Phragmites in the Grey Sauble Watershed

On Thursday August 10 and Friday August 11 from 10 am to 2 pm, the Beaver River Watershed Initiative in partnership with Grey Sauble Conservation Authority will be hosting a Phragmites cutting event at Peasemash Conservation Area, Hwy 26 near Thornbury.

If you live along the sandy shores of Southern Georgian Bay or Lake Huron, you have probably heard of Phragmites. Phragmites australis (pronounced frag-my-tees), also known as European Common Reed is one of Ontario’s worst invasive species. This tall perennial grass can reach heights of 5 meters and form stands as dense as 200 stems per square meter. The large red seed head, thick green stems and leaves are prominent features to help identify Phragmites.

Phragmites stands develop and expand quickly through seed dispersal, underground roots and horizontal runners. Dispersal to new locations occurs through water, air or animal movement, as well as human actions and equipment including hiking, boats and ATVs. Phragmites can now be found throughout the Grey Sauble Watershed along road side ditches, river banks and shorelines. Once established in a location it is extremely difficult to control due to its extensive root systems and proximity to water. Phragmites infestations can result in loss of wildlife habitat and biodiversity.

**Trimmers available for community groups!**

The Beaver River Watershed Initiative has generously provided two long reach hedge trimmers to enable volunteer groups to manage Phragmites. The units are housed at Grey Sauble Conservation Authority and are available for a maximum of three days at a time per group, free of charge. Grey Sauble Conservation staff will work with these groups to provide safety training and preparation leading up to cutting events. Since there are no herbicides approved for over water use, cutting Phragmites annually using these trimmers is one of the most effective methods for control. The optimal time to cut Phragmites is between late July and early August as the plant is putting all its energy into seed production. To learn more about hosting a Phragmites cutting event with your group, borrowing the trimmers or about how you can be involved in this watershed-wide effort, please visit the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority website for more information: www1.greysauble.on.ca or contact Stewardship Technician Rebecca Ferguson, 519-376-3076 ext 236 r.ferguson@greysauble.on.ca.

Historical Bridge in Clarksburg Under Repairs

While the Black Bridge is under rehabilitation the Bridge will be closed to both vehicle and pedestrian traffic until mid-October. A detour route has been posted.

**COMMUNITY EVENTS**

To be included in this listing post your event on www.visitbluemountains.ca

**L.E. SHORE LIBRARY GALLERY OIL AND WATER**

Show runs till August 31st

Experimental water-colours by Lise Meyers, with large scale representational oils by Ona Alisauskas. Both artists use local landscapes for inspiration, but their creative paths soon diverge.

**BLUE MOUNTAINS ANIMAL SHELTER BBQ FUNDRAISER**

Saturday, August 5, 11am - 2pm

Thornbury Foodland, Highway 26

Join us for a charity BBQ in support of your local animal shelter. All proceeds go toward providing a home for our cats.

Volunteer, donate, adopt. www.bluemountainsanimalshelter.com

**JAZZ BY THE BAY.CA**

Saturday August 12th

L.E. Shore Memorial Library

Tie Dye Party from 10:30am-12:30pm. Suggested ages 5-17.

Please bring a white cotton material item - t-shirt, towel, sheet, pillowcase, pants, socks

LEGO afternoon 2pm-3pm, limited space. Register online.

**INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY**

Saturday August 12th

L.E. Shore Memorial Library

Family fun all weekend long!

**FAMARAMA**

Saturday, Aug 12 - Sunday, Aug 13

Blue Mountain Village

Family fun all weekend long!

**INDIGENOUS LIFE FESTIVAL**

Friday, Aug 18 - Sunday, Aug 20

Blue Mountain Village

Commemorating Canada’s sesquicentennial and the First Nations People whose land we share, we welcome you to a celebration of Indigenous culture. Live music by LOGAN STAATS, traditional crafts, shelters and games, storytelling, educational activities, Speakers Panel and more live music.
SUMMER STREET PARTY
Friday, Aug 25, 6-9pm
Downtown Thornbury
Live Music and Dancing, Street Food, Family Activities

SHORELINE CHORUS SUMMER CONCERT
Friday, Aug 25, 7:30pm
St. George’s Anglican Church
Tickets $15.00 519-599-2710.

CORN ROAST
Saturday Aug 26, 5-7pm
St. George’s Anglican Church
In aid of the tower brickwork restoration, come and buy a brick or two or more and help with the restoration of the church tower.

WILD WONDERS
Saturday, Aug 26 - Sunday, Aug 27
Blue Mountain Village
Edutainment with an animal flair! Free-flying birds of prey, indigenous animal and reptile shows, street performers, live music, creepy crawly scavenger hunt, hiking and lots more!

