



Town News

THE BLUE MOUNTAINS NEWSLETTER

STAY CONNECTED



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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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Please Recycle
After Reading

Protecting Your Property Starts at Ground Level

Summer is often a busy season for construction and landscaping projects, from new driveways and patios to other property improvements. While these projects can enhance a property's appearance and function, they can also affect how rainwater flows across a lot. Whether building new or upgrading an existing property, lot grading and drainage play an important role in protecting homes from flooding, pooling and water damage.

For new construction, proper grading is designed and installed during the building process to ensure rainwater is directed away from the home and neighbouring properties from the start. For existing homes, maintaining or improving grading around the property is just as important, as changes over time, such as settling soil, landscaping updates or driveway modifications, can affect how water flows.

Effective grading helps prevent issues such as flooding, erosion

and foundation damage. Drainage solutions such as swales, ditches, downspouts or stormwater systems work together to safely guide water away from structures. Homeowners are encouraged to regularly check drainage patterns around their property, especially after heavy rainfall or seasonal changes, to identify potential drainage issues early.

Whether building new or maintaining an existing property, speaking with the Town's Building Services and Engineering staff early about your drainage plans can help ensure compliance with local standards and avoid costly repairs later. Good grading and drainage not only protect individual homes but also support neighbouring properties and help maintain healthy local waterways and a more resilient community.

To learn more about Lot Grading within the Town of The Blue Mountains, visit www.thebluemountains.ca/LotGrading.

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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 Blue Mountains. I'm excited to share this edition of the Town newsletter with you. Summer has arrived, and there's no better place to cool off than the shores of Georgian Bay. Inside, you'll find a guide to some of the Town's best beaches to enjoy with family and friends.

With the Municipal Election taking place this October, we're highlighting the important work of our Clerk's division. Acting Deputy Clerk Carrie Fairley plays a key role in ensuring the election is conducted fairly and in accordance with the Municipal Elections Act. Learn more about her role and the work involved in supporting candidates, maintaining the Voters List, and helping residents participate in the election.

I was also honoured to present James Hindle with the Ontario Senior of the Year Award. Since opening Hindle's Clarksburg Hardware in 1971, James has made lasting contributions to our community, and this recognition is well deserved.

As construction season continues, remember the importance of proper lot grading and drainage when planning outdoor projects. You'll also find updates on several major infrastructure projects currently underway across the Town.

As this is the final newsletter before the election, I want to sincerely thank you for the privilege of serving as your Mayor over the past four years, following my previous term as Councillor. It has been an honour to represent The Blue Mountains. Thank you, merci, miigwetch.

Andrea Matrosos

2026 Tax Bill Information

2026 Final Tax Bill Payment Due Dates: **August 20, 2026** and **October 20, 2026**. Please note that payments made after July 7, 2026 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 <https://vch.thebluemountains.ca/VCH/>

TO CALCULATE YOUR TAXES:

The residential tax rate for 2026 is 0.01032417. The following example shows how to calculate property taxes levied on a residential property valued at \$530,000 (exclusive of local improvements, if any): $\$530,000 \times 0.01032417 = \$5,471.81$.

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 2026 were March 20, 2026 and May 20, 2026.

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 2026 are August 20, 2026 and October 20, 2026.

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. The legislation allows MPAC to assess new construction or improvements for the current year and two prior years if applicable. Homeowners are encouraged to factor in these tax bills and set aside funds for future bills.

TAX ADJUSTMENTS:

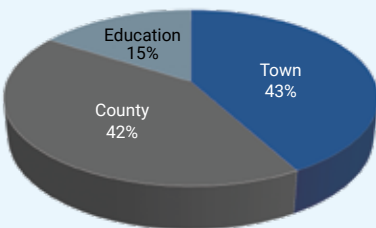
Pending tax adjustments resulting from an assessment change provided by MPAC will be processed in due course after the final tax bill.

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.



Explore the Shoreline

FROM NORTHWINDS TO CHRISTIE BEACH, DISCOVER THE MANY PUBLIC WATERFRONT DESTINATIONS WAITING TO BE EXPLORED THIS SUMMER.

Northwinds Beach

Northwinds Beach is one of the most popular beaches in the municipality. It features a large sandy beach waterfront along with a playground, washroom facilities and several picnic tables throughout the park. Parking is free for residents with a valid parking pass.

