



## *The Butterfly of Christmas*

Our winter solstice frames days of shortening and nights of lengthening,  
Sunlight peeks through the blanket of clouds;  
frost and snow renew their vows of marriage;  
And we hearken to safe passage, comfort of hearth, libation and loved ones.  
Mortal protection these, yet calls upon our heart and soul are the siren of the season,  
For ours is to seek illumination of hope, wreaths of peace, lyrics of joy.

Faith divine is our humble subject, whose blessing is Light's casting,  
From which the world's darkness fades its defeat into Hades' shades.  
This faith is born of Light, and we, butterfly like, freed from the wrap  
of cocoon's restraint,  
Flutter now into gilded rays, drawn ever upward to greet the Source of Light,  
For to each of every human soul, such seeking of the Source is the destiny to eternity.

Whether the Source be in the Manger, Mount Horeb, Mecca, or the Lotus tree.  
'Tis ours to celebrate the Light for eternity, for glory, for peace, for unity,  
And in unison of worship to bless upon all and one:  
"Happy Holy Days"!

JEREMY WENTWORTH-STANLEY

DECEMBER 2023

respectonomics.com

## Ontario sees a record increase in the value of property inventory with \$42 billion in new assessments

Ontario's property inventory grew by more than \$42 billion through new construction and property improvements in 2023. Residential homes, including condominiums, accounted for more than \$31 billion of this increase, while commercial and industrial properties contributed more than \$6 billion, which is an increase of 31.5 per cent from 2022.

The assessed value of more than 5.6 million properties in Ontario is now estimated to be approximately \$3.14 trillion. MPAC summarized these changes in the annual assessment rolls that were delivered to Ontario's 444 municipalities this week.

Across Ontario, 10 municipalities accounted for more than 44 per cent of new property value. Toronto led the way for another year at \$9.93 billion (up from \$8.7 billion in 2022) followed by Ottawa at \$3.37 billion (down from \$4.4 billion), then Vaughan at \$1.58 billion (up from \$1.1 billion), Oakville at \$1.55 billion (up from \$1.1 billion), and Brampton at \$1.35 billion up from \$974 million).

When looking at the growth rates for municipalities with populations less than 15,000, Southwold (near London) had the largest overall growth this year (\$286.2 million). **Blue Mountains followed with \$166.7 million**, then Muskoka Lakes with \$152.3 million, Middlesex Centre with \$119.6 million and Carleton Place with \$113.4 million.

"We remain steadfast in our commitment to delivering accurate assessments," says Carmelo Lipsi, Vice President of Valuation & Customer Relations. "We look forward to continuing to provide valuable insights for

*continued on page 2*

# Country Boy Hauling



**DUMP & SCRAP RUNS, DELIVERIES  
LANDSCAPING AND YARD CLEANUP  
GRASS MAINTENANCE, SNOWBLOWING**

LUCAS GOLDSWORTHY, OWNER-OPERATOR  
countryboy.hauling.landscaping@gmail.com

**705-606-2817**



BVO is now accepting resumes for  
**Kids Club After School  
Program Staff**

2:30 to 5:30 pm Monday - Friday  
Visit

[www.bvo.ca/join-our-team/](http://www.bvo.ca/join-our-team/)  
for more information.



## BID EUCHRE

Wednesday & Thursday 12:50-3:30pm; \$2.00 per day  
Small Hall, Beaver Valley Community Centre  
Lessons Available - Bev 705-507-0563 or Dorothy 519-599-5044

## DROP-IN BRIDGE

MONDAY 1PM-3PM; \$2.00 PER PERSON  
St. George's Anglican Church, Clarksburg

## Enjoy walking year round at the Beaver Valley Community Centre.

Monday and Thursday from 9-11 am; no pre-registration or fee.  
Come whatever time you wish between 9-11 am.  
Walking with poles (with rubber feet) and walkers is allowed.

## ST. JAMES FAIRMOUNT ANGLICAN CHURCH

196759 Grey Rd 7 corner of Grey Rd 7 & Grey Rd 40

**1st & 3rd Sunday 9am** - Holy Eucharist BCP

**2nd & 4th Sunday 9am** - Morning Prayer BCP

**5th Sunday 4pm** - Evensong BCP & Potluck Supper

**Christmas Eve Service, December 24th 7:00pm**

Rector Jeff Kischak, 519-770-7979



**E-NEWSLETTER** - Use the subscribe form on our website to receive the weekly E-newsletter. [www.bluemountainsreview.ca](http://www.bluemountainsreview.ca)

**MONTHLY NEWSLETTER** This edition is mailed to residents in The Blue Mountains the first week of each month

**DONATE** - by e-transfer to [info@visitblue.ca](mailto:info@visitblue.ca) or by cheque to Riverside Press, Box 387, Thornbury, N0H 2P0

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:** We ask that letters be no longer than 250 words, and adhere to standards of fairness, accuracy, legality and civility. Beyond that, we select letters on the basis of timeliness, relevance and diversity and reserve the right to not publish.

