



The REVIEW

Blue Mountains: Thornbury, Clarksburg, Craigleith, Heathcote, Ravenna

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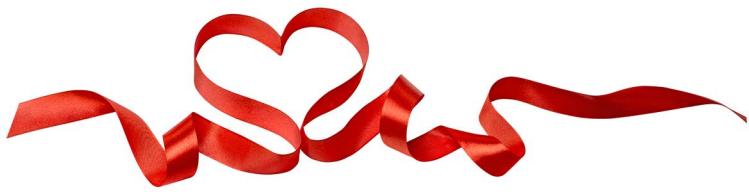
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Vol 8 Issue 5

FEBRUARY 1 2022



Valentine Rings

Mid-winter's doorbell is the Day of Valentine, pealing for romance!

So how do we respond, when the threshold is fastened with frost,

Shafts of snow and ice seek cracks in the lintel's seams?

Such source of shiver may impede the flow of rose and chocolate ,

As we grapple with Nature's solstice, seek shelter behind the shielding walls.

And it is to Nature, we owe our respect, for while she issues sovereign writ,

Her kindness outshines her wrath, restores, forgives, embraces with blessing.

So as we feel thistles of frost, be they of winter's making or within our soul,

Let us blunt such shards and recompose, let us be Nature's warmth,

Open the drawbridge, let love be sustenance - given and received.

For it is a truth, that all pain, all wilderness, grief and hurt,

Fall eternally to the touch of love, that is ours to express by our choosing.

May Valentine of '22 be yours and ours to melt the sorrows,

Give fresh flight to Love's quiver of arrows.

Jeremy, Poet



MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST

GREY BRUCE HEALTH UNIT VACCINE CLINIC

at Beaver Valley Community Centre,

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 12:00pm - 6:00pm

58 Alfred St. W., Thornbury

Walk-ins available or book your appointment through the COVID-19 Vaccination Portal or by calling the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre at 1-833-943-3900

Coldest Night of The Year - Feb. 26th

The Coldest Night of the Year has returned for its 7th year, raising funds for Home Horizon and The Barbara Weider House. The



Coldest Night of the Year is a national fundraiser that raises money and awareness for the hungry, homeless and hurting. 100% virtual: walk where you want, when you want, how far you want (typical is 2km or 5km). Home Horizon targets youth experiencing homelessness in the Southern Georgian Bay area. The Barbara Weider House, their transitional housing program, is staffed 24 hours a day and currently has capacity for seven youth to live in the house and is expanding to ten in the new year. Their "Your S.A.F.E." youth outreach program, helps connect youth with other housing service organizations in our community. Since the launch in 2020, they have served 127 youth, with over 1,085 services interactions.

Please join us on February 26th to walk to support the youth in our community. Event details and registration at cnoy.org/collingwood

Willi Winkels Day, First Saturday in March

Town of The Blue Mountains and Collingwood

As a leading force in the development of all board sports, it is appropriate that Willi's remarkable creation and legacy be recognized by the municipalities in which he lived, taught, skateboarded, skied and snowboarded for many decades. Without Willi's craftsmanship, engineering, tenacity, audacity, marketing and problem-solving solution skills, snowboarding would not have emerged and evolved in the decades in which it did. Willi's talents also enabled him to introduce Canada to the sport of skateboarding, create Canada's first skateboarding team and mass produce skateboards of his own design, including a motorized skateboard. Willi and his friends tested early snowboard prototypes on the slopes of Blue Mountain, Mammoth Mountain in California, and beyond. Blue Mountain Resort has honoured Willi – later an instructor there - with a run in his namesake.



The Craigleith Heritage Depot seeks the public's contributions of memories and pictures of Willi Winkels and Wee Willi Winkels Inc. products to expand a new online exhibit about this legendary man and inventor with ties to the Blue Mountains area.

Public are invited to submit original digital content through an online submission form, <https://bluemountains.libriesshare.com/williwinkels/>, which accepts video recordings, sound recordings, word processed documents, images and more.

As of April 2019, over 50 items were available to view online. View the exhibit at library.biblioboard.com and search for "Willi Winkels."

The public is invited to contact the Craigleith Heritage Depot with any submission questions or if they prefer to share stories and pictures in person: depot@thebluemountains.ca

Current Situation: Day 687

Follow the 3 W's – Wash hands frequently, Watch distance (ideally 6ft), and Wear face covering correctly, and the 2 A's - Avoid Crowds

Testing and case counts reported as of 23:59 hrs, February 1, 2022

All data is preliminary and subject to change.

New cases reported are not an accurate representation of caseloads in the community due to recent changes in testing in Ontario.

New cases only represent those that are eligible to be tested.

- 35 new cases reported in past 24 hours in Grey Bruce
- 146 active cases
- 5567 confirmed cases
- 5382 resolved cases
- 12 confirmed local active case(s) hospitalized in Grey Bruce
- 25 deaths in Grey Bruce
- 415 cases reported in health care workers; workers living in Grey Bruce and working both in and outside Grey Bruce

Beaver Valley Outreach is grateful to be the recipient of proceeds from the **Thornbury Jazzworks** Christmas Concert. As part of the evening we are able to hold a BVO table that helped us raise some additional funds to support our Christmas Hamper program. This event is a great example of a 3rd Party Fundraiser where people can come and enjoy amazing entertainment while supporting a local charity whose mission is to make good things happen in our community, supporting local households and recycling goods to give them a new life by keeping them out of our landfill.

Blue Mountain Legacy Fund

Helping The Community

FOR INFORMATION VISIT
www.bluemountainlegacyfund.ca
or call 519-599-3345

The REVIEW

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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 are available by calling 519-599-3345.

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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.

Ontario Reopening Plan

In the absence of concerning trends in public health and health care indicators, Ontario will follow a cautious and phased approach to lifting public health measures, with 21 days between each step.

Effective February 21, 2022, Ontario will lift public health measures, including:

- Increasing social gathering limits to 25 people indoors and 100 people outdoors.
- Removing capacity limits in indoor public settings where proof of vaccination is required, including but not limited to restaurants, indoor sports and recreational facilities, cinemas, as well as other settings that choose to opt-in to proof of vaccination requirements.
- Permitting spectator capacity at sporting events, concert venues, and theatres at 50 per cent capacity.
- Limiting capacity in most remaining indoor public settings where proof of vaccination is not required to the number of people that can maintain two metres of physical distance.
- Indoor religious services, rites or ceremonies limited to the number that can maintain two metres of physical distance, with no limit if proof of vaccination is required.
- Increasing indoor capacity limits to 25 per cent in the remaining higher-risk settings where proof of vaccination is required, including nightclubs, wedding receptions in meeting or event spaces where there is dancing, as well as bathhouses and sex clubs.
- Enhanced proof of vaccination, and other requirements would continue to apply in existing settings.

Effective March 14, 2022, Ontario will take additional steps to ease public health measures.

To support businesses required to close or reduce capacity due to the public health measures put in place to blunt the spread of the Omicron variant, the government has launched the **Ontario Business Costs Rebate Program**. Through the new program, the government will provide eligible businesses with a rebate payment of up to 100 per cent for property tax and energy costs they incur while subject to these restrictions. Applications for the program opened on January 18, 2022. Learn more about the program and apply here.

The government is also introducing a new **COVID-19 Small Business Relief Grant** that will give businesses subject to closure under the modified Step Two of the Roadmap to Reopen a \$10,000 grant. The money will flow to eligible businesses in February. In addition, the government is also improving cash flows for Ontario businesses by making up to \$7.5 billion available through a six-month interest- and penalty-free period for Ontario businesses to make payments for most provincially administered taxes. This penalty and interest-free period started on January 1, 2022. This supports businesses now and provides the flexibility they will need for long-term planning.

Quick Facts

Effective January 4, 2022, the use of the enhanced COVID-19 vaccine certificate with QR code and the Verify Ontario app has been required where proof of vaccination is required. Download by visiting <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/get-proof>, or call the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre at 1-833-943-3900 to have your vaccine certificate mailed.

