



Family Literacy Day

Family Literacy Day, taking place on January 27th, raises awareness of the importance of reading and engaging in other literacy-related activities as a family. Since 1999, schools, libraries, literacy organizations and other community groups across the country have taken part in the annual initiative. This year's theme is "Learn to be Green, Together." Make a pledge as a family to learn ways to be more green. Use less electricity, commute together, and reuse items. Being green together is a fun way to learn as a family while being kind to the environment.

To learn more about *Family Literacy Day*, download free activities and resources visit FamilyLiteracyDay.ca

Plant a Tree *by Richard Griffith*

It's hard to fathom, though we try,
To gauge a nation's destiny;
Instead of wondering how or why,
My best advice is: plant a tree.
Find a placid piece of ground,
Blessed with sunshine, (not too much!)
There should be other trees around:
Poplars, pines and oaks and such.
Dig a hole some inches down;
Depends upon your sapling's girth.
Extract the pebbles and rocks you find,
Roots do better in clear earth.
Gently pack the soil in place -
You don't need to use a hammer -

Just be sure there aren't empty spaces,
And then employ a more gentle manner.
Spread wood chips around to help maintain
A balance of moisture, even and stable;
That way, you can boast that when it rains,
You cared for your tree, as well as you're able.
So, stand back - you've done yourself proud,
It's always important to plant a tree;
Tell all your neighbours and shout it out loud,
It's such a fine way, contented, to be.
What's that you say? Oh, did I err?
I seem to detect a source of tension;
Perhaps I didn't take quite enough care:
Oh, green side up! Forgot to mention!

Mini Forests

Green Communities Canada and Network of Nature launched the Mini Forest program as the National Mini Forest Pilot in 2022 to address the growing need for green spaces in urban environments. They support local partner organizations and municipalities through their Mini Forest program to transform under-natured sites into thriving urban forests, using an innovative tree-planting method modelled after the Miyawaki forest technique. They provide partners with the skills, knowledge, and tools to plant mini forests, which grow at accelerated rates into dense, diverse, native-planted forest communities that provide many benefits to urban environments.



What are Mini Forests?

A mini forest — also known as a micro forest or tiny forest — is a community of native trees and shrubs planted tightly together in an urban or suburban site. The method emphasizes the use of dense plantings, diverse locally-native species collections, soil preparation, and multilayered design to mimic the complexity of a native forest. This dense planting technique results in taller plants in a shorter time period. Mini forests provide a variety of ecosystem services that offer both environmental and social benefits. From reducing air pollution to increasing biodiversity, and providing necessary habitat for wildlife, these small plots can have a big impact on their local environments. They provide much-needed green spaces for people to enjoy, offering mental health benefits and improving air quality. Mini forests also help reduce runoff, prevent flooding and mitigate the urban heat island effect. Local partner organizations engaged over 1,600 volunteers to install these urban forests at parks, colleges, community centres, housing cooperatives, decommissioned landfill sites and more!

<https://greencommunitiescanada.org>



2025 Proposed Town Budget Now Available for Public Input

The proposed budget includes the 2025 operating budget and a five-year capital budget. The purpose of the proposed budget is to serve as a starting point for budget discussions with Council and members of the public. www.thebluemountains.ca/budget.

As the Town of The Blue Mountains prepared the proposed 2025 budget, a range of challenges were faced, including a fluctuating economic environment and continued growth in both population and service demand. Despite these pressures, the Town has managed to keep the cumulative tax rate increase over the past five years at just 5%, significantly lower than the 17.5% increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) during the same period. This demonstrates the Town's commitment to managing fiscal responsibility while balancing the impact of inflation on residents and municipal services.

The 2025 budget reflects a balanced approach that prioritizes core services, maintains fiscal responsibility, and strategically invests in the future, all while mitigating the impact of inflation and growth on residents. It underscores the Town's commitment to providing high-quality services, maintaining transparency in the budget process, and ensuring long-term financial health for the community.

The 2025 Proposed Tax Rate increase is 10.06%. This represents an estimated increase of \$213 to an approximate total of \$2,331 for the Town portion of the annual property taxes. These numbers are based on the median assessed value of a home in The Blue Mountains as set by MPAC at \$530,000.

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Beaver Valley Arena

Public Skating

Sat & Sun: 12pm - 2pm

Excluding: Jan. 11, Jan. 18, Feb. 2, Mar. 1-2

Ages 18+: \$3 p/p; Under 18: Free

Adult Skating

Mon & Wed: 10am - 12pm; Thurs: 1pm - 3pm

Excluding: Feb. 17;

\$3 p/p; Must be 18+ years of age

Stick & Puck

Mon & Wed: 12pm - 1pm

Excluding: Feb. 5, Feb. 17

\$3 p/p. Must be 18 years+ of age. All skaters must wear a certified hockey helmet.

Parent & Tots

Thurs: 11am - 12pm, Free. Excluding: Mar. 13

DROP-IN BRIDGE

Monday 1-3pm; \$2 p/p

St. George's Anglican Church, Clarksburg

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

Rector Jeff Kischak, 519-770-7979

BID EUCHRE

Wednesday & Thursday, 12:50-3:30pm;

\$2 per day, Small Hall,

Beaver Valley Community Centre

Lessons Available - Bev 705-507-0563 or

Dorothy 519-599-5044



E-NEWSLETTER - Use the subscribe form on our website to receive the weekly E-newsletter. 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 or by cheque to Riverside Press, Box 245, Clarksburg, N0H 1J0

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 for inclusion in the newsletter by each Friday. Advertising rates available on the website or call 519-599-3345

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, using 180m³ of water, the estimated increase for the water portion is \$17.69 with the wastewater portion increasing by \$21.85.

The 2025 Proposed Budget also includes a **\$107 million capital budget** to support key infrastructure projects throughout the Town. Major investments proposed in the 2025 Capital Program include:

\$41.6 million in infrastructure capital projects including:

- Craigleith/Mill Street Sewage Lift Station Upgrades and Forcemain construction (\$11 million)
- Thornbury West Phase 1A & B Reconstruction (\$7.6 million)
- Westside Water Storage and Distribution (\$5.8 million)
- Peel Street North Reconstruction (\$3.4 million)
- Thornbury Water Treatment Plant Upgrades (\$2.9 million)

\$34.5 million in wastewater infrastructure investment which is essential to prevent environmental contamination, enhance efficiency, comply with regulatory standards, and protect public health. Major investment includes the Thornbury Wastewater Treatment Plant expansion and the Thornbury Wastewater Treatment Plant Outfall. **\$11.9 million** towards the build of the new Craigleith Fire Hall. This investment will significantly enhance public safety by improving emergency response times and providing better community coverage through increased capacity for personnel and modern firefighting equipment.

\$3.9 million in water infrastructure investment to ensure a safe and reliable water supply, accommodate growth and protect public health and the environment.

\$2.1 million to begin expansion of the Ravenna Road Depot. Expansion of this facility will accommodate increased traffic and maintenance needs for the Town's Roads & Drainage fleet. This will ensure efficient and effective road services which will support future growth and development in the community.

\$1.9 million to replace two plow trucks. This replacement ensures that road clearing operations can be conducted in a timely and efficient manner, especially during winter, which is crucial for public safety and accessibility. The new trucks will also significantly reduce downtime and maintenance costs.

\$1.5 million to replace the Fire Aerial Pumper. Replacement of crucial emergency response vehicles ensures public safety service levels remain high. A modernized truck also minimizes downtime and maintenance costs.

Provide Your Input

The purpose of the proposed budget is to serve as a starting point for budget discussions with Council and members of the public. The budget will be reviewed and deliberated by Council at a series of special budget meetings. The special budget meetings January 14th and January 17th at 9:30 am will be conducted in person and will be live-streamed, with a recording posted to the Town website following the meeting. www.thebluemountains.ca

Evidence-Based coaching programs to enhance your nutrition and/or mental wellness



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MINDFULLYNOURISH.COM

INFO@MINDFULLYNOURISH.COM

Melissa Courvoisier, HCA-RHNC, MEd., B.A., RYT 200

Matt's Millennial Support Companion Services

Need help with errands and stuff?

I have several years experience supporting seniors to live in their own homes; I drive and can help with errands, & appointments; help with pet care; I am techy, and also can do outdoor/simple "handy man" work.

