








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

STAY UP-TO-DATE

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After Reading

2026 Municipal & School Board Election

October 26, 2026

TOWN OF THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

VOTE 2026
MUNICIPAL ELECTION

2026 Municipal Election: Dates & How to Become a Candidate

The nomination period for the 2026 Municipal and School Board Elections runs from May 1 to 2:00 p.m. on Friday, August 21, 2026. Candidates must book an appointment with the Town Clerk to file paperwork. Once filed, they can begin raising and spending campaign funds. The August 21 deadline also applies to filing, withdrawing, or changing nominations.

Voting takes place from 10 a.m. on Friday, October 16 to 8 p.m. on Monday, October 26, 2026 (EST). Residents of the Town of The Blue Mountains can vote online or by phone 24/7 during this period, with in-person help available at Town Hall.

Check or update your voter information at:
www.RegisterToVoteON.ca.

For more details, contact the Town Clerk at (519) 599-3131 ext. 232, visit Town Hall (32 Mill Street, Thornbury), or visit:
www.thebluemountains.ca/elections.

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READ MORE

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

www.thebluemountains.ca/news



Message from the Mayor

Greetings from the beautiful Blue Mountains. We embrace new beginnings in spring and welcome a year of change. The election season has officially begun, and I will be concluding my terms in office after eight years of serving the community and four years of serving the county. It has been an incredible experience working with so many remarkable people in our community and county. I look forward to fulfilling my final months as your Mayor and Grey County Warden!

Serving The Blue Mountains has been a gratifying opportunity to make a contribution to our community, and if you have any interest in running for a seat on Council in the upcoming election, please contact our Town Clerk. The Clerks' Department is located on the main floor in our Town Hall. The Town Clerk can provide information and resources to potential candidates related to the municipal election process, as well as dates for election workshops hosted by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO).

There is plenty to look forward this year in The Blue Mountains. One of the events I'm most excited about is the Multicultural Celebration that will be hosted by the YMCA of Owen Sound Grey Bruce at Moreau Park on June 27. This event will be a fabulous showcase of many cultures that make our community a great place to live for all ages and stages of life.

Progress continues at the new Fire Hall site in Craighleith. In addition to exciting news for the site, the Town has come to an agreement with peopleCare to use the property adjacent to the Fire Hall as the new location for a 192 bed Long-Term Care home for our community. These are important additions to The Blue Mountains, and we are excited to take the next steps forward.

Please enjoy the newsletter and learn all about new and exciting projects and initiatives in The Blue Mountains.

Andrea Matrosova

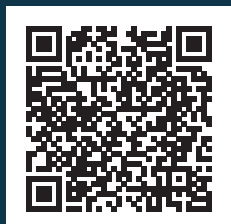
Lighting Our Path Forward: From Plan to Action

Earlier this year, Council approved the Town of The Blue Mountains' 2026-2027 Corporate Strategic Plan, Our Path Forward. Since then, work has been underway to bring that direction into focus, ensuring the path ahead is not only defined, but visible and accountable.

To support this, the Plan has been brought together into a comprehensive document that captures the full journey behind Our Path Forward. It outlines how the Plan was developed, the local context and input that shaped its priorities, and the considerations that will continue to guide implementation over time. It also brings clarity to how everything connects, linking the Town's guiding vision, mission and priorities to the master plans, business plans and budgets that drive day-to-day work across the organization.

At Town Hall, a wall installation outside of Council Chambers is beginning to take shape. While still being finalized, it already serves as a reminder of the Town's approved strategic priorities. Once complete, it will become a highly visible resource for staff, Council and the public, creating a clear line of sight between decisions made in Council Chambers and the Town's strategic direction, reinforcing transparency and accountability.

As implementation of the Plan continues, the first quarterly report will mark the next step in bringing progress into view. Anticipated in late July, this report will provide a detailed update on the status of each strategic priority, initiative and objective, showing how staff's day-to-day work is advancing the Town's path forward.



To learn more about the Corporate Strategic Plan, explore the official 2026-2027 document and stay up to date with future quarterly reports and annual highlights, scan the QR code or visit: www.thebluemountains.ca/Strategic-Plan.

Spring into the Season: Key Reminders for Residents

As the weather warms and more people head outdoors, activity across The Blue Mountains shifts, with neighbourhood streets, parks and trails seeing increased use. Whether arriving for the season or settling into a spring and summer routine, it is a good time to revisit a few key reminders that help keep shared spaces accessible, clean and enjoyable for everyone.