On January 17, 2022, Health Canada approved the antiviral Paxlovid. Ontario is expected to receive approximately 10,000 courses of treatment from the federal government in January, with eligibility to be focused on adults with the highest risk of severe outcomes.

Notice of Town Public Meetings

Monday, March 7th

1. Comprehensive Parking By-law
 2. Options to Regulate Fireworks
- details on www.thebluemountains.ca

Town Facilities Begin to Gradually Re-open Starting January 31st

The Town of The Blue Mountains would like to advise the public that select Town facilities will begin to gradually re-open starting on Monday, January 31, 2022, in response to the gradual re-opening announcement made by the Ontario government.

Beaver Valley Community Centre and Arena

Effective Monday, January 31, regular programming will resume at the Beaver Valley Arena and Community Centre. Members of the public will be required to show proof of full vaccination through a QR code (paper or electronic – no exceptions) before entering.

For information about public skating programs, please visit the Public Skating page on the Town's website.

Town Hall

Effective Monday, February 7, Town Hall will re-open to the public. All Council, Committee of the Whole and Committee meetings will continue to be hosted virtually until further notice, with hybrid meetings to resume when it is safe to do so.

To help limit traffic into Town Hall, residents are reminded that online services are available and can be accessed 24/7. For more information and details, please visit the Online Services page on the Town's website.

The Blue Mountains Public Library

Beginning Tuesday, February 1, the Craigleath Heritage Depot will return to onsite browsing of the museum and library collections. The Blue Mountains Public Library L.E. Shore branch will continue to be open for browsing, but patrons are asked to limit their time in the building. www.thebluemountains.ca

Proposed Changes to Release of Town Agendas

Staff recommend Council proceed with the enactment of a By-law to revise the Procedural Bylaw 2021-76, as it relates to the timelines for the release of agendas as noted below,

In response to the comments from a public meeting, staff recommend proceeding with timelines as noted below:

1. Move the timeline for the release of Agendas to Monday at 3:00 pm (one week in advance of the meeting) from the current Wednesday at 3:00 pm (five days in advance of the meeting)
2. Move the deadline for submission of correspondence or a deputation request to Friday at 9:00 am (ten days in advance of the meeting) from the current Monday at 9:00 am (one week in advance)
3. Move the deadline for submission of correspondence or deputations following release of an Agenda to Thursday at 9:00 am (four days in advance of the meeting), from the current Friday at 12:00 pm noon (three days in advance)
4. Move the release date of the revised Agendas that includes any additional deputations or correspondences, to the end of the business day Thursday.
5. That the By-law will be enacted February 14, 2022, and will become effective as of March 1, 2022



Mon. - Fri. 10Am -5pm

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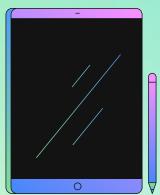
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THE BLUE MOUNTAIN PUBLIC LIBRARY FEBRUARY PROGRAMS



**Exhibit Launch:
Celebrating the Colour Purple**
Jan. 29-Feb. 24 | The Gallery at L.E. Shore
Works by local artists, presented by The Arts & Culture Council.
Exhibit Available Online & In-Person.



Adventures in Digital Arts for Youth

Feb. 12 | 10:00am | Virtual | Registration Required
Learn about cartooning and movie-making with the coolest new tech. In partnership with the TBM Creator Space. Ages 8-13.



BMPL Book Box

Feb. 1-28 | Take Home | Registration Required
Discover new authors and genres with a curated book box. Receive a curated selection of books, based on your own interests.



Kids Clubhouse

Tuesdays | 4:00pm | Zoom | Registration Required
A fun after-school Virtual Program for kids. Activities, crafts, puzzles, books, and movies that you can pick up and enjoy at home. Meet us on Zoom to make the craft together! Check out our website for more info.



Teen Group

Feb. 10 | 4:00pm | Zoom | Registration Required
Have your say on Teen programming and services, be involved in your community, make social media posts, and meet new friends! Activities and fun. We meet once a month.



For more information or to register for events visit the [Event Calendar](#) on our website.
www.TheBlueMountainsLibrary.ca

TEMPORARY HOURS

For more information visit our Service Updates & COVID-19 webpage.

L.E. SHORE BRANCH

Monday	10am - 5pm
Tuesday	10am - 5pm
Wednesday	10am - 5pm
Thursday	10am - 5pm
Friday	10am - 5pm
Saturday	10am - 2pm
Sunday	CLOSED

CRAIGLEITH HERITAGE DEPOT (CURBSIDE ONLY)

Monday	CLOSED
Tuesday	12pm - 5pm
Wednesday	CLOSED
Thursday	12pm - 5pm
Friday	12pm - 5pm
Saturday	CLOSED
Sunday	12pm - 4pm

"Bottles for BVO" Booming

Bottles for BVO, a program from Beaver Valley Outreach that collects empty wine, liquor, and beer bottles and cans in the community to raise money for its programs and services, recently celebrated a milestone. In 2021, the organization diverted 165,000 bottles and cans from the landfill, collecting a record \$23,482.00.



The program owes its success to BVO volunteers, the The Blue Mountains landfill site, and the community at large. In 2017, Thornbury resident Jean-Marc Page, in conjunction with the Town, set up a container at the landfill to collect and pick up empties. "I would go to there once every three weeks to pick them up," says Jean-Marc. "In 2018, I started to keep track of the how much money we were raising as a community for BVO: \$2,400.00. In 2019 we jumped to \$15,000.00, as the community became more aware of this program."

Bottles for BVO really took off during COVID-19. "When the pandemic began, we started to see a real jump in returns," Jean-Marc explains. "In 2020, we did \$20,000.00. Once we added a couple of drop off points, including Applejack, Far Hills, and BVO, and included Thornbury Cidery and Roost Winery, we raised \$23,482.00." In addition to drop-offs, people call Jean-Marc to pick up bottles at their homes, or they will drop off bottles at his house. Since the beginning of the pandemic, Bottles for BVO has raised over \$40,000.00 for BVO programs and services. When BVO was in lockdown, the program was still able to function (as long as the Town landfill was open), collecting much-needed income to "keep the lights on".

What started as a one-person operation (Jean-Marc) has now expanded to six volunteers and back-up personnel. Two volunteers are needed each day to manage the large amount of dropped-off donated bottles and cans. Pickups are now three days a week: Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. As of January 2022, Jean-Marc will be stepping back from the physical parts of the job, overseeing the program by connecting with the volunteer team and keeping financial records of moneys received.

Thanks to the people who donated our signature apple bins - especially Ryan Gibbons, who arranged the bin at BVO through a local farmer, and Jeff Higginson at Bayridge Orchards in Meaford, as well as the Events for Life participants who labelled and painted one of our bins. And, last but not least, a big shout-out to the Meaford Beer Store, who has been so great in accommodating us every time we bring in hundreds of bottles and cans.

How You Can Help Bottles for BVO

The most time-consuming part of the program is sorting all the donated bottles and cans before taking them to the Meaford Beer Store.

- Wine, Liquor & Beer Bottles: Please sort by dark, green and clear glass. Deposit all sorted bottles (in boxes or loose -not bagged) in the Bottles bin.
- Beer Cans: Place in bags with number of cans marked on the outside.
- The program is now accepting Plastic Milk Jugs and Millers Milk Glass Bottles: These are taken back to Circle K and Foodland in Thornbury for a refund.
- Volunteer as a driver or sorter. Please contact Julie at volunteer@bvo.ca

BVO will be looking into improving the Bottles for BVO program this spring by setting up more drop-off sites. We will keep the community posted. Look for our signature Bottles for BVO drop-off apple bins.

If you would like to volunteer for Bottles for BVO or any other BVO program, please contact Julie at volunteer@bvo.ca. To learn more about Beaver Valley Outreach, visit bvo.ca.

2022 Winter Course List Grey County Ag Services

Each winter, Grey Ag Services offers courses of interest to producers and rural residents of Grey and Bruce Counties and beyond. Pre-registration is required. There are more details for all courses on our website, including full descriptions. Certified Crop Advisors will be able to obtain CEU credits for some of these courses.