Call Matt at 416-459-0178 or email matthew-r@live.com

TRANSPORTATION

Volunteers Needed

Sign up today!
Mileage reimbursement available.



HOW TO SIGN UP?

📞 519-372-2091 ext. 6

🌐 <https://hcssgreybruce.com/volunteer/>



REQUEST FOR SPACE FOR A TINY HOME

I am searching for land to rent that would be able to hook up water and sewer to a tiny home for myself.

If you would be able to help this person please email the Review at info@bluemountainsreview.ca

Thornbury Guiders Urgently Needed

1st Thornbury Spark/Brownie unit will NOT be running next year unless we get two or three women to come forward and register as Guiders! Our current Guiders are past retirement age and are leaving the units this spring. They have held on waiting for someone new to join but are giving up. Personally, I am closing on 50 years in Guiding myself and am looking to cut back if possible as well.

Girl Guides is such a valuable program! It allows girls to experiment and experience things in a non-judgemental way.

Sparks are 5 & 6 yrs old, the Embers 7-10 yrs, Guides 9-11, Pathfinders 12-14. The unit in Thornbury also serves girls from Meaford, as the units there closed due to lack of leaders as well.

Currently Sparks/Embers meet at the Thornbury Baptist Church Wednesday nights 6:30-8pm and the Guide/Pathfinder unit meets Wednesdays at BVCS at the same time. This means it is easier to do bridging activities together but it does not mean that new Guiders couldn't change the day to suit their schedule! Meetings could even be on a weekend if that works better. Sometimes girls come from other towns because the day suits them better.

Guiders do NOT have to have previous Guiding experience. All you need is a desire to give girls new experiences and a willingness to put yourself out to learning as well. Program is quite varied to suit the girls and Guiders of that year. If you don't feel qualified to do something with the girls it is okay to ask someone to visit for the night to assist teaching a skill. Almost everything can be found on line for Guiding now.

Our current Guiders are hoping that when the community realizes the possible outcome that women will come forward to take over. The hope is to be able to have them come a few nights between now & June to see how the unit is doing things and get your own ideas. There is no set way anymore. The current Guiders would be open to providing support and answer questions you may have along the way next year too.

Please, consider becoming a Guider. Do you know someone who might be interested – pass this along to them too! Talk it up with your friends and neighbours. We need help to spread the word. If you are interested, we'd love to chat. Come out to a meeting or call me 519 599-3968. Shirley Woolner

p/s Our 69th Thinking Day Tea and Bake Sale will be held Saturday February 22nd at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church from 2-4pm.

Voting Procedures

Council will direct that Internet and Telephone Voting, be approved as the voting method for the 2026 Municipal and School Board Election.

Digital-Only Parking Passes

The Town of The Blue Mountains would like to advise residents that beginning January 2025, parking passes will be issued only through the digital residential parking pass program, and physical hanging parking passes will no longer be issued or accepted.

Residents are required to register for parking passes annually and must re-register their vehicle for 2025. Vehicle registration can be completed through the Town's website or in person at Town Hall during regular business hours. To register, residents must provide a copy of the vehicle ownership and proof of residency. All residential property owners and residential tenants in the Town can register vehicles for free. Residents will now be able to register friends and family members for a digital temporary parking permit for \$5 plus HST per day, for up to 14 days per calendar year.

A parking pass allows residents of The Blue Mountains to park for free at any paid parking locations owned by the Town, including beaches, parks and trails. Please note that there is no paid parking in the downtown area, except for the Arthur Street lot across from the Post Office. Non-residents from neighbouring municipalities, including Meaford, Grey Highlands, Clearview, and Collingwood, can register for an annual parking pass for \$100.00 plus HST.

To register your vehicle, visit: www.thebluemountains.ca/parking.

BARB BLASER
BROKER

JANET NIELSEN
REALTOR®

HomesInGeorgianBay.com
Your Neighbourhood Realtors®

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INFO@HOMESINGEORGIANBAY.COM

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BEAVER VALLEY OUTREACH

THANK YOU!

FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND FOR HELPING US CONTINUE
MAKING GOOD THINGS HAPPEN IN OUR COMMUNITY!

   @beavervalleyoutreach  bvo.ca
519 599 2577

TERRY 

DOWDALL MP
SIMCOE-GREY

Terry.Dowdall@parl.gc.ca

Alliston Office: 705-435-1809
Collingwood Office : 705-445-5557

Contact my office for assistance with:

-  **Congratulatory Certificates**
-  **Canada Revenue Agency**
-  **Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada**
-  **Service Canada**
- Employment Insurance
- Passports
- Pensions
-  **Veterans Affairs**

 TerryDowdall.2019  Terry.Dowdall  TerryDowdallmp.ca

In Memoriam

FAYE MYLES, 1934-2024

The Myles family sadly announces the passing of Faye Myles, on 23rd September, 2024, at Errinrunc Resident, Thornbury, Ontario.

Faye is survived by her son, Greg (Judy), their son, Tyler (Ben Westenberger), daughter, Kelsey (Cory Calver), and their daughters Elena and Ivy. Faye is also survived by her daughter, Anne (Ben Bryce), and their daughters, Isabella and Sabrina. There are many nieces and nephews, as well as cousins, who share in the loss of a much loved lady. Her dear friends from early childhood, and throughout her life will miss Faye and the fun times they shared.

Faye was born in Heathcote Ontario, the only child of Ernest and Viola Hutchinson. She grew up on the riverside farm, and eventually attended high school in Thornbury. It was there, when both were just 13 years old, that she met Milne Myles. It was a love that would span 74 years.

At 18 years old, Faye was crowned Miss Beaver Valley and Queen of the Fall Fair. The first job Faye held was working for Murray Hammond in the Clarksburg Drug Store, then in Marge's Ladies' shop in Thornbury. When Myles' Electric business was started, Faye crossed the street to manage the Bubble Bath Boutique.

Faye and Milne also built their home on land that was on the family farm, on the edge of town.

There will not be a funeral, but a 'Celebration of Life' will be held sometime in the summer of 2025. All offers of condolence have been much appreciated. Alternately, a donation to Alzheimer's Society may be made in Faye's name.



JOHN MICHAEL BRADY, 1936-2024

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our dear Mike. He died on December 4th, surrounded by family with his beloved Barb by his side. Born in Toronto, Mike spoke fondly of his childhood on Grenadier Heights. He loved skating on and fishing in Grenadier Pond. He rowed for the Argonaut Rowing Club and proudly attended St. Michael's College where he was a member of the hockey team and involved in student council.

Mike's favorite pastime was skiing. He acquired his Level 2 ski instructors certificate and skied whenever he could. It was his love of skiing that inspired Barb and Mike's decision to move to Lora Bay in Thornbury upon retirement. Their many friends in the community have enriched their lives immeasurably. Mike always looked forward to the Tuesday men's breakfast group.

He loved to golf, read, drink wine, tell corny jokes, fix things and socialize. He loved dinner parties, church, and classical music. He kept his things organized and in good working order.

If you were lucky enough to know Mike, you got to experience someone who exemplified grace and kindness. His strong faith guided him in his everyday life. He was always trying to help others, he loved unconditionally, encouraged forgiveness and never spoke an unkind word. He was the greatest man we have known.

He can now rest in peace as he is reunited with his mother Helen, father Leo, brother Emmett and sister Mary Catherine.

Michael is survived by his wife Barbara, children Robert (Andrea) Helwig, Bruce Helwig, Anne (Duncan) Yull, sisters Carol (Tom) Phelan, Marilynne (Greg) Teskey and many nieces and nephews. He was a much loved and admired Grampa Mike to Alex, Caitlin, Sarah, Abby, Andrew, Teddy and Thompson and proud great grandfather to Sidney.

A funeral mass was held at Our Lady of Sorrows Church, on Monday, December 16th. Memorial donations can be made to Sleeping Children Around the World.



BARBARA MOREAU

It is with great sadness that we share the news that wife, sister, mother and friend Barbara has passed.

Barb was born on March 1 in 1935 to Garnet and Olive Hanes (nee Deschamps) in Midland Ontario. She had 2 younger brothers (Rick and Sheldon) and attended public school and high school there. She was an enthusiastic athlete, promising student and keen participant at any social event. When she was 16 she was crowned Campus Queen but was referred to teasingly by her family as the former "Miss Midland".