**ARTICLES** are from media releases or those that are submitted acknowledge the author.

Publisher Linda Wykes, printed by Riverside Press. Your events, stories and photos of interest to our community can be emailed to [info@visitblue.ca](mailto:info@visitblue.ca) for inclusion in the newsletter by each Friday. Advertising rates available on the website or call 519-599-3345

## Continued from page 1

property owners and municipalities on Ontario's changing property inventory."

Property assessments for the 2024 property tax year will continue to be based on January 1, 2016 assessed values. This means property assessments remain the same as the 2023 tax year unless changes have been made to the property. A planned reassessment in 2020 was paused due to the pandemic and has not been rescheduled.

## About MPAC

MPAC is an independent, not-for-profit corporation funded by all Ontario municipalities, accountable to the Province, municipalities and property taxpayers through its 13-member Board of Directors.

Our role is to accurately assess and classify all properties in Ontario in compliance with the Assessment Act and regulations set by the Government of Ontario. We are the largest assessment jurisdiction in North America, maintaining an inventory of more than 5.6 million properties with an estimated total value of more than \$3.1 trillion.

For additional information, visit [www.mpac.ca](http://www.mpac.ca)

## Ontario's Top Baby Names in 2022



TORONTO— Olivia and Noah continue to top the charts as Ontario's most popular baby names in 2022. Olivia has held the top spot for girls for over a decade, with 14 consecutive years as number one. This year, we also welcome Chloe to the top 10 list for the first time, tied with Isla for 7th place.

When it comes to boy names, once again Noah is in the top spot for the fourth year in a row, with Liam following closely behind as the second-most popular name. Theodore inched up two spots this year.

The top 10 names for girls and boys in 2022 were:

### Girls

Olivia  
Charlotte  
Amelia  
Emma  
Sophia  
Ava  
Chloe/Isla  
Evelyn  
Lily  
Mia

### Boys

Noah  
Liam  
Oliver  
Theodore  
Jack  
Benjamin  
Lucas  
William  
Ethan  
Leo

Choosing a name is just one of many things that go along with welcoming a new baby. It is important that parents register their child's birth within 30 days of welcoming their newborn.

"With our easy to use 5-in-1 Newborn Bundle, Ontario parents can register their newborn baby online from the comfort of their own homes", said Todd McCarthy, Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery. "Our government continues to make life easier for new parents by saving them more time to enjoy those precious moments with their newborns."

ServiceOntario's 5-in-1 Newborn Bundle makes it easy to register a birth. It also allows parents to quickly apply for their child's birth certificate, Social Insurance Number, Canada Child Benefits (including the Ontario Child Benefit), and Education Savings Referral service all through one application.

## Quick Facts

- ServiceOntario's 5-in-1 Newborn Bundle was the first of its kind in Canada when it launched in 2007. More than 2 million births have been registered in Ontario using the service.
- The online Newborn Bundle provides customers with a user-friendly experience, from a desktop or mobile device.
- The government is making it easier for Ontarians to complete essential transactions online, with over 55 services available through ServiceOntario 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

## Simcoe-Grey Heritage Organizations

### Receive Provincial Funding

Operating grants will support groups in Alliston and The Town of Blue Mountains.

"Thank you to the Ministry for providing funding from the Heritage Organization Development Grant program to these two local historical organizations," said Brian Saunderson, MPP for Simcoe-Grey

- Sir Frederick Banting Legacy Foundation - \$1,545
- Town of The Blue Mountains Historical Society - \$723

"Heritage organizations play important roles in helping tell the story of our communities and remind us of who we are, where we have come from, and all that we have accomplished together."

"Our government is proud to support 157 heritage organizations across Ontario through the Heritage Organization Development Grant," said Michael Ford, Minister for Citizenship and Multiculturalism. "This funding provides annual operating grants that are designed to promote public awareness of Ontario's rich and diverse heritage."

### First Approval Given To Grey County's 2024 Budget

Grey County Council has given first approval to the 2024 budget. After significant deliberations over five meetings, service levels have been set that will require a total operating and capital budget of \$269 million. This amounts to an increase of 6.3%, or \$69.28 for the average assessed single detached home in Grey County.

The 2024 budget maintains service levels across many County programs and invests in significant projects including the redevelopment of Rockwood Terrace, \$30 million to support road construction, constructing a new EarlyON centre in Hanover, and takes the first steps towards building a new paramedic services base in Durham.

Some service levels have been reduced to lessen the necessary tax levy increase. County funding will be withdrawn for the Grey Transit Route and service levels will be reduced to align with funding from the Province's Community Transportation Program. Some transfers to reserves for vehicles and heavy equipment were removed and the annual transfer to the healthcare initiatives reserve was reduced.

Several factors contribute to the rising cost of the budget, including general inflation and construction inflation, rising insurance costs, utility costs, in-year decisions and more.

"This has been one of the most challenging budgets at the County Council table in recent memory. Costs of everything are up and Council realizes everyone is feeling more pressure in their day-to-day expenses," said Grey County Warden Brian Milne. "We've had challenging discussions. I think we've struck a balance and landed in an affordable place for our communities."

