



The REVIEW

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

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www.bluemountainsreview.ca

www.visitblue.ca

Vol 7 Issue 40

NOVEMBER 9/2021

Giving that Grows!

Tree Trust TBM will again be offering a unique, local gift idea for the holiday season. Tree Trust Gift Cards in denominations of \$25, \$50 and \$100 are available with the funds raised used to care for large, mature trees in our community. These trees make invaluable contributions to the beauty, diversity and sustainability of our natural environment. Gift Card purchases help to make sure these contributions continue for decades to come.

Community donations and sponsorships have made it possible for Tree Trust TBM to complete conservation care on five legacy trees to date – all over 100 years old. We have also planted 10 new saplings (to eventually take over from our legacy trees) and we have started a local, native tree seedling nursery.

With the sale of Tree Trust Gift Cards, Tree Trust TBM hopes to raise sufficient funds to safeguard more local trees in 2022 and to continue to source seeds from these legacy trees and grow new saplings in our tree nursery.

For more information or to purchase Tree Trust Gift Cards, please visit our website www.treetrust.ca tap on the green-coloured Holiday Donation Gift Card Tab at the top and select Town of the Blue Mountains as the community when you make your donation.



Community Cares Christmas Dinner

Hosted by St. George's Anglican Church a traditional turkey and ham Christmas dinner is planned for December 16th and December 18th.

- 250 complimentary meals will be served through the St. George's Cares and BVO programs, Dec 16th.
- 150 community meals will be available for purchase at \$25 each, with pickup December 18th.

Meals can be ordered through the St. George's website: www.parishofthebluemountains.ca or by phone: 519-599-3047 Online and telephone orders will open on Monday, November 15th. Donations and sponsorships to support this program are welcome.



Celebration for 'The Bridge of Kindness' in Thornbury

The Thornbury-Clarksburg Rotary club (TCR) will host a ceremony to rename the historic trestle bridge on the Georgian Trail behind the Town Hall, to "The Bridge of Kindness" on World Kindness Day, November 13th.

Renaming the bridge for one year is a part of TCR's Community Kindness Challenge initiative. It received support from the Georgian Cycle and Ski Trail Association, Beaver Valley Outreach and Blue Mountains Chamber of Commerce. The Blue Mountains Council approved the temporary name change on October 4th.

Mayor Soever will attend the ceremony and cut the ribbon to open The Bridge of Kindness which will have new Kindness banners flying at both ends. "Over the past two years, our community has come together supporting one another through challenging times," says Mayor Alar Soever.

"Renaming the trestle bridge to The Bridge of Kindness reinforces our community's values, demonstrates our dedication to promoting kindness across the community, and serves as a reminder to us all to embrace our differences and act with kindness everyday."

TCR initiated the Community Kindness Challenge and its theme "Our Community Runs on Kindness" along with the distinctive wheel of hearts logo this past summer. Its aim is to leverage the scientifically proven effect of repeated acts of kindness on the doer's overall well-being as a way of responding to the stressful impact of Covid-19 on everyone in our community. TCR also believes in the positive power of applying kindness fully – to oneself, to others and to all of nature – in today's world where mental health, diversity and inclusion, and the protection of the environment are all very much top of mind.

Canada is one of 27 member nations in the World Kindness Movement whose mission "is to inspire individuals towards greater kindness by connecting nations to create a kinder world". This movement launched World Kindness Day in 1998 as a day to promote acts of kindness so as to create a positive and compassionate environment towards all living creatures and to promote peace. TCR hopes that the community will see The Bridge of Kindness as not only a place of local natural beauty and serenity but also as a reminder of the importance of kind acts, no matter how small, in making our community, and the world, a better place for all.

The public is invited to join in the festivities which will begin at 11 a.m. and will include music and the first TCR Community Kindness awards to several local residents. Details about the TCR kindness initiative can be found at <https://www.tcrotaary.ca/community-kindness-challen.cfm>



TUESDAY NOVEMBER 30TH, is GIVING TUESDAY

Join this worldwide event supporting local charities. Please consider donating to

Events for Life (EFL)

Enriching the lives of individuals with special needs in the Blue Mountains community

www.eventsfor.life



Events for Life



www.GivingTuesday.ca

COVID & FLU VACCINATIONS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH, 10AM - 2PM

The Blue Mountains Community Health Centre

78 King St.E., (Hwy 26) Thornbury

BOOKINGS AVAILABLE AT

www.tbmvaccines.ca

For updates call the office 519-599-2732

helpline 519-599-3345

Current Situation: Day 602

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

Testing and case counts reported as of 23:59 hrs, November 9th

All data is preliminary and subject to change. Future situation reports will be updated accordingly.