Craigleith Provincial Park

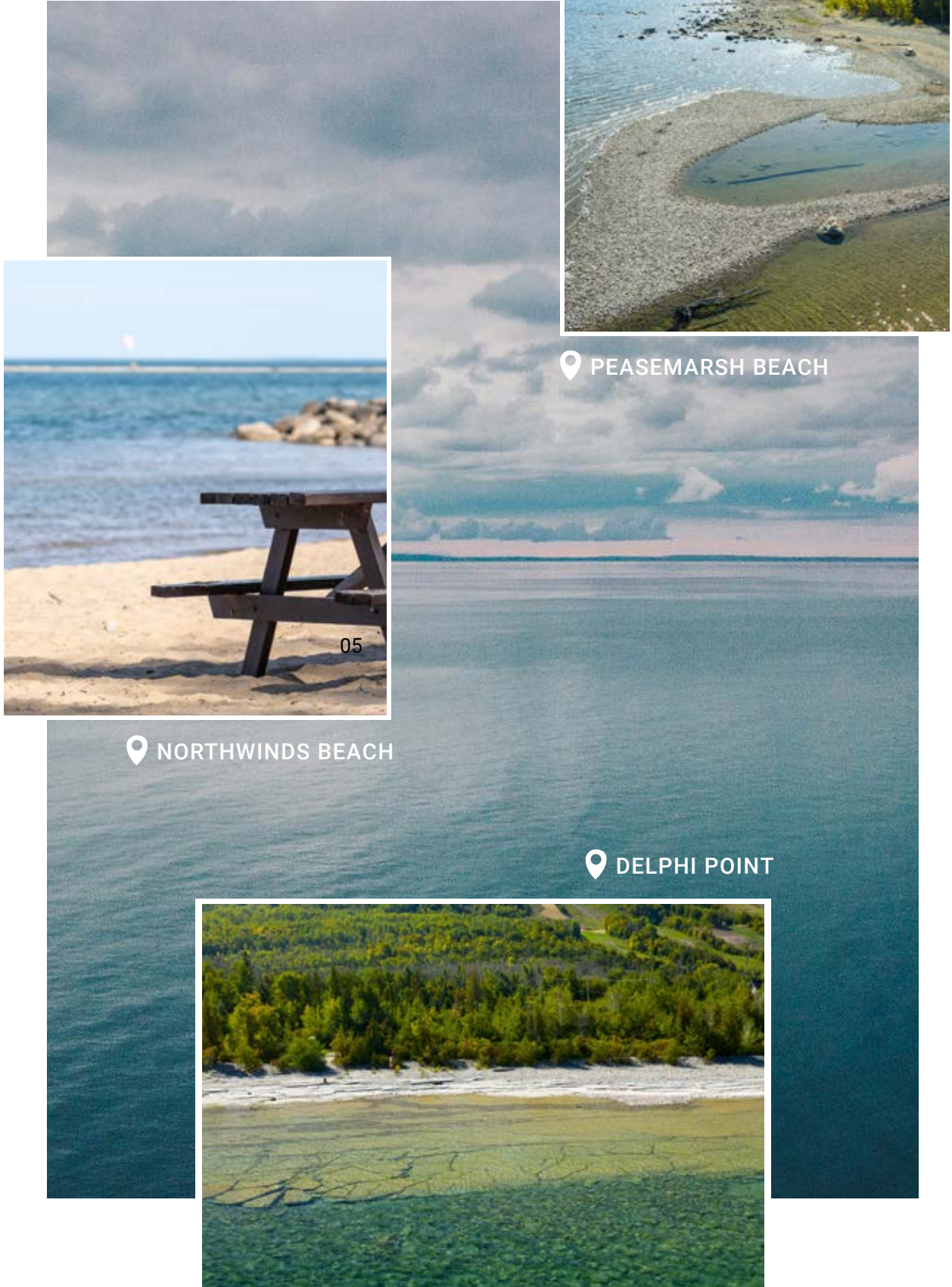
Operated by Ontario Parks, the Craigleith Provincial Park features a shale shoreline that is ideal for wind surfing, swimming or launching a kayak, canoe or paddle board. Day-use fees are in effect.

Delphi Point

Delphi Point Park is located directly across the road from the Georgian Peaks Ski Club and provides a large shale waterfront. There is a small covered pavilion onsite for picnics and plenty of green space. Parking is free for residents with a valid parking pass.

Council Beach

Council Beach provides a sandy pebble beach waterfront and views of the ski hills and Georgian Bay. There is a small park with two swing sets, as well as picnic tables and a portable toilet. Parking is free for residents with a valid parking pass.



Peasemarth Beach

Peasemarth Park has a large parking lot and is connected to the Peasemarth Conservation Area. The park provides a sand pebble beach waterfront and beautiful views of Georgian Bay. Parking is free for residents with a valid parking pass.