The Grey County budget supports the delivery of community services including, three long-term care homes, early learning and child care, 998 units of Grey County housing and supports 550 units of non-profit housing, emergency shelter and Ontario Works. Grey County supports businesses and entrepreneurs with economic development programs and services like the Business Enterprise Centre, and helps preserve local history and tell stories at Grey Roots Museum and Archives. Grey County Paramedics respond to thousands of calls for service and provide community care to patients in their homes and at clinics around the County. The transportation services department maintains more than 887km of roads and hundreds of bridges and large culverts.

Staff will revise the 2024 budget packages to reflect Council's changes. A by-law to officially adopt the budget will be presented for Council's consideration at the regular meeting of Council on January 11th.

The draft 2024 budget details are available at [www.grey.ca/budget](http://www.grey.ca/budget). Updated materials will be available on the County website prior to the meeting in January.

**BARB BLASER**  
BROKER

**JANET NIELSEN**  
REALTOR®

**HomesInGeorgianBay.com**  
Your Neighbourhood Realtors®

**519-599-6134**  
INFO@HOMESINGEORGIANBAY.COM

**RE/MAX**  
HALLMARK YORK GROUP REALTY LTD.  
Brokerage, Independently Owned and Operated | RAISING THE BAR

\*Not intended to solicit buyers or sellers currently under contract.

**BV 40 YEARS**  
BEAVER VALLEY OUTREACH

**THANK YOU!**

FOR HELPING US CELEBRATE 40 YEARS IN 2023,  
AND FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

**f 519-599-2577 | BVO.CA i**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

MAY THIS SEASON BE FILLED WITH PEACE, HEALTH  
AND LAUGHTER FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

**TERRY**

**DOWDALL MP**  
SIMCOE-GREY

**1-866-435-1809 • TERRYDOWDALLMP.CA • TERRY.DOWDALL@PARL.GC.CA**

## Ontario Consumers Will be Able to Buy Beer, Cider, Wine and Low-Alcohol Ready-to-Drink Beverages at Convenience, Grocery and Big Box Stores

The Ontario government announced that beginning no later than January 1, 2026, consumers will be able to buy beer, wine, cider, coolers, seltzers, and other low-alcohol ready-to-drink beverages at all participating convenience, grocery and big box stores across the province. This new, more open marketplace will introduce up to 8,500 new stores where these products can be purchased, the largest expansion of consumer choice and convenience since the end of prohibition almost 100 years ago. Spirits like vodka, gin and whisky will continue to be sold at the LCBO.

"We made a promise to the people of Ontario to deliver more choice and convenience," said Premier Doug Ford. "Today, we're delivering on that promise. There's no reason why Ontario consumers shouldn't enjoy the same convenient shopping experience as Canadians in every other province when buying some wine for their holiday party or a case of beer or seltzers on their way to the cottage."

As a first step in the transition to a new retail marketplace, the government has informed Brewers Retail Inc. (The Beer Store) that the Master Framework Agreement (MFA), signed and extended for ten years by the previous government in 2015 and limited the number of retail stores that could be authorized to sell alcohol, will not be renewed after it expires on December 31, 2025. The Beer Store and LCBO will continue their retail operations in Ontario's new marketplace.

"The people of Ontario will soon have more choice and convenience on where they can buy alcohol," said Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance. "As we move towards implementing this expansion, our government will be taking a responsible, measured approach so we can ensure our transition to a new marketplace is smooth, safe and stable."

The government's balanced approach also includes the following initiatives:

**Competitive pricing:** Ontario will introduce competitive pricing to all private retailers to promote competition and a better deal for consumers. LCBO retail stores will maintain consistent pricing across the province to help ensure consumers do not pay more based on where they live, including in rural and northern Ontario. As they do in other provinces, retailers will have the option to set promotional prices consistent with relevant regulations. Minimum pricing policies will remain in effect to preserve standards for responsible consumption.

**Pack sizes:** Ontario is removing restrictions and exclusivities on pack sizes. Consumers will be able to purchase any pack size, including 12-packs, 24-packs or even 30-packs as is popular in Quebec of beer, cider and ready-to-drink alcohol beverages at convenience, grocery and big box stores, in addition to the LCBO and The Beer Store.

**Recycling program:** The Beer Store has agreed to continue to run the provincewide recycling program for alcoholic beverage containers until at least 2031 as part of a transition period in the new marketplace. This program, which is well liked and convenient for consumers with hundreds of locations across the province, helps keep costs down for producers and consumers while helping to protect the environment by diverting significant amounts of waste from landfills. The government will consult with retailers and industry stakeholders on the future of recycling and deposit return to ensure this important feature is maintained beyond 2031.

**Support for local beverage alcohol producers:** Ontario will provide a range of transitional and time-limited supports to Ontario-based producers to help with the transition to a more open marketplace, including:

- Extending dedicated shelf space requirements across all new retailers for craft producers to provide opportunities for small producers to compete

*continued over*



# TREE of LIFE

## 10/10 Doctors recommend an MRI Machine.

Each year, over 7,000 people will require MRI services in South Georgian Bay. Please consider how you might help equip CGMH with state-of-the-art technology that will reduce wait times and ensure quality care close to home.



