



## Blue Mountain Brings Big Fun with Inaugural Big Air Show this March Break

Blue Mountain Resort has a great lineup of March Break events including its first ever Big Air Show featuring stunts and tricks off a fifty foot ski jump.

Outdoor events have gradually made their way back to Blue Mountain Resort and this March Break, guests can look forward to the biggest on-hill spectacle yet with the Big Air Show at Blue.

Guests are invited to the Silver Bullet lift plaza at 8pm, Tuesday – Saturday of the March Break to witness Blue’s first ever on-hill ski show presented by Summer Water Sports. At the base of the Smart Alec ski trail, guests will notice a 50’ ski jump where Ontario Freestyle athletes will perform tricks accompanied by a choreographed music and lightshow. The show is open to the public and free to enjoy.

Guests who wish to take in the slopeside spectacle, can view from a spectator area close to the bottom of the Silver Bullet chairlift. For those looking to enjoy a little après with their show, the Grand Central Lodge patio is also open and a great spot to see all the action. The ski hill and show close at 9pm nightly but the fun continues with fireworks over the Mill Pond on select nights throughout the week.

There are lots of other activities for guests to enjoy both on and off hill throughout the March Break. Details about the Big Air Show and the entire March Break lineup of events can be viewed online at <https://www.bluemountain.ca/things-to-do/events/march-break>

### Free Family Event

Come and join us for a special celebration of **Earth Hour 2022** with a bonfire, hot chocolate and roasted marshmallows.

When? **Saturday, March 26, 8:30-9:30pm**  
Where? Parking Lot of Grace United Church,  
140 Bruce Street South, Thornbury  
**Hope to see you there!**



## Virtual Urgent Care

**Grey Bruce Health Services now offers urgent care virtual visits.**

Qualifying patients now have quick access to a virtual visit with a physician from the comfort of their own home. Virtual services are offered on specified days (see below) on a first-come, first-served basis for urgent but non-life-threatening medical issues. By requesting care online, patients can receive medical advice without traveling to the hospital.

- The service is open Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays
- Registration is open from 11:00am-3:30pm on clinic days and appointments are available until 5:00pm
- Visits are usually 15 to 30 minutes long
- If patients cannot wait to be seen by the virtual doctor, they should proceed to the nearest Emergency Department.

### What is a virtual urgent care visit?

An online interaction between the patient and a GBHS doctor through video or audio chat. Similar to an in-person medical visit, patients will describe their concerns and symptoms to the doctor. The doctor may be able to fully address the concern during the online visit, or in some cases, the doctor will explain to the patient why they need to go to the hospital for in-person care.

### Is the virtual urgent care visit right for me?

- Virtual urgent care services are intended for patients who are:
- 18 years of age or older (dependents as young as 3 months permitted);
- Have a medical condition that is not life-threatening;
- Well enough to wait up to several hours to discuss the concern with a physician;
- This service is intended for patients in the Grey/Bruce Region.

### What do I need for a virtual visit?

Please make sure you have access to the following in order to seek medical care virtually:

- Valid email address and phone number and OHIP card
- Smartphone, tablet, or computer with a camera and microphone that does video calls
- Internet or Wi-Fi connection
- Safe and quiet space where you can have a private conversation with a doctor

<https://app.getmaple.ca/register>

<https://www.gbhs.on.ca>

## Take the Community Sustainability Plan Phase 3 Survey

The Town would like to thank the community for participating in previous surveys to assist with development of the Community Sustainability Plan. Now we need your help to develop our action plan. Share your action-related priorities and ideas in our Phase 3 survey.

**Complete the Phase 3 survey**  
**March 7th – March 27th**  
**at [TBMFutureStory.ca](http://TBMFutureStory.ca)**



Image by Brian Gibson

# WEOC Selected As Major Loan Fund Delivery Organization

Women's Enterprise Organizations of Canada is pleased to announce our selection as a delivery organization for the Government of Canada's new \$55 million **Women Entrepreneurship Loan Fund**.

Announced in Budget 2021, this initiative recognizes that access to capital, particularly in smaller amounts, remains a significant barrier for many women entrepreneurs seeking to start or grow their businesses. This new initiative will seek to provide smaller amounts of affordable financing to women entrepreneurs, particularly for start-ups, underrepresented groups or sole proprietorships which may experience more difficulty in accessing financing.

