



Town News

THE BLUE MOUNTAINS NEWSLETTER

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- (519) 599-3131
- info@thebluemountains.ca
- 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

Welcoming Dr. Bali: A Step Forward for Primary Care in The Blue Mountains



Access to primary care has been a growing priority in The Blue Mountains, and this fall brought an encouraging step forward. In October 2025, the Town proudly welcomed Dr. Sonia Bali as the community's newest family physician. This marks a significant milestone in ongoing efforts to enhance local health services and improve access for residents.

Dr. Bali is an internationally trained family physician with previous experience in Alberta and Manitoba. Since arriving in The Blue Mountains, Dr. Bali has begun providing care at The Blue Mountains Community Health Centre. Additionally, Dr. Bali supports patient care at Meaford Hospital and provides medical services for residents in long-term care facilities in Thornbury and Meaford.

Dr. Bali's arrival reflects the dedicated work of the Town's Family Physician Recruitment Working Group, a collaborative team of local volunteers and regional health partners led by Councillor June Porter, whose focus is on improving access to primary care in the community. The group's mandate is to collaborate with municipal leadership to support the recruitment of new physicians and help address the critical need for local healthcare services. This ongoing effort has played an essential role in attracting new medical professionals to The Blue Mountains. To learn more about Health Care and Hospitals in the region, visit www.thebluemountains.ca/HealthCare. Residents seeking a family physician are reminded that the Town does not directly connect individuals with doctors. To be linked with a primary care provider, please register through the provincial Health Care Connect program at www.Ontario.ca/HealthCareConnect.

As the year draws to a close, the arrival of Dr. Bali represents an important milestone in the community's healthcare journey. It reflects the progress already made and reinforces the continued commitment of both the Town and the Family Physician Recruitment Working Group to improving access to primary care for all residents.

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Message from the Mayor

On behalf of The Blue Mountains and Town Council, I want to wish you and your loved ones a very happy holiday season. 2025 has been a productive year for the Town and I look forward to what 2026 has in store.

Looking back on the past year, we certainly have highlights that we are all proud of, not only as Council members, but as Blue Mountains residents. The new Bayview Park has been a hit, bringing families to our beautiful waterfront with all new equipment.

While our staff continue to provide great service in-person at Town facilities or over the phone, we've taken steps to modernize with new online services. Making a service request has never been easier, and now with CloudPermit, residents and builders can apply for, and track, building permits anywhere, at any time.

In October, members of our community felt the impacts of Hurricane Melissa when it made landfall in Jamaica. The agricultural industry in The Blue Mountains receives incredible contributions from the workers who make our region their second home. I'd like to say 'thank you' to everyone who supported the relief efforts. These efforts will continue, and the Town will work with the Georgian Bay Fruit Growers Association to find the best ways we can support these members of our community.

I'd like to thank our Finance Department for their work on the new budget. Our priorities have been set for the coming year with an emphasis on affordability and the services our residents need. Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to provide their feedback for these projects and engaging with Town staff.

Please enjoy the newsletter and take the time to learn all about the great stories and initiatives taking place in our community. Have a great holiday season and celebrate the new year. We can't wait to see what's next in The Blue Mountains.

Andrea Matosons

Holiday Season Service Update

The holiday season is just around the corner, and with it comes a few important schedule changes for Town facilities and services. Essential services will continue as usual; however, residents may notice adjusted hours and modified waste collection schedules during this period.

TOWN HALL

Town Hall will close at noon on Wednesday, December 24, and remain closed through Friday, January 2, 2026. Regular hours will resume on Monday, January 5, as Town services return to their usual schedule.

HOLIDAY WASTE COLLECTION

Waste collection will follow adjusted schedules during the holiday period. There will be no curbside pickup on December 25 or January 1. In both cases, collection will occur the next day, and all other pickup days for that week will be pushed back by one day. Residents are reminded to keep waste boxes accessible, clear of snow and avoid placing materials on the roadway. The Town Waste Disposal Site will also be closed on December 25 and January 1.

