Recycling Depot, Blue Mountains Public Library and other locations throughout Town.

- Blue box: Circular Materials has assumed residential blue box collection across Ontario. Inquires can be directed to Miller Waste, (519) 372-1855 or area17@millierwaste.ca
- Green bins: Purchase at Town Hall or Landfill & Recycling Depot during business hours.
- Recycling boxes: Purchase at local hardware stores or through Circular Materials recycling program.
- Non-blue box waste inquiries: (888) BLU-MTNS ext. 276 or www.thebluemountains.ca/wastecollection



LANDFILL & RECYCLING DEPOT

The Landfill & Recycling Depot accepts household waste, recycling, yard waste, bulky items and hazardous waste items. There is a minimum charge for most waste items.

- 📍 **788090 Grey Road 13 Clarksburg, ON**
- 🕒 **Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**



DUMP EMPORIUM

The Dump Emporium transforms discarded items into valuable resources through our Reuse Program, promoting sustainability and a circular economy. All proceeds support local community organizations and programs, making it a win-win for both the environment and our town.

TBM WASTE RESOURCE APP:

Download the TBM Waste Resource App to receive collection day reminders, search waste items and more!



Fire Services

The Blue Mountains Fire Department operates out of two fire stations (Thornbury and Craigeleith) and is responsible for providing fire and rescue services, emergency preparedness, and fire prevention services for the community. Additional services include fire safety inspections, fire prevention and public safety, emergency planning and preparedness, enforcement of the Ontario Fire Code and more.

▶ For more information on fire services and safety tips, visit:
www.thebluemountains.ca/fire-services

FIRE PERMITS / BURNING GUIDELINES

The Town does not require fire permits for open-air burning. However, all open-air burning must follow the guidelines set by the Town's Open Air Burning Guidelines. Please see Town website for details. This includes having outdoor fires only in approved areas. The guideline also provides property owners with the information required to ensure the minimum requirements for open-air burning are followed.

The Fire Department should be notified prior to the ignition of any outdoor fires which would not be considered a typical backyard campfire. Please call the fire department (519) 599-3131 ext. 102 or email burningnotice@thebluemountains.ca

▶ For more information and to view the guidelines, visit:
www.thebluemountains.ca/fire-permit

72 HOUR EMERGENCY PLAN: IS YOUR FAMILY PREPARED?

In an emergency, you will need some basic supplies. You may need to get by without power or tap water. Be prepared to be self-sufficient for at least 72 hours.

You may have some of the items already, such as food, water and a battery operated or wind-up flashlight. The key is to make sure they are organized and easy to find. Would you be able to find your flashlight in the dark? Make sure your kit is easy to carry and everyone in the household knows where it is. Keep it in a backpack, duffle bag or suitcase with wheels, in an easy-to-reach, accessible place, such as your front-hall closet. If you have many people in your household, your emergency kit could get heavy.

It's a good idea to separate some of these supplies in backpacks. That way, your kit will be more portable and each person can personalize his or her own grab-and-go emergency kit.



SMOKE & CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS:

The Town's Fire Department is available to assist residents with smoke alarms and detectors. It's important to test your smoke alarms monthly and change the batteries every year!

Parking & Transportation Services

RESIDENT PARKING REGISTRATION

All residential property owners and residential tenants in the Town are permitted to park for free at Town-owned paid parking locations by registering their license plates through the Town's online system or by registering in person at Town Hall Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Multiple vehicles, subject to proof of ownership, can be registered per resident.

The Town would like to emphasize that vehicles registered through the system are still required to obey all highway traffic laws and all posted signage, including designated no parking areas. For more information, visit:

www.thebluemountains.ca/parking

PAID PARKING & ENFORCEMENT

To better manage public parking throughout the community, the Town has implemented a paid parking program. All paid parking locations are clearly identified by signage. There are also free public parking lots throughout the community.

▶ Pay for parking using the **Honk Mobile App**. Scan the QR code located at each parking lot or download the app. For more information, visit: www.thebluemountains.ca/parking

PUBLIC TRANSIT

The Town is served by both the Collingwood/Blue Mountains Transit system and the Grey County Transit system. The Grey Transit Route currently connects Grey County through a series of four transit routes across the region while the Collingwood/Blue Mountains Transit provide services to the Craigeleith area, including Blue Mountain Resort.

▶ For more information on public transit routes and operations, visit: www.grey.ca/grey-transit-route or www.collingwood.ca/public-transit

SEASONAL ROAD MAINTENANCE

The Roads and Drainage Division completes a variety of preventative measures to ensure that all Town-owned roads and infrastructure are maintained and safe for public use throughout all seasons. Residents are asked to be mindful of potential parking restrictions and traffic delays during scheduled road maintenance. For more information or to submit a service request, visit: www.thebluemountains.ca/road-maintenance

WINTER PARKING RESTRICTIONS:

Winter parking restrictions are necessary to ensure snow removal operations can be completed safely and effectively. Overnight parking on Town roads is prohibited annually between November 1st and April 15th from 2:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m.