"I thank the Government of Canada for its continued investment in women entrepreneurs through the establishment of the Women Entrepreneurship Loan Fund. I know that this fund will enable the growth of small and medium sized businesses, which are the backbone of the Canadian economy," says Alison Kirkland, CEO, Women's Enterprise Organizations of Canada. "I am confident that the loans program established by WEOC will support women entrepreneurs both by providing access to much needed funding, as well as the wrap-around supports that we know ensure long-term success."

WEOC has already established partnerships with a number of women's enterprise organizations across the country and is seeking additional partners in all regions.

If you are interested in becoming a lending partner, please contact WEOC's loans team at [loans@weoc.ca](mailto:loans@weoc.ca)

## The first loan funds will become available in summer 2022.

In Ontario visit PARO Centre for Women's Enterprise who provides programs and services to women across Ontario who are ready to start, grow or build new opportunities.

- 26,462 businesses supported
- \$4,755,359 grants from paro programs
- \$10,189,359 total grant dollars to clients
- [www.paro.ca](http://www.paro.ca)

More information is available on the Women's Enterprise Organizations of Canada website [www.weoc.ca](http://www.weoc.ca)



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

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

**DONATE** - Through our website link; email transfer to [info@visitblue.ca](mailto:info@visitblue.ca) or by cheque to Riverside Press, Box 387, Thornbury, ON N0H 2P0

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

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

Throw it away? No way!



Let's see if we, as a community, can reduce the number of broken items going to our landfill. How? By repairing them and extending their lifespan! The Grace United Green Team is very excited to announce the launch of a brand-new Community Engagement Project called the **Repair Café**. This worldwide movement strives to preserve repair skills in society and to promote more repairable products.

We are collaborating with our community to create a volunteer-based repair team. Once a month, area residents would bring their broken items to the Repair Café, where volunteers would share their skills to help repair their items **for free**. We would also share some social time, with coffee or a nice cup of tea and cookie. This adventure will not only bring our community together to help our neighbours, but it will also lengthen the life of our landfill and save taxpayers money!

**The grand opening of the Grace United Church Repair Café will take place on the Saturday after Earth Day - April 23rd, 2022, 1-4pm**

**Kids Craft Time!**  
Make a wildflower seed pod to take home and plant!

At this time we are looking for volunteers to join our repair team. If you have skills to share, such as woodworking, electronics, sewing, mending, etc. and would like to get involved with this exciting project, please get in touch with Barry Tatchell at [Barry.Tatchell@rogers.com](mailto:Barry.Tatchell@rogers.com).

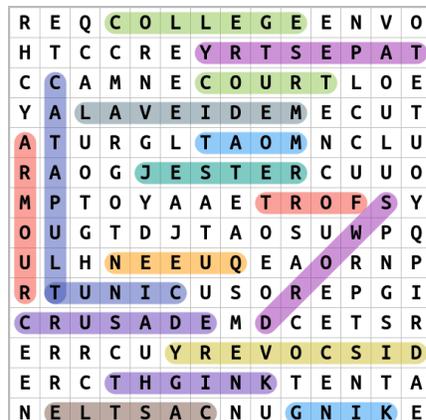
**Go Green for a better Blue!**



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**Caregiver Available for Home Support, Overnight Stays, Errands**

References available  
Call Barbara  
705-795-4571

## Town Ends State of Emergency for COVID-19 Pandemic

The Town of The Blue Mountains would like to inform the public that in consultation with the Grey Bruce Public Health Unit and the County of Grey, Mayor Soever intends to rescind the State of Emergency on Wednesday, March 16 at 12:01 a.m.

"After two long years, this is an important step forward," explains Mayor Alar Soever. "I want to thank everyone who has helped our community get this far, and who made the necessary sacrifices and followed all public health advice. It is the Canadian way to pull together for the greater good of all, especially the most vulnerable in our community. We may yet face challenges ahead, but the lifting of the State of Emergency is an important step in reopening and starting down the road to recovery."

Declared on March 24, 2020 in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the State of Emergency declaration aligned the Town with the Province, granting the Mayor the authority to take such action as considered necessary to implement the Town's emergency plan.