As the new year begins, the annual Christmas Tree Collection will run from January 5 to 16. Trees should be placed curbside on your regular pickup day by 7 a.m. and must be free of decorations, plastic and snow.

For more information and service updates regarding waste collection, the "TBM Waste Resource" mobile app is available to download for free on Apple and Android devices, or by visiting www.thebluemountains.ca/garbage-recycling-waste.

LIBRARY & MUSEUM

The Blue Mountains Public Library and the Craigeleith Heritage Depot will be closed from December 24 to 26, and will reopen on Saturday, December 27. Another closure will take place on Thursday, January 1, with regular hours resuming the following day. Throughout the closures, residents can continue to enjoy digital books, movies, databases and exhibits online at www.thebluemountainslibrary.ca.

BEAVER VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE & ARENA

The Beaver Valley Community Centre will close at 4:00 p.m. on December 24, with no Adult Skate or Stick & Puck programming that day. Holiday closures will also take place on December 25, December 26 and January 1. Skaters can still enjoy plenty of time on the ice during the holidays, with public skating running throughout the season. Visit www.thebluemountains.ca/skating to see the complete holiday skating schedule.

WINTER PARKING & SNOW REMOVAL

With winter well underway, the Town is reminding residents that overnight parking restrictions remain in effect until April 15, 2026, prohibiting parking on any Town street between 2 a.m. and 7 a.m. These restrictions help crews maintain safe and efficient snow removal operations. Residents are also asked to keep snow off roads and sidewalks and to move items, including nets, trailers and landscaping materials away from the roadside so they are not damaged during plowing.

STAYING CONNECTED OVER THE HOLIDAYS

While many facilities take a short break, essential services continue, and online tools remain available around the clock at www.thebluemountains.ca. For after-hours Town-related emergencies, residents can call (519) 599-3131.



PROVIDING FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR RESIDENTS OF SIMCOE-GREY

TERRY DOWDALL MP
SIMCOE-GREY

Collingwood Office: 705-445-5557 Terry.Dowdall@parl.gc.ca

Contact my office for assistance with:

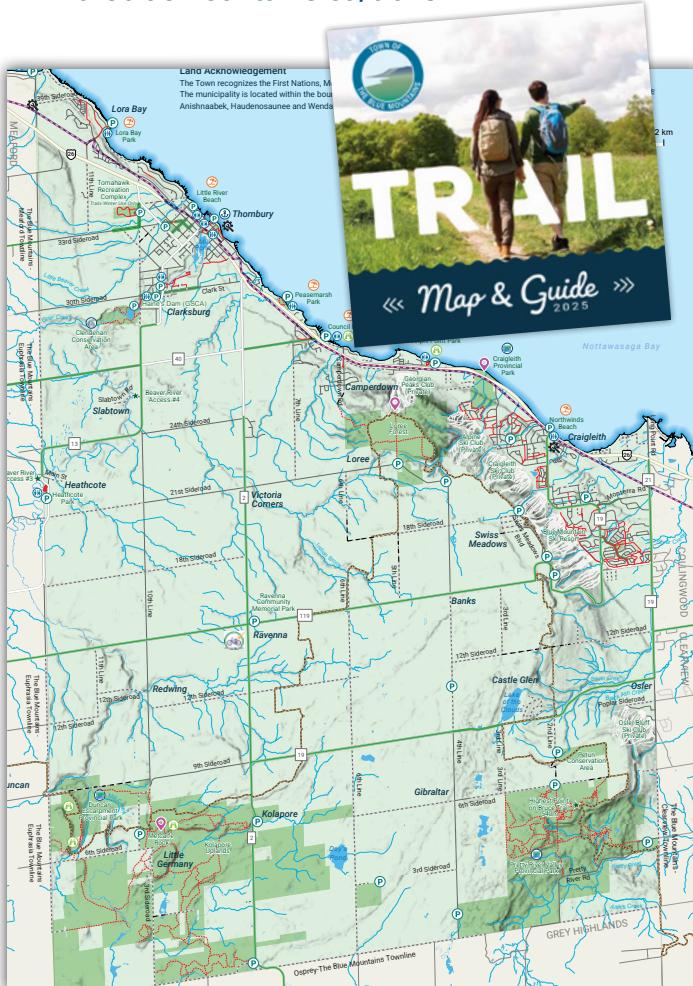
- Congratulatory Certificates
- Canada Revenue Agency
- Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