CONCERT with PAT ROBITAILLE
Saturday, Aug 26, 8-11pm
Marsh Street Centre. Tickets $20 Call 519-599-7837

BEAVER VALLEY FALL FAIR
Friday September 8
Saturday, September 9
www.beavervalleyfallfair.ca

Cobble Beach Concours d’Elegance celebrates 5 years
The Cobble Beach Golf Resort Community Kemble, is proud to announce its 5th annual Concours d’Elegance, taking place September 16th-17th.
As Canada’s most prestigious classic automotive show, the Concours d’Elegance has become a renowned event in the classic automobile community while raising over $300,000 for the Sunnybrook Foundation and the Owen Sound Regional Hospital Foundation.
www.cobblebeach.com

Thornbury Jazzworks Announces Fall Series
The Thornbury Jazzworks Fall Series starts on Friday September 8, at 7:30pm at the Marsh Street Centre with Dean Hollin bringing his Cole Porter show straight from a run at the Grand Theatre in London. Titled “Cole-Hearted”, this musical biography celebrating the life, times and music of Cole Porter features one of the most important composers of classic Jazz. He will be accompanied by a jazz trio led by Steve Thomas, Musical Director of Charlottetown Festival & Drayton Festival Theatres. Tickets $25.
Back at the L.E. Shore Library, Friday September 29, 7:30pm we welcome Bob DeAngelis, one of Canada’s most accomplished instrumentalists featuring the clarinet. Tickets $20.
On Friday October 24, 7:30pm the Chantry Island Quartet will perform the rarely heard Suite No.1 for Flute and Jazz Piano Trio by Claude Bolling. Meryl Gillmore, Principal Flute of the Georgian Bay Symphony Orchestra will be the soloist. Tickets $20.
Friday Nov 24, 7:30pm we will host the CD Release Party of the new album by Mary-Catherine Pazzano. MC, as the rising jazz vocalist is known, will have the Don Buchanan Quartet to provide the harmonies for her amazing voice. Tickets $20.
Tickets at Thornbury Pharmasave when available.
www.thornburyjazz.com

100 Women (Or More)
Who Care About Local Community Causes and Who Are Committed To Community Service.

How it Works
• The group meets for an hour and jointly select a local charity or not-for-profit organization.
• Every woman writes a $100 cheque directly to the selected organization and receives a tax receipt from that organization.
• Then watch how the group’s commitment turns into a $10,000+ donation.
• These meetings are done four times a year and the total commitment from each person is 4 hours and $400 a year.

Getting started:
A steering committee of 5 local women, Catherine Daw, RoseMary Boyd, Betty Donaher, Helen Peacock and Hania Krajewski (519-599-2570), are preparing to launch a chapter of this amazing idea and movement with a first meeting Wednesday September 27, 2017. We are seeking founding members. Want to learn more or sign up? www.100womensouthgeorgiantriangle.com, or e-mail to: 100wwcs-gt@gmail.com

You are invited to celebrate the 90th Birthday of ART LAPOINTE
Town Crier for The Blue Mountains at the Marsh Street Centre, Saturday, September 16th from 2:30-5:00pm

The National Barrel Horse Association, headquartered in Augusta, Georgia, is the largest barrel racing organization in the world. In 1992, the NBHA revolutionized the barrel racing industry by pioneering the divisional format, which allows riders of all skill levels a chance to win money and prizes in barrel racing competition. NBHA has over 23,000 members of all ages. The purpose of the National Barrel Horse Association is to provide barrel racers with an international organization that will promote the sport of barrel racing and its growth.
Blair Mackey, a local rider qualified for the NBHA youth world show in Perry, Georgia, held July 22-29, in 3 divisions. He rode his mare Tia Little Chickory and his coaches horse Rocky Strait Rockin. He also has qualified with Maddy Harbottle for the NBHA open show this October.

How walkable is our community?
Take a walk by yourself, with your family, or with a group of friends or colleagues and use the checklist developed by the Town to decide how walkable your neighbourhood is.
Walking has so many benefits to our community! Help us make it better.

Please complete a Walkability Checklist to voice your opinion. The Town wants to hear from you.

Pick up your Walkability Checklist at any of the following locations or access it digitally at: www.thebluemountains.ca/activetransportation.cfm
• Town Hall
• Beaver Valley Community Centre
• Blue Mountains Public Library
• Craigleith Heritage Depot
• Thornbury Harbour
You can also drop off your completed checklist at Town Hall.

The Blue Mountains Review
Thornbury, Clarksburg, Craigleith, Heathcote, Ravenna

Published monthly, copies are mailed throughout the Blue Mountains. Your events, stories and photos of interest to our community can be emailed to info@bluemountainsreview.ca for inclusion in the newsletter. Advertising rates are available by calling 519-599-3345 or from our website. www.bluemountainsreview.ca

Tickets $15.00 519-599-2710.

CORN ROAST
Saturday Aug 26, 5-7pm
St. George’s Anglican Church
In aid of the tower brickwork restoration, come and buy a brick or two or more and help with the restoration of the church tower.

WILD WONDERS
Saturday, Aug 26 - Sunday, Aug 27
Blue Mountain Village
Edutainment with an animal flair! Free-flying birds of prey, indigenous animal and reptile shows, street performers, live music, creepy crawly scavenger hunt, hiking and lots more!