Course 10: **Small Ruminant Fecal Egg Counts**, with Dr. Chris Buschbeck of Markdale Veterinary Services. This webinar will be offered on **Wednesday February 16** from 7-8:30 pm. Fee: \$15.00.

Course 11: **Keeping Pigs and People Safe from Diseases**, with Laura Eastwood and Jaydee Smith of OMAFRA. This course will be offered in a hybrid format - participation is welcome in person at Grey Ag Services or virtually through Zoom, on **Wednesday March 2** from 7-9 pm. Fee: \$15.00.

Course 12: **Choosing the Right BMPs to Weather-Proof Your Farm**, with Dave Bray of OMAFRA. This course will be offered in-person at Grey Ag Services on **Thursday March 3** from 1-3 pm. Fee: \$15.00.

Course 13: **Managing Annual Forages**, with Jake Munroe and Christine O'Reilly of OMAFRA. This webinar will be offered on **Thursday March 3** from 7-8:30 pm. Fee: \$15.00.

Course 14: **Improving Garlic Quantity and Quality** with Travis Cranmer of OMAFRA. This webinar will be offered on **Tuesday March 8** from 7-9 pm. Fee: \$15.00.

Course 7b: **Beekeeping for Beginners and Bee-yond**, with Janine McGowan M.Sc., Owner & Operator of Our Bee Lab - Community Apiaries. This webinar will be offered on **Wednesday March 9**, from 7-9 pm. Fee: \$15.00.

Course 15: **Cow Calf Info Session**, with Steve Duff, Senior Economist; John Molenhuis, Business Analysis Cost of Production Specialist and James Byrne, Beef Cattle Specialist - all of OMAFRA. This course will be offered in-person at Grey Ag Services on **Thursday March 10** from 9:45-2:30 pm. Fee: \$30 and includes lunch.

Course 16: **Designing Edible Landscapes**, with Ben Caesar of Fiddlehead Nursery. This webinar will be offered on **Thursday March 10** from 7-8:30 pm. Fee: \$15.00.

Course 17: **Silvopasturing with Sheep**, with Sheep with Carrie Woolley. This webinar will be offered on **Tuesday March 22** from 7-9 pm. Course Fee: \$15.00.

Course 18: **Transition Planning Prep: Are you Ready?** With Maggie Van Camp and Andrea DeGroot, both of BDO Canada. This course will be offered in-person at Grey Ag Services on **Wednesday March 23 from 1-2 pm**. Fee: \$15.00.

Course 19: **How to Have the Garden You Want!** With the Grey County Master Gardeners. This course will be offered in a hybrid format - participation is welcome in person at Grey Ag Services or virtually through Zoom on **Thursday March 24** from 7-9 pm. Fee: \$15.00.

Course 20: **Horse Night** with Dr. Tee Fox, and Dr. Marika Van Schaik, both of Markdale Veterinary Services. This course will be offered in-person at Grey Ag Services on **Tuesday March 29** from 7-9 pm. Fee: \$15.00.

Course 9b: **Planning the Management Cycle for Small Ruminant Producers**, with Delma Kennedy of OMAFRA. This course will be offered in-person at Grey Ag Services on **Wednesday March 30** from 7-9 pm. Fee: \$15.00.

Course 21: **Pressure Canning** with Martha Rogers, Master Food Preserver, Cornell University Extension. This webinar will be offered on **Thursday March 31** from 10-11:30 am. Fee: \$15.00.

Course 22: **Getting Started with Records for Small Ruminant Producers** with Delma Kennedy of OMAFRA and Erin Massender. This course will be offered in-person at Grey Ag Services on **Thursday April 7** from 7-9 pm. Fee: \$15.00.

For full course descriptions, see our website: greyagservices.ca
Or Grey Ag Services at: 519-986-3756, info@greyagservices.ca



2021 - A Year of Accomplishments, and Community Support Made all the Difference

Despite on-again, off-again Covid restrictions, TreeTrust TBM was able to provide conservation care for three legacy sugar maple trees, plant 10 saplings and establish a native seed and sapling nursery.

TreeTrust has also been advocating for the Town to explore design changes that can reduce the loss of trees associated with the Thornbury West Reconstruction Project. We anticipate reviewing positive options in a Staff Report expected sometime in January.

None of this would be possible without the support and financial contributions we have received from the Thornbury-Clarksburg Rotary, the TBM Grants and Donations Committee, the Town's Sustainable Development Fund, and a growing number of TBM residents.



The Thornbury-Clarksburg Rotary pledged 50% funding for the conservation care for four legacy trees in 2021, and we are now in the process of placing Recognition Plaques at the base of each of these trees. The first was recently installed under a magnificent sugar maple tree at the Thornbury Union Cemetery. Each plaque has a QR code that links to a brief story about the tree.

Thank you to TC Rotary, our TBM municipal partners, and to TBM residents for your continued support and encouragement. Together we are helping to extend the lives of invaluable legacy trees, and taking some important first steps toward protecting and expanding a healthy tree canopy in our Town.



Profitable Pastures 2022 FREE Webinar Series

The Ontario Forage Council is pleased to announce that Profitable Pastures will proceed in webinar format again for 2022! There will be three live webinars airing daily from 7:30 - 8:30 pm EST from **March 8-10, 2022**. There is no cost to register and CEUs will be available for Certified Crop Advisors. All presentations will be made available on the Ontario Forage Council's YouTube Channel approximately one-week post-event. Subscribe to be notified of new presentation postings!

<https://events.eventzilla.net/e/profitable-pastures-2138826297>

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 to get 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 or email john@casacarole.com



Things to do for or in your garden in – February 2022

- There is now lots of snow cover. But if we get a February Melt and the snow goes away, mound up all the available snow and any new snow that falls, around tender plants like roses. If you have a few branches left from your Christmas tree, put them over tender plants to catch the snow. It is the freeze/thaw that kills plants, not just the cold. The snow is wonderful insulation!
- Start planning your garden projects for 2022. Make a list for the Spring, then you will know what you didn't get done when you check it in June. I have mine done and I am tired already. A garden is never finished!
- If you have a few tulip or daffodil bulbs that did not get into the ground last fall, pot them up now, put them in an unheated garage or shed for 6 weeks and bring them inside to bloom.
- If you can find a store with narcissus bulbs, buy 5 or 6 and put them in a shallow dish, or a tall narrow glass vase on top of gravel and keep the gravel wet. You should have spring bloom in 3 to 4 weeks.
- Start propagating stem cuttings of geraniums, fuchsias, etc. by the end of the month.
- Plant slow-germinating seeds inside, like impatiens, peppers, eggplants, etc.
- As the weather warms, you can start pruning shade trees, fruit trees and shrubs, if you can get to them through the snow. Leave trees that "bleed" like maples and birch until after they have leaves.

You can AGAIN forget about the big garden shows like Canada Blooms and the Peterborough Garden show this spring. They have all been cancelled because of COVID. Think Spring 2023.

599 Garden Club Plans Active Year, in spite of COVID

The name is 599 because of our common telephone exchange here in the Blue Mountains and the Beaver Valley.



Because of Covid, we have been having successful regular monthly meetings (the second Wednesday of the month) on ZOOM instead of at the library. More than half our membership shows up online each month. In January we had a terrific speaker on the history of Roses. In February it's Roses again, this time how to plant, grow and prune them. March will be Canada's most dynamic garden speaker Professor Paul Zammit from Niagara College. In April we hope to be back in the Library to screen the movie, "The Gardener", the story of the famous Quebec garden Les Quatre Vents in Charlevoix.

In May, we will meet outside at the Pavilion by the bay for a luncheon and when we auction off all things gardening collected from the BVO Treasure shop. In May there is also a daffodil tour at Frog Hollow Gardens. Tours of our other member's gardens follow in June, July and August. In September it's our annual Plant Sale and then back in the library for more gardening expertise. Check us out on Facebook at 599 Garden Club to get a flavour of our club.

