



Beaver Valley Pipes and Drums celebrated the music and poetry of Robbie Burns at the Marsh Street Centre on Saturday, January 21st



photos by Robert Burcher

Local projects receive \$1.6 million in federal funding

Five projects in The Blue Mountains and Grey Highlands have received \$1,653,830 through the Tourism Relief Fund (TRF) and the Canada Community Revitalization Fund (CCRF). These investments will create and revitalize community spaces and enhance tourism attractions to welcome more visitors and build stronger, more vibrant communities.

Local projects receiving funding include:

Scandinave Spa Blue Mountain - \$100,000 to install new energy-efficient heating systems that power the hot and cold pools, walkway snow melt and in-floor heating systems in the facilities.

Blue Mountain Village Association - \$750,000 to replace sections of an accessible boardwalk and add a floating stage at the Blue Mountain Village Mill Pond to host free musical performances.

Municipality of Grey Highlands - \$121,400 to construct an outdoor, accessible three-season community hub at the Burnside Parkette.

Town of The Blue Mountains - \$562,500 to build a new pavilion, concession stand and accessible washrooms at Moreau Park, as well as accessible playground equipment and improved access to the beach at Little River Park.

The Bruce Trail Conservancy - \$119,930 to improve the Hogg's Falls, Grey Highlands portion of the Bruce Trail Recreation Network by adding new bridges, boardwalks, trails, stairways and signage.

Statement from the Chief Medical Officer of Health

Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health, issued the following statement providing an update on the province's progress responding to this year's respiratory illness season:

"Thanks to the ongoing resilience and commitment of Ontarians, we are seeing a decline in respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), flu and COVID activity throughout the province.

RSV trends are beginning to stabilize and decline, and after the annual 12-week flu season, the number of cases of flu peaked at the end of November, case rates continue to decline, and the impact on our communities, hospitals and intensive care units is improving.

On the COVID front, key indicators are showing signs of improvement after a rise over the holiday period due to the BQ.1 variant and its sub-lineages. I want to thank Ontarians for following public health advice regarding the layers of protection throughout the holiday period and beyond, which has helped to manage the spread of these respiratory viruses. We must remain vigilant as many jurisdictions across the province continue to see a rise in the number of cases of the more transmissible XBB.1.5 variant of COVID-19.

XBB.1.5 has not been associated with a change in severity of illness, but due to its increased transmissibility, more individuals may get infected as it becomes the main variant in Ontario.

I continue to strongly recommend that everyone stays up to date with their vaccinations as it remains our best defence against COVID-19 and its variants, especially for those at increased risk of severe infection and for anyone who has not received a booster or been infected in the past six months.

Paxlovid is an outpatient oral anti-viral treatment used to reduce severe outcomes from COVID-19 and is now easier to access for more people across Ontario. Prescriptions are available for free to eligible individuals through pharmacies across the province, any physician or nurse practitioner in Ontario, as well as clinical assessment centres. As always, Ontarians are advised to stay home when they feel sick, wash their hands often, cover their mouths when they cough or sneeze and to wear a mask in crowded indoor public spaces, especially those at higher risk. Thank you again for continuing to protect yourself, your family, and your community."

Blue Mountains Attainable Housing Corporation

Deputation to the Town of The Blue Mountains

by Chair, Gavin Leitch and Executive Director, Jennifer Bisley
Council Meeting, January 23, 2023

The Blue Mountains Attainable Housing Corporation (BMAHC) requested to speak to Council in view of Council's response to the appointment of Municipal Directors to the BMAHC Board of Directors at the Nov. 28, 2022 Council meeting and Jan 9, 2023 Committee of the Whole meeting.

Our objectives today are to:

1. Provide information on the BMAHC corporate and governance structure as it relates to our relationship with the Town and the role of Municipal Directors.
2. Provide an opportunity for Council to ask questions and share concerns in relation to the appointment of Municipal Directors.