- Service Canada
 - Employment Insurance
 - Passports
 - Pensions
- Veterans Affairs

Putting the Town of The Blue Mountains on the Map

Every corner of The Blue Mountains holds something worth discovering. Some treasures are rooted in memory and local history, and others are found along winding trails, quiet forests and scenic lookouts. This year, two new mapping projects invite residents and visitors to explore these stories and landscapes in meaningful ways.

The Town's new Trail Map, released in September 2025, is designed as a pocket-sized guide to help users experience the natural beauty of the region. The printed map highlights a variety of trails, lookout points and hidden gems for hikers, walkers, cyclists and outdoor enthusiasts of all skill levels. With up-to-date GIS mapping and practical safety information included throughout, the guide helps users navigate the outdoors confidently and make the most of their time on the trails. Before your next outdoor adventure, pick up a copy of the Trail Map at Town Hall or explore the online version at www.thebluemountains.ca/trails.



While the Trail Map encourages the community to forge new paths, The Blue Mountains Cultural Map, developed by the Craigleath Heritage Depot in collaboration with the Town, invites residents and visitors to take a step back and explore the stories, memories and cultural identity of The Blue Mountains. This interactive map offers a modern way to discover the people, places and traditions that make The Blue Mountains unique. From historic farms and early settlement landmarks to natural features and cherished community traditions, the map reveals the many layers of culture that hold meaning for past, present and future community members.

The Cultural Map is a living project and will continue to evolve and grow with help from the community. The Craigleath Heritage Depot invites the public to contribute their own stories and images to help create a more complete picture of The Blue Mountains, shaped by the history, perspectives and experiences of all those who call it home. To explore the full interactive map, or to learn how to contribute, visit www.thebluemountains.ca/CulturalMap. Physical copies are also available at the Craigleath Heritage Depot, L.E. Shore Library and Town Hall.

Together, the Trail Map and Cultural Map help create a fuller picture of The Blue Mountains. One maps the trails, lookouts and natural features that define the landscape, while the other charts the stories, heritage and cultural touchpoints that shape the community. Each map offers its own meaningful way to discover and appreciate The Blue Mountains, inviting residents and visitors alike to connect with the community in their own way.

Corporate Strategic Plan Update

With a focus on community involvement, the Town is making strong progress on its new Corporate Strategic Plan: "Our Path Forward". After launching the initiative in June with a public open house, the Town has continued to engage residents, staff, Council and partners through surveys, pop-up events, focus groups, workshops and most recently, two public information sessions at Town Hall.

At its core, the project is about defining long-term direction for The Blue Mountains, including an updated vision, mission, values and clear strategic priorities. The four draft strategic priorities – Accountable & Transparent Government, Community for Everyone, Balanced Growth and Strong Economy – have clear objectives and measures to ensure the plan is actioned and that progress is meaningfully tracked.

The draft strategic framework outlines pillars and initiatives designed to respond to our community's needs, informed by both internal assessments and public input. Looking ahead, a final Council workshop will be held on December 18, 2025 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Town Hall, to confirm



the framework following the most recent public engagement sessions.

Once refined, the final Corporate Strategic Plan will come back to Council for adoption. From there, the Town will move into implementation, tracking progress through performance indicators to ensure that our shared vision becomes reality.