Dr. Jesse Guscott,  
Collingwood G&M Hospital

 G&M HOSPITAL  
FOUNDATION

Donate today  
[cgmhf.com/treeoflife](http://cgmhf.com/treeoflife)

Watch: Why we  
need an MRI



Continued

- Immediately enhancing the Vintners Quality Alliance (VQA) Wine Support Program beginning in 2024-25 for up to five years to 2028-29 to support the growth and sale of Ontario-grown VQA wines
- Extending the Wine Marketing Fund and the Small Cidery and Small Distillery Support Program for up to five years
- Supporting local economic development by directing the LCBO to promote and prioritize Ontario-made products, producers and workers by providing more and enhanced programs, promotions and strategies to help local producers grow Ontario product sales
- Establishing a wine and grape industry sector table between government and industry partners
- Introducing legislation that will, if passed, eliminate the 6.1 per cent wine basic tax at on-site winery retail stores, making Ontario's tax regime competitive with other provinces, including British Columbia

**Social responsibility:** The government is providing an additional \$10 million over five years in funding to the Ministry of Health to support social responsibility and public health efforts to ensure alcohol continues to be sold and consumed safely in the expanded marketplace. Existing requirements related to staff training, minimum pricing, hours of sale and warning signs will be maintained and applied to all new retail outlets.

**Wholesale:** The LCBO will be the exclusive wholesaler for all retail, bars and restaurants selling alcohol and will offer consumers an extensive array of choices, including domestic and imported products. This structure will continue to offer the benefits of the LCBO's world-leading purchasing power and economies of scale and ensures sector stability, including maintaining an important employment footprint across Ontario and a significant revenue stream for government so that it can continue to invest in critical frontline services like health care and education. The province is proud of its LCBO workforce and will continue to support them through this transition.

**Distribution:** The LCBO will continue to work with producers and retailers to distribute wine and spirits in an expanded marketplace, including retail stores, bars and restaurants. The Beer Store has agreed to maintain its primary role in the distribution of beer to retailers, bars and restaurants until at least 2031 as part of the transition period, helping to provide stability to the sector and frontline workers. The province will also permit more flexible distribution models for small producers.

In the months ahead, the government will continue to meet and consult with industry partners, local beverage alcohol producers and other stakeholders on additional areas of the future marketplace including licensing, wholesale pricing and taxes, mark-ups and fees. The province will also conduct a broader review of taxes and fees on beer, wine and alcoholic beverages with the aim of promoting a more competitive marketplace for Ontario-based producers and consumers.

"SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 2005"

**DR. MIKE BUDREWICZ, DDS**

PROVIDING COMPLETE DENTAL CARE INCLUDING  
AESTHETICS, DENTAL IMPLANTS,  
ENDODONTICS AND DENTURES

DR. MIKE BUDREWICZ

519-599-9962 · 115 KING ST. E., THORNBURY · THORNBURYDENTAL.CA

**EMERGENCY FIRST AID TRAINING** Canadian Red Cross Training Partner

Emergency First Aid Training (EFAT) as a Red Cross training partner, has provided first aid training to individuals, businesses and fire departments throughout the area. EFAT knows that emergencies can happen at any time, and they are proud to teach the lifesaving skills necessary to respond quickly and with confidence.

**Mike Molloy 519-477-5392** [mmolloy@ctdfibre.ca](mailto:mmolloy@ctdfibre.ca)

**Melody Fox**  
NURSE PRACTITIONER  
RN, BScN, MSc, MN, FNP-C

**New Location  
Blue Mountains  
Community  
Health Centre**

Fee for Service offering Primary Care Services and Dermatology Services which include full skin survey, cryotherapy and skin biopsies.

78 King Street, E., (Hwy. 26) Thornbury  
1 226-668-4670  
[Melody@melodyfoxnp.com](mailto:Melody@melodyfoxnp.com)  
[melodyfoxnp.com](http://melodyfoxnp.com)

**Blue Mountain Legacy Fund**

[www.bluemountainlegacyfund.ca](http://www.bluemountainlegacyfund.ca)

**INVEST THE PRINCIPLE  
SHARE THE EARNINGS**

AN ENDOWED FUND WITH COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GREY BRUCE  
We're here for good.