Town By-Laws

The Town enforces a variety of regulatory By-laws and provincial legislation to serve, protect and provide a desired quality of life for both residents and visitors.



SHORT TERM ACCOMMODATIONS

All properties rented on a short-term basis of less than 30 days require a short term accommodation licence. Only specific areas of the Town are zoned to allow short term accommodations. For details, visit: www.thebluemountains.ca/sta



PROPERTY STANDARDS

This By-law sets standards for maintenance and occupancy for properties within the Town. All property owners are required to repair and maintain their property in accordance with this By-law.



SIGN BY-LAW

This By-law ensures all signs erected in the Town are compatible to the heritage and unique scenic characteristics of the community.



NOISE BY-LAW

This By-law ensures noise is kept at acceptable levels across the Town. Business owners and operators should review the By-law to be aware of what is acceptable and what is unacceptable.



DOG AND ANIMAL CARE BY-LAW

All dogs must be licensed within the Town. The licensing requirement applies to all residents including those that stay in the community full-time or seasonally. All dogs must be leashed when not on their owner's property, with the exception of the designated dog parks at Moreau Park and Heritage Park.



PARKING BY-LAWS

The Town enforces parking By-laws by issuing tickets to illegally parked vehicles on both public and private property. This type of enforcement is required to maintain legal parking, regulate traffic movement, and ensure public safety.



OPEN AIR BURN PERMIT

Residents are not required to obtain a burn permit for the use of backyard fire pits. However, it is the property owner's responsibility to ensure the minimum safety requirements are in place prior to burning.



FIND A BY-LAW:

For a comprehensive list of all Town By-Laws, visit: www.thebluemountains.ca/town-hall/bylaws-corporate-documents/find-by-law or scan the QR code.



The Blue Mountains Public Library

Comprised of a Gallery, Library, Archives, and Museum (GLAM), the Blue Mountains Public Library is the place where everyone can connect, explore and create.

L.E. SHORE MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The L.E. Shore Memorial Library in Thornbury offers a variety of library, information and recreation services for people of all ages and abilities, along with monthly art exhibits in The Gallery.

CRAIGLEITH HERITAGE DEPOT

The Craigleith Heritage Depot is a museum, archives, and cultural hub with a small library that highlights the community's unique cultural, natural, and industrial history. Sitting within the Wyandot/Wyandotte original territory, the Museum shares a strong relationship with both our ancient and contemporary past and features a variety of exhibits and experiences both virtual and in-person.

▶ For more information, visit:
www.thebluemountainslibrary.ca



Photos provided by The Blue Mountains Public Library.

Hospitals & Health Care

The Town is conveniently located within 30-minutes of both the Collingwood General and Marine Hospital and Meaford General Hospital. A variety of medical services are also available in Thornbury and Clarksburg.

COLLINGWOOD GENERAL AND MARINE HOSPITAL

📍 459 Hume Street
Collingwood, ON

THE BLUE MOUNTAINS COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE

📍 78 King Street East (Highway 26)
Thornbury, ON

MARKDALE HOSPITAL

📍 220 Toronto Street South,
Markdale, ON

CLARKSBURG MEDICAL GROUP

📍 186 Marsh Street, PO Box 179
Clarksburg, ON

MEAFORD GENERAL HOSPITAL

📍 229 Nelson Street West
Meaford, ON

COLLINGWOOD HEALTH CENTRE

📍 186 Erie Street
Collingwood, ON

OWEN SOUND HOSPITAL

📍 1800 8th Street East
Owen Sound, ON

▶ For additional public health resources and information, please visit:
www.brightshores.ca



Schools, Child Care & Educational Programs

SCHOOLS

The Blue Mountains is located within the Bluewater District School Board and the Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board. The Beaver Valley Community School (JK - 8) is conveniently located in the heart of Thornbury, and the Georgian Bay Community School (JK - 12) is located in Meaford.

French-language Catholic education is offered nearby at Ecole Catholique Saint Dominique-Savio in Owen Sound and Notre Dame-de-la-Huronie in Collingwood.

CHILD CARE

Child Care Programs are managed by Grey County Children's Service and licensed by the Ministry of Education to ensure programs continue to meet provincial standards. Grey County Children's Service offers various programs, subsidies and information for parents and a range of support for agencies and childcare providers.



Georgian College

Georgian College works with industry and community partners to offer relevant, cutting-edge curriculum, quality work placements and co-op experiences with top employers.

LOCAL CAMPUSES

There are two campuses located conveniently close to the Town of The Blue Mountains. The Owen Sound Campus offers a wide variety of programs in great facilities, including Canada's most advanced marine simulation and research centre. The John Di Poce South Georgian Bay Campus, located in Collingwood, offers state-of-the-art facilities and a close-knit culture that allows students to receive one-on-one time with faculty and staff.