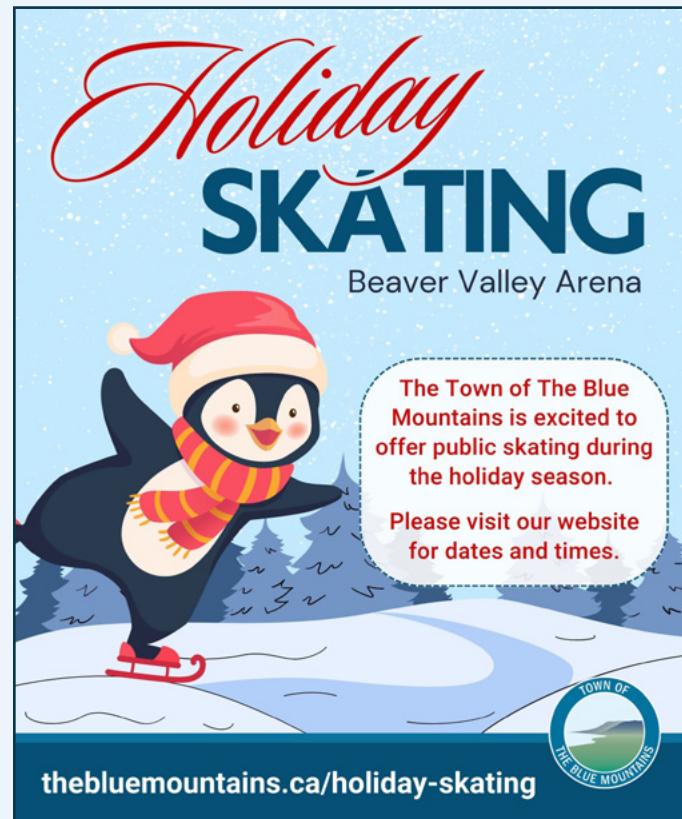
To learn more about the Corporate Strategic Plan, or to view the draft framework, visit www.thebluemountains.ca/OurPathForward.

Shop Local in The Blue Mountains

This holiday season, the Town is encouraging everyone to support the many small businesses that make The Blue Mountains special. Shopping local keeps our storefronts busy, supports local jobs and ensures that the shops you love can flourish year-round.

Whether it's picking out the perfect gift, going out for a great meal or stocking up for the season, shopping local means your dollars are staying close to home and strengthening the local economy.

This season and beyond, remember to support the businesses, entrepreneurs and employees who make Clarksburg, Craigmyle, Thornbury and all of The Blue Mountains such a special place to live. Shop local and spread the cheer close to home.



Online Services Made Simple

The Town has recently introduced multiple new web-based systems to streamline service delivery for residents. These systems cover dog licensing, recreation facility booking, municipal service requests and resident parking passes.

DOG LICENSING

The By-law Department is transitioning its Dog Licensing Program to a new online system through DocuPet. DocuPet is North America's leading pet registration and lost pet recovery service, and provides residents a modern licensing system designed to protect pets and help bring them home quickly if they go missing.

Annual licence renewals will now be processed exactly 365 days from the original purchase date, and renewal communications have been streamlined and automated so pet owners will receive clear, timely reminders ahead of renewal deadlines. Every registration also includes an official DocuPet tag and access to HomeSafe, a 24/7 lost pet service that helps reunite pets with their families quickly and safely.

To learn more, visit
www.thebluemountains.ca/dog-licence



RECREATION FACILITY BOOKING

The Community Services Department is launching a new system to manage its recreation facility availability and scheduling. The platform is built on the Univerus Rec system, and includes all of the Town's parks, pavilions, pickleball courts, tennis courts, baseball diamonds, soccer fields, indoor spaces and ice times.

The new system will streamline the booking process by allowing the public to view availability, request bookings and securely make payment entirely online.

To learn more, visit
www.thebluemountains.ca/facility-rentals

ONLINE MUNICIPAL SERVICE REQUESTS

The Town's Online Municipal Service Request system has been relaunched. This streamlined system allows residents to quickly and easily submit requests for common service issues. This includes curbside garbage collection, missing or damaged signs, boulevard repairs, hazard trees and much more.