CONCERT with PAT ROBITAILLE
Saturday, Aug 26, 8-11pm
Marsh Street Centre. Tickets $20 Call 519-599-7837

BEAVER VALLEY FALL FAIR
Friday September 8
Saturday, September 9
www.beavervalleyfallfair.ca

Cobble Beach Concours d’Elegance celebrates 5 years
The Cobble Beach Golf Resort Community Kemble, is proud to announce its 5th annual Concours d’Elegance, taking place September 16th-17th.
As Canada’s most prestigious classic automotive show, the Concours d’Elegance has become a renowned event in the classic automobile community while raising over $300,000 for the Sunnybrook Foundation and the Owen Sound Regional Hospital Foundation.
www.cobblebeach.com

Thornbury Jazzworks Announces Fall Series
The Thornbury Jazzworks Fall Series starts on Friday September 8, at 7:30pm at the Marsh Street Centre with Dean Hollin bringing his Cole Porter show straight from a run at the Grand Theatre in London. Titled “Cole-Hearted”, this musical biography celebrating the life, times and music of Cole Porter features one of the most important composers of classic Jazz. He will be accompanied by a jazz trio led by Steve Thomas, Musical Director of Charlottetown Festival & Drayton Festival Theatres. Tickets $25.
Back at the L.E. Shore Library, Friday September 29, 7:30pm we welcome Bob DeAngelis, one of Canada’s most accomplished instrumentalists featuring the clarinet. Tickets $20.
On Friday October 24, 7:30pm the Chantry Island Quartet will perform the rarely heard Suite No.1 for Flute and Jazz Piano Trio by Claude Bolling. Meryl Gillmore, Principal Flute of the Georgian Bay Symphony Orchestra will be the soloist. Tickets $20.
Friday Nov 24, 7:30pm we will host the CD Release Party of the new album by Mary-Catherine Pazzano. MC, as the rising jazz vocalist is known, will have the Don Buchanan Quartet to provide the harmonies for her amazing voice. Tickets $20.
Tickets at Thornbury Pharmasave when available.
www.thornburyjazz.com

100 Women (Or More)
Who Care About Local Community Causes and Who Are Committed To Community Service.

How it Works
• The group meets for an hour and jointly select a local charity or not-for-profit organization.
• Every woman writes a $100 cheque directly to the selected organization and receives a tax receipt from that organization.
• Then watch how the group’s commitment turns into a $10,000+ donation.
• These meetings are done four times a year and the total commitment from each person is 4 hours and $400 a year.

Getting started:
A steering committee of 5 local women, Catherine Daw, RoseMary Boyd, Betty Donaher, Helen Peacock and Hania Krajewski (519-599-2570), are preparing to launch a chapter of this amazing idea and movement with a first meeting Wednesday September 27, 2017. We are seeking founding members. Want to learn more or sign up? www.100womensouthgeorgiantriangle.com, or e-mail to: 100wwcs-gt@gmail.com

You are invited to celebrate the 90th Birthday of ART LAPOINTE
Town Crier for The Blue Mountains at the Marsh Street Centre, Saturday, September 16th from 2:30-5:00pm

The National Barrel Horse Association, headquartered in Augusta, Georgia, is the largest barrel racing organization in the world. In 1992, the NBHA revolutionized the barrel racing industry by pioneering the divisional format, which allows riders of all skill levels a chance to win money and prizes in barrel racing competition. NBHA has over 23,000 members of all ages. The purpose of the National Barrel Horse Association is to provide barrel racers with an international organization that will promote the sport of barrel racing and its growth.
Blair Mackey, a local rider qualified for the NBHA youth world show in Perry, Georgia, held July 22-29, in 3 divisions. He rode his mare Tia Little Chickory and his coaches horse Rocky Strait Rockin. He also has qualified with Maddy Harbottle for the NBHA open show this October.

How walkable is our community?
Take a walk by yourself, with your family, or with a group of friends or colleagues and use the checklist developed by the Town to decide how walkable your neighbourhood is.
Walking has so many benefits to our community! Help us make it better.

Please complete a Walkability Checklist to voice your opinion. The Town wants to hear from you.

Pick up your Walkability Checklist at any of the following locations or access it digitally at: www.thebluemountains.ca/activetransportation.cfm
• Town Hall
• Beaver Valley Community Centre
• Blue Mountains Public Library
• Craigleith Heritage Depot
• Thornbury Harbour
You can also drop off your completed checklist at Town Hall.

The Blue Mountains Review
Thornbury, Clarksburg, Craigleith, Heathcote, Ravenna

Published monthly, copies are mailed throughout the Blue Mountains. Your events, stories and photos of interest to our community can be emailed to info@bluemountainsreview.ca for inclusion in the newsletter. Advertising rates are available by calling 519-599-3345 or from our website. www.bluemountainsreview.ca
DONALD JEFFREY LOUCKS
Jeff Loucks of Clarksburg passed away peacefully at Chapman House Hospice in Owen Sound on Thursday July 20, 2017 at the age of 54. Born in Toronto on February 25, 1963, he was the much loved son of Murray and Jacquie (née Welstead) Loucks. Jeff was the loving husband and friend of Barbara (née Lanktree) Loucks of Clarksburg. He will be the sadly missed ‘Dad’ of Krystal Dean and her husband Ernest of Bala, and Samantha Loucks of Clarksburg, and will be missed also by his furry grandbabies ‘Zilla’ and ‘Pansy’. Jeff was the dear brother of Lynne Preet and her husband David of Innisfil. He will be remembered fondly by his many aunts, uncles and extended family and friends.