Postal Services

Please contact the correct Post Office using the information below to register your intent to receive mail locally. If the postal code on your document is:

- **N0H 2P0** or **N0H 2E0**: (519) 599-2212, 4 Arthur St. W., Thornbury
- **N0H 1J0** or **N0H 1N0**: (519) 599-2260, 207 Marsh St., Clarksburg
- Postal code beginning with **L9Y**: (705) 445-6274, 90 High St., Collingwood

Your Post Office will advise you about free delivery mode based on your address. If installing a new rural mailbox, please contact the Town's Operations Department to secure a mailbox permit after consulting the Post Office for the official location. Postal services and inquiries can be made at any of these locations. For more information, call 1-800-267-1177 or visit: www.canadapost-postescanada.ca

Community Groups & Organizations

BEAVER VALLEY OUTREACH

Beaver Valley Outreach is a community-based charitable organization enhancing the lives of people in The Blue Mountains for over 35 years with programs and services for children, families/individuals, seniors and youth.

Visit: www.bvo.ca

BLUE MOUNTAINS SENIORS NETWORK

The Seniors Network was formed to advocate for seniors and maximize access to resources and services for seniors in the Town of The Blue Mountains by working and planning together to identify needs and coordinate programming.

Visit: www.thebluemountains.ca/seniors

EVENTS FOR LIFE

Events for Life is a day program located in Thornbury that provides social, recreational and lifelong learning for adults with disabilities in the Town of The Blue Mountains and surrounding areas. The organization works to support individuals with disabilities so they can live, learn and work in an integrated, inclusive community. Visit: www.eventsfor.life

GREY BRUCE LOCAL IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP

The Grey Bruce Local Immigration Partnership works at the local level to foster a community that is welcoming and inclusive and to support newcomers in becoming fully engaged in the social, economic, political, and cultural life of Grey and Bruce Counties.

Visit: www.greybrucelip.ca

MY FRIEND'S HOUSE

My Friend's House is a non-profit agency offering support for abused women and children living in the Georgian Triangle of Ontario. Since opening in 1991, My Friend's House has helped thousands of women get the safety and support they need to rebuild their lives.

Visit: www.myfriendshouse.ca

THORNBURY-CLARKSBURG ROTARY

Chartered in 1938, the Rotary Club of Thornbury-Clarksburg is a well-respected part of the Thornbury/Clarksburg/Beaver Valley community. It is a vibrant, active service club dedicated to serving the needs of our local community as well as the worldwide community. Visit: www.tcrotary.ca

YMCA OF OWEN SOUND GREY BRUCE

The YMCA of Owen Sound Grey Bruce enriches the lives of people of all ages and works to build strong and healthy kids, families and communities throughout the Grey and Bruce counties. The organization offers many programs including: Aquatics, Health, Fitness and Recreation, Child Care, Community and Justice Programs, Housing Support and Employment Services. Visit: www.ymcaowensound.on.ca



ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION - BEAVER VALLEY BRANCH 281

The Legion's mission is to support Veterans, serving military and RCMP members, and their families, while promoting Remembrance and serving The Blue Mountains. The Legion honours veterans and fosters community spirit by hosting events, offering support services, and providing a welcoming space for social gatherings.

Visit: www.rcl281.com

THORNBURY BEAVER VALLEY LIONS CLUB

The Lions Club, with over 1.4 million members worldwide, has been spreading kindness and hope for 100 years, now focusing on five global causes: Diabetes, Vision, Hunger, Environment, and Childhood Cancer. The local Lions Club meets the first Wednesday of each month at 6:15 p.m. at the Marsh Street Centre in Clarksburg.

Visit: www.bvlionsclub.ca

BEAVER VALLEY KINETTES

The Beaver Valley Kinettes is a women's service club dedicated to enhancing the community through volunteer projects and fundraising events, with all monies raised going back into the community. Join passionate residents making a difference; the club meets twice a month and has been in operation since 2002.

Visit: www.district1kin.ca/index.php/ZoneC/BeaverValleyKinetteClub

BRUCE TRAIL CONSERVANCY

More than 1,300 volunteers donate their time to the Bruce Trail Conservancy and its nine member clubs. The commitment requires 4 to 16 hours per month, choosing from a variety of opportunities from the boardroom to the trail.

Visit: www.brucetrail.org

GEORGIAN BAY YOUTH ROOTS

Georgian Bay Youth Roots is committed to supporting all youth to become healthy, safe, hopeful, engaged, educated and contributing members of the Municipality of Meaford and the Town of The Blue Mountains. Visit www.bvo.ca/youth

MARSH STREET CENTRE

The Marsh Street Centre has been an important part of the Clarksburg/Thornbury community for more than 85 years. The Centre is currently operated as a community-owned, non-profit organization managed by a small group of dedicated volunteers. Enjoy live performances, art exhibits, and vibrant local events in this beautifully restored historic building.

Visit: www.marshstreetcentre.com

SHEFFIELD PARK BLACK HISTORY AND CULTURAL MUSEUM

Discover the Sheffield Park Black History and Cultural Museum in Clarksburg, where the rich heritage of Black Canadians comes to life. Explore historical artifacts, vibrant cultural exhibits, and engaging educational programs that celebrate and preserve the significant contributions of Black communities. Open from May to October.