Bayview Park

Bayview Park is one of the Town's most popular picnic areas. It features a beautiful waterfront, large covered pavilion, tennis courts, beach volleyball court and updated playground equipment with an accessible rubber surface. Parking is free for residents with a valid parking pass. Due to active construction on Bay Street East, it's recommended to access from Mill Street and Cottage Avenue.

Little River Beach Park

Little River Park has a pebble beach and waterfront that is in close proximity to the Thornbury Pier and Harbour. Amenities include a public washroom, picnic tables, a playground and treed green space. Parking is free for residents with a valid parking pass.

Christie Beach Conservation Area

Managed by the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority, Christie Beach is located on the border of the Town of The Blue Mountains and the Municipality of Meaford. It features a sand beach for swimming, picnic pavilion and seasonal washrooms. Paid parking is in effect.

Additional opened and unopened road allowances also provide informal access to the Town's waterfront. However, these areas are not maintained by the Town for public access, and parking is often limited or prohibited at these locations. More details can be found in the Town's Leisure Activities Plan at www.thebluemountains.ca/master-plans.



Inside Town Hall

MEET CARRIE FAIRLEY,
ACTING DEPUTY CLERK

Carrie Fairley is the Acting Deputy Clerk for The Blue Mountains. Her duties include organizing the agenda for Council meetings and assisting the Town Clerk in fulfilling the legislative requirements and services of the municipality such as issuing marriage licenses, lottery licenses and liquor licenses (in accordance with the AGCO).

Carrie has been with the Town for four years, following her time in the real estate industry, where she worked in the legal and compliance departments at the Real Estate Council of Ontario. Her favourite thing about working in The Blue Mountains is the community and culture. "I get to work in the community I grew up in," she said. "The culture and people that work here are awesome, and I really love my work, including the challenges that come with it."

This year, Carrie will be focusing on the upcoming Municipal and School Board Election. She'll be helping ensure electors are on the voter's list, that candidates file their nomination papers properly and will be providing assistance during the voting period at the Voter Help Centre.



The Voter Help Centre will be available at The Blue Mountains Town Hall where voters can ask questions, register to vote (with proper identification), get voting assistance and vote independently via internet or telephone.

While many people think a Deputy Clerk might just be taking minutes at Council Meetings, Carrie says there's much more to it: "In reality, we're part election administrator, part legislative expert, part records manager, part privacy officer and part guardian of the municipality's democratic process". All those parts add up to a very busy employee for The Blue Mountains!

In her spare time, Carrie enjoys being outdoors in The Blue Mountains, hiking with her dog, working around the house and being active.

To learn more about the upcoming elections, visit www.thebluemountains.ca/elections.

A Cornerstone of the Community

JAMES HINDLE NAMED 2026
SENIOR OF THE YEAR

The Town is pleased to announce that James Hindle has been selected as the recipient of the 2026 Province of Ontario Senior of the Year Award for the Town of The Blue Mountains. James received the award from Mayor Matrosovs and Council at the June 22 Council Meeting.

"James Hindle is a true institution in Clarksburg and beyond, and his dedication to this community over the years has left a lasting impact on residents and visitors alike," said Mayor Andrea Matrosovs.

"James is not only a trusted local business owner, but a generous resident who is always ready to lend a helping hand. His kindness, knowledge and commitment to others make him an incredibly deserving recipient of this year's Ontario Senior of the Year Award."

For more than five decades, James has been at the heart of Clarksburg through Hindle's Clarksburg Hardware, a beloved family-owned business that has served as far more than a hardware store. Since opening in 1971, Hindle's has become a community gathering place. Locals know that he has every hard-to-find part imaginable, along with the expert advice and friendly conversation that you simply cannot find anywhere else.

Capital Projects at a Glance

CATCH UP ON THE LATEST PROGRESS FROM THE TOWN'S
MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS.

Thornbury West Phase 1B Reconstruction

Moorefield Excavating has completed Phase 1B of the Thornbury West Reconstruction project. Some small tasks and site clean up will be completed in early July. This puts a cap on a project that saw construction of Phase 1A begin in 2022, and preliminary design initiated back in 2016.

New Craigleith Fire Hall #2

Construction of the new Craigleith Fire Hall is ongoing. The Town's contractor expects to be completing foundation work before the end of July, and then will begin erecting the building's frame with the goal of getting it enclosed and sealed to the weather before the end of fall.

Peel Street North Reconstruction

Walker Construction has completed the Peel Street North Reconstruction project. The pedestrian bridge connection at Bay Street West originally included in the project scope has been deferred until more investigation can be completed on the stability of the banks of the Little Beaver River.