JAMES NELSON ‘JIM’ THATCHER
Born in Guelph on November 21, 1932, a son of the late Edgar and Mabel (nee Early) Thatcher, Jim, a long time resident of Thornbury, passed away peacefully at the Meaford Hospital on July 23, 2017 at the age of 84. Jim was predeceased by his beloved wife Joyce ‘Jo’ (nee Yamamoto) in 2014 and is remembered as the much loved father of Jay Thatcher of Toronto and Jill Thatcher (John Pedlar) of Sault Ste. Marie. He will be sorely missed by his grandchildren Claire and Jax and his great-grandchild. Jim was predeceased by brothers Edward and Bruce Thatcher and by sisters Margarette Barnett and Joan Price and is survived by a brother-in-law Willard Price. Jim enjoyed a long and successful career teaching French and German in high schools in Burlington and Flesherton. He also completed graduate studies in France and taught in Germany. After retiring from teaching he was a realtor with local brokerages. Jim was an active volunteer in the Thornbury community. He was a devoted member and committee chair at Grace United Church in Thornbury, a long-time volunteer with the L.E. Shore Memorial Library, as well as with local soccer teams and Rotary. He was an avid skier, curler, genealogist, Probus member, and dedicated participant in his coffee club. Family will receive friends at the Ferguson Funeral Home, The Valley Chapel, 20 Alice St. E. in Thornbury on Thursday, September 7 from 6 until 8 p.m.

September 8, 2017 at 1 p.m. with a family service of committal and interment of ashes to follow at Thornbury-Clarksburg Union Cemetery. Friends are invited to gather at the L.E. Shore Memorial Library on Bruce St. following the memorial service where family will gather following the interment to share remembrances and fellowship with all.

JEAN MARYLINGE LAKE (SALVATORE)
Kathleen ‘Kay’ Lamondin of Thornbury passed away peacefully at the Meaford Hospital in her 81st year on July 24, 2017. She was born in Tillsonburg, Ontario on May 12, 1937, a daughter of the late LeRoy and Pearl (nee Livingstone) Marshall. Kay was married to Clair Lamondin on January 18, 1964, who predeceased her on July 22, 1998. She was the treasured mother of Joan (Doug) Holloway, Elizabeth (Alan) Dackiw, Timothy Lamondin, Pamela Lamondin, Terrance Lamondin, and wonderful grandma of Julia, Ben and Rylie. Kay was the dear sister of Pauline Tompkins, Joe Marshall (Dorothy), and Rick Marshall, and was predeceased by her siblings Marie, Ken, and Paul. She will be remembered fondly by Clair’s family and by her many friends in the community. Kay was a long time resident of Thornbury-Clarksburg. She loved to read, garden and was an avid quilter. She enjoyed volunteering and over the years she spent many hours at the River Rat Races, the Beaver Valley Arena, and the Chili CookOff. She was a long time volunteer for the B.V. Athletic Association, the First Baptist Church Sewing Club and the Thornbury-Clarksburg Rotary Club. Her commitment to her community earned her the Paul Harris Fellowship Award in 1998.

DONALD EMMELINE RUTHVEN
Born in St. Vincent Township on February 4, 1924, a daughter of the late Andrew Russell and Mary Emma (nee Almond) Ormsby, Dorothy passed away peacefully at the Meaford Long Term Care Centre on Monday July 17, 2017 at the age of 93. Dorothy was predeceased by her beloved husband Robert Donald Ruthven in 1986 and she is lovingly remembered as Mom to her children Bev and her husband Harold Ardiel of Clarksburg, John Ruthven and his wife Denise also of Clarksburg, Kathy and her husband Jim Uram of Thornbury and Janice and her husband Norman Sandberg of Collingwood. She will be sorely missed and remembered as a devoted Gramma and More Gram to her ten grandchildren and fifteen great-grandchildren: Gini (Kelly) Hill of Carmel, Indiana and children Savannah, Ryland and Ava; Keith Ardiel (Sara) of Freeton and children Kalia and Hayden; Amanda Ruthven (Ian) also of Thornbury and daughter Harper; Kevin Simons (Jennifer) of Meaford and children Jocelyn and Gabriel; Sarah Uram (James) of Bowmanville; Jaimi Uram (Jon) of London; Meghan Rowbotham (Adam) of Nottawa and children Hunter and Elliott; and Travis Sandberg of Collingwood. Dorothy was a dear sister to Marie (late Carman) Hare and Glenn Ormsby and his wife Viola of Meaford, and she was predeceased by brothers R. E. ‘Ted’ Ormsby (late Mary) of Meaford, Keith Ormsby (late Marion) of Sudbury, and Jack Ormsby also of Meaford and is remembered fondly by her wife Lois. She was a special aunt to her nieces and nephews and their families.

JAMES NELSON ‘JIM’ THATCHER
Born in Guelph on November 21, 1932, a son of the late Edgar and Mabel (nee Early) Thatcher, Jim, a long time resident of Thornbury, passed away peacefully at the Meaford Hospital on July 23, 2017 at the age of 84. Jim was predeceased by his beloved wife Joyce ‘Jo’ (nee Yamamoto) in 2014 and is remembered as the much loved father of Jay Thatcher of Toronto and Jill Thatcher (John Pedlar) of Sault Ste. Marie. He will be sorely missed by his grandchildren Claire and Jax and his great-grandchild. Jim was predeceased by brothers Edward and Bruce Thatcher and by sisters Margarette Barnett and Joan Price and is survived by a brother-in-law Willard Price. Jim enjoyed a long and successful career teaching French and German in high schools in Burlington and Flesherton. He also completed graduate studies in France and taught in Germany. After retiring from teaching he was a realtor with local brokerages. Jim was an active volunteer in the Thornbury community. He was a devoted member and committee chair at Grace United Church in Thornbury, a long-time volunteer with the L.E. Shore Memorial Library, as well as with local soccer teams and Rotary. He was an avid skier, curler, genealogist, Probus member, and dedicated participant in his coffee club. Family will receive friends at the Ferguson Funeral Home, The Valley Chapel, 20 Alice St. E. in Thornbury on Thursday, September 7 from 6 until 8 p.m.