We are always looking for new members to join our club, learn about gardening from experts and talk plants, design and the environment. The annual fee is just \$25. If you are interested in joining, please contact our membership chair, Mary Raymond at maryray@rogers.com



Positive programming continues virtually at Events for Life!

Participants from Thornbury, Meaford, Collingwood and surrounding areas come together 4 days a week on-line to continue learning. The program had to start the New Year on-line and will continue virtually through February.

From lip syncing, talent shows and DIY crafts at home to cooking, yoga, and being correspondents on the morning talk show, there is so much fun to be had with their friends. EFL had to pivot back to on-line once the fourth wave hit.

The program has been so successful that virtual registration increased. Over 30 participants with special needs continue to be engaged and have purpose while isolating at home. The pandemic has been a silver lining for EFL participants.

Autism, cognitive delays and Down-syndrome are a few of the challenges some of the Participants have. Many had never used a computer or IPad before the pandemic hit. Now most of these individuals can independently manage their devices, use the reactions and mute buttons and continue socializing with their friends from the comfort of their homes.

Since going out for programming is not an option EFL brings the guests and programs to the screen. On National Bacon Day EFL had a tour of the pig operation with Mitch from Good Family Farms, on National Milk Day they had a tour of a local dairy farm and on National Cheese day they had an interactive visit with the Cheese Gallery in Thornbury. Other guests have included musicians, dance, yoga, Thai chi and Zumba instructors.

www.eventsfor.life



Native Place Names by Robert Burcher

Indians lived here? I asked ignorantly way back in 1989. Yes, they have! It so happened that the owner of the job site I was working on here in the Beaver Valley was an employee of the Royal Ontario Museum. He took the time to explain that this valley has the longest continuous history of Native / Indigenous history of all of Ontario.

Have you ever wondered about some of the street names. Indian Brook, Arrowhead Road, Nipissing Ridge or Nottawasaga Bay? I have and started to follow up those clues. There was always a reason that the early settlers used those names, but when they first arrived here in the early 1800s there were no natives living here. The Indians of the time (as we called them then) had been dispersed because of a war with the Iroquois/Mohawks in 1649. After that this area was vacant for at least a hundred years.

The first farmers walking behind their horse drawn ploughs were constantly finding reminders that there had been people here before them. Arrowheads, broken pottery and burials were all discovered. It became a fad of the time to have arrowhead collections. These collections were eventually donated to museums and experts started to piece together the history that predated us.



Indian Brook which flows under Highway 26 and then empties into the Bay at Peasemarsh Beach starts high on the Escarpment behind the Craigleith ski club. It is well named since an early Grey County

history book of the early 1900s describes visiting Indians landing at Peasemarsh and camping inland at what is now the Trailer Park. Ironic eh? From there they would follow the ancient paths up to the traditional chert (flint like rock) quarries of the escarpment.

Further east on Highway #26 the sign for Arrowhead Road is obvious. This road traverses the site of the last local Indian war - The Battle of Blue Mountain, dating to 1696. Hundreds of arrowheads found in this area indicate a battle was fought here.

NIPISSING CRESCENT

As you drive up Arrowhead Road you climb up a steep hill called Nipissing Ridge – yet another native name based on another tribe who lived in the North Bay area. The ridge is an old shoreline of a huge post glacial lake by the name Nipissing that existed 8,000 years ago.

Deep in the Nipissing Ridge subdivision are two streets that mention early tribes. Wyandot a huge group of southern Ontario natives and Petun the last group that lived in our area up until 1649. They traverse the site of the Battle of Blue Mountain.



Then of course there is Nottawasaga which translates as "an outburst of Iroquois". Originally named for the river that flows out at Wasaga Beach. It was the river route taken by the Iroquois from New York State in all their attacks into this area.

Some names in this overview aren't historic at all. For example, Indian Circle which is located off County Rd. #40 was just a decorative applied name by a developer with no immediate historic connections. That street meets another curiously named new subdivision road at #40 – Tekiah Road. I wasn't aware of this name at all so the Goddess Google revealed to me that it is actually the name for the sound made by a Shofar, an ancient horn used in the Hebrew speaking lands to call people to worship. Nothing to do with our local history, but very much to do with a different ancient culture!



Talisman Lands Update

On February 2, The Municipality of Grey Highlands will be voting on a bylaw to permit the sale of 133 acres of public land to West Way Capital. Protecting Talisman Lands Association, is strenuously opposed to the sale of these public lands which are part of the Niagara Escarpment, include flood plains, the Beaver River as well as agricultural lands.

The Municipality is selling the golf course lands at the bottom of the hill (75 acres) for \$1 million and the upper agricultural lands at the top of the hill (59 acres) for \$1.5 million. This is below market value and is less than an offer of \$2.775 million made by the Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy in July 2021. No rationale for this sell-out is provided in the report going to Council.

Through petitions, public consultation, individual letters, and emails, community residents and taxpayers have strongly expressed their desire not to have new development on these public lands.

Jane Pyper, chair of Protecting Talisman Lands Association said, "This process has been shrouded in secrecy and now that the details are revealed, they are shocking. This council is out of step with the people....it makes no sense, why sell such valuable natural assets to create homes for millionaires?"

Talisman Resort, once a thriving ski hill, ceased operation in 2011. Two years ago the municipality acquired 133.8 acres of the site through non-payment of taxes. The site of the ski hill and existing lodge buildings remains privately owned. In March 2021, the Municipality started marketing the public lands to "maximize profits", and to promote the development of the land at the bottom and the farmland at the top. In July 2021, behind closed doors, the Municipality conditionally sold the public land to developers, ignoring overwhelming opposition from citizens and taxpayers, as well as an alternative offer by the Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy.

"The municipality has squandered a once in a lifetime opportunity to create a legacy for future generations, said Pyper. "This is an incredibly special site - along its top runs the Niagara Escarpment, a UNESCO-designated biosphere and the Bruce Trail, Canada's longest marked footpath. Streams flow down the valley into the Beaver River and as a water source for Amik and Kimberley. We should not be building on these lands."

For more information contact, Protecting Talisman Lands Association: talismanlands@gmail.com www.protecttalisman.ca



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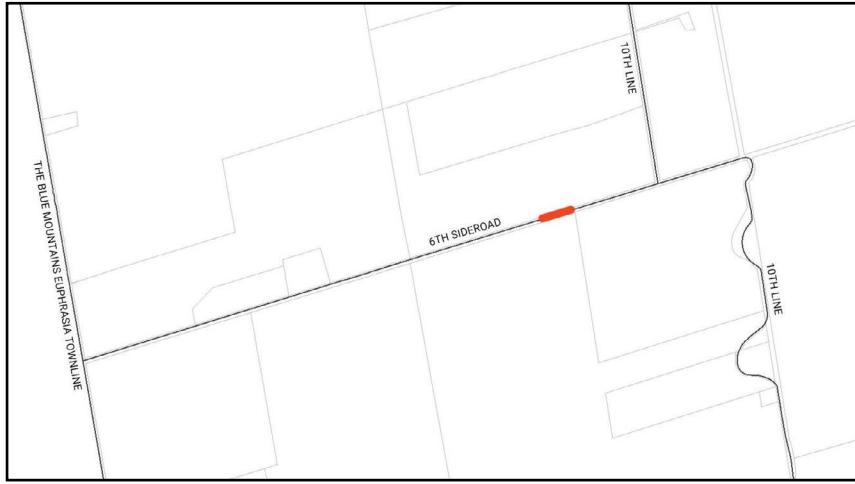
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Notice of Public Information Centre

Bridge 2 and 3 (Mitchell's Creek) Replacement



To address structural deficiencies and safety concerns, and in accordance with the preferred solution identified during the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment previously completed, the Town of The Blue Mountains is replacing Bridges 2 and 3 – also known as the Mitchell's Creek bridges.