The Corporation

Town Council authorized the creation of BMAHC as a Municipal Services Corporation to provide attainable housing in its March 25, 2013 Council meeting (Town By-Law 2013-16)

- Municipal Services Corporations are subject to O. Reg 599/06 and can only be established to provide a system, service or thing that a municipality itself could provide, in this case the provision of residential housing as a prescribed economic development service.
- BMAHC was incorporated by the Town as a corporation without share capital (not-for-profit) under the Corporations Act (Ontario) through Letters Patent in 2013.
- The Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act, 2010 (ONCA) took effect on Oct 19, 2021 which requires BMAHC governing documents to be reviewed, updated, and filed in order to be compliant by Oct 18, 2024.
- BMAHC By-Laws provide the governance framework and the rules related to Directors and Members.

Directors

- The Board of Directors supervises the management of the affairs of the Corporation.
- The Board of Directors shall consist of nine (9) Directors, two (2) of whom shall be any one of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor or any Councillor of The Town of The Blue Mountains (Municipal Directors) and the remaining seven (7) shall be Public Directors.
- Hybrid model with Municipal Directors bringing a political perspective and Public Directors collectively bringing the necessary skillset to deliver attainable housing.
- All Directors have the same powers and obligations, including fiduciary duties to the corporation and one vote each with matters at Board meetings decided by majority vote.
- Monthly Board meetings with special meetings called as needed. Quorum is five (5).

Members - Two classes of membership:

- I. Municipal Member: The Town of The Blue Mountains is the one Municipal Member. As a corporation, it must authorize a representative to attend the meetings of Members or provide a proxy. Entitled to 45 votes at all meetings of Members.
- II. Members: Maximum of 20 Members, including Public Directors and anyone whose application for admission as member has received approval of the Board. Each member in this class is entitled to 1 vote.

Member Meetings:

- Annual Meeting and General Meetings as required. Quorum is majority of total Member votes.
- Municipal Member has a super majority with two-thirds of the vote.

continued



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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 acknowledged the author.

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- Elect directors, consider annual audited financial statements, appointment of auditor, approval of amendments to corporate documents, and any other business requiring member approval as set out in ONCA and BMAHC by-laws.

Questions

1. Why is Council appointing two Municipal Directors to the BMAHC Board of Directors?

It is a matter of compliance and accountability. The by-laws require two Municipal Directors on the Board.

This was a requirement of the Town Bylaw 2013-16 that authorized the establishment of the Attainable Housing Corporation and continues to be a requirement in the BMAHC by-laws. By-laws can be changed, but careful consideration should be given to the impact on governance and the relationship between Town Council and BMAHC.

2. Does a Municipal Director have to be Chair?

No. The Chair is elected by the Board of Directors by majority vote, with any Director eligible to stand for election. There is no expectation that a Municipal Director be elected Chair at this time.

3. What is the difference between a Member and a Director?

Members and Directors have different rights and duties as set out in legislation (ONCA) and corporate documents.

4. Are Municipal Directors also Municipal Members?

No. The Municipal Member is the Corporation of the Town of The Blue Mountains who, as a corporation, must authorize an individual to represent them in person or by proxy at Members' meetings. This individual does not need to be a Council member and should not be a Municipal Director to ensure that there is a clear delineation between the roles of Member and Director and so that Municipal Directors do not have any more power than other Directors. The current request of BMAHC is that Council appoint two Municipal Directors. BMAHC has also suggested to the Town CAO that a Staff Liaison be appointed who can bring any matters to Council that require consideration by the Town as Municipal Member instead of relying on a Municipal Director to do so as was previously done.

5. What does it mean that the BMAHC is an independent corporation when Council has control as Member?

Independence refers to BMAHC being a separate legal entity with Board control over decision-making. This is important for maintaining the corporate veil and liability protection as outlined in the legal memo 'Governance in Housing Corporations', March 31, 2021 by Robins Appleby (pg. 6-7).

6. Is it a conflict of interest for a member of Council to consider BMAHC matters if they are also a BMAHC Director?

The legal memo 'Governance in Housing Corporations', March 31, 2021 (pg. 8) from Robins Appleby considers this matter. It recognizes that it is sometimes difficult for politicians to wear two hats – that of the director with a fiduciary duty to the corporation and that of the politician who is accountable to their constituents. In such cases, the director must be cognizant of the hat they wear at the board level, and the fiduciary duties that come with the role.

At the council level, when issues related to BMAHC are debated, the Councillor is not considered to be in a conflict of interest merely as a result of a being on the board of BMAHC. In *Aurora (Town) v. Ontario*, the Ontario Superior Court concluded that a council-appointed director of a non-share capital corporation is not deemed to have an indirect pecuniary interest under the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act when council is considering a matter related to the corporation.