PLANNING AHEAD FOR PARKING

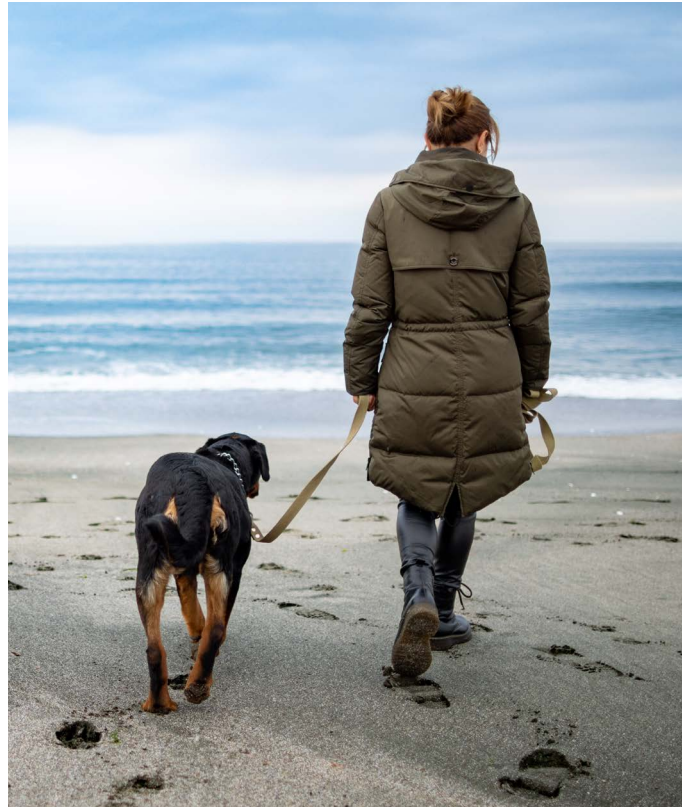
When heading to local beaches, parks and trails, both seasonal and full-time residents are reminded to register for a 2026 Resident Parking Permit. With a valid permit, residents of The Blue Mountains can park at no cost in Town-owned paid parking areas, making it easier to access popular outdoor amenities throughout the season.

As part of this year's process, residents are required to set up a household account. This one-time setup allows multiple vehicles to be managed under a single account and makes it easy to purchase temporary parking permits for visiting friends and family at \$5 per day, for up to 14 days per household.

Vehicles must be re-registered annually, even if they have been registered in previous years. Registration can be completed online or in person at Town Hall during regular business hours.

To get started, visit:

www.thebluemountains.ca/parkingpermits



SHARING SPACES WITH PETS

With more residents and visitors enjoying the outdoors with their dogs, responsible pet ownership through small, everyday habits helps maintain shared spaces.

Dogs must be kept on leash when outside of designated leash-free areas to protect residents, other pets, and local wildlife. Picking up and properly disposing of pet waste is equally important. Bringing waste bags and using appropriate receptacles helps keep parks, trails and neighbourhoods clean and enjoyable.

All dogs in The Blue Mountains must also be licensed annually. Through the Town's DocuPet program, licences are valid for 365 days and include a tag linked to a secure online profile, helping lost pets be identified and returned home more quickly.

To learn more, visit:

www.thebluemountains.ca/dog-licence

OUTDOOR WATER USE

As attention turns to lawns and gardens, residents are reminded that annual Stage 1 watering restrictions will be in effect from June 1 to September 1, 2026.

During this time, properties with odd-numbered addresses may water on odd-numbered calendar days, while even-numbered addresses may water on even-numbered days. Watering is permitted between 7 a.m. and 9 a.m., and 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. These restrictions apply to outdoor water use, including lawn watering and garden irrigation. Automated irrigation systems should be programmed to operate only during permitted times.

These measures help manage water demand during peak periods and ensure capacity remains available during busy weekends and in the event of an emergency.

To learn more, visit:

www.thebluemountains.ca/water-services



SPRING CLEAN-UP AT THE CURB

Spring clean-ups often result in more waste at the curb as garages, sheds, and yards are cleared out.

When tidying up, residents are reminded to follow curbside collection requirements for garbage and recycling, including proper set-out times. Materials must be placed at the curb by 7 a.m. on collection day. If setting items out the night before, they should be placed no earlier than 7 p.m.

Following these guidelines helps ensure efficient collection and keeps neighbourhoods clean during the busier months.

To learn more, visit: www.thebluemountains.ca/garbage-recycling-waste

With the new season underway, these small habits and shared responsibilities play an essential role in maintaining a clean, accessible and well-managed community for residents and visitors alike.

Town Park Projects Reach Key Design Milestone

The Town has reached an important design milestone in two major community park projects. Preliminary design concepts have been completed for the revitalization of Moreau Park in Thornbury, and the development of the new Craigleith Community Park.