The decision to rescind the State of Emergency declaration was made during the Town's Emergency Control Group meeting on Friday, March 11, 2022. Following the end of the State of Emergency, the Town's Emergency Control Group will be deactivated. The Senior Management Team will continue to meet as needed to monitor COVID-19 to ensure the safe and continued operation of Town services and facilities. In addition, at the March 14, 2022 meeting, Council will also consider rescinding the Town's Mandatory Face Covering By-law 2020-77, to align with the ending on the Provincial mask mandate. Ending the State of Emergency on Wednesday, after the Council meeting scheduled for March 14, 2022 and the Committee of the Whole meeting scheduled for March 15, 2022 will allow these two meetings to continue to be conducted under the State of Emergency meeting procedures, and negate the need for last-minute procedural and logistical adjustments. Following the end of the State of Emergency, standard meeting procedures will resume according to the Town's Procedural By-law.

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**DEADLINE: MARCH 31st 2022**

## Simcoe-Grey MP Community Leader Awards

Recognizing Volunteer  
Excellence in Simcoe-Grey

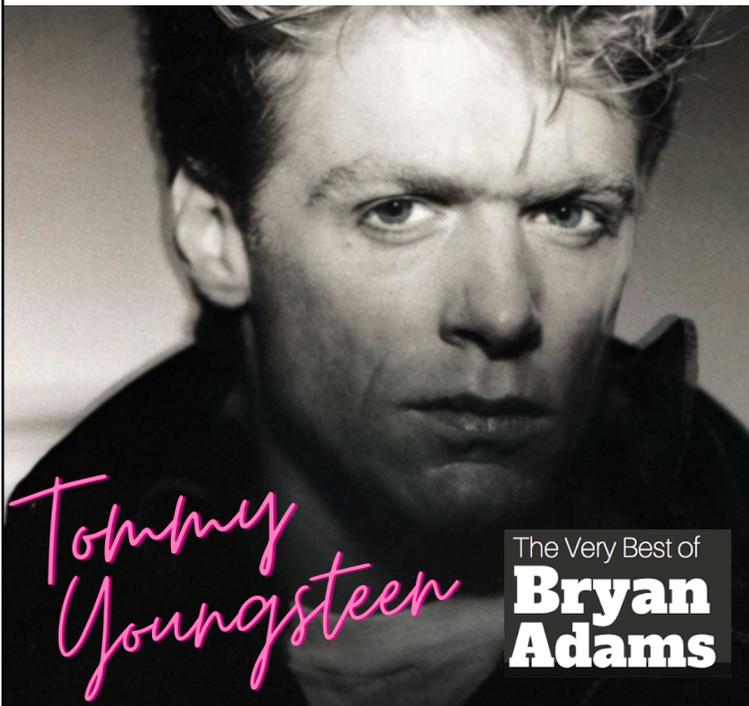


Recognize a deserving volunteer in your  
community by nominating them for the  
Simcoe-Grey MP Community Leader Award!

Contact the Office of MP Terry Dowdall for the Nomination forms:

1-866-435-1809 Terry.Dowdall@parl.gc.ca

**Saturday, April 2, 2022**



[marshstreetcentre.com](http://marshstreetcentre.com) for tickets  
\$45 for MSC members, \$50 for public  
doors at 7:00 PM

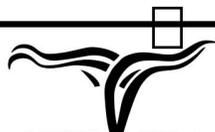
Proceeds from Marsh Street Centre events help foster creativity, culture and connection in your community

# Manors, Kings and all things Medieval

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answers on page 2



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Register for a Seniors Centre Without Walls session:  
 Call BVO at 519-599-2577 Ext 6

To Participate in a session:  
 Dial: 1-866-279-1594 Enter the Passcode: 852340 then #  
 Record your Name followed by #  
 Wait to be admitted into the session.