She continued on to nursing school at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Barrie and became a Registered Nurse. Not surprisingly, while there she won the "Bedside Manner" award. This award really summed her up: caring, friendly, empathetic with a beautiful face to look into when you were feeling rough.

She met her true love and soul mate Peter in 10th grade. Shortly after they graduated post secondary they married and moved to the Blue Mountains "for one year". They stayed for the next sixty six years raising their four children: Michelle (Kevin Nichol), Lisa (Don Campbell) Jeffrey (Yukari Endo) and Marni (Dan Skelton). During those years Barb was a busy and dedicated volunteer with the Beaver Valley Athletic Association, The LE Shore Library, the Liberal Party and the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

She has been an enthusiastic and fun Nana to Megan and Hannah Campbell, Ben and Elliot Nichol, Myles and Coltrane Akande and great grandson Campbell Carrier.

She will also be remembered by many as the smiling face at Errinrunc Nursing Home (1970's) Dr. Rose's Dentist office (1980's) and eventually as the spirited diminutive woman working and enjoying many great laughs with her big group of friends and "kindred spirits" when she worked tirelessly at Beaver Valley Outreach.

Barb and Peter were a fixture of life in Thornbury and Clarksburg for decades, always the first to volunteer to do work and usually the last to leave a good party. Their hospitality, good food and entertaining by the pool made their home a local hotspot. She will be missed by all who had the privilege of knowing her.

Peter and Family hosted a Celebration of Life at the Marsh Street Centre on December 29th. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Barbara's name to the Beaver Valley Outreach or a charity of your choice.



MARGARET ELIZABETH TRAFFORD

Marg was born in Barrie on December 15, 1951 to Florence (née Cherry) and Walter Bell, and raised in Milton. After a brief battle with lung cancer, Marg passed away on Sunday, December 8, 2024 in the care and comfort of her short time at Pine Villa Nursing Home, where she received amazing care in her final days.

Marg was predeceased by her beloved daughter, Kerri Lynn (Kyre), who now welcomes her with open arms into the loving embrace of heavenly eternity. Survived by her siblings Bob Bell (late Audrey), Wayne Bell, and Helen Weir, as well as nieces and nephews: Brian Bell, Cheryl Bell (Tim), Michael Weir (Tammy), and Jen Laurin (Michael), along with many great-nieces and nephews.

Educated at JM Denyes, Milton District High School, followed by Emmanuel Bible College in Kitchener, and graduated from Humber College for Physiotherapy Assistant Program in 1994. This knowledge led to a career of providing long-term at-home palliative care for many. She moved herself and Kyre to the Thornbury area in Blue Mountains, and they thoroughly loved the area. Now at peace, Marg is in the loving arms of Jesus, whom she cherished deeply.

A Come and Go Celebration of Margaret's life was held December 14th at the Chatterson Funeral Home, Collingwood. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the Collingwood General & Marine Hospital Foundation or the Canadian Cancer Society. To sign Margaret's Book of Memories, please visit www.chattersonfuneralhome.com

ANNE KELLY

It is with great sadness, we announce the passing of Anne Kelly (nee Lavelle) on January 5th, 2025.

She was born to Catherine (nee Deacy) and Patrick Lavelle in County Mayo, Ireland on March 8, 1926. Anne was predeceased by her devoted husband Michael in 2006 after 52 years of marriage.

She was a loving mother to her three children, Maureen, Sean and Keiran (Deborah) and grandmother to Micheal (Jillian), Ryan, and Aaron Kelly and grand dog Charlie. She was great grandmother to Makenzie and Logan.

Anne was predeceased by her parents and siblings Thomas Lavelle (Veronica) of Finchley, England, Mary Corrao (Vincent) of New York, USA, Margaret Hamilton (George) of Buckinghamshire, England, and Catherine Carney (Bill) of Philadelphia, USA.

In her younger days, Anne was full of adventure. At the age of 17, she departed Ireland alone to assist in the war effort in High Wycombe, England. She worked evening shift in the manufacture of radar equipment for airplanes. At the end of her shift, she worked her way back to her "digs" in the dark to avoid detection. When the war ended, she was hired by Thames Valley Transit as a fare collector on a double decker bus which included routes around the British countryside.

In 1952, she made the difficult decision to leave the British Isles and her family to make a new life in Canada. She landed in Halifax by ship in 1952 and then took a two-day train ride to Toronto. She was hired by Radio Valve on Dufferin Street and worked in the assembly of black and white televisions. It was travelling home after her evening shift, she sat behind the driver on a TTC bus, was chatted up by said driver and the rest is history...

In July 1954, Anne and Michael were married in Mimico, Ontario. They purchased their first home in Port Credit and Anne kept busy by lovingly tending her garden and their three children. She was a lady of many talents including making clothes, knitting, singing, painting (walls and watercolours), playing musical instruments and writing poetry. She made Maureen's Irish dancing costume in blue wool crepe and proceeded to embroider the entire bodice, skirt and cape in a Celtic pattern. She loved being outside and would gladly cut the lawn rather than being cooped up inside cooking. She even carried concrete blocks to the builders while the addition was being put on the house.

She also had several part time jobs during those years including working at the Mississauga Real Estate Board and the Peel Board of Education as a Teacher's Assistant. After Michael retired from the TTC, Mom decided to return to work full time until Christmas and let Dad do the cooking and shopping for the family. She ended up working for Bell Canada for the next 13 years until her retirement in 1988.

Mom and Dad travelled during their retirement including a trip back to Ireland to visit relatives in their respective counties of Mayo and Sligo and a trip to England and Wales to visit their niece Carmel Jones (Keith). Carmel kept in touch with Mom by phone, letter, cards and visits. Mom will be missed by Linda and Bob Adams who were lifelong friends. Linda and Mom often shared a cup of "Eight O'clock" coffee during their visits.

We would like to acknowledge the staff at the nursing home who provided Anne with care, comfort and clean up when her favourite beverage tea was spilled. Thank you, Elizabeth and Diane, from St. Vincent's for bringing communion and prayers on a regular basis.

A private funeral will be held at St. Vincent's Church in Meaford and interment will occur on Friday, January 10th at Assumption Catholic Cemetery in Mississauga.

As your expression of sympathy, donations to the Beaver Valley Outreach would be appreciated (Anne always loved the bargains) and may be made through the Ferguson Funeral Home, 48 Boucher St. E., Meaford, N4L 1B9 to whom arrangements have been entrusted.

www.fergusonfuneralhomes.ca



DIRK 'RICK' DIELEMAN

Rick 71, passed away peacefully at home on the farm on December 30, 2024 after living with cancer for three years. He faced his illness with the same incredible strength of will and grace that he lived his life by.



Rick was born on March 19, 1953 in Orangeville Ontario to Peter and Johanna Dieleman, the youngest sibling to Petrus (Narda), Audrey (late Jack), and predeceased by Dicky. Rick spent his early years developing a strong dislike of snakes in Belfountain, Ontario before moving with his parents in 1961 to his true home in Ravenna. He fell in love with the region as he spent his younger years hiking through the bush with his dog, chasing streams, building life-long friendships, and farming with his father. He started his own farming operation in his late teens, renting and rebuilding a neighbour's barn to raise pigs. He married Darlene in October of 1976 after connecting over a bushel of apples. They became steadfast partners standing side-by-side, creating a life-long relationship built on unshakable trust, respect, and intentionally choosing each other each day.

Together they grew the farm into a successful dairy operation while welcoming their four children Carolynne (Matthew), Colleen (Markus), Daniel (Krystal), and Catherine (Michael). Family was Rick's foundation, and he took great joy in his nieces and nephews, as well as his inlaws and 'outlaws'. This love extended beyond borders, as he valued every opportunity he had to visit his family in the Netherlands and welcomed their visits with open arms. In recent years he cherished spending time with his eight grandchildren through trips to the barn as well as sharing wisdom and laughter around the kitchen table.

Throughout his life Rick lived his faith and values through acts of kindness, no matter how unconventional. He was a joyful giver creating space at the breakfast table for family, friends, and those finding their way. Rick had a rare gift for making everyone around him feel truly loved and seen. He had a knack for capturing the quirks and stories of his family and friends and weaving them into songs and skits with humour and heart. He was hardworking and steadfast, providing a moral compass, and a safe place to land for those he loved — all with humility.

In honour of Rick's generous spirit and love for others his family kindly asks for donations to be made to St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, a place close to his heart. They also invite everyone to honour Rick's legacy by doing an act of kindness no matter how unusual or unexpected. A funeral service was conducted at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in Clarksburg on Saturday, January 4, 2025.