Funeral services, officiated by Reverend Thérèse Samuel, will be conducted at Grace United Church, Bruce St. S. in Thornbury on Friday.
Class Reunion 50 Years Later

The final class of Grade 12 students at the former Thornbury High School met at the Marsh Street Centre on Saturday July 16.

Back Row - Eugene Rear, George Teed, Bill Andrus, Reiny Grin, Rod Turner, Harold Abbotts, Don Dinsmore

Middle Row - Allan White, George Cornfield, Bill Bowen, Beverly (Stewart) Jenkins, Bonnie (Taylor) McCollgan, Albert Madill, Bob Chalk

Front Row - Murray Parks, Dennis Morrison, Louise (Geddis) Kerr, Helen (Park) Orvis, Lynn (Kentner) Cornfield, Mary Jean (Reekie) Cline

With the Cake - Carol (Hewgill) Farrar - (She baked the excellent cake)

Present Earlier - Charles Binkley - Master of Entertainment

Unable to attend - Doris (McKittrick) Greenfield, Ruby Marchand, Marg (McLeod) Atkins, Barb McMullen, Lewis Adams, Jim Lynch, Karyn (Alderdice) Lougheed, Judy Bell, Linda Binkley, Walter Ernstberger, Tom Eastland

Public Appointment to The Blue Mountains Public Library Board

Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains are seeking applications, in the form of a resume and covering letter, from members of the public for appointment to the Town of The Blue Mountains Public Library Board (one vacancy)
Citizens’ Pages in the Blue Mountains Review

More Turmoil at the Library Board as Vice-Chair Lloyd Brown Resigns Fifth Resignation in the last 16 months

On July 10th Lloyd Brown, Deputy Chair of the Blue Mountains Library Board resigned. He was the fifth member of the Library Board to resign in the last 16 months.

Only last month we optimistically reported that, with the new appointments to the library board, the dismissal of the Library’s CEO, together with the appointment of an interim replacement, as well as a press-release stating the board’s intention to engage in a public consultation process, the revitalized board seemed to have brought refreshing changes to a cherished institution.

Apparently we spoke too soon. When asked by the Citizen’s Pages why he resigned Mr. Brown stated, “I have been frustrated for some time with the operation of the Board, and had considered resigning earlier. I thought however that with the changes we had made and the consultative process we had embarked upon, we had turned a corner. It became clear to me however that the consultative process we had embarked upon was not the kind of open dialogue with stakeholders that I had hoped it would be.”

Indeed many in the community have commented that the Strategic Planning Committee Report, (pages 64-67 of the Library Board Package for July 20th) http://www.thebluemountains.ca/public_docs/events/07%202017%20Library%20Board%20Package.pdf, failed to mention many of the over 200 suggestions received during the consultation, particularly the requests for a children’s librarian. Indeed most of the first page of the report is focused on “what many members of the community do not understand” (See VOCAL’s Open Letter response to the Board’s report on page 3).

In particular, the irony of the comment that “Many community members do not understand the role of the Library Board under the Public Libraries Act, and the scope of duties prescribed for individual Board Members and the Board as a whole.” was not lost on those who have followed the Library Board, and recall that it was only recently that the Mayor figured out that he should sign correspondence he issued as Chair of the Library Board as the Chair and not the as the Mayor.

Lloyd Brown’s shoes prove difficult to fill

At the Library Board Meeting on July 20th, the many positions held by Mr. Brown proved difficult to fill. When Councillor Michael Martin, who was chairing the meeting in Mayor McKeans absence, called for volunteer’s for the role of Vice-Chair, there were no takers. Finally Willi Wildman nominated Maurice Pepper, who reluctantly accepted the position.

Ron Gray volunteered to take up the vacancy created by Mr. Brown’s resignation on the Memorandum of Understanding Committee.

Mr. Brown’s place on the Strategic Planning Committee, proved harder to fill. When none of the other Board members stepped up, it was suggested that the seat remain vacant until a new Board member was appointed. After some discussion during which it was pointed out that this was an important committee whose work should continue, Ron Gray reluctantly took the position, stating he would only serve until a new Board member was appointed.

Mr. Brown was also on the hiring committee. A new member was not appointed to that committee.

COUNTDOWN TO THE NEXT ELECTION Less than 446 days

The next municipal election will be held Monday, October 22, 2018. It’s never too early to get to know your Town and the issues, so you can make an informed choice.

Welcome to the Citizens’ Pages

This is the eighth monthly issue of the Citizen’s Pages, a citizen funded insert into the Blue Mountains Review. This insert allows for an extra four pages of news about what is going on in our Town.

If you like reading us, please follow the link below and make a donation to keep us going. https://www.gofundme.com/Citizens-Page-in-the-Blue-Mts-Review

Donations can also be made to the Citizens’ Pages care of The Blue Mountains Review and be dropped off at Riverside Graphics in Clarksburg.