- 0 new cases reported in past 24 hours in Grey Bruce
- 35 active cases
- 2451 confirmed cases
- 2389 resolved cases
- 3 confirmed local active case(s) hospitalized in Grey Bruce
- 0 confirmed cases hospitalized outside of Grey Bruce
- 15 deaths in Grey Bruce
- +1 death related to a Grey Bruce resident that acquired the infection and was treated outside of Grey Bruce
- +7 deaths related to Grey Bruce residents that acquired the infection in Grey Bruce however passed away outside of Grey Bruce
- 120 cases reported in health care workers; workers living in Grey Bruce and working both in and outside Grey Bruce

Vaccines -

999 COVID-19 vaccines given in the past 7 days
 244,080 total doses of COVID-19 vaccine administered in Grey/Bruce
 Grey Bruce Health Unit, 101 17th Street East, Owen Sound
 Phone: (519)376-9420, Ext. 1241 Fax: (519)376-0605
www.publichealthgreybruce.on.ca

Grey Bruce Virtual Job Fair Fall Event to Address Labour Shortages



In response to local labour shortages, partners of the Grey Bruce Virtual Job Fair are planning a Fall edition to be held on **Tuesday, November 23, from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.** Employers can now register for a virtual booth at grey.ca/job-fair.

Registration for job seekers will open the first week of November. Registering early for the event guarantees virtual entry and also allows employers to view resumes and profiles and schedule interviews in advance of the job fair. YMCA Employment Services and VPI Working Solutions are available to assist job seekers with writing/updates their resume, preparing for a virtual interview, building their online profile within the virtual platform, and answering questions.



Publisher Linda Wykes, printed by Riverside Press, 22 Louisa Street E., Thornbury. Your events, stories and photos of interest to our community can be emailed to info@visitblue.ca for inclusion in the newsletter by each Friday. Advertising rates are available by calling 519-599-3345 or www.visitblue.ca

E-NEWSLETTER - Use the subscribe form on our website to receive the weekly E-newsletter.

MAILED E-NEWSLETTER - You can also sign up to receive the E-newsletter through Canada Post \$50 for 25 issues

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 or by cheque to Riverside Press, Box 387, Thornbury, ON NOH 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.

THE BLUE MOUNTAIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

NOVEMBER 2021

DIY Tea Blend Kit with The Valley Alchemist

November 1-30 | Registration Required

BMPL has teamed up with The Valley Alchemist. Experience the joy of creating your own healthy and delicious tea blends with your very own Take & Make DIY Tea Blend Kit. Sign up online, while supplies last.



Adventures in Digital Arts: Youth

November 13 | 10:00am | L.E. Shore Gallery | Registration Required

The Blue Mountains Creator Space and BMPL present a digital arts workshop for youth ages 8-13 years old. Learn photography, editing, and how to cartoon. Limited numbers, so sign up while you can!



Winter Birding with David T. Chapman

November 30 | 7:00pm | BMPLYoutube

Learn about bird watching in the colder months of winter. This exciting program will provide insight for viewing beautiful birds in the cold season whether you enjoy bird watching along hiking trails or in your own backyard.



Seniors Exercise

Mondays | 10:00am
Facebook



Digital Book Club

Thursdays | 1:00pm
Facebook

101 Things about CHD

Thursdays | 9:30am
Zoom



Museum From Home

Mondays | 12:30pm
CHD Facebook & Twitter

Outdoor Story Time

Fridays | 11:00am
L.E. Shore Lawn (wear a sweater!)



Letters to Santa

Nov 22-Dec 2
Drop off your letter to the North Pole Mailbox at L.E. Shore.



Kids Clubhouse

Tuesdays | 4:00pm
Zoom



Favourite Fossils

Fridays | 5:00pm
CHD Facebook & Twitter

TwAG (Twens)

Nov 25 | 4:00pm
L.E. Shore

Wired Wednesday

Wednesdays | 1:00pm
Facebook & YouTube

Trivia Game Night

Fridays | 7:00pm
Facebook



Bedtime Story Time

Wednesdays | 7:00pm
Facebook & YouTube

For more information or to register for events visit the **Event Calendar** on our website. www.TheBlueMountainsLibrary.ca



FOCUS GROUPS

NOVEMBER

Educators	Nov. 3	3:45pm
East End*	Nov. 6	10:00am
Arts and Culture	Nov. 10	6:00pm
Open Topic*	Nov. 13	10:00am
Open Topic	Nov. 17	6:00pm
Tween	Nov. 25	4:00pm

Register Online: www.TheBlueMountainsLibrary.ca/Community-Consultation.cfm



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22 Louisa St.E., Thornbury

The Institute of Southern Georgian Bay

Our Sustainable Future: Get Inspired, Get Informed, Get to Work! Part 6 of our 7-part online discussion series.