As your expression of sympathy, donations to the St. Paul's Presbyterian Church would be appreciated and may be made through the Ferguson Funeral Home, 48 Boucher St. E., Meaford, N4L 1B9 to whom arrangements have been entrusted.

www.fergusonfuneralhomes.ca

Blue Mountain

Legacy Fund



Helping The Community

FOR INFORMATION VISIT

www.bluemountainlegacyfund.ca



2025 WINTER SCHEDULE

For information please contact:
Sarah Rody – sarah@livingbetterwithparkinsons.ca
(705) 607-6933
Central Park Arena, 85 Paterson Street, Collingwood
www.livingbetterwithparkinsons.ca

PROGRAMS

Dancing with Parkinson's

Instructor – Louise
Fee: \$60 (8 weeks), Central Park Arena
Start: Tuesday, January 14th & Thursday, January 16th
End: Tuesday, March 4 & Thursday, March 6
Time: 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Chair Yoga with Catherine

Fee: \$25 (5 weeks), Central Park Arena
Start: Thursday Jan.16
End: Thursday, February 13
Time: 11:30 – 12:15

Wheel of Fitness with Sandra

Fee: \$40 (8 weeks), Central Park Arena
Start: Monday, January 13
End: Monday, March 3rd
Time: 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Walking Club with Sandra

Fee: \$10 (8 weeks), Central Park Arena
Start: Wednesday, January 15
End: Wednesday, March 5
Time: 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

GROUP MEETINGS

Support Group Meetings

Every second Tuesday, 1:30-3:00pm
Collingwood Library Free Schools Room
Jan. 14; Feb 11; March 11; April 8; May 13
and June 10

Online Support Group Meetings

2025 Support Group meetings will be recorded. Recordings will be posted on the website. Stay tuned for updates!

Speaker Series

Tuesday, February 11,
Pershia Norouzian, PhD
Tuesday, March 11,
Meaford Green Care Farms
Tuesday, April 8,
The Pretty Dope Women's Podcast,
Caitlin Nagy

Spouse Support Group Meetings

First Thursday of the month - 9:30-10:30 am
Collingwood Library Murray Clerkson Room,
Feb 6; March 6; April 3; May 1 and June 5

Save the Dates!

World Parkinson's Day Celebration

Friday, April 11th, 2025
Picnic in the Beaver Valley, Location: TBD

South Georgian Bay Parkinson's Festival

Sunday, June 22nd, 2025, 10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Bayview Park Pavilion, Thornbury, Ontario

WSC Parkinson's Charity Golf Tournament

Friday, September 19th, 2025
Duntroon Highlands Golf

Log onto to

www.livingbetterwithparkinsons.ca
for regular updates.

Please 'like' Living Better with Parkinson's
Facebook and Instagram pages.

Please support Living Better with Parkinson's
www.livingbetterwithparkinsons.ca/donate/

\$90,000 Raised for Meaford Hospital Foundation During "On Air for Healthcare" Radiothon



The "On Air for Healthcare" Radiothon, hosted by Lite 99.3fm on Saturday, December 21, raised an astounding \$90,000 in support of the Meaford Hospital Foundation. The funds will be used to purchase a new ventilator for the hospital, enhancing critical care services for the community.

Listeners and community members participated through a combination of phone-in, online, and in-person donations, responding to special challenges and matching donation opportunities throughout the event. The generous outpouring of support exceeded expectations, and the final total raised will directly impact the hospital's ability to provide life-saving care.

The event would not have been possible without the sponsorship of Straw Hat Renovations, McDonald's Furniture, JA Custom Homes, Back 40 Glamping, Meaford Outlet Store, Franny's Mercato, Godard's Independent, and The Dam Pub, whose contributions helped make the Radiothon a huge success.

The "On Air for Healthcare" Radiothon has now become an annual event, and organizers are already looking forward to next year's campaign. This year's success lays the foundation for continued growth in the years to come, ensuring that Meaford Hospital can continue to provide excellent healthcare services to the community.

"I'm very proud of the skilled team of healthcare professionals who provide high-quality care to our neighbours, friends and families in Meaford and the surrounding area," said Ann Ford, President & CEO, Brightshores Health System. "The Brightshores Meaford Hospital plays an important role locally and in our regional healthcare system, and we can't thank you enough for your generosity and support."

About Meaford Hospital Foundation

The Meaford Hospital Foundation is committed to raising funds that support the operations, services, and facility needs of Meaford Hospital. The Foundation ensures the hospital can continue offering top-quality healthcare to our community.

For more information about the Meaford Hospital Foundation or to make a donation, please visit www.mhfoundation.ca



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SOUP'S ON and Silent Auction

Sponsored by:



Owen Sound

Saturday, January 25, 2025
11am-2pm

A soup competition featuring local eateries,
entertainment and kids area in support of:

Alzheimer Society
GREY-BRUCE

Admission: By Donation - Soup Tasting Tickets \$20 for 6 samples

You may also purchase
sample size pottery bowls
made by local potters
(limited quantity while supplies last)

This Community Event will focus on
bringing the community together,
while supporting the Alzheimer Society
of Grey-Bruce, and showcasing local
eateries all under one roof.

Harry Lumley Bayshore Community Centre
Owen Sound, Ontario

For more information contact:
alzheimer.ca/greybruce/en
or 519-376-7230

Enjoy a Worry-Free Retirement

Retirement should be a time of joy and fulfillment, but for many, it's clouded by financial worries. Concerns about outliving savings, market volatility, tax implications, inflation, and unforeseen health expenses can weigh heavily on your mind, causing sleepless nights. Many individuals mistakenly set a fixed budget for retirement, assuming their financial needs will remain constant throughout their retirement years. However, retirement is a dynamic journey that unfolds in three distinct phases, each with unique financial demands that require a more nuanced and flexible approach.

The first phase, often known as the go-go years, is filled with adventure. During this time, retirees engage in activities such as traveling, golfing, skiing, and checking off bucket list items. This phase is typically the most expensive as retirees embrace their newfound freedom and good health.

As time progresses, the go-slow years begin to set in. Physical changes can make it difficult to participate in activities you once loved. Travel may become less feasible due to escalating insurance costs or the inability to qualify for coverage. During this phase, expenses tend to decrease significantly, and it's vital to adjust your financial plan accordingly to reflect these changes.

Eventually, retirees enter the no-go years, a phase marked by reduced mobility and increased health concerns. While daily living expenses may decline further during this time, the potential need for long-term care becomes a significant financial consideration. Planning for these costs is essential to ensure you're prepared for whatever challenges may arise.

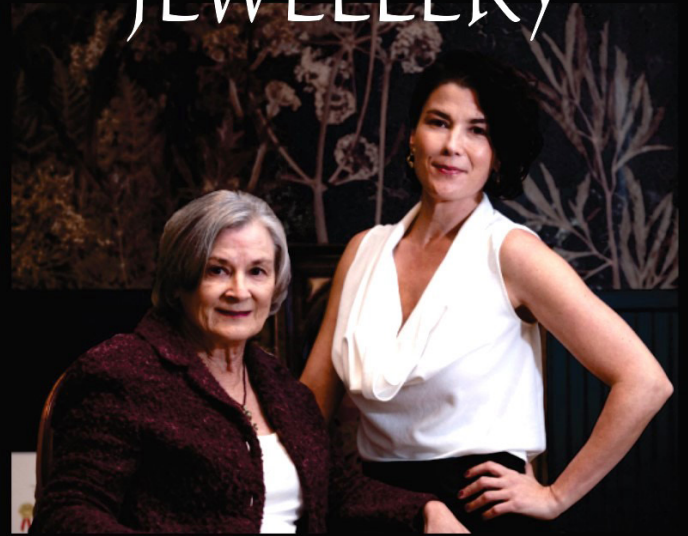
As priorities shift from growth and accumulation during the pre-retirement phase to generating income in retirement, it becomes essential to rebalance your portfolio and establish a well-designed withdrawal plan. This plan should focus on reducing risk, avoiding large drawdowns, and accessing your funds tax-efficiently while minimizing clawbacks on government benefits. Additionally, withdrawals need to be adjusted for inflation to maintain your purchasing power throughout retirement. By aligning these elements, you can create a comprehensive approach that supports your financial stability in your golden years.