The replacement includes:

- Minor width improvement to 4.9 m between curbs
- Removal of load restriction
- Improvement to the road profile
- Installation of crash-tested guide rail complete with guide rail end treatment

A Virtual Public Information Centre (PIC) is being held to gather input from stakeholders. All those interested in the project are invited to attend. The meeting will include a public comment and question period.

Date: Thursday, March 3, 2022

Time: 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Platform: Microsoft Teams

Registration for the meeting is mandatory to receive a link to attend the virtual meeting. Please visit the project web page to register for the meeting and to sign up for notifications as project updates become available.

www.thebluemountains.ca/Bridge2and3

Questions and information collected at the PIC will be maintained on file for use during the design project, and, unless otherwise requested, may be included in the design documentation and presented to Town Council which is available for public review.

Under the authority of the *Municipal Act, 2001* and in accordance with Ontario's *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA)*, The Corporation of The Blue Mountains wishes to inform the public that all information including opinions, presentations, reports and documentation provided for or at a Public Meeting, Public Consultation, or other Public Process are considered part of the public record. This information may be posted on the Town's website and/or made available to the public upon request.

Contact Information

If you are unable to attend or require further information, please contact or provide comments to:

Town of The Blue Mountains

32 Mill Street, P.O. Box 310
Thornbury, ON N0H 2P0
Kevin Verkindt
Sr. Infrastructure Capital Project Coordinator
icpc@thebluemountains.ca
519-599-3131 ext. 304

Tatham Engineering Limited

115 Sandford Fleming Drive, #200
Collingwood, ON L9Y 5A6
Emma Wilkinson, H.B.A., B.E.Sc., P.Eng
Project Manager
ewilkinson@tathameng.com
705-444-2565 ext. 2101

Project Timeline

Design and Engineering
Completed

Construction

Scheduled to begin in Q2 2022 (est.)

Project Completed
Q4 2022 (est.)

Town of The Blue Mountains

Drainage Master Plan

Notice of Public Information Centre 1

The Corporation of the Town of The Blue Mountains has initiated a Drainage Master Plan under the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Master Planning Process to identify existing drainage deficiencies and develop drainage solutions to address the deficiencies, reduce flooding, resolve public safety concerns, and improve maintenance opportunities within the settlement areas of the Town. An initial Public Information Center is planned to advise you of the drainage deficiencies identified through the initial stages of the project, gather comments on any additional deficiencies and elicit comment on the potential solutions that are being considered.

The Study area encompasses the whole Town with the primary focus being the settlement areas including Lora Bay, Thornbury and Clarksburg, Craigleath and Camperdown, and the Blue Mountains Village area. The existing drainage infrastructure in the study area consists of a combination of open channels, ditches, watercourses, culverts, storm sewers, overland flow routes, stormwater management facilities, and low impact development measures.

The Drainage Master Plan is being completed in accordance with Approach #2 of the Master Planning Process outlined in the Municipal Engineers Association Municipal Class Environmental Assessment document (October 2000, amended in 2007, 2011, and 2015). The Town has retained the consulting firm Tatham Engineering Limited to complete this Drainage Master Plan.

The Town hereby notifies all interested individuals and parties that an initial Public Information Centre (PIC) will be held virtually. The format will consist of a pre-recorded slide show presentation that will be posted to the project website (www.thebluemountains.ca/

[MasterDrainagePlanEA](#)) on February 1, 2022. Comment sheets will be provided to allow members of the public to comment on any specific drainage concerns, indicate preferences regarding the improvement options being considered and provide overall comments regarding satisfaction with the presentation.

Following the Virtual PIC anyone who is interested in more information can also register for a **Virtual Public Meeting Question and Answer Session that will be held on February 24, 2022 between 5:00 and 7:00 p.m.** Town staff and representatives from Tatham Engineering Limited will be available at this session to discuss issues and concerns with members of the public. Comments collected through this process will be used to develop the alternative drainage solutions for evaluation. A second PIC will be held once the preliminary preferred alternative solutions are established.

Additional information related to the Drainage Master Plan is available on the Town of The Blue Mountains website (www.thebluemountains.ca/MasterDrainagePlanEA).

Should additional information be required or to be added to the project mailing list, please contact:

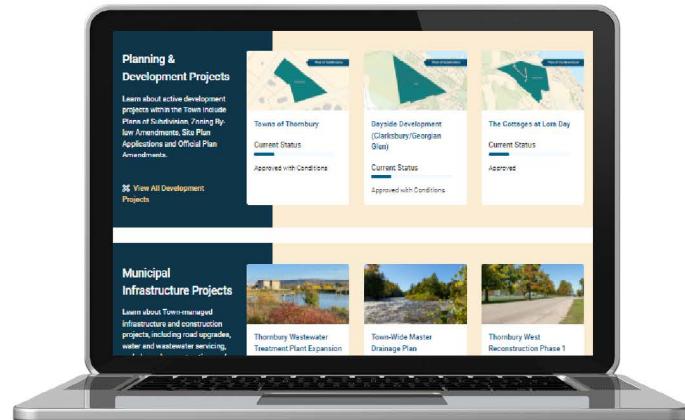
Kevin Verkindt, C.E.T.
Senior Infrastructure Capital Project Coordinator
Town of The Blue Mountains
32 Mill Street, P.O. Box 310, Thornbury, ON N0H 2P0
Tel: (519) 599-3131 ext. 304 Fax: (519) 599-7723
Email: icpc@thebluemountains.ca

Daniel Twigger, P.Eng.
Manager, Water Resources Engineering
Tatham Engineering Limited
115 Sandford Fleming Drive, Suite 200, Collingwood, ON L9Y 5A6
Tel: (705) 444-2565 ext. 2090 Fax: (705) 444-2327
Email: dtwigger@tathameng.com



STAY ENGAGED with all Town Projects & Initiatives

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thebluemountains.ca/current-projects

Notice – Applications To Fill Vacant Councillor Position

Following the decision of Council, the Town of The Blue Mountains is now accepting applications to fill one (1) vacant Councillor position for the remainder of the 2018 – 2022 term of Council.

If you are interested in applying, information packages are available on the [elections page](#) on the Town website or by contacting the Town Clerk. The vacant Councillor position will be filled by appointment and as a result, **no formal election or public vote will be conducted.**

All applicants must be a qualified elector as defined in the Municipal Elections Act. Applicants must be:

- A Canadian citizen;
- At least 18 years old, and;
- Resident of the Town of The Blue Mountains, or the owner or tenant of land in the Town of The Blue Mountains, or the spouse of such a person; and
- Not prohibited from voting (as per the Municipal Elections Act) or otherwise by law.

Background Information

The vacancy was created due to the appointment of Peter Bordignon to the position of Deputy Mayor, from

his previous role as Councillor. The Deputy Mayor position was declared vacant due to the passing of Deputy Mayor Rob Potter.

At the January 17, 2022 Council meeting, one (1) Councillor position was declared vacant, and Council considered staff report [FAF.22.012 Options to Fill Vacant Councillor Seat for the balance of the 2018 to 2022 Term of Council](#). Council opted to proceed with Option #2B, "Appointment by Call for Applications" to fill the vacant Councillor Seat, with the application to include the option to declare whether the applicant intends to run in the 2022 Town of The Blue Mountains Municipal Election.

At the January 31, 2022 meeting, Council considered staff report [FAF.22.021 titled "Appointment Procedure to Fill Vacant Councillor Seat"](#) and approved the procedure to fill the vacancy.

For more information, please contact:

Corrina Giles, Town Clerk, Town of The Blue Mountains
32 Mill Street, P.O. Box 310,
Thornbury, Ontario N0H 2P0
Tel: 519-599-3131 ext. 232
townclerk@thebluemountains.ca



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Clarksburg Schoolhouse

painting by Bill Hartman

The irony that their inviting learning space is in the old Clarksburg Schoolhouse isn't lost on Ali and Lib Kennedy. The co-owners of Kennedy Illuminated Learning grew up in Thornbury and have degrees in specialized education, as well as decades of experience teaching reading and spelling, comprehension, writing and math.