We can’t do it without your support! We have managed to raise enough to survive for our first eight issues, but we are surviving month to month.

All of the funds we receive go towards printing and distribution. All content and editing is provided by citizen volunteers.

Alar Soever, Editor

This insert is brought to you as a public service to provide citizens information about issues facing their Town. It is funded by the citizens of the Town through online contributions. If you like this page and would like to keep it going, please donate by following the link https://www.gofundme.com/Citizens-Page-in-the-Blue-Mts-Review. To contact us with your letters, comments, ideas, and suggested content please e-mail tbmcitizens@gmail.com
Court supports citizen’s rights to speak out on issues

By Paul Wilson

On Thursday, July 27, the Toronto Star ran a front-page story that brings good news to every citizen in the province who takes an active interest in municipal affairs.

Under the headline “Ruling Protects Speech in Public Interest” (the Web version is here: https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2017/07/26/court-dismisses-companies-libel-lawsuit-against-teacher-over-facebook-postings.html) the story concerned a Stouffville woman, Kate Mohammed, who was sued for libel by a company, United Soils Management Ltd., a waste soil disposal business that has a dump site in the area.

A year ago, the Stouffville council passed an amendment (opposed by the mayor) to allow the company to dispose of “acceptable fill from small quantity sources and hydro-evacuation trucks.” (“Hydrovac” trucks are large tankers that use pressurized hot water and high-powered vacuuming technology to excavate sites where conventional digging machinery can’t operate.)

Concerned residents responded by creating a Facebook group to protest the decision. In one of her postings, Mohammed used the words “poison” and “children.” The company immediately demanded a retraction and an apology, arguing that these words suggested they were involved in criminal activity.

Mohammed complied, but a day after her retraction appeared on Facebook, the company sued her for defamation and libel, demanding a total of $120,000 in damages.

In his July 25th decision, Justice Thomas R. Lederer dismissed the case and awarded Mohammed $7,500 in damages. In his precedent-setting decision, he cited Ontario’s relatively new anti-SLAPP suit legislation (the acronym stands for Strategic Litigation Against Public Participation), and went on to say: “Having received the apology demanded, United Soils Management went ahead and sued. What was the purpose? It had what it needed but it pressed on. This was a continuation of its desire to intimidate. . . . The proceeding is not only without substantial merit. There is no merit.”

A relieved Kate Mohammed told the Star: “I just hope that Canadians realize that it’s important for people to speak up on matters of public interest and that there’s a law to protect them now.”

This news is of particular interest for residents of the TBM, where there has been a history of SLAPP-style lawsuits. In debates on zoning issues, lawsuits have been filed by at least one developer against residents who spoke out at public meetings and wrote letters. In some cases the amounts involved were reportedly significant (in excess of $250,000). In the cases we are aware of, the suits were later dropped or dismissed, but only after the residents had spent up to 5 years incurring legal costs to defend themselves. Although costs were awarded, these can be difficult to collect. In at least one case, the stress of the lawsuit almost led to a family breakdown, and resulted in the respondent moving away from the community.

Over a year ago, VOCAL drew this anti-SLAPP legislation to the attention of the mayor, and then to the Town CAO, amid accusations that some Facebook postings regarding the Town of the Blue Mountains library restructuring were potentially libellous. (The immediate context was the mayor’s refusal, acting as Board chair, to allow Patrick Delaney to present a deputation to the Library Board.) At the time, VOCAL was told by the CAO that the legislation did not apply.

The CAO was, strictly speaking, correct. The legislation comes into play only when libel suits are tried in court. VOCAL argued that threats of litigation go against the spirit of the anti-SLAPP law. The CAO countered that he was only interested in the letter of the law.

The new act, which came into effect in 2015, is called the Protection of Public Participation Act (PPPA) and the full text is here: http://www.ontla.on.ca/web/bills/bills_detail.do?locale=en&Intranet=&BillID=3087

The main aims of the PPPA are:

a. to encourage individuals to express themselves on matters of public interest;

b. to promote broad participation in debates on matters of public interest;

c. to discourage the use of litigation as a means of unduly limiting expression on matters of public interest; and

d. to reduce the risk that participation by the public in debates on matters of public interest will be hampered by fear of legal action.

It goes without saying that this legislation is not a carte blanche for individuals to say in public whatever comes into their heads. Criticism of public officials (including volunteer boards) should always be fact-based and well-intended, that is, in the public interest. But it does remove the fear of libel chill, which, as we know, can happen even without a formal lawsuit. Even "fear of legal action" — and I’m assuming that this might include the frivolous or abusive application of harassment policies and codes of conduct—can discourage people from taking an active part in community affairs. The basic purpose of the PPPA is to ensure that this does not happen.