## Seniors Centre Without Walls March 2022

| Speaker Info  | MONDAY                  | TUESDAY   | WEDNESDAY  | THURSDAY  | FRIDAY  |
|---|-------------------------|---|--|---|---|
| <b>Elder Abuse Prevention, Ontario</b><br><br>Sarah Larissa Special Services CNIB   |                         | 1   | 2  | 3   | 4   |
|   |                         | 1:00m Preventing the Grandparent Scam<br>2pm BINGO!                               | 11:00am Living with Low vision – Sarah Larissa, CNIB<br>2pm Chair Exercise & Stretching  | 2pm - TBD   | 11am Trivia –Mardi Gras with Pam.   |
| <b>Adrienne Corti – Mindful Meditation Facilitator</b><br>Sandra Hong, Alzheimer Society Grey Bruce                           | 7                       | 8   | 9  | 10  | 11  |
|   | 10:30am Check-in & Chat | 2pm BINGO!  | 2pm Chair Exercise & Stretching  | 11am Mindful Meditation with Adrienne Corti<br>2pm the Music of Disney with Ann D       | 11am Alzheimer Society GB- Community Supports and Services with Sandra Hong |
| <b>Jeremy Bertrand</b> Snr Program Advisory Specialist, Ministry of Finance<br>Venus Cheng, Volunteer & Outreach Officer, CRA | 14                      | 15  | 16   | 17  | 18  |
|   | 10:30am Check-in & Chat | 2pm BINGO!  | 11:30 am New Ontario Tax Credits with Jeremy Bertrand<br>2pm Chair Exercise & Stretching | 2pm Family Feud with Ann D  | 11am Trivia – St Patrick’s Day with Ann G.                                  |
| <b>Darlene Macartney</b> Returning officer, Elections Ontario<br>Shannon Fry - Pharmacist/Owner                               | 21                      | 22  | 23   | 24  | 25  |
|   | 10:30am Check-in & Chat | 1pm How to vote in the next provincial election - Darlene Macartney<br>2pm BINGO! | 11am Income Tax, 2021 Returns Part 1 with Venus CRA<br>2pm Chair Exercise & Stretching   | 11am Mindful Meditation with Adrienne Corti<br>2pm the Music of Dolly Parton with Ann D | 11am –Speak with our Pharmacist, Shannon Fry                                |
| <b>John Heatherington – Master Gardener</b><br><br>SCWW Volunteers<br>Ann D<br>Ann G  | 28                      | 29  | 30   | 31  |   |
|   | 10:30am Check-in & Chat | 11am Income Tax 2021 Returns, Part 2 with Venus Cheng ,CRA                        | 2pm Chair Exercise & Stretching  | 11am Ready for Gardening Part 1 with John Heatherington                                 |   |



# Town News & Notices

📍 32 Mill St., Box 310, Thornbury, ON N0H 2P0

☎ 519.599.3131 Toll Free 1.888.BLU.MTNS

✉ info@thebluemountains.ca

🐦 @townofbluemtns

🌐 www.thebluemountains.ca

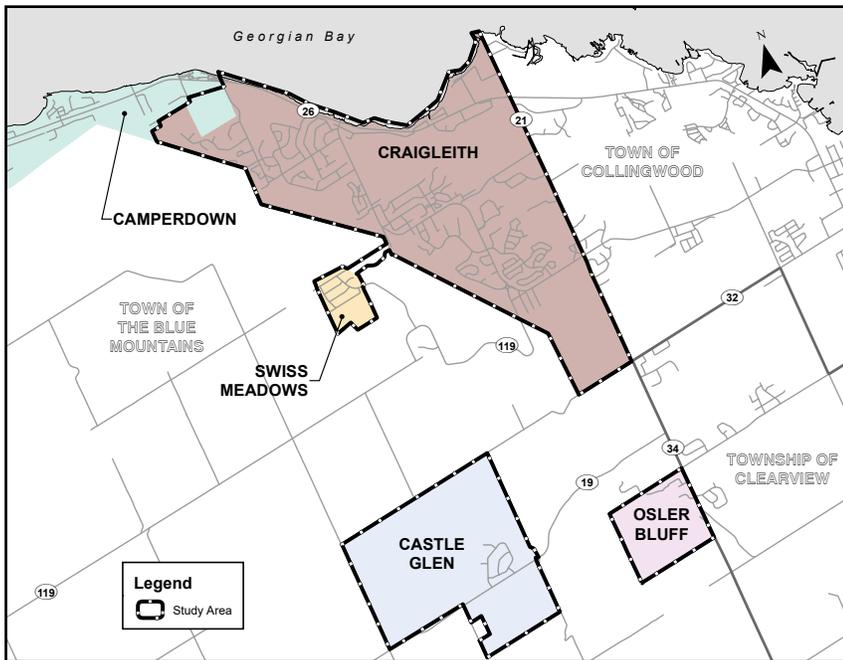
### ➤ Sign Up for Town Emails

Stay up-to-date by signing up for Town email newsletters.