November 17, 2021, 4:30-6:00pm

We believe that Southern Georgian Bay can meet today's needs of the planet, its people, and economic vitality...without compromising the needs of future generations.

If the outcomes of Sustainable Development Goal #11 are what we want - including progress on housing, environmental challenges, transportation, integrated planning and protecting our cultural and natural heritage - Innovation offers a process to achieve them.

Moderator: Gillian Fairley, General Manager, Community Futures South Georgian Bay

Panellists: Tonya Kraan, Co-founder and COO of SHCG; Linda Swanston, Manager, Climate Change Initiatives, Grey County; Melissa Gerrard, National Expansion Director, Green Economy Canada

Event Details:

These innovators will discuss how we can nurture the new thinking required and build communities of innovation to act as catalysts for integrated planning and sustainable economic development. Speakers will share examples of how the transition to sustainable economies is happening in their sectors, highlighting successful examples of processes and projects, which are nurturing innovation, new enterprises, and new technologies.

We will learn more about the elements of innovation:

- Defining problems in a more robust way
- Engaging more than the "usual suspects"
- Acknowledging multi-dimensions and shifting variables affecting problems
- Taking experimental approaches
- Developing prototype concepts
- Testing ideas
- Investing in projects

Speakers and audience participants will discuss the elements of innovation and look at the culture of business, government, not-for-profit, and philanthropic sectors. Together, we will explore:

- How can we encourage the cross-sector dialogue that innovation requires?
- How can we enable innovation between sectors?
- How are you mobilizing innovation in your sector?
- How can economic development be integrated with social and environmental considerations?
- What do we still need in our region to be successful?

Lead Partners: The Municipalities of: Collingwood, The Blue Mountains, Meaford, Grey Highlands and Wasaga Beach; The Institute of Southern Georgian Bay

Supporting Partners: Community Futures, Greenland Consulting Engineers, and Julia White/Cooperators To join the conversation sign up with the link on their website <https://tisgb.com>



Announcement
Virtual #GBFW22

Grey Bruce FARMERS' WEEK 2022
 Virtual Celebrations & Trade Shows

Check Your Tech Tuesday - Jan 4
 Beef Day - Wed Jan 5
 Dairy Day - Thurs Jan 6
 Goat Day - Fri Jan 7
 Sheep Day - Sat Jan 8
 Eco Day - Mon Jan 10
 Crops Day - Tues Jan 11

Brought to you by the GBFW Committee

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FRIDAY NOVEMBER 19, 2021 - 7:30PM

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John MacMurchy
saxophone



Richard Whiteman
piano



Jack McFadden
bass

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 ASHANTI COFFEE
 FOODLAND
 The REVIEW



Furry Friends Animal Rescue **CHRISTMAS SALE**

Nov 26, 27, 28 and
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Poinsettia Fundraising Sale



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DEC

SAVE THE DATE

11

9-noon

**EFL HOLIDAY CRAFT
SALE**

067547 Side Rd 33, Thornbury
www.eventsfor.life

Drive Safe and Arrive Safe in Grey, Bruce, and Huron Counties This Winter

The Transportation Departments of Grey, Bruce, and Huron counties have partnered with the Ministry of Transportation and the Ontario Provincial Police to remind the public about Winter Road Safety. All roadway users must travel safely, share the road, and respect others.

Slow down – Fog, black ice, slush or snow-covered roads can make driving dangerous. ... Drive slowly and leave plenty of distance between vehicles. Get winter tires – Traction is the key to good movement, turning and stopping on wet, slushy or icy surfaces.

Stay informed on Winter Road Conditions!

MTO 511 Interactive Map: <https://511on.ca>

Grey County: www.grey.ca/roads/road-conditions-closures

Bruce County: www.brucecounty.on.ca/road-conditions

Huron County: www.huroncounty.ca/public-works/winter-road-conditions

Winter Road Safety!