All requests will be assigned a tracking number which will allow residents to track the status of the issue as it is addressed by Town staff.

To learn more, visit
www.thebluemountains.ca/online-services

RESIDENT PARKING PASSES

All residents of the Town of The Blue Mountains are permitted to park for free at all paid parking locations owned by the Town. All parking passes expire at the end of the calendar year, and need to be renewed online or by visiting Town Hall. Parking registration for 2026 is now available and can be completed at Town Hall or online.

To learn more, visit
www.thebluemountains.ca/parking-pass

Getting to Know TBM Staff: Stephanie McPhie, Senior GIS Specialist

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

Stephanie McPhie is a Senior GIS Specialist with the Town, where she helps map, analyze and visualize complex data. GIS, or Geographic Information Systems, is a unique problem-solving technology that helps connect data to locations. It allows us to visualize information, like roads, buildings, infrastructure or population trends, so we can see patterns and relationships to make better, more informed decisions.

Stephanie has been with the Town for eight years, following her time with the Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry, the County of Simcoe and the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority. Her favourite thing about working in The Blue Mountains is the people. "I get to collaborate with a team that is not only knowledgeable but also genuinely supportive and willing to share ideas," she said. "I really enjoy working in the IT department. The team is innovative, collaborative and always ready to help tackle challenges. There's always something new to map, analyze or visualize. The combination of amazing coworkers and constantly evolving datasets keeps me motivated and engaged."

This past year, one of Stephanie's major projects was helping the Town transition some of its services to CityWorks, which allows staff to easily convert



service requests into work orders or inspections, and allows members of the public to make a service request online. While many assume GIS is just about making maps, the reality is a lot of the work involves analyzing data, statistics and other information that isn't inherently geographic, and then linking it to locations on a map.

When asked about what might surprise someone about her job, Stephanie says it's the complexity of keeping all the data accurate and up to date. There are detailed processes for maintaining datasets and advanced scripting languages used to build GIS applications and automate workflows. It's not just about maps; it's a mix of data management, programming and problem solving.

Outside of work, Stephanie loves to spend time in the Town hiking with her family, and she's a big fan of gardening and crafts. She's also been trying to learn French, but with two little ones at home, finding time for hobbies can be difficult. Bonne chance, Stephanie!

To view Town maps and GIS data, visit
<https://data.thebluemountains.ca>



Overnight Winter Parking Restrictions

Overnight parking is prohibited on all Town streets from 2:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. These restrictions are in effect between November 1, 2025, to April 15, 2026.

Thornbury Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion

A little more than two years since construction started, North American Construction Ltd. is putting the finishing touches on Phase 1A of the Thornbury Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion. The plant was operating at 80% of its capacity in 2023, and was not capable of supporting the forecasted growth of the Thornbury sewer shed.

Phase 1A of the project saw the design, construction and installation of all equipment required to increase the plant's capacity from 3,580 m³ per day, to 5,330 m³ per day. It also gave staff the opportunity to increase the plant's energy efficiency by implementing systems that allow it to scale its operations in conjunction with peak daily demand periods.

With Phase 1A of the expansion nearing completion, the Town is looking ahead towards Phase 1B which would see the total capacity increased to 7,080 m³ per day. Staff have released a request for proposal seeking an engineering firm to complete the design of the next phase. This phase is scoped out to include:



- Construction of a fourth extended aeration tank
- Construction of a fourth clarifier tank
- Addition of one return activated sludge pump and one waste activated sludge pump, and their associated drives
- Addition of a tertiary treatment system
- Addition of an odour control system for the headworks
- Addition of a back-up diesel generator
- Assessment of methods to disperse biosolids evenly in the existing on-site lagoons
- Preparation of an Asset Replacement Report to assist with the Town's asset management program

For a look back at the Phase 1A work, visit www.thebluemountains.ca/TWWTPExpansion



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