[www.thebluemountains.ca/subscribe-for-updates.cfm](http://www.thebluemountains.ca/subscribe-for-updates.cfm)

## Notice of Commencement and Public Information Centre

### Schedule B/C Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (MCEA) for Drinking Water Storage and Supply Deficiencies in the Town's East Pressure Zones



The Town of The Blue Mountains has initiated a MCEA to select the preferred solution to address the Town's water storage needs and supply deficiencies in the Town's Eastern Pressure Zones.

#### How Will This Affect Me?

In November 2019, Water Distribution System Master Plan was completed to evaluate the Town's long-term water distribution and storage needs. As part of the Master Plan, potential near and long-term storage and/or supply deficiencies were identified in the Town's East Pressure Zones in the settlement areas of Craigleith, Swiss Meadows, Osler Bluff and Castle Glen. The purpose of this Schedule B and C MCEA is to evaluate and select the preferred water storage and supply alternative(s) for these pressures zones. The supply and storage alternatives proposed may have an impact on stakeholders and property owners, therefore, public consultation will be a key element of the process and input will be sought throughout the study.

This study is being conducted according to the requirements of Phases 1 to 4 of the MCEA which is an approved process under the Environmental Assessment Act.

#### How Do I Get More Information?

A dedicated project page has been added to the Town's website at:

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

### Contact Information

If you have any questions regarding the study, please contact one of the people listed below.

#### Town of The Blue Mountains

32 Mill Street, P.O. Box 310

Thornbury, ON N0H 2P0

Kevin Verkindt

Sr. Infrastructure Capital Project Coordinator

519-599-3131 ext. 304

#### J.L. Richards & Associates Limited

107-450 Speedvale Avenue West

Guelph, ON N1H 7Y6

Jane Wilson, P.Eng

Senior Environmental Engineer

226-780-7487

### Project Timeline

#### Study Commencement

Q1 2022

#### Study Completion

Q1 2023 (est.)

### Public Consultation

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

**Date: March 24, 2022**

**Start Time: 5:00 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.

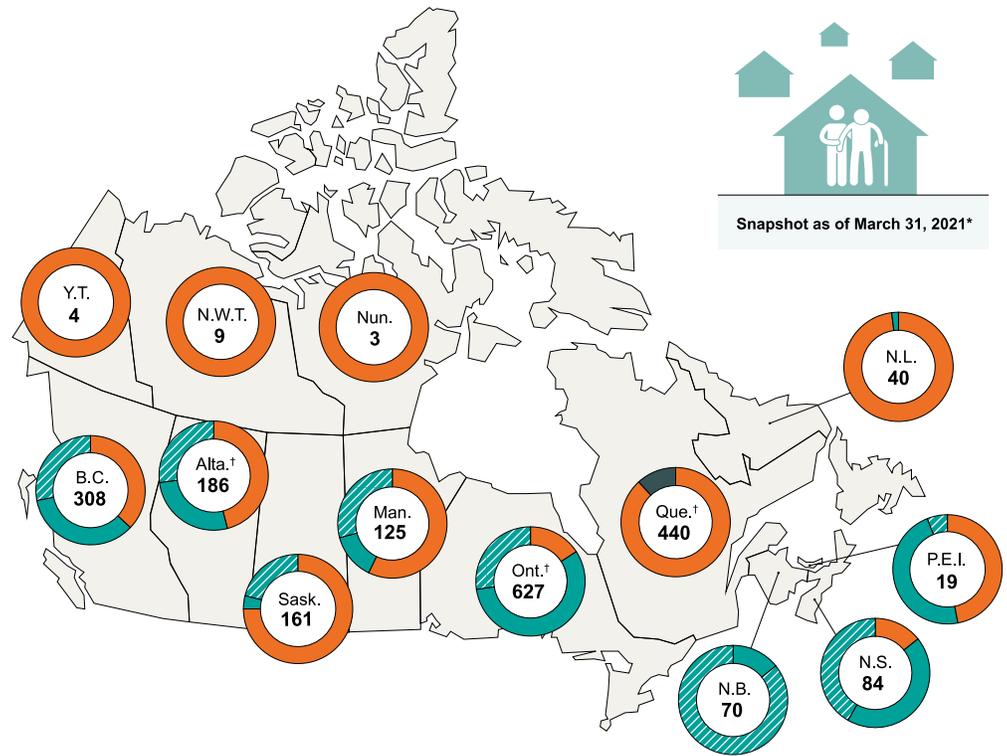
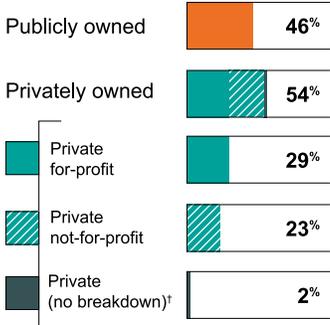