Know your businesses

This Month’s Business

1. On what day was the first year anniversary of the opening of the new Foodland?

2. What percentage of the store is dedicated to fresh food as opposed to dry goods?
   - a) 30%  
   - b) 40%  
   - c) 50%  
   - d) 60%

3. What is the daily meal deal for Wednesday?

This insert is brought to you as a public service to provide citizens information about issues facing their Town. It is funded by the citizens of the Town through online contributions. If you like this page and would like to keep it going, please donate by following the link https://www.gofundme.com/Citizens-Page-in-the-Blue-Mts-Review To contact us with your letters, comments, ideas, and suggested content please e-mail tbmcitizens@gmail.com

At the monthly Library Board meeting on Thursday July 20, 2017, the Library Board’s Strategic Planning Committee (Odette Bartnicki and Willi Wildman) presented to the Board as a whole its report on a public consultation process that took place from June 15 to July 5, 2017. (The full report can be found here: http://www.thebluemountains.ca/public_docs/events/07%202017%20Library%20Board%20Package.pdf, on pp. 64-67.)

At these sessions, there was always one or more Board members present to hear comments from the public, and to ensure that the discussion stayed within its mandate: to find ways that the Library Board, the CEO, library staff and community members can “work collaboratively together to strengthen, build and maintain positive, respectful relationships and communications.”

Members of VOCAL welcomed this initiative and made an effort to ensure that at least one or more of our members were present at each session. Our purpose was not to dominate the conversation, or push our agenda (which is more narrowly focussed than the committee’s mandate) but rather to hear what other, non-VOCAL members of the public were saying, and to use the opportunity to have a direct conversation with board members in a collegial, informal way, something the formal structure of board meetings over the past year and a half has made virtually impossible.

Some of the sessions were very good, and made us feel cautiously optimistic that some board members, at least, were making a sincere effort to reconnect with the community, even in the face of the obvious anger and frustration of some participants, most of whom were not members of VOCAL. The well-attended June 26th meeting at the L.E. Shore Library, chaired by Roevel Guzman and Maurice Pepper, was particularly lively, even fractious at times, as was the meeting on July 2, chaired by Lloyd Brown. Yet in both cases, participants came away feeling optimistic, impressed, and excited to know that the board was at last listening.

As far as I know, there were just two sessions at which the only public in attendance were members of VOCAL. Both were chaired by Ms. Bartnicki, and at both sessions, our members were very explicitly made to feel as though VOCAL was the source of the “problem” and that if we would just stop being so negative and “be supportive,” all would be well.

It’s not the first time VOCAL has encountered this kind of response, but it was shocking to hear it from a new board member, and for those of us present, the bubble of optimism created by the earlier sessions popped pretty quickly.

To draw an analogy, it was as if the board of directors of a company whose stock was tanking decided to blame a group of activist stock-holders for the company’s failure to perform. Which brings us to the committee’s report. The report feels condescending, patronizing, and frankly, it fails to convey

"... discoveries." Many community members do not understand the role of Library Board under the Public Libraries Act, and the scope of duties prescribed for individual Board Members and the Board as a whole.

With all due respect, in the past-that-shall-not-be-mentioned, it was the library board that didn’t understand its role. It’s a well-documented fact that this board never received proper orientation at the beginning of its term, as its own by-laws require. In the assessment, not just of VOCAL, but of former library board members as well, this was a major factor contributing to the bad decisions that led to the current crisis. Some even felt that they were being deliberately kept in the dark.

The report leaves the impression that the Strategic Planning Committee does not really want to understand what went wrong. Comments about “the past” —and they heard plenty of those — are apparently out of bounds, or not worth mentioning. Yet those actions in the past are the main reason for the current lack of public confidence, and the Board alone can fix it. And it’s worth noting that when the board does do the right thing, the public response is immediate and positive.

What is to be done? For a start, VOCAL believes the board should reject this report and ask the committee to write a more accurate one, or resign. The board should recognize that these consultations are only a beginning, and that there are other outstanding issues still to be addressed. For example, the optics of having the mayor as library chair are terrible, regardless of how well he may do his job, and will hinder the board’s attempt to restore public confidence. The upcoming negotiations to create a Memorandum of Understanding will be crucial in creating a healthy, respectful relationship between the Town and the Library, but to avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest, Council members on the board should seriously consider recusing themselves from those negotiations. The board might revisit the hiring process for a new CEO, especially in light of the fact that one of the hiring committee members, Lloyd Brown, is no longer on the Board.

These are all things the board might do to restore confidence. If they do, the public will definitely stand behind them.

Paul Wilson, Chair, VOCAL
Joan Gaudet on Volunteering

Joan Gaudet is an energetic senior citizen volunteer who works tirelessly for various organisations in our Town. She has submitted this article on volunteering to encourage parents, grand-parents and great-grandparents to get their children volunteering to help in any way they can.

Volunteering is a very content and rewarding way of life. This is my volunteer story.

I started volunteering at the age of 10, helping Mrs. Hart at the Midland YMCA with setting up and washing dishes for banquets.

Between the ages of 11 and 13, I volunteered in the summer at YMCA Camp Kitchikewanena International on Beausoleil Island in Georgian Bay out of Honey Harbour. There were 200 boys in July and 200 girls in August. I looked after the dining room and dishwashing three times each day: there was no dishwasher, just three large sinks.

The benefit of volunteering at Camp Kitchikewanena was that Mr. Smith (Smitty) allowed me to join in the camp programs. I was able to earn my sailing, kayaking, and canoe certificates as well as all my swimming certificates including lifesaving. These certificates have served me well.

Some years later, I got a chance to put my swimming certificates to good use when Irma Pauls, Principal of the Lingarden School for Physically and Mentally challenged people, got me involved in teaching swimming at the West Park pool. I also volunteered for the parent relief program, and at the pre-vocational centre, teaching challenged individuals to ride buses, shop, and garden etc.