Illuminated Learning works with individuals of all ages, helping them perform at their fullest potential. They knew the schoolhouse was a perfect fit even before they stepped inside.

As fate would have it, COVID came into play not long after Illuminated Learning began enrolment in the fall of 2019. According to Lib, "3 out of 10 people were already struggling with learning, or some kind of learning difficulty... and that was before the pandemic." Suddenly, those who needed the most one-on-one guidance and support were also now faced with the challenges of online classrooms.

Illuminated Learning uses research-based programs in a caring environment. Students attend their individualized sessions during the school day when their minds are fresh – as opposed to after school when attention spans lean more toward dinner, social media, or video games on the sofa. The Kennedys are quick to acknowledge the amazing teachers at our community schools – however, the structure of the education system doesn't allow for the time and support needed for those who struggle with learning.

With so many young families moving to the area, the pair have seen a surge in their business, and local parents couldn't be happier. One parent of a Grade Six student commented, "The Illuminated Learning program was a game changer for my son and has given us so much hope.... He became proud of his abilities and new skills. He would even share reading and meditation tips with us at dinner!"



**The world
belongs to those
who read.**

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At Illuminated Learning in Clarksburg, we use evidence based, intensive programs tailored to individual needs – helping people of all ages achieve their full potential.

Let's get reading! 226.665.8880



illuminatedlearning.ca

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Ontario Launches Long-Term Care Homefinder

ontario.ca/longtermcare

As part of its plan to fix long-term care, the Ontario government has launched the new Long-Term Care Homefinder, a new website and search tool to provide prospective residents and their families with a one-stop-shop to find and compare long-term care homes across the province, along with other resources to help people make an informed choice when considering long-term care.

"Our government has a plan to fix long-term care and a key part of that plan is strengthening accountability, enforcement, and transparency in the long-term care system," said Paul Calandra, Minister of Long-Term Care. "Our new LTC Homefinder brings together all the information families need to make informed decisions about long-term care so they can choose a home that will best meet the needs their loved ones."

Each long-term care home has a profile page with helpful information about waiting lists, staff vaccination rates, amenities, inspection reports, contact information and more. The new site also provides information that can help people decide if long-term care is the best option for them and, if so, how to choose a home, apply, and move in.

"We are building an Ontario that puts people first, by making it easier for prospective residents and their families to find information about long-term care homes in Ontario," said Kaleed Rasheed, Associate Minister of Digital Government. "This online tool is something that Ontarians expect and deserve — a secure and trusted way to access long-term care information, all in one place."

Future phases of the website and search tool will include more information on each home's profile pages as well as other new features based on public feedback. When all the information is in place, LTC Homefinder will be a valuable resource for all Ontarians who are looking for information about the province's long-term care system.

The government is investing \$22 million over three years to implement an Ontario-made technology that will integrate the clinical information between hospitals and the long-term care sector to streamline re-admissions, share information with families, and ensure vulnerable seniors get the highest quality care possible. This initiative responds to the recommendations made in the Long-Term Care COVID-19 Commission Report to ensure a coordinated continuum of care that includes all long-term care homes.

**For Home Support,
Overnight Relief,
Physio Assistant, and more
call Marg 519-373-4656**

Valid Drivers Licence - References

Alleviate a load - Enhance a life

In Memoriam

MELISSA SUE FARRAR

It is with broken hearts we announce the sudden passing of Melissa Sue Farrar on Sunday, January 16th, 2022 in her 43rd year.

She was born on August 18th, 1979 in Meaford, Ontario. Beloved Mother, Daughter, Sister and Aunt. Melissa's life changed the day her son Gage was born, as a Mother's love does. He meant the world to her.

She will be deeply missed by mother Cindy Dillon, step father Alberto and her father Gerry Farrar (Cathy). Much loved sister of Sarah, Brooke and Jordan Dillon and wonderful aunt to nephew Brody and niece Leighton. She will be missed by her uncles and cousins. Melissa was predeceased by her grandparents Audrey & Ernest Farrar and by her great grandparents Marion and Cecil Dillon.

Melissa enjoyed swimming and skating in her younger years. She was well known for her infectious smile and laugh. A smile and laugh that could light up anyone's heart she talked to. Her ability to see the good in everyone was one of her greatest qualities. Taken much too soon.

"To my dearest family, some things I'd like to say but first of all that I would like to let you know I arrived okay. I'm writing this from heaven where I live with God above. Here there are no tears of sadness; here is just eternal love".

A private family service will be conducted at the Ferguson Funeral Home in Meaford. As your expression of sympathy donations will be greatly accepted to C.A.M.H. in Melissa's memory and maybe made through the Ferguson Funeral Home, 48 Boucher St. E., Meaford, ON N4L 1B9 to whom arrangements have been entrusted.

www.fergusonfuneralhomes.com



LEE WILLIAM YEANDLE

With a lifetime of wonderful memories full of family and friends, we sadly announce the passing of Lee William Yeandle. After recently getting great reports from his doctors in his long journey with cancer, Lee was doing what he loved so much, skiing at Blue Mountain on a beautiful, sunny day.

Wonderful husband and very best friend to Candy for over 52 years, Lee's greatest loves were Candy and his family, his countless good friends, riding his beloved Road Star motorcycle, skiing, sailing, meeting people and always feeling so blessed to have been able to enjoy many travel adventures around the world.

Born in Paris, Ontario, and remaining a farm boy at heart all his life, Lee was the son of the late Elmer and Jean Yeandle. He will be deeply missed by his siblings Linda Yeandle, Lorna Jones (Rick), John Yeandle (Janet) and Anne McClintock (Ian) and the Jones family, Cathy Standring (Paul) and David Jones (Joanne). Lee met Candy and more amazing friends, through his membership and involvement in the St. Paul's United Church Youth Group and The Coming Age Choir and Band, where he discovered his love and talent for music and song. Throughout his career, Lee loved the challenges of Project Management with Baan, PWC, and IBM where he had the opportunity to work in all corners of the world. Being community-minded, he was treasurer of Erin Minor Hockey, Friends of the Library, Sound Investment Community Choir and was an active volunteer in the Meaford Scarecrow Invasion, Events for Life and Erin and Grace United Churches. Fun times were also had on the Erin Ball Team where special life-long friendships were made.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Grace United Church Thornbury, the Juravinski Cancer Centre or Meaford Hospital Foundation, through Ferguson Funeral Home, 48 Boucher St. E., Meaford, ON N4L 1B9 to whom arrangements have been entrusted.

The cat came back and we thought she was a goner! *by Robert Burcher*

Wild cougar stories continue to circulate in our area. After my last little article about seeing a cougar myself, multiple people have also told me about sightings or tracks. Seems like Loree Forest is the favourite hangout and then along the escarpment to Swiss Meadows. Personally, I have been finding tracks in the Mill Creek area where it goes under County Road #119 west of Ravenna. It seems that with that creek now frozen over, it has become a highway for wildlife, probably coming down from the Duncan Crevice Caves area.

I contacted the "MNR" which is now called The Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry (NDMNRF) to be absolutely certain in what they know. Well of course they have not had any reports in our area, but then again they don't advertise anywhere where you are supposed to call if you see a cougar! There is a place and it is called the Natural Heritage Information Center and the phone number is 705-755-2159 or NHICRequests@ontario.ca. Their official statement is that they acknowledge cougars are being seen in Ontario but they are now called "transient cats" and that there is no breeding population. They have somewhat downplayed their tired old line that all of these cats were escaped from zoos or private collections! Duh – no these cats are hunting the same pattern that they have for at least fifteen years since the first ones were spotted in the area.

Somehow the cats have learned – probably from a parent or through some kind of communication that there are multiple deer herds in our area. But now that isn't the case. Almost everywhere in the valley the deer have disappeared. NDMNRF again says that it is a normal fluctuation. My concern is that without the major food source of deer that the cougars will get desperate. We have to be extra vigilant that dogs, cats and farm animals don't become the short-term food source. Some people are thinking that wild turkeys are being taken out by the cougars as a substitute food. Eventually the cougars will once again leave the area.