Request to Council

Through the Town CAO, BMAHC had requested that Council make the following appointments to fulfill its obligations to BMAHC:

1. Authorize two Municipal Directors to the BMAHC Board of Directors.
2. Authorize a Staff Liaison to the BMAHC.

Mayor Andrea Matrosovs and Councillor Shawn McKinlay were appointed as Municipal Directors.

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Upcoming Grey Ag Courses

Each winter, Grey Ag Services offers courses of interest to producers and rural residents of Grey and Bruce Counties and beyond. Please find our courses listed below. Course details and registration information can be found on the Grey Ag website – www.greyagservices.ca. Certified Crop Advisors will be able to obtain CEU credits for some of these courses.

www.greyagservices.ca

Or contact Grey Ag Services at: 519-986-3756,

info@greyagservices.ca

“If You Can’t See It, You Can’t Hit It – Directed Spraying In Corn”

Presented by: Dr Jason Deveau, OMAFRA.

Wednesday January 25th 12:00 - 1:00 pm, on Zoom.

Beekeeping Part Two

Presented by: Janine McGowan, owner of Our Bee Lab.

Tuesday January 31st, 5:00 - 7:00 pm. Hybrid course: Attend in-person at Grey Ag Services or online through Zoom.

What’s New in Agronomy?

Presented by: Deb Campbell from Agronomy Advantage and Carrie Davenport from Georgian View Ag Services Ltd.

Wednesday February 1st, 1:30 - 4:30 pm. Hybrid course: Attend in-person at Grey Ag Services or online through Zoom.

Soil Fertility Workshop

Presented by: Colin Elgie, OMAFRA.

Thursday February 2nd 1:00 - 3:00 pm, at Grey Ag Services.

Improving Biosecurity Concepts for Swine and Poultry

Presented by: Al Dam and Steve Beadle, OMAFRA.

Monday February 6th 1:00 - 2:30 pm, on Zoom.

Social Media Tips for your Farm Marketing

Presented by: Kelly Ward, OMAFRA & panelists: Amy Kitchen, Sideroad Farm; Julie Higginson, Higginson Farms; RJ Taylor, Springhills Fish Farm.

Wednesday February 15th 1:00 - 3:30 pm. Hybrid course: Attend in-person at Grey Ag Services or online through Zoom.

Family Farm Continuity: New Opportunities to Help You Start Today!

Presented by: Bryan Huck, BDO; and BDO A&A/Tax Partner TBD.

Thursday February 16th 9:45 - 2:00 pm at Grey Ag Services.

Weed ID Workshop

Presented by: Kris McNaughton, U of G, Ridgetown College.

Tuesday February 21st 1:00 - 3:00 pm at Grey Ag Services.

Advanced Grazing Systems - Paddock Design Workshop

Presented by: Dean Cober, Cobercow Hay and Cattle.

Monday February 27th 1:00 - 5:00 pm at Grey Ag Services.

Sheep Body Condition Scoring for Monitoring Feeding Programs

Presented by: Delma Kennedy, OMAFRA.

Wednesday March 1st 7:00 - 8:30 pm at Grey Ag Services.

Get to Know Your Cow-Calf Business & Production Information

Presented by: James Byrne, John Molenhuis, and Steve Duff, all from OMAFRA.

Thursday March 2nd 9:45 am - 2:45 pm at Grey Ag Services.

The Wild and Wonderful World of Vegetables

Presented by: Grey County Master Gardeners.

Thursday March 2nd 7:00 - 9:00 pm, at Grey Ag Services.

Success with Pair Raising Calves

Presented by: Marlene Paibomesai, Tom Wright from OMAFRA.

Tuesday March 7th 1:00 - 3:00 pm on Zoom.

Starting a Farm in Ontario

Presented by: Erich Weber, OMAFRA.

Crops Night: Thursday March 16th,

Livestock Night: Thursday March 23rd,

Direct to Consumer: Thursday March 30th. Pick one or attend all.

Each evening is from 7:00 - 9:00 pm, on Zoom. Networking session for all participants follows on Saturday April 15th at the Rocklyn Community Centre, 1:00 - 5:00 pm.