In 1977, when on a Trentway Tours bus tour of the Pocono’s with my family, our tour director got laryngitis and couldn’t work. The driver asked if anyone wanted to work, so I raised my hand and volunteered to work the entire tour. Afterwards, I was hired by Trentway Tours and worked for that company for 25 years in all different areas of the company.

Over the years I have also volunteered at homeless shelters, food banks, women’s shelters and between 1980 and 1990 I volunteered with Medical Ministry International every year and went on missions to countries such as Mexico, Jamaica, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and Honduras.

Since moving to Thornbury in 2006, I have volunteered at many community organisations and events including at the Library looking after plants, the Marsh Street Centre, Beaver Valley Outreach, and the Thornbury Beaver Valley Lions Club. I also help Linda at Riverside Graphics with the many events she is involved with by putting up posters and delivering pamphlets.

Volunteering is extremely rewarding. It gets you involved in the community and with interesting people from many walks of life. You can get to see the world and it teaches you a lot. You become a better person and some of the people you meet become your life-long friends. Without volunteers the community we live in would be a far poorer place.

I encourage all parents, grandparents and great-grandparents, to encourage your young ones to explore life through volunteering. Better yet, set an example and volunteer yourself, and bring your young ones with you. What could be better than volunteering with your children and grandchildren. Volunteering can be a very rewarding experience.

The world as I see it.

Mrs. Joan Gaudet, Thornbury, Ontario

Editors Note: Those interested in volunteering can find opportunities at http://visitblue.ca/volunteer/volunteer.cfm

Citizens at the Corner Cafe & Grill

Come out and meet people who are interested in what is going on in the Town, and what is before Council. All citizens are invited to drop in at the Community Room at Corner Cafe on most Monday nights between 4 and 7 (except for holiday weekends) for some socializing and friendly discussion on the issues facing the Town and what is on the Council Agenda.

Come, meet new friends, listen, and have your say.

Rules: Be polite, respect other people’s opinions, and if you don’t agree with them, just remember: They have the right to be wrong.

Answers to Know Your Businesses

1. March 4th
2. 60%
3. Pizza, Salad, Pop and Cookies all for $16.99

We gladly accept letters to the editor. Please be advised that these letters will be reviewed & published at the discretion of our Editor. Please limit your letters to 200 words or less. You can email your letters to tbmcitizens@gmail.com. Please include a phone number for validation.

By submitting a Letter to the Editor you agree to be bound by the following terms and conditions: You may not use a false e-mail address, impersonate any person or entity, or otherwise mislead as to the origin of submitted material. You agree to be fully responsible for your own submissions. You agree to grant The Citizens’ Pages a right to use your name and other identifying information you provide in connection with that letter. You agree to indemnify and hold the Citizens’ Pages and its associates harmless from any claims, damages, losses or costs that arise out of any Letter to the Editor that you submit, including, without limitation, any material submitted or otherwise provided by you that infringes upon any copyright, trademark, or intellectual property right of any person, defames any person, or violates any person’s rights of publicity or privacy.

This insert is brought to you as a public service to provide citizens information about issues facing their Town. It is funded by the citizens of the Town through online contributions. If you like this page and would like to keep it going, please donate by following the link https://www.gofundme.com/Citizens-Page-in-the-Blue-Mts-Review To contact us with your letters, comments, ideas, and suggested content please e-mail tjbcitizens@gmail.com
BMAS provides a safe haven for abandoned, abused, and surrendered cats in the Thornbury, Clarksburg, and Meaford areas until they find a forever home. We are a non-profit organization with charitable status, driven by passionate volunteers, a love of cats, and community.

Our Shelter

Our cats roam freely in the shelter and in nice weather, they have access to outdoor space to enjoy the fresh air.

Quality of Life for our Cats:
1. We are a no kill shelter
2. Immediate veterinary access
3. Active cat care committee
4. Giving the cats lots of LOVE!

Adopt! Give our cats a home...

Zara  Storm  Elliot  Jessica  Albert

Our cats want nothing more than to be loved and taken care of in a happy forever home. We have many cats for adoption, which can be viewed on our website or Facebook page! Or better yet, feel free to visit the shelter and spend some time with our cats, they’ll win your heart over!
Donate
We are a charitable organization and rely on donations and fundraising to provide for the cats in our care.

Ways to Give:
1. Monetary donations are greatly appreciated
2. Sponsor a cat for $20/month
3. Shop at The Cat’s Meow (Boucher St E., Meaford)
4. Donating Cat Care items (Food, treats, litter, etc)

All proceeds go directly to our feline friends. Financial donations of $20.00 and over will receive a tax receipt, if requested.

Volunteer
There is no paid staff at our shelter. BMAS volunteers are very dedicated, and our cats count on them every day. Join us and help give the cats the love they deserve.

Join our team of volunteers:
- Help clean, feed and groom/pet cats
- Help with fundraising events
- Volunteer at The Cat’s Meow
- Donate empty bottles

Support your local animal shelter!

VOLUNTEER • ADOPT • DONATE

www.bluemountainsanimalshelter.com
fb.com/TheBlueMountainsAnimalShelter
bm.animalshelter@gmail.com
131 King Street West, Thornbury, ON. 519-599-5289