Here is the official what to do list when confronted with a cougar:

- * Never approach the animal, especially if it's near a kill or with young.
- * Never offer it food.
- * Do not run, a cat's instinct is to chase.
- * If you're with others, stay together and act as a group.
- * Face the animal and talk firmly while slowly backing away.
- * Always leave the animal an escape route.
- * Do not crouch down or try to hide, instead try to appear larger.
- * Do not take your eyes off the animal or turn your back.
- * If the animal does not flee, be more assertive by shouting, waving your arms and throwing anything available.

(I would add that if you carry an air horn and blast it off once in a while, the cougar will be long gone before you get to see it.)

The photo is from 2008 from the Georgian Trail at Ward's Road, which is directly down the Escarpment from the Loree Forest.





Where Does our Grey County Relationship Go?

2022 Will be a Pivotal Year

Jim Torrance – BMRA President

The Blue Mountain Ratepayers Association has long committed to the goal of achieving greater transparency and accountability for the 40% of our property tax dollars that are sent to Grey County. To that end, I held a meeting in mid January with County Warden Hicks, County CAO Wingrove and TBM CAO Everitt. My objectives were to establish a more direct connection with the County, and to share with them our perspective and expectations of Grey. This summarizes the points covered at the meeting.

I presented the fact that 4 key events in 2022 will have significant impact on our County relationship, and how it is perceived by our ratepayers and TBM residents.

1) Provincial Election - With Brian Saunderson as the PC candidate, and given his support of a Southern Georgian Bay (SGB) working group, there will be heightened interest in investigating efficient service delivery models not constrained by County boundaries. An SGB shared service approach has logical appeal given the geographic, economic, health care and transportation connections amongst the participating regional municipalities of Meaford, TBM, Collingwood, Wasaga Beach and Clearview. We have connected with Saunderson to gain insights to his campaign platform.

2) Official Plan Review - Given concerns about the sustainability of TBM's rapid growth, residents will want to better understand the Town's growth mandate presented by the County - in terms of scope and flexibility - and what the County will do to support that growth. The extent to which the County can dictate TBM development density must also be evaluated, as that will be a factor in determining future building height standards.

3) Municipal Election - TBM's increasing financial obligations to the County, and limitations they may place on our ability to fund TBM facilities and services expansion, is the second most important ratepayer issue as identified through a 2021 member survey, trailing only management of residential development. It will be an issue receiving great focus in our election.

4) Application of 2020 MPAC assessments in the 2023 tax year - While not certain, it seems likely that the Province will apply updated property assessment values in the 2023 tax year. Our back of the envelope calculations suggest the new assessments could trigger TBM property tax increases of upwards of 15% - 20% on the County portion of our bills, if mitigating steps are not taken.

Key Points of Discussion

- most of us have a hard time clearly differentiating attainable vs affordable vs social housing. While we understand the County's primary responsibility is social housing, we request that the County inform us of any approaches they could take to help us with our attainable housing challenge. I referenced a new project in Orillia as an example where a County is assisting a municipality with housing that would provide, at least for a portion of the development, affordable units with rents set at 80% of the going market rent. Could that funding approach be replicated by Grey County for TBM attainable housing?

- the BMRA acknowledges that Grey Municipalities differ in terms of population, incomes and geography. That is why we don't think about County financial support in terms of fairness, but instead feel those allocations should be determined on a needs basis. We would not expect TBM to have the same social program spending as some

other Grey Municipalities - partly due to the efforts of the BVO, and also relative income levels - but our rapid growth puts different demands on spending and investment needs from the County.

We are more interested in fair and open governing processes, rather than trying to establish a subjective view of financial fairness.

- while many health system issues are addressed at the Provincial level, even the County's expression of support for TBM physician recruitment could be helpful. This would assist our efforts to create a much needed Family Health Team in our Town. I made the point that TBM residents can feel overlooked in terms of the health services they receive. For example, while holding vaccine clinics in Chesley, Port Elgin and Owen Sound may have been based on solid rationale, it served to reinforce the impression that we exist on the outer regions of the County's geography and thinking.

- to help realize financial transparency and accountability with the County, I requested a "Sources and Uses of Funding" report that would provide a clearer understanding of our level of funding contribution to Grey and the financial support we receive back from the County. CAO Wingrove agreed to provide the BMRA access to the required financial data for this analysis. We are also pressing TBM Council and Staff to bring on a financial resource to truly get a thorough handle on our County financial relationship. The next step will be a February meeting with the BMRA, and TBM and Grey County Finance departments.

- in the spirit of improving communication, I suggested that engaging a County representative in a future BMRA virtual member forum could be constructive. There was agreement to further discussion in that regard.

In closing, I believe that the County meeting was a potentially beneficial step in building a working relationship with the BMRA. However, good intentions can only take things so far. We will need to see concrete steps taken that demonstrate Grey County's commitment to better supporting the needs of our Town.



Our members are the lifeblood of our association

Please join/ Renew Your BMRA Membership!

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Current membership term runs from January 1 – December 31, 2022

Ontario Building New Long-Term Care Beds in The Blue Mountains

The Ontario government is adding 160 new beds in a new long-term care home in The Town of the Blue Mountains. This is part of the government's \$6.4 billion commitment to build more than 30,000 net new long-term care beds by 2028 and 28,000 upgraded beds across the province.

"Our government has a plan to fix long-term care and a key part of that plan is building modern, safe, and comfortable homes for our seniors," said Paul Calandra, Minister of Long-Term Care. "This home is made possible through an innovative partnership with the Town of The Blue Mountains and when it is completed it will be a place for 160 local seniors to call home, near their family and friends."

The new 160-bed long-term care home is proposed to be part of a community campus of care focused on healthy seniors' living, which includes commercial space, multi-residential space, seniors' housing, and attainable housing for staff working to support the campus of care. The Town of The Blue Mountains is expected to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for proponents interested in developing and operating the different components of the campus, including the long-term care home, on municipally-owned land in 2022. Construction is expected to start by summer 2024 and the home is expected to open by the end of 2026. Proposed location 125 Peel Street.

Typically, those wishing to operate long-term care homes submit applications through the call-for-applications process. In this case, working with The Blue Mountains, the Ministry is allocating the 160 beds prior to the Town identifying a licensee. Once the Town selects an operator for the proposed home, the ministry will review the project in the same manner as all other applications.

There are now a minimum of 388 new and 316 upgraded long-term care beds that are in development or under construction in Grey County, including the following projects:

- 160 beds in the Blue Mountains Community Care Campus
- 32 new beds allocated to The Village Seniors' Community announced today, plus 26 new and 70 upgraded beds previously allocated to this home in Hanover;
- 51 new and 77 upgraded beds at Meaford Long Term Care in the Municipality of Meaford;
- 91 new and 69 upgraded beds at Southbridge Owen Sound in the City of Owen Sound; and
- 28 new and 100 upgraded beds at Rockwood Terrace Home for the Aged in the Town of Durham.

The government has a plan to fix long-term care and to ensure Ontario's seniors get the quality of care and quality of life they need and deserve both now and in the future. The plan is built on three pillars: staffing and care; accountability, enforcement, and transparency; and building modern, safe, comfortable homes for seniors.

Timeline

- January 17 Council Meeting – Initial staff report (FAF.22.016) with recommendation to proceed to public consultation;
- January 17, 2022 Public Meeting Notice posted on the Town's Website
- January 20, 2022 Public Meeting advertised in Collingwood Connection;
- February 7, 2022 Council – Public Meeting at 1:00 p.m.
- March 1, 2022 Committee of the Whole – Follow-up report with Public Meeting feedback;
- March 14, 2022 Council – Recommendations from March 1, 2022 Committee of the Whole confirmed, along with any required By-law;
- March 28, 2022 Council – Report directly to Council with recommendations on how to proceed with potential declaration of lands being surplus. Approximately 14.8 acres of the total thirty-three (33) acres of the 125 Peel Street property



Hard Bargain Road

"Hard Bargain Road" is the title of a recently-published collection of poems by Susan Haldane, who received her early education at Thornbury and Meaford schools, and went on to attain a degree in Journalism at Carleton University, Ottawa. Susan worked for local newspapers, The Thornbury Courier-Herald, The Meaford Express, and also spent some time as a sports reporter for the Owen Sound Sun Times. She now lives with her husband Ray Ford on a farm near the northern border of Algonquin Park, and her poems offer an intimate view of contemporary life in a rural community.