Retirement planning can be complex, but a personalized approach makes all the difference. I can help you create a tailored roadmap for your financial journey or provide a second opinion on your current plan, giving you the clarity and confidence to navigate each stage of retirement. It's never too early or too late to start planning. Contact me today at (226)665-0764 for a complimentary consultation or email me at Elliot.sinukoff@ig.ca to receive my free Retirement and Estate Planning newsletter.

Elliot Sinukoff, B.A., B. Comm, PRP, CEPA
Senior Financial Consultant, IG Wealth Management
Investors Group Securities Inc.

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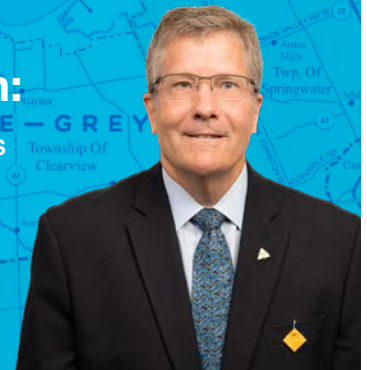
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SAUNDERSON**
MPP, Simcoe-Grey

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📘 MPPSimcoeGrey
👤 BrianSaunderson
🌐 BrianSaundersonPC

Together, let's make every day, a better day, in Simcoe-Grey!

A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF THORNBURY-CLARKSBURG ROTARY 2024

At TC Rotary, the year's been grand,
With fundraisers launched by a hardworking band.
The Monthly Dinner Draw kept spirits high,
While Trivia Night teased the brain, oh my!

We rented out tents, tables, and chairs,
Hosted Afternoon Tea with elegance and flair.
The Golf Tournament brought swings and drives,
And the Turkey Trot Race had folks running for their lives!

The Kindness Gala was a night of delight,
Poinsettias bloomed, adding festive light.
And coffee from Ashanti warmed chilly days,
All for good causes—it's Rotary's way.

Our principles guide us in all we pursue:
Service to others, in all that we do.
With fellowship built through laughter and care,
And diversity's strength as talents we share.

Integrity leads us to act with intent,
While leadership fuels each project's ascent.
Together, we strive to make dreams come true,
With hearts and hands, we see it through.

Funds we raised traveled near and far,
From Hope Haven's horses to kids' camp under the stars.
Shelter Boxes brought aid to those in despair,
Families in crisis found hope in our care.

Little Free Libraries and Pantries appeared,
Painted by students, with kindness steered.
Picnic benches were crafted with skill,
For learning outdoors—it gave us a thrill!

We sent kids and volunteers to a Blue Jays game,
And filled Good Food Boxes in Rotary's name.
For My Friend's House, we lent a hand,
Supporting women to take a strong stand.

We provided scholarships to help students rise,
At Georgian College, where dreams realize.
Big Brothers, Big Sisters received our support,
Bringing mentorship and friendship of the finest sort.

For the Bluewater Science Fair, funding we gave,
Helping young minds explore and be brave.
The Clarksburg Children's Festival brought kids to play,
With Rotary's help, they had a grand day.

We reached across borders to Uganda's school,
At Elgin Ngoma, our kindness ruled.
And in Cameroon, with a Hand Up bright,
We funded health and education to set futures right.

At meetings, we dined on St. George's best,
Thanks to volunteers who gave their best.
With meals so hearty, cooked with care,
We found fellowship and kindness there.

We now feast on the pig of joy and kindness,
A banquet of hope that warms and reminds us.
The president's gavel, oft misplaced,
Brings laughter to meetings (and a frantic chase).

We were proud to host students this year,
Paz from Argentina, who skied with good cheer.
And Fede from Italy, full of delight,
Sharing their cultures enriched every night.

Our gratitude extends to those who've shared,
To Board Members, Chairs, and all who've cared.
To members, partners, and friends so true,
And local businesses—we thank you too!

Though Kindness at Play has yet to be done,
We're inching closer, one step, one run.
Moreau Park's dream grows brighter each day,
Fuelled by hard work, love, and play.

I'm grateful to be a Rotarian true,
Proud of the wonderful things that we do.
For our community and abroad, we strive,
Bringing kindness and hope to help others thrive.

So here's to a year of kindness and cheer,
To all TC Rotary does far and near.
Guided by principles, we carry the flame,
Because service above self is more than a name!



Written By Rotarian David Mossy

THANK-YOU TO EVERYONE WHO SUPPORTED US IN 2024. PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING US IN 2025! WWW.TCROTARY.CA





TOWN NEWS & NOTICES



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YOU'RE INVITED

Mayor & Council Business Breakfast

JANUARY 22, 2025



8 AM - 10AM

Join us at Town Hall for a local leaders business breakfast and round table discussion, co-hosted with The Blue Mountains Chamber of Commerce. Enjoy a unique networking opportunity with local business leaders, Mayor Matrosovs and Town Councillors over breakfast!

Registration is required to attend. Add your name to the guest list by contacting info@bluemountainschamber.ca



Blue Mountains
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Digital-Only Parking Passes

As of January 2025, Town parking passes are fully digital and physical hanging parking passes will no longer be issued or accepted. For more information, visit: www.thebluemountains.ca/parking



COUNCIL CAFÉ

Residents are invited to join Mayor Andrea Matrosovs and members of the Council for an open and informal 'meet and greet' from 8 am to 10 am to discuss topics of interest for the community.

Coffee, tea and breakfast snacks will be provided.

Meeting Dates

JANUARY 9, 2025
Craigleith Heritage Depot

MARCH 28, 2025
Marsh Street Centre

www.thebluemountains.ca

Volunteer Recognition Awards and Fair

APRIL 30, 2025

Volunteer award nominations and fair applications will be open to submit on February 24, 2025



For more information, visit: www.thebluemountains.ca/volunteerawards



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, 2024, to April 1, 2025.

Angels by Alice Otrysko

This is an appropriate time of the year to be thinking about angels. Angels were a definite topic in my mother's house and were used to make us kids feel guilty about almost everything. My mother claimed that your Guardian Angel is behind you over your right shoulder. The Devil is over your left shoulder. Right was associated with good, left with bad. Your Guardian Angel is there to protect you from the temptations offered by The Devil and there is a constant battle between the two of them. I was scared to death of even looking over my left shoulder.

An angel cannot be seen by humans since it is a heavenly or supernatural being, often resembling a beautiful woman with wings. In Christianity angels are messengers of God sent forth to do God's work on Earth.

The angels that I learned about were Michael who was the most important one, Gabriel, Raphael, Uriel and a few other less famous ones. Michael is an archangel, the one with most power and authority.

Lucifer was favoured by God until he rebelled against Him and was expelled from Heaven. There are The Thirteen angels which are called "the Fallen Angels" because they rebelled against God and they are led by Lucifer. The Holy Angels are the ones who did not join in the rebellion against God.

You can communicate with your Guardian Angel by silently sending messages which can be gratitudes or requests. Some people claim that they feel a light touch on your arm or shoulder or feel a light breeze when the angel is with you. At that point a silent prayer is appropriate and a wish or gratitude is expressed.

Angels are messengers of God so be open to what they have to say in their own special way. They also are protectors, fighters of evil and are strong supporters and worshippers of God.

Angels are known for specialties such as healing. Archangel Raphael is known to support the sick or those struggling physically, mentally or emotionally. Our faith teaches us that Angels are real and we should be in awe of them but I remember the nuns in my Catholic High School, strongly warning us that they are not to be worshipped. Only God is to be worshipped. They do not have the power that God has and cannot change what is meant to be.

Angels are messengers, they are healers, guardians and wise. Belief in them can inspire creativity and wisdom and courage.

They are depicted in human form in art but we don't know what they really look like since they are spirits but religions teach that they are there so be aware. Keep looking over your right shoulder.



VON Community Support Programs

Cool Aid Program

The Cool Aid Program was created to give emergency responders quick and easy access to important health information about clients in their homes.

In the event of an emergency where you cannot advocate for yourself, the Cool Aid sticker on your door notifies paramedics that you are enrolled in this program. Clients receive a reminder call every three months from one of our volunteers to ensure that the Cool Aid card displayed on your fridge is current and accurately reflects your medications and any dosage adjustments.