Bay Street East Reconstruction

Arnott Construction is continuing to work on the reconstruction of Bay Street East, east of Elgin Street. Restoration work between Mill Street and Elgin Street has begun, with base asphalt being placed in early July.

Thornbury Wastewater Treatment Plant Treated Effluent Outfall Pipe Assembly and Installation

Clearway Construction has begun installation of the new treated effluent outfall pipe for the Thornbury Wastewater Treatment Plant. Pipe fusing efforts are ongoing at Lora Bay Park, and the subcontractor completing the in-water work will begin their portion of the work starting in July.

Craigleith Main Lift Station Upgrades

Peak Construction Group has been completing exterior and interior site work at the Craigleith Main Lift Station, and has been preparing a bypass pumping setup to employ while the mechanical and structural upgrades are being completed.

Mill Street Sewage Pumping Station Upgrades

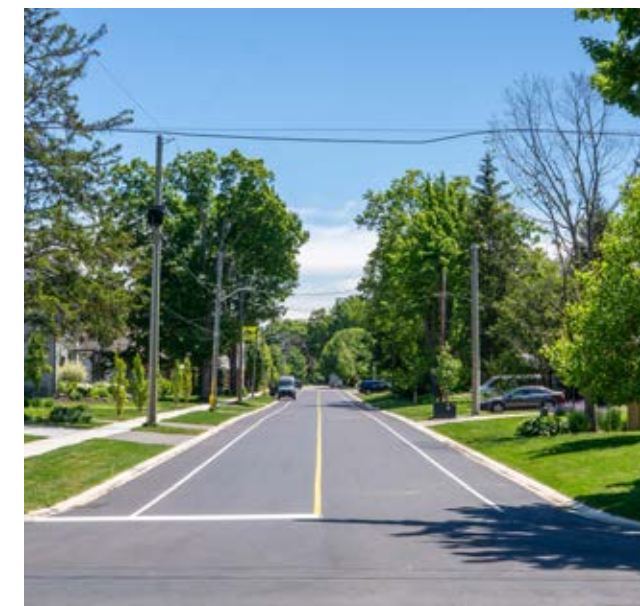
The tender window for the Mill Street Sewage Pumping Station Upgrades has closed. The Town is reviewing the bids received from the contractors, and expects to award the construction contract with work beginning in the summer of 2026.

Bridge and Culvert Rehabilitation

Arnott Construction's work on this year's bridge and culvert rehabilitation program is ongoing. Full closures of the 10th Line Bridge in Red Wing and the 6th Line Bridge north of 12th Sideroad are upcoming. Construction and schedule updates can be found on the [Town's project web page](#).

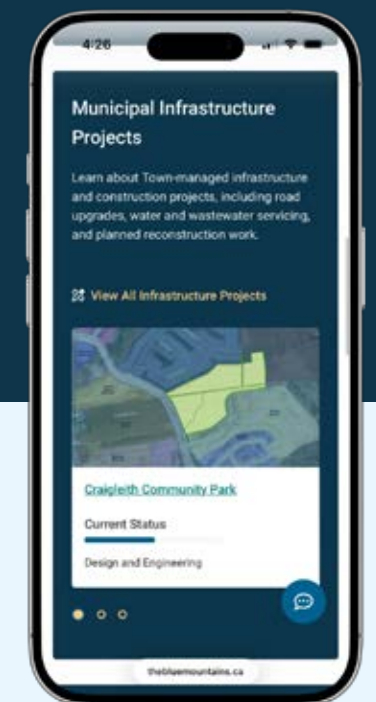
Substandard Watermain Replacement Phase 3

The Town's contractor completed installation and commissioning of the new watermain in 2025. They will be returning this summer to complete paving on Alice Street West.



Stay Informed

FOLLOW THE PROGRESS OF
INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS
HAPPENING ACROSS THE
BLUE MOUNTAINS.



www.thebluemountains.ca/capitalprojects



Need a Local Family Doctor or Nurse Practitioner?

Sign Up Through Health Care Connect

The Ontario **Health Care Connect** (HCC) program helps you find a **local** family doctor or nurse practitioner who is accepting new patients.

You can register even if you already have a doctor or nurse practitioner outside the area. You do not need to give up your current provider while you wait.



How to Register:

- 1 Online:** visit ontario.ca/healthcareconnect
- 2 Or by phone:** Call 8-1-1, available 24/7

What You Need to Register:

- A valid Ontario health card
- An up-to-date mailing address

Need Care While You Wait?

- ✓ For local health services visit: greybruceoht.ca/community-resources
- ✓ For help finding local health services call: **2-1-1** or visit 211.ca
- ✓ For emergencies call **9-1-1**

Register Today!



ontario.ca/healthcareconnect