Seniors Centre Without Walls

January 2024

Speaker Info	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Additions To Be Announced in the New Year	<b>** REGISTER for In-Person events. <a href="mailto:seniors@bvo.ca">seniors@bvo.ca</a> or 519 599 2755, ext. 126.**</b> <b>NOTE: Thurs., Jan. 11, Elder Abuse Prevention Focus Group &amp; Presentation, incl. light lunch (11:30 – 2:00) &amp; Thursday, Jan. 25, Navigating Dementia’s Dimensions (1:30 – 2:30)</b>				
Ahimsa Gordon- Mindful Meditation Leader	1 <b>HAPPY NEW YEARS!</b>	2 2:00 pm Check-in & Chat 2:30 BINGO!	3 10:00 am Chair Exercise and Stretching	4 11:00 am Mindful Meditation Ahimsa Gordon	5
Amber Jackson, Grey Bruce Elder Abuse Prevention	8 2:00pm Check-in & Chat 2:30 BINGO!	9	10 10:00 am Chair Exercise and Stretching	** In Person ** 11 11:30-2:00 Grey Bruce Elder Abuse Prevention Info & Focus Group (light lunch included) <b>LE Shore Library</b>	12
Shannon Fry – Pharmacist/owner	15 2:00pm Check-in & Chat 2:30 BINGO!	16	17 10:00 am Chair Exercise and Stretching	18 11:00am Mindful Meditation Ahimsa Gordon	19 11:00 am Meet the Pharmacist -- Shannon Fry
Jennifer Armstrong, E.A. to Terry Dowdall, MP. Sandra Hong, Alzheimer Soc. Grey Bruce	22 2:00pm Check-in & Chat 2:30 BINGO!	23 11:00 Canadian Dental Care Plan Jennifer Armstrong (to be confirmed)	24 10:00 am Chair Exercise and Stretching	** In Person ** 25 1:30–2:30 Navigating Dementia’s Dimensions: Understanding, Coping, Supporting – Sandra Hong <b>LE Shore Library</b>	26
	29 2:00pm Check-in & Chat 2:30 BINGO!		31 10:00 am Chair Exercise and Stretching		



# THE SUMMIT

## TOUR OUR MODEL HOME

### MOVE-IN READY, LUXURY APRÈS-SKI HOMES

GET READY TO KICK OFF THE SKI SEASON FROM YOUR NEW HOME AT THE SUMMIT. THIS INCREDIBLE COLLECTION OF 54', 60' AND 64' CHALET-STYLE, LUXURY HOMES ABOVE GEORGIAN BAY OFFERS CLOSE PROXIMITY TO THE SKI SLOPES AND BLUE MOUNTAIN VILLAGE. STARTING FROM THE \$1.7MS.

#### BOOK AN APPOINTMENT TO VISIT OUR ON-SITE MODEL HOME

647.201.4221 | [SUMMIT@PRIMONT.COM](mailto:SUMMIT@PRIMONT.COM)

#### PRESENTATION CENTRE

116 DOROTHY DRIVE,  
THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

#### MONDAY - THURSDAY:

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

#### FRIDAY - SUNDAY:

12 - 5PM



## Ski Season Begins *by Robert Burcher*



The ski season got off to a bumpy start as the weather threw curveballs at us. But the cold front and snow squalls of December 18 brought out the crowds at Blue Mountain Resort. Four runs were open for the keeners, and it just looked like and felt like a normal winter's day on Tuesday the 19th.



In the background you will see that Tim Hortons has opened an outlet on the plaza at the Village at Blue.



I happened to meet this family from Melbourne Australia who were experiencing snow for the first time. They were amazed by the enjoyment people were having on a cold day!

## Well Water Testing Service Operating On Modified Schedule This Holiday Season

Grey-Bruce residents can still access Public Health Ontario's complimentary Well Water Testing Program this holiday season. All 14 local drop-off locations will be closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day, and New Year's Day. From Dec. 27-29, samples will continue to be picked up daily from the Owen Sound and Brockton locations. The Friday Grey County route will not be operating. The normal schedule will resume Jan. 2, 2024.

Grey Bruce Public Health launched this fall a locally developed service that provides all local households with equitable, timely access to PHO's Well Water Testing Program.

The Grey County route includes locations in Chatsworth, Meaford, The Blue Mountains (Ravenna), Grey Highlands, Southgate, West Grey, and Hanover.

Samples picked up by the courier on Wednesdays and Fridays are collected by the PHO courier, which transports them, along with samples collected from the Owen Sound and Brockton locations, to a laboratory in London for testing. Samples are analyzed for the presence of bacterial indicators of contamination, specifically E. coli and total coliforms. Residents receive test results directly from PHO. GBPH recommends households that draw their drinking water from wells or other private systems test their water at least three times a year, after any work is done to their system, and after significant weather events, such as a fast thaw or severe rain.

**Winter Dining - Hours of Operation Starting Friday, December 1st, 2023**


Friday & Saturday Nights from 4PM - 8PM  
 Sunday Breakfast from 9AM - 1PM  
 Reservations Required

**TRACKMAN Indoor Golf Simulator at Lora Bay Golf Club**

Limited membership options available  
 PGA instruction and club fitting services also offered



## TOWN NEWS & NOTICES

 (519) 599-3131

 [info@thebluemountains.ca](mailto:info@thebluemountains.ca)

 32 Mill St. Thornbury, ON

 [www.thebluemountains.ca](http://www.thebluemountains.ca)

 **Subscribe for Updates:** [www.thebluemountains.ca/subscribe](http://www.thebluemountains.ca/subscribe)

### Town of The Blue Mountains Public Appointments to Accountability and Transparency Committee 2022-2026

The Town of The Blue Mountains is seeking applications from members of the public for appointment to the NEW Accountability and Transparency Committee.