If you or someone you know could benefit from this program, please don't hesitate to call 519-376-5895 (ext. 2).

von.ca



U.S. Open Cider Grand National Champion - Thornbury Craft Co. Cider & Brew House

In 2015, U.S. Open Beer Championship's judging director, Jon Downing suggested adding several cider categories to the U.S. Open Beer Championship. More and more ciders were popping over the United States and Canada. The first year, there were 8 categories and in 2024 there were 33 categories ranging from Heritage Cider to Pie/Cobbler Cider. Today, the U.S. Open Cider Championship is one of the largest cider competitions in the world.

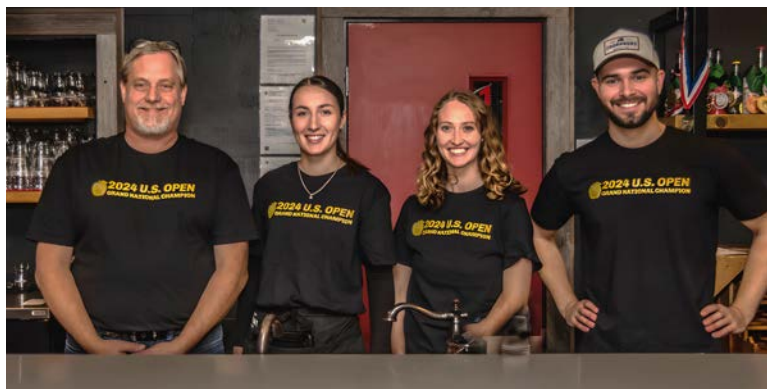
U.S. Open Cider Championship Medals and Grand National Champion Thornbury Craft Co. Cider & Brew House from Thornbury, Ontario, has been crowned Grand National Champion at this year's U.S. Open Cider Championship, winning four gold medals. After finishing a close second to the two-time champion Woodchuck Cider last year, Thornbury triumphed with top honors in the Modern Cider Dry, Rosé, Raspberry, and Blueberry cider categories.



This historic win makes Thornbury the first Canadian cidery to secure the overall title. Arsenal Cider House from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, earned second place, while Glacial Till Vineyard & Winery in Palmyra, Nebraska, claimed third for the second consecutive year.



L - R Derek Cartlidge President of Thornbury Craft Company, Dow Scoggins Head of the US Open Cider Championships, James McIntosh Cider Maker and Alex Benjamin Cider Maker



The front counter crew. photos by Robert Burcher

From A Geography School Project

by Scarlett Orviss, Beaver Valley Community School

The assignment was on sustainability and students in grade 8 were to identify and report on a business or initiative that supports this practice. Scarlett chose our famous local bakery; Blackbird Pie Company.



Blackbird Pie Company is a family-owned bakery located in the center of Heathcote on Grey County Road 13. This bakery is owned by Paul Linklater and Michele Lachance. The bakery originally opened in 2003. They bought the business in 2008 and changed the name to Blackbird Pie Company in 2010. Paul has been in the food and beverage business since 1980 and enjoys making sweet pastries for all.

The Blackbird Pie Company is a great example of a sustainable business. They support environmental, social and economic practices.

ENVIRONMENTAL:

- They use cardboard, paper and other recycled forms of packaging rather than spending money on plastic packaging. Plastic packaging also harms the environment. It damages soil, poisons ground water, causes serious health problems to wildlife, and takes up to 1,000 years to break down.
- The company donates all food scraps like lettuce, vegetables and cooking waste to local pig farms. These food scraps are used as animal feed so it's not wasted going to landfills.
- They support local companies and use local ingredients like apples, fruits, jams, honey and more. This is better for the environment because the food doesn't need to be trucked long distances burning fossil fuels like petroleum and gas.

ECONOMIC:

- Blackbird Pie Company sells local products from other producers like maple syrup, jams, spreads, honey, apples and fruits. They are using their resources efficiently and getting business from local companies.
- To help their business grow they have done intern/apprentice programs. This is when teens who are interested in the business get to work there for a period of time under adult supervision.
- Blackbird Pie Company is a member of The Apple Pie Trail which helps promote the area and brings in tourism business. Basically, by being a member of the Apple Pie Trail, Blackbird gets lots of advertisement about their company.



SOCIAL:

- Blackbird Pie Company is very involved in supporting the community and giving back. They donate to The Beaver Valley Fall Fair as well as Beaver Valley Community School by auctions and gift cards.
- They take on many apprentices and are happy to teach all about their bakery.
- Blackbird Pie Company is very respectful of all their staff and customers. They welcome everyone into their bakery and might tell you a little story about Heathcote while you are there.

Sweet Strings Ensemble, By Jen Burak

Sweet Strings is the new, community string ensemble, being launched under the umbrella of the acclaimed Sweetwater Music Festival; a festival that has been bringing outstanding music to the region for over 22 years. Made possible by the Ontario Trillium Foundation, Sweetwater was awarded a seed grant for this amazing project! Rehearsals are set to begin at Meaford United Church on February 6th from 7-9pm. Any interested intermediate + violinists, violists, cellists or bass players are encouraged to join! This group is perfect for folks too busy to join an orchestra with a heavy performance schedule and is open to all ages.

Richard Mascall, an award-winning Canadian composer and well respected musician/teacher in the region, will be heading up Sweet Strings as the Principal Conductor. With an impressive resume that includes extensive conducting and composition experience, deep community roots and a strong understanding of the importance music plays in our lives, he is the perfect fit for Sweet Strings.

Along the way, various professionals like Victoria Yeh and Sweetwater's Artistic Director, violinist Edwin Huizinga, will also mentor the group. Having access to professional musicians is one of the highlights of the grant. "Embedded in the grant is funding for this type of mentoring which will allow members to develop their musicianship in a relaxed, enjoyable way," explains Sweetwater board member and Meaford resident Jen Burak.

The ensemble will meet bi-weekly and will work on repertoire during 2025 which will culminate in a ticketed year end concert. "The idea is to allow members to enjoy developing the music over the course of the year, with a few, fun community concerts and along the way," says committee co-chair Alicia Hutchings, Thornbury resident. She also added, "there is a modest membership fee which can be waived for anyone who finds it to be a barrier."

Also, folks are encouraged to give Sweet Strings a try for a rehearsal or two to see if it's a good fit. For more information about becoming part of Sweet Strings or to find out more about the Sweetwater Music Festival visit: sweetwatermusicfestival.ca/sweetstrings



CALLING ALL STRING PLAYERS!

Join us for fun evenings of music and friendship.

Play accessible and fun repertoire led by conductor Richard Mascall and special guests from the SweetWater Festival.

This ensemble is intended for intermediate and advanced amateur players - adults and high school players welcome!

Rehearsals will take place at the Meaford United Church on Thursday evenings, twice a month.

For more information:
sweetwatermusicfestival.ca/sweetstrings
sweetwatermusicfestival@gmail.com



An agency of the Government of Ontario
Un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario



sweetwatermusicfestival.ca



Events for Life Centre Inc.

Long time no talk Town of The Blue Mountains. It's your friends at Events for Life! It's time to tell you about our final month of

the Youth Climate Action Fund, from the Town of The Blue Mountains and Grey County. We hope that everyone is enjoying the snow or snuggled up, drinking hot cocoa and watching classic movies!

December has been sustainability month at EFL. What is sustainability? Well, it's what we have been doing since day one of this Youth Climate action work and we didn't even know it! Sustainability is becoming more eco-friendly. How did we do that? We are reducing our waste by making sure we have garbage free lunches and using our new composters. We have made our plates, cups and utensils at the EFL café compostable or recyclable, and we are making a pollinator garden to help our pollinators continue to do their amazing job.

OK, OK enough about what we have already done that is sustainable...what did we do this month. Well, we talked a lot about one of the 3 R's...REUSE! We discussed what can be reused and boy did we think of a lot. Tupperware, water bottles, glass jars, egg cartons, clothing, soap dispensers and many, many more. We then took a deeper dive into clothing or should we say thrifting! Thrifting clothes is a great way to be sustainable instead of throwing away old clothes, donate them to someone that might need it or buy used instead of new! There are so many great places in Thornbury to find used clothing, BVO, Loved You Madly and of course our very own mini thrift store at the Lillypad Spa!