# Canada



Snapshot as of March 31, 2021\*

Total number of long-term care homes **2,076**



### Notes

\* Data for all jurisdictions is as of March 31, 2021, except Quebec (as of April 1, 2021) and Alberta (as of February 28, 2021).  
 † Private for-profit and not-for-profit ownership breakdown information for some long-term care homes in Quebec, Ontario and Alberta was not available at the time of publication.

<https://www.cihi.ca/>

## Ontario's long-term care homes (January 2020)

- 626 homes are homes licensed and approved to operate in Ontario
- 58% of homes are privately owned, 24% are non-profit/charitable, 16% are municipal
- About 40% of long-term care homes are small, with 96 or fewer beds
- Of these small homes, about 45% are located in rural communities that often have limited home care or retirement home option
- 77,536 long-stay beds are allocated to provide care, accommodation and services to frail seniors who require permanent placement
- 723 convalescent care beds are allocated to provide short-term care as a bridge between hospitalization and a patient's home
- 114 beds are allocated to provide respite to families who need a break from caring 24/7 for their loved one
- Approximately 300 of the province's long-term care homes are older and need to be redeveloped (more than 30,000 beds)
- The average time to placement in long-term care is 152 days
- The wait list for long-stay beds is 35,308

Sources: Long-Term Care Utilization Report, January 2020,

## Residents pay a portion of long-term care

Long-term care is part of the province's health care system and publicly funded on a cost-shared basis with residents. The government does not pay the full cost of long-term care and expects residents to pay a portion of their "room and board" to the long-term care home. This "room and board" payment is what long-term care homes use to make a return on their investment. Funding allocated by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care for nursing and personal care, programs, support services, or raw food (used to make meals) is separate and must be reconciled at the end of the year. Unspent funds are returned to the government.

- Provincial funding for long-term care in 2020: \$5.76 billion
- \$201.61 per resident, per day (\$73,587 per year)
- Approximately \$102.34 per day for nursing and personal care (such as assistance with personal hygiene, bathing, eating, and toileting)
- \$12.06 per day for specialized therapies, recreational programs, and support services
- \$9.54 per day for raw food (ingredients used to prepare meals)

Source: 2020 Ontario Budget, LTCH Level-of-Care Per Diem Funding Summary (April 1, 2020)

## Ontario building new long-term care beds

The Ontario government is adding 670 new and 1,618 upgraded long-term care beds to modernize and expand eight long-term care homes in Toronto. 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.

"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. "When these eight homes in Toronto are completed, more than 2,000 residents will have a new place to call home, near their family and friends."

There are now 5,364 new and 4,897 upgraded long-term care beds in planning or under construction across 39 projects in Toronto. Each new bed means more people can receive the care they need near their loved ones. Each redeveloped bed means that those already receiving care will be able to move into a brand-new home.

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.

### Quick Facts

As of today, Ontario now has 24,958 new and 20,956 upgraded beds in the development pipeline — which means more than 83 percent of the 30,000 net new beds being delivered are in the planning, construction and opening stages of the development process.

Ontario plans to invest an additional \$3.7 billion, beginning in 2024-25, on top of the historic \$2.68 billion already invested, to support this new series of allocations for the development of 10,000 net new and more than 12,000 upgraded beds across the province.

Ontario is providing long-term care homes with \$868 million in additional funding to help protect the health and safety of residents, staff and caregivers, and to ensure residents get the care they need and deserve. This funding will cover the extraordinary costs of COVID-19 in 2021-2022. \$328 million of it is being used primarily to address the enhanced measures enacted in response to the Omicron variant.