Visit: www.sheffieldparkblackhistory.com

ONTARIO PROVINCIAL POLICE AUXILIARY PROGRAM

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Auxiliary is a group of dedicated volunteers who work with regular force OPP officers to ensure safety and well-being for the Province of Ontario. Duties may include patrols with regular members and assisting with community events, seat belt clinics, RIDE initiatives, safety displays, presentations, victim assistance and ceremonial duties. The Blue Mountains is served by the Collingwood/Blue Mountains OPP Detachment.

Visit: www.opp.ca/auxiliary

Getting to Know Your Community



03

A Community of Communities

The Blue Mountains is composed of many unique communities and offers a high quality lifestyle that caters to families looking to build a solid foundation, adventurers looking to go off the beaten path and relaxation seekers taking in and experiencing the very best that The Blue Mountains has to offer.

▶ For key insights into the communities of The Blue Mountains, browse the Community Profile: www.thebluemountains.ca/community-profile



DOWNTOWN THORNBURY



DOWNTOWN CLARKSBURG



CRAIGLEITH & BLUE MOUNTAIN VILLAGE



VILLAGES & HAMLETS

Tourism in The Blue Mountains

The Blue Mountains and Grey County is one of Ontario's largest four-season tourism destinations, with the area welcoming 2.5 million visitors annually. The tourism and recreation sector is the primary economic driver, with over 1,300 tourism related businesses in the area, accounting for nearly 8,900 jobs across Grey County.



2.5 MILLION VISITORS



\$333.7 MILLION IN ANNUAL VISITOR SPENDING



1,337 TOURISM RELATED BUSINESSES



8,868 JOBS IN TOURISM RELATED BUSINESSES

▶ For more information on tourism and local experiences, visit: www.visitgrey.ca

DID YOU KNOW?

When living in The Blue Mountains, you can anticipate higher traffic volumes and a busier recreation and shopping experience during the summer and winter months, as the Town welcomes more seasonal residents and visitors. Make sure to plan ahead before travelling and always prepare for parking!

Our Local Business Community

Entrepreneurship and small business success are at the economic core of The Blue Mountains. With a respected and highly sought-after quality of life, the success of the local economy has been driven by agriculture, tourism, construction, small business, and hospitality/service. Together, these sectors account for over \$584 million in annual economic exports and employ over 4,500 individuals within the Town of The Blue Mountains.

ENTREPRENEURS & STARTUPS

The Town of The Blue Mountains recognizes that small businesses are at the heart of the local economy. There are several resources and business support services available to help entrepreneurs succeed in starting, growing, and developing a business in Town.

▶ For a complete overview of business resources and support, browse the Town's Business Tool Kit: www.thebluemountains.ca/business

LOCAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY:

For a comprehensive listing of local businesses and top experiences, visit: www.exploreblue.ca



Experience The Blue Mountains

The Blue Mountains is known for its various culinary experiences served up by award-winning chefs, made with locally grown produce. From local artisan shops, bakeries and restaurants to large scale farming, apple orchards, cideries and wineries your inner foodie will always be satisfied with a culinary tour through The Blue Mountains.

Make sure to explore stops along the Apple Pie Trail, experience the cozy dining opportunities offered in the Blue Mountain Village, stroll Thornbury's many shops, bakeries and restaurants, and delve into the arts scene of Clarksburg, affectionately dubbed "Artsburg." For a scenic adventure, stop into the many villages and hamlets including Clarksburg, Ravenna, Heathcote, and Craigleith, to name a few, which offer markets, outfitters for adventure, restaurants and of course, apple orchards.





JOHN HAINES
COPYRIGHT 1998

INDICATES ORCHARDS
NOTTAWASGA BAY
(PART OF)
GEORGIAN BAY

COLLINGWOOD

Exploring Your Natural Playground



04

Outdoor Activities & Recreation

The Blue Mountains is home to many natural wonders, including the Niagara Escarpment, the Beaver River, and Georgian Bay, providing a plethora of recreational opportunities for every season. With over 285 km of public trails that weave their way throughout the community, there's no shortage of ways, by wheel or foot, to head outdoors and take in the expansive views of Georgian Bay and the countryside.



8 PUBLIC BEACHES



285 KM OF TRAILS



24 LOCAL PARKS



3 PROVINCIAL PARKS



2 DOG PARKS



For a full list of beaches, parks and trails, visit:

www.thebluemountains.ca/beaches-parks-trails

TRAIL ETIQUETTE:

Expect and respect other trail users. Stay to the right and pass on the left. Please stay on the trail, and do not make new trails or use unmarked trails. Leave the trail as you found it (pack out whatever you pack in), and please pick up after your pets and keep them on leash in public.



THORNBURY HARBOUR

A full-service marina, situated in downtown Thornbury on the beautiful shores of South Georgian Bay. The Harbour is a popular destination for residents and visitors wishing to explore the local waters.