From thrifting we moved to Fixing...I mean it has almost become second nature to just throw something out when it stops working right? Guess what? NOT ANY MORE...thanks to the Repair Café. We were lucky enough to have Mike and Barry from the Repair Café come in to talk about what they can fix and the importance of reducing our waste. Instead of throwing it away immediately, try fixing it first! They repaired a lamp right in front of our eyes. We also sent a few things we had laying around that stopped working to see if they can be fixed. Pretty cool right? If you have something you want fixed make sure to check out the Repair Café on the 4th Saturday of the month (except July, Aug, Dec) 9am - 12pm at Grace United Church. It doesn't seem like much but hey start small right? These are a few little things we can change in our lives to make an impact.

Well, that's a wrap everyone. Thank you so much for stopping in and learning with us for the last 4 months. We have had so much fun meeting new people in our community and finding ways that we can positively impact our environment. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Youth Climate Action Fund, Town of The Blue Mountains and Grey County for giving us this amazing opportunity. Well it has been a wonderful journey, learning and sharing our experiences along the way! Going into this new year we have new Climate Action goals and ideas to keep our environment and the Town of The Blue Mountains beautiful.

Happy New Year friends, Your pals at EFL.



TBM Repair Café 2024 Year End Results

This past year a dedicated group of up to 25 volunteers from our community and beyond, met once a month (except July, August and December) for the TBM Repair Café. They donated their time and talents to repair, fix, glue, mend, sew and screw a total 250 items. All at no cost to our customers!

The TBM Repair Café creates a sustainable, circular economy that not only extends the life of the item, but also lengthens the life of our landfill and makes the owners very happy!

Congratulations and thank you volunteers of the TBM Repair Café! Our next TBM Repair Café is on Saturday January 25th 9 to noon.

www.repaircafethebluemountains.ca

BVO Seeking New Board Members

Beaver Valley Outreach is a grass-roots, charitable organization with programs and services that enhance the lives of children, families, seniors, youth and individuals in our community. Our vision is a vibrant, engaged and inclusive community with quality programs and services that enhance the well-being of families and individuals.

We are currently recruiting to fill vacancies on our volunteer Board of Directors, for a 3-year term commencing in March 2025.

Time commitment consists of 10 Board meetings per year, plus participation in at least one Board committee. In addition to attendance at Board and committee meetings, preparation time is required to review Board and committee materials prior to meetings. Estimated time commitment is approximately 8-10 hours per month. Successful candidates must provide a completed criminal record check.

We welcome applicants with diverse backgrounds and life experiences, including participation in one or more of our many programs and services. Application www.bvo.ca

If you are interested in joining the Board of Directors of Beaver Valley Outreach, please complete and **submit your application by 5:00 pm on January 17, 2025:**

By Email: admin@bvo.ca OR

Hand-deliver to: Beaver Valley Outreach,
Att Board Vice-Chair, 54 King St E Thornbury



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The Master Gardener's Corner

Things to do in your garden each month taken from the Ontario Master Gardener Calendar by John Hethrington, Past President, Master Gardeners of Ontario. For more information, or your copy of the 11" x 17" calendar of the full year's tips for a \$2 contribution to Master Gardeners, call 519-599-5846.



Things to do in, or for your garden in - January 2025

Welcome to the new gardening year. There's lots to do for your garden, even in winter.

Winter came last month with 3 feet of snow, but it kept the frost out of the beds. By now, it has mostly melted away. If the traditional January thaw comes and the snow is almost gone, mound any remaining snow over roses and tender perennials.

- Cut the branches off your Christmas tree and place them over tender plants to catch the snow, which is a good insulator. It's the freeze/thaw cycle that kills the plants.
- Inspect house plants for white flies, spider mites and aphids. Apply insecticidal soap and spray with water.
- Inspect any spring bulbs you may have stored or forgotten about. Discard soft or mouldy ones.
- Plant any left over, not-yet-planted spring bulbs like daffs, tulips etc. in pots with good potting soil and a little bone meal. Water. Put the pots in an unheated garage or garden shed for 6 weeks. Take them inside in February or early March for spring blooms in less than a month.
- Expand your personal knowledge through on-line courses. Check out Master Gardener websites for lectures and seminars. Start looking on-line for seed and plant catalogues.
- Start planning your garden for next spring. I'm already making lists of plants to divide, and buy.
- Make detailed lists under different categories, like: BIG projects, regular maintenance, new plants to buy and also, plants to divide and donate to the St. George's Plant Sale, Saturday May 24 2025. Call 519-599-3047 for more info, or if you need a digging crew to help you pot up your plants for the sale.
- Google "Seed Catalogue Websites" and see hundreds of seed sources.
- Order flower and vegetable seeds. Decide which seeds should be started inside.
- If you can find them, try forcing amaryllis and paperwhite narcissus now for indoor winter bloom that will cheer you up during a long winter.
- At the end of the month, start the slowest germinating seeds like begonias and geraniums, also seeds for early spring bloom e.g., pansy, verbena, alyssum and dianthus.

The Markdale CO-OP, now called Midwest Co-Op, (1-519-986-2031) will have a good supply of Triple-19 fertilizer in early March. This is the strong agricultural fertilizer to put on the soil in your flower beds in March right after the snow has melted. Put it around your plants, not on them, as it could possibly burn them. It will fertilize your gardens all summer long.

Seniors Matters Today

Happy New Year! It's sure to be a busy one for Ontarians. Provincial and federal election are coming this year. Elections Ontario is already recruiting staff.

Staying well during cold and flu season is a priority. Make sure that your immunizations are up to date. If you are 50 or older, talk you're your pharmacist about the best choices for you.

For Pharmasave Thornbury, Flu and Covid 19 shots can be booked online (Pharmasave.com/thornbury). For other immunizations, phone Pharmasave and make an appointment with the pharmacist. (519 599 2719). Other pharmacies are offering walk in immunization, depending on supply of vaccines. Phoning in for an appointment is an option (e.g. Loblaws, Collingwood, 705 445-0461)

Blue Mountains Community Health Centre (78 King St. E.) offers immunization. It advertises its hours of operation with a sign outside the centre.

Services to Ontario Seniors – recently, it was announced that the Ontario government is moving away from institutionalization of elders towards in-home and community-based support services. It was a follow up to last year's provincial budget announcement that the governments is "Investing an additional \$2 billion in the home and community care sector to support expansion and increase compensation for frontline workers"

Improved and increased home and community supports have been advocated by seniors groups for many years. Seniors will be eager to see the changes that occur as a result of these announcements.

Property Tax Assessments – Your 2016 Notice reflects the assessed value and classification of your property as of January 1, 2016 and this will be used as the basis for calculating your 2025 property taxes. (In 2016, MPAC mailed Property Assessment Notices to every property owner in the province.) Due to COVID-19, Ontario postponed the 2020 Assessment Update. Later, the postponement of the province-wide reassessment by the Municipality Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) was extended to the 2021-2024 assessment cycle.

For 2025, MPAC has announced that property assessments for the 2025 property tax year will continue to be based on fully phased-in January 1, 2016 current values.

NEW ART EXHIBIT: "Near & Far"

JANUARY 2025



The Gallery at the L.E. Shore Library, 173 Bruce St. S., Thornbury
Hailing from studios in Wasaga Beach and Hamilton, Adele Derkowski and Paul G. Russell present Near & Far at The Gallery at L.E. Shore – a new exhibit that contemplates aspects of the natural world. Portraits of earth and water, of people and places are explored in a variety of perspectives contrasting the

grand - sweeping vistas of land and sky - with the intimate detailing of faces and shadowed stones. These artists match the diversity of their subject matter with a range of mediums, including acrylic, pencil and art print.

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Town of The Blue Mountains Launches Cloudpermit for Building Services



The Town of The Blue Mountains is excited to announce the launch of its online Cloudpermit system, which will enhance and streamline the process of applying for building permits.

As of January 1, 2025, Cloudpermit is available for residents, builders, and members of the business community to apply for and track building permits anywhere, at any time. The cloud-based system offers the flexibility to start an application, complete it later, and receive email updates regarding its status.

The introduction of Cloudpermit aims to provide customers with a more transparent and user-friendly experience by enhancing efficiency, reducing administrative burdens, and facilitating communication between staff and applicants.

While the Town of The Blue Mountains Building Services transitions to the Cloudpermit system, applications will still be accepted by email or the Town's secure sharefile using the existing PDF Application Forms until May 1, 2025. Building Services staff are committed to ensuring a smooth transition for customers and are available to provide assistance at Town Hall during regular business hours.

Learn how to get started with Cloudpermit and create an account by visiting the Building Permits & Inspections page.