The Committee appointment runs concurrent with the term of Council, being 2022-2026.

The Accountability and Transparency Committee consists of 5 members, 3 Council members, who have been appointed and 2 members of the public, which are currently being sought.

Applicants are encouraged to complete the Application Form and include a resume, cover letter or any other background information and any special qualifications or interest related to this Committee.

**NOTE:** Applicants shall be qualified electors within the Town of The Blue Mountains

All Applications should be submitted no later than **Friday January 19, 2024, at 1:00 pm** to:

Town of The Blue Mountains  
Attention: Town Clerk  
32 Mill Street  
Thornbury, Ontario N0H 2P0  
[townclerk@thebluemountains.ca](mailto:townclerk@thebluemountains.ca)

*Personal information provided by the applicant is collected under the authority of the Municipal Act, 2001 and will be used for the purpose of candidate selection. The Town of The Blue Mountains is an equal opportunity organization. Accommodation will be provided in accordance with the Ontario Human Rights Code.*



# Town 2024 Proposed Budget Now Available for Public Input

The notice regarding the 2024 Proposed Town Budget has been updated to include additional comments from Deputy Mayor Peter Bordignon.

The 2024 Proposed Budget plans to provide essential services relied upon by residents, businesses and visitors while maintaining property taxes and user fees at a level beneficial to fostering growth, prosperity and community investment. A main focus of the 2024 Proposed Budget is to ensure the long-term financial stability of the Town through adequate transfers to asset management reserve for capital funding.

**The 2024 Proposed Tax Rate increase is 9.58%.** This represents an increase of \$207 to an approximate total of \$2,366 for the Town portion of annual property taxes. These numbers are based on the assessed value of an average home in The Blue Mountains as set by MPAC at \$555,000.

Deputy Mayor Peter Bordignon, Chair of Finance, provided his outlook on the budget: "The operating side of the 2024 Budget reflects in its expenses and revenues, after growth, a tax rate impact of 2.38%, which comes in line with Council direction." He adds: "When factoring in the staff recommended transfers to the asset management reserve funds, the required tax rate increase sits at 9.58%. During the Special Budget meetings in January, we will be looking for opportunities to mitigate or offset the difference of 7.2% outlined in the draft budget."

Also included in the budget is a proposed increase in water and wastewater user fees. These fees are paid directly by the users that are connected to Municipal water and wastewater services. For the average home in the Town, the chart below outlines the impact of the **Water and Wastewater User-Fee increase.**

## 2024 Impact

Water (180 m3)	\$23
Wastewater (180 m3)	\$20
<b>Total Impact</b>	<b>\$43</b>

The 2024 Proposed Budget also includes a \$80M capital budget to support key infrastructure projects throughout the Town. Projects include:

- Renovations of the Craigleith and Mill Street Sewage Pumping Stations and the Forcemain to the Thornbury Wastewater Treatment Plant (\$30.6M)
- Replacement of the Thornbury Wastewater Treatment Plant Outfall (\$16M)
- Replacement of the Craigleith Fire Hall and renovate the current building for Operations and Community Services (\$13.3M)

Completing these projects will help ensure that the services delivered by the Town can continue to be delivered efficiently and effectively without service interruptions.

## Provide Your Input

The 2024 Proposed Town Budget is now available for public review and input. The proposed budget includes the 2024 operating budget, a five-year capital budget, and proposed Fees and Charges. The purpose of the proposed budget is to serve as a starting point for budget discussions with Council and members of the public.

To review the 2024 Proposed Budget, please visit: [www.thebluemountains.ca/budget](http://www.thebluemountains.ca/budget)

The budget will be reviewed and deliberated by Council at a series of special budget meetings scheduled for the following dates:

**Monday, January 8, 2024, at 9:30 a.m.**

**Tuesday, January 9, 2024, at 9:30 a.m.**

**Wednesday, January 10, 2024, at 9:30 a.m.**

**Thursday, January 11, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. (if necessary)**

The special budget meetings will be conducted in person and will be live-streamed, with a recording posted to the Town website following the meeting. Following review and direction from Council through these meetings, revisions to the budget may be made, and the updated draft budget will be posted to the Town website on Wednesday, February 7, 2024.

Following the release of the updated budget, the Town will hold a Public Meeting on Tuesday, March 12, 2024. The public meeting provides the opportunity for residents to address Council directly or to submit an email or letter that will be read aloud by the Town Clerk.

Following the public meeting, Town Staff will then bring a report to the Committee of the Whole on Monday, March 18, 2024, outlining the public's comments from the Public Meeting. Following this meeting, any further changes will be incorporated into the 2024 Budget for Council approval, which is expected to occur on Tuesday, April 2, 2024.