Visit: www.thebluemountains.ca/harbour



MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE & RECREATIONAL COMPLEX

Features an 18-hole, par 3 golf course, three regulation-size soccer fields and four pickleball courts available for all community members and visitors to book.

Visit: www.thebluemountains.ca/tomahawk



BEAVER VALLEY ARENA & COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Beaver Valley Arena features a 17,500 square foot ice pad for public skating, hockey and curling. The Community Centre features a large and small hall, and offers pickleball, Taosit Tai Chi, senior card games and more!

Visit: www.thebluemountains.ca/bvcc-arena

SKIING & SNOWBOARDING

The Blue Mountains is home to various downhill ski slopes and private clubs including Blue Mountain Resort, Alpine Ski Club, Collingwood Ski Club, Craigeleith Ski Club, Georgian Peaks Ski Club, Osler Bluff Ski Club, and Toronto Ski Club. Cross country skiing is also available at a variety of locations throughout the Town. Whether you're a seasoned veteran, or heading down the slopes for the first time, there's opportunity abound for skiers and snowboarders alike.

THORNBURY FISHWAY

The Thornbury Fishway, located in downtown Thornbury near the mouth of the Beaver River is operated by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. This natural passageway, used by migrating Rainbow Trout and Chinook Salmon seeking to spawn in spring and fall, attracts visitors and anglers to The Blue Mountains.



GEORGIAN BAY

Georgian Bay is one of the largest bodies of freshwater in the world and serves as the northern border for the Town of The Blue Mountains. Located on the northeastern portion of Lake Huron, Georgian Bay is known for its beautiful scenery, endless beaches and crystal blue water. It's a natural and vast playground enjoyed by all ages.

NIAGARA ESCARPMENT

The Niagara Escarpment is a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve, spanning more than 725 km across the province of Ontario and throughout The Blue Mountains. Dozens of scenic outlooks over the Beaver Valley and Georgian Bay are dotted along the Escarpment, along with the Bruce Trail, biking trails and a variety of flora and fauna. Grab a camera and prepare for breathtaking views.

BEAVER RIVER

Part of the Great Lakes Basin, the Beaver River flows from Clearview Township through the Grey Highlands and over Eugenia Lake before it reaches the mouth of Georgian Bay and Lake Huron via the community of Thornbury. The river serves as a popular route for explorers and is a habitat for a diverse ecosystem of wildlife, including various species of fish, from Rainbow Trout to Chinook Salmon and Brown Trout.

▶ For local insights visit: www.visitgrey.ca



Living in an Agricultural Community



05

Respecting Our Agricultural Lands

The Town is home to over 17,000 acres of agricultural lands and over 100 farms. Agriculture and farming contribute significantly to the local economy and the social fabric of the community. As a resident, or visitor, it is important to understand what to expect when living in or visiting an agricultural community. This includes respecting private and agricultural land by not trespassing or using the land as a personal rest stop, as it poses a risk to everyone and everything that's involved – from the public and the grower to crops and livestock.

Growers are not required to post 'no trespassing' signs, so it's best to use common sense and good judgement. If you are not sure, it's best to assume the land is private.

Here's how you can help our farmers:



STICK TO MARKED TRAILS



DON'T CROSS OVER FENCES OR DITCHES ONTO PRIVATE PROPERTY



NEVER INTERFERE / INTERACT WITH LIVESTOCK



IMPACTS OF TRESPASSING 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 great transmitters for disease and invasive species to become introduced to agricultural lands, as contaminants can often travel on the soles of shoes or hiking boots.
- ▶ Snow provides important ground cover for winter crops that are harvested in early spring. The impact of vehicles (e.g., snowmobiles) travelling across the land can disrupt the growth of valuable crops such as winter wheat.

DID YOU KNOW?

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 protects Ontario's farms and farm animals from trespassers, other forms of interference & food contamination.

Normal Agriculture Practices

It's important to know what to expect when living in an agricultural community and to understand that farms and agricultural operations can be noisy, dusty and can have odours. Just like other businesses within the community, farms have a production schedule; however, theirs is largely dependent on weather conditions. This means that during planting and harvesting seasons, you may notice extra lights on in a field late at night, or you may hear equipment working on the farm such as frost fans that are used to push the warm air down to protect crops and apples. These are normal farming practices and activities that are allowed to happen on a farm as part of their day-to-day business.

As a resident, it is important to understand that although these activities can create disturbances at times, it is a part of the fabric that brings us the food that we love and enjoy so much and is integral to our local economy in The Blue Mountains.

▶ For more information on agriculture within The Blue Mountains visit:
www.thebluemountains.ca/agriculture

SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL WORKER PROGRAM

Each year, dozens of seasonal workers call The Blue Mountains home as they assist local orchards and farms with agricultural labour needs. Integral to the agricultural operations throughout Ontario, the seasonal workers are welcomed to the community through the **Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program**.

USING CROP PROTECTION PRODUCTS

Assuring consumers have high-quality and safe food is a top-priority, and the use of pesticides and crop protection products helps meet these demands. Producers, farmers, and growers will use these products to help protect their crops from diseases and weed infestations, insect damage and more, that affect both the quality and yield.