For more information, please contact:
 Building Services
 519-599-3131 ext. 296

Winter Lights IN DOWNTOWN THORNBURY

DECEMBER 1, 2024 - MARCH 1, 2025

- HESTER STREET PARKETTE**
Start your tour with downtown delight, a shopping spree beneath festive light (Bruce Street South)
- BRUCE STREET PARKETTE**
Continue your walk towards Georgian Bay, with holiday lights guiding your way (Bruce Street North)
- RAINBOW BRIDGE**
High above the Beaver River flow, a light display aglow
- TREES OF LIGHT**
Oh what a sight! It's the trees of light, standing tall and bright
- BELL PARKETTE**
You'll find a bell atop the hill, in the parkette, what a thrill
- THE BRIDGE OF LIGHT**
Finish your journey and head back to the start, across the bridge, a work of art

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:
 thornbury.ca
 @experiencethornbury

TITLE CHRISTMAS TREE SPONSOR

BLUMINATION

There's magic and adventure under Blue's lights that only come out on a winter's night.

Learn More

After School Hip-Hop Dance Classes

Starts Thursday, January 9 at 3:30pm, L.E. Shore Library
 Try After-School Hip Hop with Sharin Elizabeth Dance!
 An energetic, four-week hip-hop series happening Thursday from 3:30-4:30pm at the Library, perfect for kids ready to groove and learn some new moves. \$50 per child. Ages 10+
 Register for this event on our website!
www.thebluemountainslibrary.ca / 519-599-3681

New Seniors Fitness Class Added at L.E. Shore Library!

Mondays and Wednesdays Starting January 13
 Improve your strength and balance and join us for a fun bi-weekly fitness class for seniors. Help keep your body moving with some easy stretches and gentle aerobics.
 Pay by donation. Drop-in.
 Class 1: 10-10:45am
 Class 2: 11-11:45am (involves floor exercises)

TALK: Iceland - A Ring Road Journey | Michael Arkless

Tuesday Jan 14 7:00pm - 8:00pm
 The Gallery at the L.E. Shore Library, 173 Bruce St.S. Thornbury

The Gallery at L.E. Shore invites you to join Michael (Mike) Arkless for a breathtaking journey through Iceland via the Icelandic Ring Road. The Icelandic Ring Road, also known as Route #1, is a national road that runs all around the country, connecting major towns and cities. Witness the Power of the earth itself, the Glaciers and Ice, the Water, the Highlands, the Wildlife and Seascape, as well as some of the manmade architecture that seeks to impose itself upon the land. Register for this event on our website!
www.thebluemountainslibrary.ca / 519-599-3681



 Jeff Woods & Marsh Street Centre present

The Winter Baby Birthday


Danger ZED

 A Tribute to The Who

 Live in Concert

Saturday Jan 18, 2025


 Doors: 7:00 pm Music: 8:00 pm

 Tickets  www.marshstreetcentre.com

FANTASTIC CINEMA CLUB

THE MARSH STREET CENTRE

Tuesday Jan 21st



NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN

 Doors 7:00 Intro 7:45 Showtime 8:00 \$15 at the Door

The Story Workshop:

Generate and Develop Your Creative Writing

WITH LOCAL AUTHOR, KATIE ZDYBEL

6-MONTH PAID COURSE STARTS THURSDAY JANUARY 23 4-6PM \$500 + HST

AT L.E. SHORE LIBRARY
 173 BRUCE ST. THORNBURY



REGISTRATION DETAILS:
WWW.THEBLUEMOUNTAINSLIBRARY.CA



TBM Repair Café

 140 Bruce St. S. Thornbury

Saturday, January 25th 9am-Noon

 Bring broken items for free repair and enjoy a snack.

 Go **Green** for a better **Blue!**

www.repaircafethelbluemountains.ca

BEAVER VALLEY PIPES & DRUMS FUNDRAISING CONCERT

CELEBRATE THE MUSIC & POETRY OF ROBBIE BURNS

SATURDAY JAN 25 2025, 12:30 PM

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 Entertainment 12:30 TO 3:00

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PHONE
 705-606-1493



MARSH STREET CENTRE

70'S DANCE PARTY WITH VOODOO LOUNGE

Saturday Jan 25th, 7:00 – 11:00 pm

 187 Marsh Street, Clarksburg

 The excitement and electricity when Voodoo Lounge hits the stage is palpable.

 You have the sensation that the Rolling Stones are right in front of you. For any Rolling Stones fan, this is a chance to go back in time and relive the Rolling Stones in their prime.

Tickets \$40 - 519-599-7837 www.marshstreetcentre.com

New Exhibit Opening: The Colour Magenta


Sat Feb 1st 2pm-4pm

 The Gallery at the L.E. Shore Library

 173 Bruce St. S., Thornbury

 Each year, The Gallery's Arts & Culture Council hosts a vibrant, color-themed exhibition, with past themes including blue, green, gold, turquoise, and more. Local artists are invited to submit artwork that aligns with the chosen color, and the exhibit is displayed in the "salon style," with artwork covering the walls from floor to ceiling.

 All are welcome to attend the opening festivities on February 1st between 2-4pm. Enjoy refreshments, mingle with the dozens of artists who have contributed their work to the show and take in the stunning display. Additionally, you'll also experience a live painting session where multiple artists will create magenta-themed artwork - right before your eyes - which will then be added to the exhibit! The show runs February 1-26.



 Thornbury

Spark, Ember, Guide, Pathfinder

69th Thinking Day

(formerly Valentine Tea & Bake Sale)


Tea & Bake Sale

Saturday, Feb. 22, 2025

 2 pm to 4 pm

 Tickets \$4.00

 St. Paul's Presbyterian Church



 Bring a reusable bag for baking

LUNCH BUNCH

4th Tuesday

JANUARY 28TH AT NOON

 Come for lunch and bring a friend. Min. \$10 donation

 St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 165 Russell St. E., Thornbury

The Sap of '25

A leaf, a leaf, by any other name a Maple,
sweet in colour, our iconic sovereign,
Yet now lies brushed to undergrowth,
while limbs bare their bark to wintery wiles.
We too have left our colours to Twenty Four,
memories our mulch for Twenty Five,
We brace together in our glades of harmony to
tame the dragons of fear, mistrust.

If we be of Maple mettle, so let us harbour the
sweetest sap, and foliage for all,
Where pine, mountain and prairie, farm and town,
tapestry of peoples and cultures,
These become the riverbanks of dignity,
streaming into rimless cups of kindness.
Of what mortal onslaught shall we,
the brigade of Maple Leaves, flutter in fear?
None!

Trumpian flatulence, the Putine of tyranny and greed,
Trudeauesque foolishness,
These are but vacant vapours seen rising from
a mirage shimmering with Ego.
Ours is that calling to which the annals of

Twenty Five will inscribe
our passion,
The Maple Leaf will be our
shield, our fortress,
our breastplate,
our fiery soul,
To tell the gazing world,
we stand on guard for thee,
for thou, and me.

Jeremy Wentworth-Stanley,
jeremy@officeinthebarn.com



Update on Campus of Care Project

The Campus of Care project was initially proposed to be a development that would have included 160 long-term care beds, retirement living, workforce housing, daycare and multi-family units.

On November 8, 2024, it was announced that negotiations with SkyDev and peopleCare, the proposed developers of the project, had ceased and that the Campus of Care project would no longer be proceeding at 125 Peel Street. On November 25, 2024, Council put forward a motion to continue to work with peopleCare to review other properties in the Town for a potential long-term care facility.

The Town would like to recognize the commitment of all parties in the negotiations of the proposed Agreements of Purchase and Sale to realize a vision for the property that would be economical and provide significant community benefit.

"Eighteen different versions of the Agreements were prepared by the parties through the negotiation process. The decision to end negotiations was not arrived at lightly, and it came only after full consideration by Council and staff of what was in the best interest of the Town," said Mayor Andrea Matrosovs. "Unfortunately, we were unable to come to an agreement, but we look forward to continuing to work with peopleCare to identify additional sites in the Town that could support a long-term care facility."

A staff report will be brought forward at the January 13, 2025, Committee of the Whole meeting that will include additional information regarding the Campus of Care project.

Adam Smith, Director of Planning & Development Services
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Royal LePage 2022
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Top 10 National Individual
Top 2% National Gross Sales 2023



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