Residents are encouraged to participate and share feedback with Council throughout the budget process. To learn about how to participate at a meeting or how to provide comments, please contact the Town Clerk or visit [www.thebluemountains.ca/participate](http://www.thebluemountains.ca/participate)

To learn more about the Town's annual budget process, including key dates for the 2024 Budget process, please visit:

[www.thebluemountains.ca/budget](http://www.thebluemountains.ca/budget)



## Exhibit Reception: Where We Live

Opening January 2024 at The Gallery at L.E. Shore! Ontario artists Karen Bowen, Wanda Haayen and Judy Scopes are pleased to share a collection of their artwork in a tri-artist exhibit, Where We Live.

Meet the artists at their open reception on Saturday, January 6! Drop in between 2-4pm at The Gallery to enjoy the open

bar, refreshments and gorgeous art.

## GEORGIAN BAY HOME SHARE

Matching home providers with home seekers

Free Service

Are you a senior with a room to share?

Are you looking for housing in the Blue Mountains, Meaford area?

[www.georgianbayhomeshare.ca](http://www.georgianbayhomeshare.ca)  
[georgianbayhomeshare@gmail.com](mailto:georgianbayhomeshare@gmail.com) 519-378-4734

## PICOTTEAM

Barb Picot

Ron Picot

Detailed Driven Strategies for Success

Talk it over with The Picot Team

C: 705.444.3452

picot@rogers.com

THEPICOTTEAM.COM

Chestnut Park® Real Estate Limited, Brokerage  
 393 First Street, Suite 100, Collingwood, ON L9Y 1B3

\*Sales Representatives



# 40<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY FINALE

Fri. Dec. 15, 12 Noon | 54 King St. E., Thornbury



Join us as we gather to close out our 40th year. Flag lowering, Time Capsule, local dignitaries, hot chocolate, treats and more.

## ALL WELCOME!

519-599-2577 | BVO.CA



*Wishing you  
a happy and  
peaceful Holiday  
Season with family  
and friends!*

## BRIAN SAUNDERSON

MPP, Simcoe-Grey



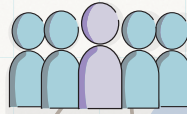
7317 Hwy 26, P.O. Box 820  
Stayner, ON L0M 1S0  
(705) 428-2134

180 Parsons Road, Unit 28  
Alliston, ON L9R 1E8  
(705) 435-4087

Brian.Saunderson@pc.ola.org  
www.briansaundersonmpp.ca

## The Rural Transit Solutions Fund

**1 in 5** Canadians live in rural communities



Rural communities often lack public transit options



The Rural Transit Solutions Fund helps rural, remote, Northern and Indigenous communities to develop and expand innovative and locally-driven public transit solutions.



The Fund provides

**\$250 million** over five years

### Benefits of rural transit:



Easier access to essential services and appointments



Reduces social isolation



Opens up employment opportunities

We're now accepting applications for Capital Projects

Visit

[www.infrastructure.gc.ca/rural-trans-rural/index-eng.html](http://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/rural-trans-rural/index-eng.html)

for more information



## Rural Transit Solutions Fund

Infrastructure Canada is now accepting applications for the Planning and Design Projects Stream of the Rural Transit Solutions Fund (up to \$50,000). The Rural Transit Solutions Fund seeks to help Canadians living in rural and remote areas get around their communities more easily for their day-to-day activities, and connect with other communities nearby.

The Rural Transit Solutions Fund is the first federal fund to target the development of transit solutions in rural and remote communities. Launched in 2021, the Fund provides \$250 million in federal funding over 5 years to support the development of locally-driven transit solutions that will help people living in rural communities get to work, school, appointments, and to visit loved ones.

From on-demand services, to publicly-owned ride shares, and volunteer community car-pooling, funding will help rural, remote, Northern, and Indigenous communities to develop and offer new public transit options to their residents.

Eligible organizations representing these communities can seek support through two program streams depending on the nature of their project: Planning and Design Projects stream or Capital Projects stream.

### Planning and Design Projects stream webinars

Tuesday, January 16, 2024, 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. EST

Tuesday, January 23, 2024, 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. EST

Through this stream, the federal government is providing funding to eligible applicants in rural and remote locations to design and plan a transit solution for their community. New applicants can now apply for funding. Eligible projects and activities include: public engagement, needs assessments, feasibility or viability studies, surveys, and assessments of routes or modes of travel.

### Two groups eligible to apply include:

- Municipalities, local and regional governments established under provincial or territorial statute, including local service districts;
- Federally or provincially incorporated not-for-profit organizations.

[www.infrastructure.gc.ca/rural-trans-rural/application-eng.html](http://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/rural-trans-rural/application-eng.html)

**Grey Roots Museum & Archives Announces Temporary Winter Closure**

Grey Roots Museum & Archives will be temporarily closed beginning January 7th, with a planned reopening date of Friday, February 9, 2024.

Grey Roots celebrates its 20th anniversary in 2024. The month-long closure will allow museum staff to focus on preparations for celebratory activities in honour of the significant milestone.