The types of pesticides that can be used are regulated and legislated by Health Canada and the provincial government, with different pesticide use dependent on various factors including the crop's stage, type or the severity of an infestation.

All producers, farmers and growers consider a variety of factors including wind direction and speed as well as nearby residential areas to avoid product from accidentally drifting onto areas, plants, and wildlife outside of their designated crop areas.



Sharing the Road with Farm Equipment & Vehicles

Producers, growers and farmers rely on public roads to move farm equipment from field to fork. With their large size and slow-moving speeds, farm equipment can create traffic and safety concerns throughout the planting and harvest seasons. Trucks and equipment that work hard to move fuel, feed, livestock, and crops, can also create unsafe conditions for residents who are driving, cycling, or walking through densely populated rural areas of the community.

Sharing the road and practicing safe driving is therefore fundamental to keeping our entire community safe while also putting our farmers, producers and growers at ease and ensuring everyone arrives home at the end of the day.

▶ For more information on road safety and farm vehicles, visit:
www.ofa.on.ca/resources/smv-roadsafety

ROAD SAFETY:

To help everyone arrive home safely, please slow down when approaching farm equipment; do not expect the vehicle to pull over on the shoulder (this can be dangerous); make sure the driver can see you before you pass; and share the road!

Noise on Agricultural Lands, Farms & Rural Areas

With normal agricultural practices being largely dependent on weather conditions, noise from farms can be common during late hours into the night, or early hours into the morning through planting and harvesting season.

Sounds can most commonly be heard from various sound producing devices meant to assist with the health, maintenance, protection, and production of crops. Loud noises can be commonly produced through devices such as bird bangers or cannons, irrigation pumps, frost fans, dryers, large vehicles, and other stationary farm equipment. All of these play an important role within the success of the agricultural industry throughout Ontario.

CONNECT WITH YOUR FARMING NEIGHBOURS

If you live in a rural area or near any farms or agricultural operations, it's important to have open conversations with your farming neighbours and gain an increased understanding into normal farming practices and create a healthy dialogue into when you may anticipate loud noises.

Since our agricultural community relies on weather conditions to maintain operations, having this insight may help resolve concerns or issues before and during the planting and harvest season in The Blue Mountains.

Invasive Species

The Town is home to an abundance of natural wonders, including various species of plants and wildlife. To protect and sustain The Blue Mountains' natural features and landscape and ensure their health for all to enjoy, the Town conducts regular weed control to combat noxious weeds and invasive species, the most common of them being Wild Chervil, Giant Hogweed and Poison Ivy.

WILD CHERVIL

Wild Chervil is a herbaceous biennial or short-lived perennial from the carrot/parsley family, introduced to North America from Europe. It is commonly found along roadsides, cultivated field edges and pastures, and is abundant in various locations through The Blue Mountains and Grey County. Wild Chervil can quickly take over an area, displacing native species and forming dense stands that are difficult to control.

- ▶ For more information on Wild Chervil and invasive species, visit: www.thebluemountains.ca/invasivespecies

WHAT TO DO IF YOU'VE SEEN WILD CHERVIL:

If you suspect Wild Chervil is growing on your property or you see Wild Chervil in the Town, please contact By-Law Services at (519) 599-3131 ext. 249.



KEY CHARACTERISTICS OF WILD CHERVIL:

- ▶ Produces numerous compound umbel shaped clusters of white flowers.
- ▶ Flowers usually bloom from May to June. Seeds appear late June through July.
- ▶ Plant has alternately arranged, compound, fern-like leaves.
- ▶ Stems are entirely green, ridged, and hollow. Portions of the stem are smooth while lower portions are hairy.
- ▶ Chervil resembles other plants in the carrot/parsley family, such as Wild Carrot (Queen Anne's Lace). It is the first species in this family.

Building or Renovating Your Home



06

Building or Renovating Your Home

If you're planning to build a new home or are interested in renovating your current home, it's important to understand when a building permit is required and how the Town can help you through the process.

Building permits allow the Town to protect the interests of individuals and the community by reviewing and approving building permit applications and plans before work is done. This ensures that the work complies with design and construction standards of the Ontario Building Code, the Town's zoning by-law and other applicable legislation including conservation authorities.

A building permit is required for:



- Construction of any new building
- Creating an additional residential unit



- Making renovations or repairs
- New plumbing or alteration of a plumbing system
- Construction, alteration or repair of onsite sewage system



- Placing a structure on your property

APPLYING FOR A BUILDING PERMIT

You can apply for a building permit by email or online through the Town website. All applications, forms, drawings and related documents must be submitted electronically.

▶ For a list of submission requirements, visit:
www.thebluemountains.ca/building-permits

Before submitting your application, please contact the Building Department to discuss your plans. This will help ensure that the appropriate process is being followed and that you are aware of the process, cost and timelines for permit issuance.