## Long-Term Care Accommodation Costs

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the annual long-term care home resident co-payment rate increase will be suspended until October 1, 2022. The current accommodation rates still apply. Long-term care accommodation costs are set by the Ministry of Long-Term Care and are standard in all long-term care homes across Ontario. The current (maximum) rates are:

### Accommodation rates (July 1, 2019)

| Type of accommodation    | Daily rate  | Monthly rate   |
|--------------------------|-------------|----------------|
| Long-stay Basic1         | \$62.18 (a) | \$1,891.31 (b) |
| Long-stay Semi-private2  | \$74.96     |                |
| (Basic plus a maximum of | \$12.78)    | \$2,280.04     |
| Long-stay Private2       | \$88.82     |                |
| (Basic plus a maximum of | \$26.64)    | \$2,701.61     |
| Short-stay               | \$40.24     | N/A            |

### Notes:

Effective from July 1, 2019, the basic accommodation rate is determined using the following formula:

- 2018 basic accommodation rate  $\times$  (1 + CPI Rate) = 2019 co-payment rate. [i.e.,  $\$60.78 \times (1 + 1.23\%) = \$62.18$ ]
- The monthly rate is determined by multiplying the daily rate by 30.4167. [i.e.,  $\$62.18 \times 30.4167 = \$1,891.31$ ]

The maximum rate for semi-private or private accommodation in some long-term care homes can be less depending on the age and structure of the long-term care home.

### Government subsidy

If you don't have enough income for the basic room, you may be eligible for a subsidy through the Long-Term Care Home Rate Reduction Program. If you qualify, you or a lawful representative must complete an application form and submit it to your long-term care home.

### What's covered by the subsidy

If you qualify, you could get a subsidy of up to \$1,891.31 a month to help you pay for basic long-term care accommodation.

### Who qualifies

Whether or not you qualify for financial help depends on the type of accommodation you choose (only basic is covered – not private or semi-private) and your net income

You also need to be already receiving all of these federal and provincial benefits that you are eligible for:

- Old Age Security pension (if you're age 65 or older)
- Ontario Disability Support Program (if you're ineligible for Old Age Security)
- Guaranteed Income Supplement (if you're age 65 or older)  
You must apply through Service Canada if you're receiving or eligible to receive Old Age Security
- Guaranteed Annual Income System Benefit  
You'll automatically be considered if you've applied for Guaranteed Income Supplement and filed your tax return on time

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/get-help-paying-long-term-care>

# Blue Mountain

# Legacy Fund

Helping The Community

FOR INFORMATION VISIT

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

or call 519-599-3345

## Ontario Enhancing Personal Support Worker Training

The Ontario government is continuing to build a more resilient health care system for generations to come by making it easier to become a personal support worker (PSW). Ontario is re-launching a \$54.7 million financial support program for up to 4,000 new students at private career colleges in Ontario, which will help address the shortage of PSWs in the province.

Through this investment, for eligible students who enrol between June 1 and September 30, 2022, financial support of up to \$13,690 will be available to cover the costs of tuition, books and other mandatory fees, as well as a stipend for a clinical work placement. This funding will be available to new students enrolled in a PSW program at one of the participating Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) approved private career colleges.

This investment supports the government's Long-Term Care Staffing Plan, so that long-term care homes can provide an average of four hours of direct care per day to residents, and as well our commitment to modernizing home and community care that will establish integrated and innovative models of care to keep people healthier at home.

In 2021-22, the province committed to spending up to \$200 million to train up to 16,200 additional personal support workers through publicly-assisted colleges, private career colleges and district school boards.

The first round of financial support for PSW training through private career colleges, launched in 2021, resulted in approximately 3,000 new PSWs completing training and graduating.

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## Dragonflies are “canaries in the coalmine” for wetland biodiversity

<https://www.ducks.ca/project-dragonfly/>

On World Wildlife Day, Ducks Unlimited Canada launched Project Dragonfly to support species threatened by habitat loss and climate change

Dragonflies have been around for 300 million years, predating even the dinosaurs. During this time, they've experienced a lot of environmental changes—and adapted to them. But today's colliding crises of habitat loss and climate change may be more than these iconic winged creatures can survive. A new campaign from Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) shines a spotlight on the worldwide decline of dragonflies while raising funds for much-needed wetland conservation efforts that will bolster biodiversity as a whole.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature recently added 16 per cent of the world's 6,016 species of dragonflies and damselflies to its Red List of Threatened Species. It cited the widespread loss of wetlands—the marshes, bogs and swamps where they breed—as the driving factor behind drops in global populations.