Education programs and private group tours continue to be available throughout the closure, and researchers may schedule research sessions with the Archives. These activities can be booked at [greyroots.com](http://greyroots.com)

# COMING UP AT YOUR MARSH STREET CENTRE

**Feb. 10th**



**Mar. 30th**



**A TRIBUTE TO PEARL JAM**



**SATURDAY APRIL 27TH**



*"Grow Your Heart Three Sizes"*

**Advent & Christmas at Grace United Church**

- \* Advent Service each week at 10:30am
- \* Carolfest Dec. 10 at 3pm
- \* Christmas Eve for all ages Dec. 24 at 4pm

140 Bruce St. S., Thornbury; 519-599-2438  
[www.graceunitedthornbury.ca](http://www.graceunitedthornbury.ca)

**FESTIVITIES ARE NOT FOR YOUR BIN**



Keep your bins free of holiday lights, décor, ribbons and bows.

Learn more: [circularmaterials.ca/ON](http://circularmaterials.ca/ON)



*Christmas*

**AT SAINT GEORGE'S**

..... ❁ .....

**DECEMBER 24TH - MORNING**  
The Fourth Sunday of Advent  
9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

..... ❁ .....

**DECEMBER 24TH - CHRISTMAS EVE**  
5:00 p.m. Children's Pajama Mass  
(Be sure to wear your pajamas!)  
7:00 p.m. Request-your-Carols Holy Communion Service  
9:00 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Choral Eucharist

..... ❁ .....

**DECEMBER 25TH - CHRISTMAS DAY**  
9:00 a.m. Choral Eucharist

..... ❁ .....

Join us for a Christmas Toast of Egnog, Christmas Punch and Cookies at all services!

**THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF THE BLUE MOUNTAINS**  
166 RUSSELL ST E, CLARKSBURG  
519-599-3047



Thornbury-Clarksburg  
and Meaford Clubs

2 0 2 4

## 24 Chances to Win!

First Prize: **\$250** gift certificate  
Second Prize: **\$100** gift certificate  
(at local restaurants)

# DINNER of the MONTH draw

Beginning March through August 2024  
four tickets per month will be drawn. Winning  
tickets go back into the drum! Increase your odds  
even more with a discounted five-pack.

### Participating Restaurants

#### Meaford:

The Dam Pub  
Franny's Mercato  
The Leaky Canoe  
Sheardown's Wine  
Bar & Cuisine  
Ted's Range Road Diner  
Towa Restaurant

#### Thornbury:

Bruce Wine Bar  
The Corner Cafe & Grill  
Fabbrica  
The Bistro at Lora Bay  
The Mill Cafe  
Winifred's English Pub

Tickets are **\$25 each** or **5 for \$100**

#### Available from:

Members of Thornbury-Clarksburg  
and Meaford Rotary Clubs

Email: [dinner@rcrotary.ca](mailto:dinner@rcrotary.ca)  
Scan QR code to buy tickets:



Proceeds to fund Rotary community projects  
in Thornbury-Clarksburg and Meaford

Lottery license #M861711

Tickets also available from The Blue Mountains Review Office  
206 Marsh Street, Clarksburg ; Mon-Fri 10am-5pm

[josh@joshdolan.com](mailto:josh@joshdolan.com) 705-446-8404

## Josh Dolan

REAL ESTATE BROKER

[joshdolan.com](http://joshdolan.com)



ROYAL LEPAGE  
TOP TEN  
AWARD 2022  
INDIVIDUAL - NATIONAL



ROYAL LEPAGE  
CHAIRMAN'S  
CLUB  
NATIONAL TOP 1%



#### National Gross Sales

Royal LePage 2022  
Top 1% National Gross Sales 2022  
Top 10 National Individual

ROYAL LEPAGE  
THORNbury MEAFORD COLLINGWOOD  
LOCATIONS NORTH  
BROKERAGE



Let me advise you on buying and selling in the Georgian Triangle.

furniture-bedding-lamps-rugs-art and giftware

# C&G SOLID WOOD FURNITURE CO.



See our New larger brighter location with plenty of parking  
Custom Design Service, Expert Delivery and Setup Solutions

**C&G Solid Wood Furniture**  
59 Arthur St. W., (Hwy 26 W.) Thornbury  
across from Tim Hortons • 226 665 8000

Tuesday to Saturday 10am-5pm; Sunday 11am-4 pm; Closed Monday

[www.cgsolidwoodfurniture.com](http://www.cgsolidwoodfurniture.com)

## ROAD CONDITIONS



The seasons are shifting,  
and Grey County Road  
Conditions are now live on  
[roads.grey.ca](http://roads.grey.ca). Check out  
road conditions, roadside  
cameras, and the interactive  
map to inform your drive  
before you head out this  
winter season.

## THORNbury|JAZZWORKS presents the return of THE GEORGIAN SOUND BIG BAND



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH, 2:00 PM  
Marsh Street Centre, Clarksburg

ADMISSION \$30

PROCEEDS SUPPORT STUDENT MUSIC EDUCATION  
[www.thornburyjazz.com](http://www.thornburyjazz.com)

Purchase tickets by email - [thornburyjazz@gmail.com](mailto:thornburyjazz@gmail.com)  
or at these locations

Thornbury Pharmasave, 45 Arthur Street W., Thornbury  
Gabriele Photography, 133 Hurontario St, Collingwood