- Residential Building Permit Application - **up to 10 business days**
- Small Commercial Building Permit Application - **up to 15 business days**
- Large Commercial Building Permit Application - **up to 30 business days**

ADDITIONAL RESIDENTIAL UNIT (ARU)

Additional Residential Units, also known as accessory dwelling units, secondary suites, granny flats, basement apartments or in-law suites, can be a great addition to a property. The Town of The Blue Mountains has information to help you through the process including guides and permits on our website at www.thebluemountains.ca/ARU

CONSTRUCTION AND INSPECTIONS

Throughout construction, Building Inspectors will conduct inspections at various stages as required under the Ontario Building Code. The permit holder must contact the municipality for an inspection when the project reaches the stages of construction set out in the Building Code.

It's important to remember that permit-holders are required to:

- Display the permit in a window or other place where it can be easily seen;
- Keep copies of the plans on the site; and,
- Inform the municipality of any changes to the proposed construction, which will also require approval from the municipality.

A Building Inspector shall be able to visually inspect the approved construction. If the construction differs from the approved design, the work shall be corrected unless otherwise approved through a revision.



WHEN IS A BUILDING PERMIT NOT REQUIRED?

A building permit is not required to:

- Replace existing, same-size doors and windows, subject to distance from property lines
- Install siding on small residential buildings, subject to distance from property lines
- Build a utility shed under 15 square metres (approximately 161 square feet)
- Reshingle a roof, provided there is no structural work
- Install eavestroughs, if drainage is contained on your property
- Replace dry-wall, or plaster
- Damp-proof basements
- Paint or decorate
- Install kitchen or bathroom cupboards
- Replace existing forced air furnace

DID YOU KNOW?

The Town has created a variety of permit application documents and checklists for common construction projects such as building a deck, additions and renovations, additional residential unit, finished basements, private pools, and more. Visit: www.thebluemountains.ca/building-permits

Living in an Unassumed Subdivision



07

Welcome to Your New Home

Living in a new residential development? From construction to assumption, the Town is here to help in your homeowner journey. We've answered some of the most commonly asked questions regarding residential subdivision developments to ensure your experience is positive and informed.

WHAT DOES ASSUMPTION OF A NEW SUBDIVISION MEAN?

Assumption of a new subdivision means the Town has assumed responsibility for the maintenance of all municipal services for the subdivision from the developer. In Condominium developments, assumption does not apply and services remain under the jurisdiction of the condo association/board.

WILL THE TOWN NOTIFY ME WHEN MY SUBDIVISION BECOMES ASSUMED?

Yes. The Town's assumption process includes providing notice of assumption to residents within the subdivisions being assumed. Residents are also welcome to contact the Town's Development Engineering Division if they would like to know the status of their development.



ACTIVE DEVELOPMENT MAP:

For a map of current developments, please refer to the Active Development Map by visiting: www.thebluemountains.ca/maps or scan the QR code.



Subdivision & Property Maintenance

CAN I LANDSCAPE OR PLANT TREES, SHRUBS, FLOWERS OR PLACE STRUCTURES ON THE TOWN RIGHT OF WAY?

Structures, landscaping and/or plant features may not be placed beyond your property boundaries on the Town right of way. Removal will be at the owner's expense.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ENSURING PROPER PROPERTY DRAINAGE?

Drainage plans for every development have been reviewed and approved by a professional engineer. Drainage concerns on private property are a civil matter and outside the Town's authority.

To report a drainage concern on municipally owned land, please contact the Town's Operations Department.



THERE IS A LANDSCAPED POND IN MY SUBDIVISION, WHAT IS ITS PURPOSE?

Many new subdivisions use a landscaped pond as a stormwater management facility. These are designed to collect, treat and control runoff after storms before being discharged into local waterways. These ponds are maintained by the developer until assumption, at which point the Town takes responsibility. In condominium developments, ponds will be transferred to the condo association/board.



WHO DO I CONTACT REGARDING CONSTRUCTION NUISANCES?

Subdivisions undergoing construction may have nuisances such as noise, truck traffic, dust, and construction vehicle parking. The developer is required to minimize these nuisances as much as possible.

▶ If construction nuisances persist, contact:
bylaw@thebluemountains.ca
or call (519) 599-3131 ext. 249

WHO DO I CALL ABOUT SNOW CLEARING?

In unassumed subdivisions and condo developments, the developer and/or condo association/board is responsible for snow removal. Snow clearing services are only provided by the Town's Roads department after the subdivision is assumed. Upon assumption, issues can be reported on the Town website. All provincial regulations and Town By-laws, including the parking By-law, are in effect prior to assumption.

WHEN WILL GARBAGE COLLECTION BEGIN? WHERE CAN I GET A BLUE BOX?

Garbage collection will begin once collection vehicles can safely access homes in the new subdivision. Until access is safe for collection vehicles, homeowners should contact the developer for garbage collection details. Full diversion service may not be available until the Town garbage collection services begin. Blue box bins can be purchased at any local hardware store. Residents can use waste disposal and diversion services at the Landfill & Recycling Depot during regular hours of operation, located at 788090 Grey Road 13.