The concepts for both parks were unveiled to the public through a series of Design Open Houses and public surveys in February and April of this year. The designs were completed by SHIFT Landscape Architecture, and reflect feedback received through the initial phases of public consultation for each project.

The project team will be bringing separate Staff Reports to Council for each park with a summary of the feedback received through the Open Houses and surveys. The reports will also include preliminary cost estimates, information on funding sources and possible options for phasing of construction. Council's direction will help determine the final elements to be included in the designs. Once Council has provided direction, SHIFT will begin detailed design which will include another opportunity for community consultation.



"We're excited to be taking the next steps in these projects," said the Town's Director of Community Services, Ryan Gibbons. "The community has shown a great amount of support and interest in these projects, and we want to keep that engagement and momentum going through the final design and construction process."

To learn more about each project, and to subscribe for ongoing project updates, please visit the Town's dedicated project web pages at www.thebluemountains.ca/CapitalProjects.

Parks, Open Spaces and Trails Master Plan

Are you interested in the development of public spaces? Stay tuned for the kickoff of the Town's Parks, Open Spaces and Trails (POST) Master Plan. The plan will provide strategic guidance for parkland acquisition, enhancement of green spaces, development and connectivity of recreational trails and the effective management of open space. Details will be available at www.thebluemountains.ca/POST later this summer.

Getting to Know TBM Staff: Jason Petznick, Communications Coordinator

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

Jason Petznick is a Communications Coordinator with the Town, where he helps share information on Town projects and initiatives with the public. While Jason spends a lot of his time helping the Operations Department communicate with the public for their Capital Projects, he's also an invaluable resource for the Town with an extensive background in visual media. In fact, a lot of the photos you see in this newsletter were captured by Jason!

Jason stepped into his role with the Town five years ago, following 10 years working in the Marketing Department at Blue Mountain Resort. In his role as Communications Coordinator, he can be found doing everything to help engage the public. In the span of a week, he could go from filming videos explaining the Town's engineering process, to helping upgrade the Town website, to knocking on doors to inform residents of upcoming work in their community and to helping lead a Community Engagement Session. "It sounds cliché, but I really like the variety of my job," says Jason. "No two days are alike, and I get to spend my time focusing on projects that provide a long-term benefit to the community while also exploring creative ways to tell those stories."

This past year, Jason has been instrumental in helping with the Moreau Park Redevelopment and the new Craigleith Community Park. Working with Project Manager Katie Love and the consultants at SHIFT, Jason has helped survey the public, run Open Houses and share next steps and important information with the community.



Being a Communications Coordinator isn't just writing emails and press releases. Jason takes the time to translate complex, technical information into clear, plain language that the public can understand. He works on tight timelines, balancing multiple projects and making sure key updates are accurate, accessible and easy to find. Above all, it's about strategy: identifying the right audiences, choosing the right channels and ensuring important messages reach them at the right time.

In his free time, Jason keeps active with his family. He also enjoys mountain biking, road biking, volleyball, baseball, skating and snowboarding. In fact, he has been able to travel the world as an internationally-accredited snowboard judge, where he's worked World Cup events in Austria, China and the Republic of Georgia.

To stay up to date on all Town Communications and see more of Jason's work, visit: www.thebluemountains.ca/subscribe

Celebrate Diversity in The Blue Mountains

On Saturday, June 27, join the YMCA of Owen Sound Grey Bruce and the Town of The Blue Mountains at Moreau Park in Thornbury for the 5th Annual Multicultural Celebration.

This is a free, family-friendly event celebrating the rich diversity that makes our community shine. Taking place from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., this vibrant event celebrates cultures from around the world and brings people together through food, music, art and cultural expression.

Whether you're passionate about international cuisine, live performances or simply learning about the customs and traditions of others, there's something for everyone at this unique community event.

Attendees are encouraged to wear their traditional cultural attire and celebrate the diversity that makes our communities stronger.

The YMCA's Multicultural Day Celebration is hosted in a different community each year to broaden outreach and foster inclusion across the Grey Bruce region.

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS:

- Live music and cultural performances throughout the day, including Saugeen First Nation Drumming Circle, Caribbean Steel Drums, Ukrainian and Highland Dance, Chinese heritage displays and Dhol bagpipes
- A wide variety of international food vendors
- Arts and crafts market featuring handmade cultural items
- Children's activities such as henna tattoos, face painting, crafts, games and more

For more information, visit:
www.ymcaowensound.on.ca/multicultural-celebration

OPEN DOORS

ESTD 2026



**Sunday June 7
10am to 3:30pm**



Step inside six heritage sites usually closed to the public!



Hunt for 450-million-year-old fossils with a paleontologist!



Learn more here