Susan's writing has appeared in a number of Canadian journals and anthologies, as well as in her earlier chapbook, "Picking Stones", published in 2018. One of her poems was included in Best Canadian Poetry 2020. Hard Bargain Road has not yet reached local bookshops, but in the meantime can be borrowed from the Leonard Shore Library in Thornbury and the Meaford Public Library. <http://www.gaspereau.com>

Hard
Bargain
Road

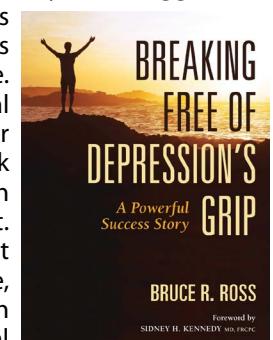


SUSAN HALDANE



Local Author Pens His Adult Life of Living with Depression

Meaford resident Bruce R. Ross has just published *Breaking Free of Depression's Grip – A Powerful Success Story*. The 422-page book chronicles Bruce's more than 45-year journey and struggle with depression and anxiety, from his school years until his recent retirement. In this book, Ross exposes what life with depression is truly like. With a candid recount of his trials, medical encounters, attempts to feel better, career challenges, medications, and more, this book takes the reader on the journey of a man with depression and all he has tried to "cure" it. But most of all, it is a message of hope that a person can lead a productive family life, career, and personal life, despite living with the heavy and constant weight of a mental illness.



Ross' story is a powerful one. It makes you root for him with every new medication, each trial, and on every marathon he undertakes. He shares his insights into what can be a motivator to get out of bed each day, what did and didn't help him, and the role friends and family played along his journey, and where he is now.

Breaking Free of Depression's Grip – A Powerful Success Story is available in paperback and ebook through, www.Brucerross.ca as well as in paperback at the Blue Mountains Review office, 22 Louisa St. E., Thornbury

Beaver Valley Agricultural Society

The Beaver Valley Agricultural Society is looking to hire a Secretary to provide assistance and support for the Directors and General Membership.

Responsibilities include:

- recording minutes at Director and General Membership meetings (approximately 20 meetings annually)
- running the Office at the Fair including intake of membership fees, exhibitor entry forms and providing general information.
- monitoring email and mail correspondence

The position is considered volunteer with a nominal honorarium. Further information on the Agricultural Society is available on the website www.beavervalleyfallfair.ca.

Interested applicants should contact info@beavervalleyfallfair.ca

Applications will be received until March 1st 2022

Recipes for Life

This is the perfect time and place to share 'recipes for life' and we invite you, the reader to do the same.



When you make your life a collage of things and people that give life meaning, you will always be happy with what you have and what you give. There is a saying that wise is the man who is happy with what he has. You may have suffered a huge loss. You may not have made the money you want. But if you look at only what you lack, you'll be stuck there forever. In this moment, if you look at what you have, your health, your friends, the roof over your head, the food in your fridge and your car to run errands you'll find wealth, and you just might feel gratitude.

Time for a spring tune up? No big deal. Perhaps when we solve the little problems, the big ones don't loom so large. Open your heart to see life and love anew. If you look at what you have and use it for good, you stand strong and feel alive. Watch out, it's contagious.

And remember, when you are at a loss as to what to give someone dear, take a peek around and see what pops up, a book, some favorite vinyl, a candle and some good wine might just be what the doctor ordered.

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Letter of Opinion by Richard Griffith

in response to an article in the January 4th edition

Ron Hartlen, an engineer, has elected to employ that wheezing old cliche, Chicken Little, to cast doubt on the veracity of climate change. Oh, those lofty engineers. Well, I'm just a humble tradesman but I'll take him up on it.

The "empirical scientific data" he's waiting for has existed since at least the 1970's and has multiplied in every decade since, in the form of scholarly papers written by many thousands of accredited scientists. They continue to predict that if we don't curtail the burning of fossil fuels, there will be, to quote Mr. Hartlen himself, "storms, sea-level rise, drought, fires, etc." Heard of any of that, lately? No, not here in Grey County. In Hertford, Hereford and Thornbury, hurricanes hardly happen. Many of the most punishing events have hammered developing nations. Climate change is not the fault of humans in those countries. It's you and me, Mr. Hartlen.

"How can we be sure that the eons-old natural climate drivers are no longer relevant?" There are lots of answers to this. Here's one. The pack ice at the north pole is melting at a pace we've never before experienced and if that continues to happen, the warming waters will have profound effects on things like the Gulf Stream. If that powerful current slows, northern Europe will eventually become uninhabitable.

"How can we be sure that atmospheric CO₂ is the dominant driver?" Check your empirical scientific data, Mr. Hartlen. The quantity and quality of evidence is overwhelming. As for naturally-produced CO₂, well, whatever that is, it is minuscule compared to what humans are churning out.

We will never manage to remove enough CO₂ from the atmosphere to cause "negative effects on the growth of vegetation and crop yields". That is a canard and Mr. Hartlen knows it.

"What is the plan for transition?" Finally, a good question. We don't have all the answers yet but more are emerging all the time. My own answer was to build a straw bale home with 38 solar panels on its steel roof. I sell electricity to the grid and the income isn't taxable. This solution won't suit everyone but every little bit helps. A few other ideas: insulate your house properly. Stop using stupid toys like jet skis and leaf blowers. Stop flying long-distance so often. Vacation closer to home.

Mr. Hartlen, I suggest that you pledge to plant some trees this year. Say twenty-two of them. It will make Chicken Little feel ever so much better.

Definition of Chicken Little: one who warns of or predicts calamity especially without justification Dictionary, Merriam-Webster



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Grey County Council gives first approval to 2022 Budget

Grey County Council, sitting as Committee of the Whole, has approved the 2022 budget following a special budget workshop on January 28. Council spent the day reviewing details of the \$186.6 million operating and capital budget which maintains service levels, invests in supports for vulnerable people, and adjusts to the rising costs of providing services and doing business.

In total, \$65.4 million needs to be raised through taxation from nine member municipalities. This is an increase of 2.88% compared to 2021, or about \$29.30 for an average homeowner.

Some investments made in the budget include increased spending on road infrastructure, increasing funds for local healthcare initiatives, supporting climate action, and continued funding for affordable housing. Other factors contributing to the increase are rising prices of fuel, higher insurance premiums and inflationary costs of construction materials and general goods. Grey County also continues to feel the financial effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on services, especially in long-term care and paramedic services.

"Reviewing and setting budgets is a challenging task made even more difficult with the pandemic continuing to impact Grey County residents," said Warden Selwyn Hicks. "We realize affordability is important to families and businesses. Today Council supported a 2022 budget that responsibly balances the necessary investments in our services without adding significant pressure onto our ratepayers."

The Grey County budget supports the delivery of several services

that provide care for vulnerable people in our communities. Around 46% of the County levy directly supports people through services such as affordable housing, long-term care, Ontario Works and employment support, children's services, paramedic services, and provides additional funding to support healthcare and education initiatives.

Key 2022 Budget Investments

- \$16 million for road construction and resurfacing projects
- \$1 million towards implementation of the Georgian College nursing program
- \$5.5 million for housing capital work
- \$623,000 towards the affordable Housing Fund
- Supporting non-profit affordable housing builds
- 5 new ambulances
- Additional Long-Term Care staffing focused on direct resident care
- Funding to initiate climate action plans

The full 2022 budget details and a summary can be found online at www.grey.ca/budget. Final approval will be Thursday, February 10

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