Elevate your Grain Storage Game

Presented by: James Dyck, OMAFRA.

Wednesday March 22nd, 1:00 - 3:00 pm, on Zoom.

Learning the Costs on Ontario Dairy Goat Farms

Presented by: John Molenhuis and Marlene Paibomesai, from OMAFRA.

Wednesday March 29th, 12:30 - 3:00 pm, on Zoom.

Accelerated Lambing – Critical Components for Making the System Work

Presented by: Delma Kennedy, OMAFRA, and panelists TBD.

Wednesday April 5th, 7:00 - 9:00 pm, on Zoom.

Feeding the Performance Horse

Presented by: Jessica McCoag, Purina.

Wednesday April 12th, 7:00 - 9:00 pm, at Grey Ag Services or online through Zoom.

2-day Intensive Food Preservation Workshop

Presented by: Martha Rogers, Master Food Preserver.

Friday April 28th & Saturday April 29th, 8:45 am - 4:00 pm each day at the Rocklyn Community Centre ***Please note that the April course is full for this course, but we are accepting names on a waiting list for a possible second course offering.



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Ontario Expanding Learn and Stay Grant to Train More Health Care Workers

The Ontario government is connecting over a dozen underserved and growing communities with more health care workers by expanding the **Learn and Stay grant**. The grant, which was announced in March 2022 for students who enrol in nursing programs, will also include paramedic and medical laboratory technologist programs in priority communities. Eligible students will receive full, upfront funding for tuition, books and other direct educational costs in return for working and caring for people in the region where they studied for a term of service after they graduate.

“Expanding Ontario’s Learn and Stay grant to include nurses, paramedics and med-techs in more underserved and growing communities is another innovative solution that’s connecting people to care, closer to home,” said Premier Doug Ford. “It’s also one more way we’re making sure that all Ontarians in every corner of the province, no matter where they live, have more convenient access to the care and support they need.”

Grant applications for the 2023-24 academic year open this spring, targeting 2,500 postsecondary students who in enrol in the following programs and regions:

Nursing programs in northern, eastern and southwestern Ontario
Medical laboratory technologist/medical laboratory sciences programs in northern and southwestern Ontario
Paramedic programs in northern Ontario

With more than 12,000 new nurses registering to work in Ontario last year – a record breaking year – and another 30,000 nurses studying at a college or university, the expanded Learn and Stay grant will continue to increase the number of health care workers providing care to people, closer to home.

“We know the status quo isn’t working, so we need to move forward with bold initiatives to add more health care professionals in

Ontario and especially in rural and remote communities,” said Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. “Expanding this grant beyond nursing, to include two additional health care roles in high demand will help ensure that Ontarians, no matter the size of their community, will receive the care they need in their communities.”

The government continues to take action to build up the province’s health care workforce to ensure patients can access the health care they need when they need it, no matter where they live.

Quick Facts

- Applications for the Learn and Stay grant will open in Spring 2023.
- The government has committed \$61 million over the next three years for the Learn and Stay grant.
- To be eligible for the grant, students must:
 - be a Canadian citizen, permanent resident or protected person and live in Ontario
 - enrol in an eligible diploma, advanced diploma, undergraduate, masters or post-graduate program in a priority region commit to work in the region where they studied for a minimum of six months for every year of study funded by the grant.
 - Students can also apply for the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) to help pay for other costs, such as living expenses.
- The program is responsive to evolving labour market needs and could be tailored for any program, profession or region. In future years, the grant may be expanded to include more programs and regions to help respond to localized labour market needs in underserved communities in Ontario.
- As part of the Learn and Stay Grant, \$81 million will be invested to expand the Community Commitment Program for Nurses for up to 1,500 nurse graduates in 2022-23 and 2023-24 to receive full tuition reimbursement in exchange for committing to practice for two years in an underserved community.

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Four Regional Job Fairs set for 2023

Employers and job seekers will be able to meet face to face at multiple regional job fairs hosted across Grey County in 2023. Employer registration is now open for job fairs planned for Flesherton, Hanover, Owen Sound and Meaford.

Job fairs will take place:

1. Wednesday, February 22 from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Grey Highlands Secondary School in Flesherton.
2. Tuesday, February 28 from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at John Diefenbaker Senior School in Hanover.
3. Wednesday, March 1 from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Harry Lumley Bayshore Community Centre in Owen Sound.
4. Thursday, March 2 from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Georgian Bay Community School in Meaford.