The news is sending off alarm bells for conservation organizations like DUC.

“You can think of them as the ‘canaries in the coalmine,’” says Larry Kaumeyer, CEO of DUC. “Dragonflies are extremely sensitive to changes in the environment, which makes their welfare a strong indicator of the overall welfare of our wetlands. These amazing insects are sending us a clear message about the fate that could potentially befall hundreds of other species that depend on wetlands during their life cycles.”

DUC has launched Project Dragonfly, a campaign focused on the need to conserve and restore wetlands across Canada to support biodiversity. Up to 40 per cent of the world's wildlife species live and breed in wetlands. In Canada, this includes more than 500 species of wildlife—97 of which are identified as being at risk. Each forms part of an interconnected system that starts to weaken as individual species become threatened or extinct.

Troublesome is the fact that Canada does not yet have a comprehensive wetland inventory and monitoring system to effectively measure wetland loss. Current estimates suggest that up to 70 per cent of wetlands have been lost in southern parts of Canada, and up to 95 per cent in densely populated areas. Add the growing impacts of climate change on both wildlife and habitat and the threats become even greater. These threats have serious implications for another important species: humans.

“We can't overlook the important fact that people are also highly dependent on wetlands for drinking water, food production, recreation and the health of local economies,” says Kaumeyer. “So, if a species like the dragonfly, which has been around for hundreds of millions of years, is struggling to find ways to survive with fewer and fewer wetlands on the landscape, what does that mean for us?”

To learn more about DUC's innovative environmental solutions and services, visit [www.ducks.ca](http://www.ducks.ca)



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# Grey County Council Highlights March 10

Council passed a notice of motion brought forward by Councillor Soever regarding supplementary assessment. Supplementary assessment is the additional taxes owed for a property that is under construction and increased in property value (new construction or major renovation/addition). Through the motion, Council moved for lower tier municipalities to work diligently with the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation to capture supplementary assessment. It also moved that in a year when a municipality delivers more supplementary assessment than budgeted, the excess amount of supplementary tax revenue would be directed back to the local municipality's community improvement plan. A staff report will be brought forward to a future meeting with more details.

Staff presented an information report to Council outlining information about governance and what options municipalities can consider for decision making. The report highlights factors such as weighted voting, direct election of members, the term of the warden, meeting structure and much more. Council thanked staff for preparing the detailed report which will be brought back to the incoming 2023-2026. This will allow the new council enough time to enact governance changes prior to the 2026 Municipal Election.

Council received the 2022-2023 Grey Roots Operating Plan. The plan highlights initiatives that will support collaboration, accessibility, and sustainability.

Council approved the draft plan of subdivision for a development on the northeast edge of Hanover. The development will include a mix of property types including: 31 single-detached units, 46 semi-detached units, and 37 townhomes.

Council supported a proposed amendment to the Grey County Official Plan that will re-designate lands to allow for the expansion of Chapman's Ice Cream.

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# Ontario Increasing Support for 2022 Canada Summer Games

The Ontario government is providing up to \$1.1 million in additional funding to ensure successful delivery of the 2022 Canada Summer Games to offset increased costs from postponing the Games due to the COVID-19 pandemic. With this investment, the government has provided more than \$40 million in capital and operating funding to support athletes, coaches, volunteers, and spectators attending the Games in August.

The 2022 Canada Summer Games will welcome 5,000 participants to compete in a range of summer sporting activities, including athletics, swimming and lacrosse, over a two-week period. The Games are expected to be the largest ever with over 200,000 spectators from across the country expected to attend.

The government's investment in sport hosting events such as the Canada Games is part of its commitment to fueling the province's double bottom line: supporting economic growth and strengthening Ontario's social fabric. The Games will attract visitors, create local jobs and ensure Ontario becomes the destination of choice for national and international events, while cultivating a pride of people and pride of place among athletes, residents and visitors.

"We are thankful to the Government of Ontario for providing additional funding to the Niagara 2022 Canada Summer Games," said Doug Hamilton, Board Chair of the Niagara 2022 Canada Summer Games. "When Niagara was originally awarded the Canada Games in 2017, no one could have anticipated the challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic, which ultimately forced us to postpone our event to 2022. However, thanks to this additional support, we will be able to better overcome those challenges and host the 2022 Canada Games in the way that they were originally envisioned."



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