WHO DO I CALL IF STREETLIGHTS ARE NOT WORKING?

In unassumed subdivisions and or condo developments under construction please contact the developer or the Town's Development Engineering Division at **developmentengineering@thebluemountains.ca**. On assumed subdivisions or Town roads, please contact the Town's Road Division.

WHY ARE TREES BEING CUT DOWN IN MY SUBDIVISION OUTSIDE OF CONSTRUCTION AREAS?

Although vegetation in areas such as parks, trails, wooded areas, and storm management ponds may be identified for preservation; hazardous or potentially hazardous trees are an exception and must be removed for public safety. Trees may also be cut down in areas where they weren't intended to grow, such as a drainage channel. The Developer of your subdivision will coordinate with the Town and a certified arborist to safely remove hazardous trees. Based on the arborist's recommendations, the tree(s) will either be left in cut sections on the ground for habitat, chipped, or trucked away. If you have hazardous trees that you would like to report, please contact the Developer or the Town's Development Engineering Division at developmentengineering@thebluemountains.ca

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR CLEANING AND MAINTAINING ROADS DURING CONSTRUCTION?

The developer is responsible for maintaining clean and safe roads throughout construction until assumption.

RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS

Restrictive Covenants are contracts which place limitations on what you can do on your property. These can be common in new developments to ensure consistency in the neighbourhood. Contact your developer or real estate lawyer to inquire about possible covenants on your property.

Condo Associations

WHAT IS A CONDO ASSOCIATION?

A Condo Association oversees your building or community. They're responsible for collecting association fees, maintaining community standards and providing services as required by your condo By-laws.

WHAT SERVICES DOES THE TOWN AND THE CONDO ASSOCIATION PROVIDE?

Every condo association has its own set of policies and service levels. Consult your association's documents to understand what maintenance and service is provided by the association, the Town, and what's expected from an individual owner.

DO MY CONDO FEES COVER MY PROPERTY TAXES?

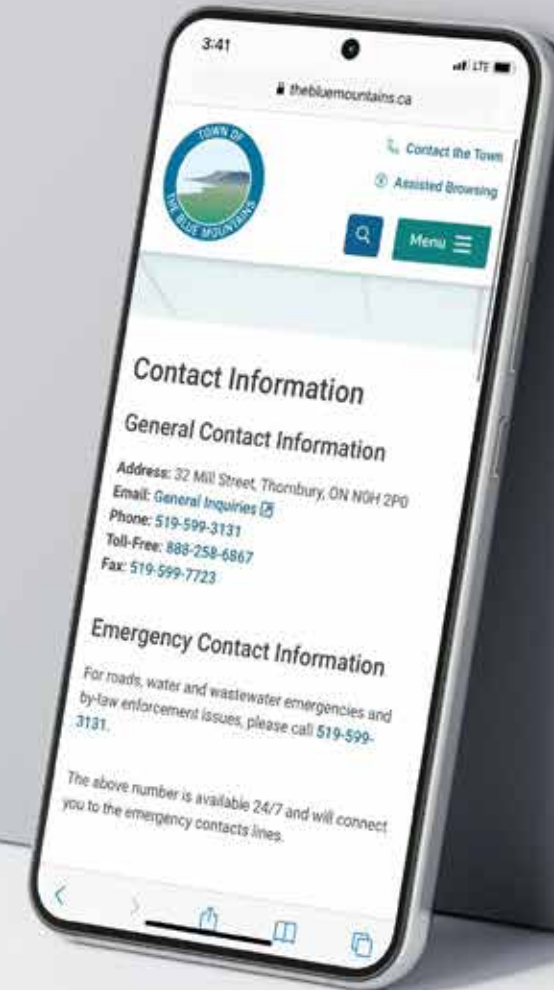
Condominium fees are separate from your property taxes. Your condo By-laws will detail what services your fees provide. Your property taxes contribute to a variety of local services including road maintenance, parks and trails, fire services and more.



STILL HAVE QUESTIONS?

For additional inquiries regarding living in a new build, please contact the Town's Building & Development Engineering Division by scanning the QR code.

Key Municipal Contacts



08



FINANCE & PROPERTY TAXES

(519) 599-3131 ext. 221



COMMUNITY SERVICES

(519) 599-3131 ext. 254



BUILDING SERVICES

(519) 599-3131 ext. 239



OPERATIONS & PUBLIC WORKS

(519) 599-3131 ext. 276



LAND USE PLANNING

(519) 599-3131 ext. 263



BY-LAW ENFORCEMENT

(519) 599-3131 ext. 249



FIRE SERVICES

(519) 599-3131 ext. 101



TOWN CLERK & COUNCIL

(519) 599-3131 ext. 232



GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

(519) 599-3131 ext. 233



STAFF DIRECTORY:

To view a full list of Town contacts by department or name, visit: www.thebluemountains.ca/staff-directory



**You're Going
to Love it Here.**

www.thebluemountains.ca