Employers can register for a booth online at grey.ca/job-fair. Employer spaces are limited and will fill quickly. Job seekers are not required to register in advance.

"The 2023 Regional Job Fairs committee is excited to host these events throughout the region to ensure accessibility for both employers and job seekers," said Jacinda Rudolph, Grey County Economic Development Officer. "The regional job fairs attract a variety of diverse job seekers with different skills. These events are an excellent way for employers to put their business name out there and connect in person with candidates."

Job seekers looking for support with their resume or interviewing skills can contact YMCA Employment Services by calling 519-371-9222 or email employment@osgb.ymca.ca.

The Grey County Regional Job Fairs are made possible through collaboration with local partners including County of Grey, YMCA of Owen Sound, Four County Labour Market Planning Board, Georgian College, City of Owen Sound, Town of Hanover, Municipality of Meaford, Meaford Chamber of Commerce, South Grey Chamber and Employment Ontario.

For questions about the job fair, contact Linda Alexander, YMCA Manager, Employment, Settlement & Language Services at linda.alexander@osgb.ymca.ca or call 519-371-9222 x 228

Ontario Breaks Ground on New Long-Term Care Home in Simcoe County

Construction is underway at the new Stayner Care Centre, a long-term care home in Simcoe County. This is part of the government's \$6.4 billion commitment to build more than 30,000 net new beds by 2028 and 28,000 upgraded long-term care beds across the province. The redeveloped home is expected to welcome its first residents in summer 2025 and will provide 79 new and 49 upgraded beds, for a total of 128 safe, modern, long-term care beds in Stayner. This brand new building will have specific design improvements, including private and basic rooms, no ward rooms, larger resident common areas and air conditioning throughout the home.

Stayner Care Centre Inc. has proposed to offer specialized health care and be part of a campus of care, which helps integrate the long-term care home into the broader health care system and ensures residents have access to the care they need. This upgraded home will help Ontario address the growing demand for long-term care, which has increased wait times for beds and contributed to hallway health care.

Once built, the home intends to offer culturally appropriate services to Francophone and Indigenous communities. The developer also intends to provide housing options for older adults, such as seniors apartments. This approach helps ensure residents have the freedom to choose the lifestyle and home supports which are most suitable for their current and future needs.

In addition to projects like Stayner Care Centre in Stayner, is supporting another 12 projects in Simcoe County, including the development of long-term care homes in Collingwood, Beeton, Elmvale, Penetanguishene, Innesfil, Barrie and Orillia. Together, these 13 projects will provide 1,061 new and 655 upgraded long-term care beds, for a total of 1,716 beds built to modern design standards.

The government is fixing long-term care 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.

The Ontario government is providing a supplemental increase to the construction funding subsidy to stimulate the start of construction by August 31, 2023 for more long-term care homes across the province, including Stayner Care Centre. This includes additional flexibility for not-for-profit homes to receive a portion of the funding as an up-front construction grant payable at the start of construction.



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

JAZZ AT THE LIBRARY

IN THE GALLERY - L.E. SHORE MEMORIAL LIBRARY - THORNBURY

FRIDAY MARCH 24, 2023 - 7:30PM

DOORS OPEN AT 6:45 pm

BILL KING TRIO



BILL KING - Piano



MARK KELSO - Drums



ROBERTO OCCHIPINTI - Bass

ADMISSION \$30

LIMITED SEATING, RESERVATIONS ONLY
FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED

E-mail to reserve
thornburyjazz@gmail.com

PROCEEDS SUPPORT STUDENT MUSIC EDUCATION



The Toronto All-Star Big Band

returns to the Marsh Street Centre, Clarksburg
Sunday March 12th, 2-4pm

One of the most exciting bands around, the Toronto All-Star Big Band revives the spirit style and sound of the 30's, 40's and 50's - that golden age of the big bands. Armed with brilliant programming, choreography and engaging cultural nostalgia, this vibrant cast of awesome young talent has earned its position at the top of list of presenters.

Presented by the Blue Mountain Legacy Fund

Tickets \$36 in advance; \$40 after Feb 24th

Call 519-599-8845 or visit www.bluemountainlegacyfund.ca