- Don't Text and Drive! Distracted driving is a serious safety issue that has claimed lives. Every driver has a responsibility to focus on the road, traffic, and driving conditions. Pull over to communicate and don't put yourself and others at risk. Texting and driving is against the law.
- Deciding to pass is a serious decision. Use your turn signals, consider conditions and obstacles, and look for approaching vehicles and vehicles passing from behind. Pavement lines are simply a guide and could be snow-covered. When there is ice and snow, take it slow.
- Don't veer for deer or other animals. Brake firmly but stay in your lane. Collisions occur when a driver swerves and loses control. Be on the lookout, prepare for the unexpected, and slow down in areas marked with animal activity signs.
- Avoid collisions by removing all snow and ice from your roof and windows, ensure windshield wipers are in working order, turn taillights on, reduce speed, leave extra space, avoid sudden braking and accelerating. Slippery conditions require caution. See and be seen!
- When there's ice and snow, be patient and take it slow. Snow plow equipment travels at 25km/hr to 60km/hr working to keep roads safe. Passing a snow plow is never encouraged. If you pass, ensure adequate distance, road conditions, and space to return.
- Protect emergency services personnel responding to incidents on the roadside. Slow down and proceed with caution when an emergency vehicle or towtruck is roadside with lights activated. Obey the law, move over, and stay safe! Offenders may get fines or demerit points.
- Prepare for quickly changing conditions by having working winter tires, windshield wipers, and washer fluid. Stock your vehicle Emergency kit with a shovel, blanket, booster cables, flashlight, and more. Check road conditions and give yourself extra travel time.
- Police close roads for safety. Do not drive on closed roads. In a whiteout, don't stop on the roadway. Find a driveway or parking lot to pull into. Vehicles parked or abandoned on roadways can be towed and fined. For winter road conditions, call 1-866-266-7569
- Slow-moving horse-drawn vehicles are common in our area. When passing from behind or the opposite direction, slow down and create as much distance as possible. Don't use your horn or pass too closely. This may dangerously startle the horse. Expect the unexpected!

To drive or not to drive in wintery weather is a big decision. Ask yourself do you really need to travel, is it safe, and is it worth the risk? It's OK to stay where you are. Abandoned vehicles could be towed and fined. For road conditions, call 1-866-266-7569.



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Town News & Notices

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✉ info@thebluemountains.ca

🐦 @townofbluemtns

🌐 www.thebluemountains.ca

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www.thebluemountains.ca/subscribe-for-updates.cfm



Town Launches Fire Master Plan Public Survey

To ensure that The Blue Mountains Fire Department continues to meet the needs of the community, a comprehensive review of operations and services is being completed through the development of a comprehensive Fire Master Plan.

To help inform the Fire Master Plan, a public survey has been launched to gain feedback from residents, businesses and stakeholders. To complete the survey, please visit: www.thebluemountains.ca/fire-master-plan

The survey will be available for public input until **Friday, December 3, 2021**. Paper copies are available upon request by calling 519-599-3131 ext. 101 or at the Town of The Blue Mountains Town Hall.

The goal of the Fire Master Plan is to establish an actionable path forward in planning and preparing for emergency challenges as well as improving overall public education and safety.



Fire Master Plan Survey

Complete the survey by December 3, 2021, visit: www.thebluemountains.ca/fire-master-plan

Notice - 2021/2022 Winter Parking Restrictions & Resident Snow Removal

The Town of The Blue Mountains would like to remind residents that Winter Parking Restrictions come into effect on November 1, 2021. In accordance with the Highway Traffic Act and Town By-law No. 2003-11, overnight parking is prohibited on all Town streets from 2:00 am to 7:00 am. Winter Parking Restrictions will remain in effect until April 1, 2022.

In addition, residents are reminded that Town By-law No. 2014-65 prohibits the deposit of snow or ice onto a Town roadway, including the shoulder, sidewalk, walkway, boulevard, or ditch, without written permission from the Director of Operations.

Winter parking and snow removal restrictions are necessary to help ensure that snow removal operations can be completed safely and effectively. The Town would like to thank all residents for their cooperation throughout the winter season.

For more information, please contact:
Operations Department
519-599-3131 ext. 276
operationsinfo@thebluemountains.ca

To accomplish this, the Town has engaged Emergency Management & Training Inc. (EMT), to assist with this initiative. EMT is a consulting firm that has worked with many fire departments in developing their fire master plans, station assessments and fire service reviews.

The initial FMP information-gathering period has identified the following themes that are placing increased demands and expectations on the Town's fire services:

- Growing and changing community
- High volume of year-round visitors to the area
- Resident and visitor involvement in high-risk activities
- Difficulty in attracting, training, and retaining paid on call/volunteer firefighters

Through research and community consultation, the Fire Master Plan will examine the people, processes, and technology of the Town's Fire Department and will address key items by recommending industry best practices, current standards, and applicable legislation as the foundation for all work moving forward.

The final plan is scheduled to be received by Council in February 2022. To learn more about the status of the FMP and to provide you input, please visit the project webpage.

For more information, please contact:
The Blue Mountains Fire Department
519-599-3131 ext. 101



The Town of The Blue Mountains is excited to announce that the new Town website www.thebluemountains.ca launched on Thursday, October 28, 2021.

With a focus on enhancing the overall user experience, the new website features improved navigation and search engine capabilities to help users find information faster. The design is based on feedback from residents, the Community Communications Advisory Committee, Town staff and recommendations from the website developer. "The new website has been designed and developed through community and user feedback alongside data and analytics," says Tim Hendry, Manager of Communications and Economic Development. "Using analytics, the navigation and search capabilities have been simplified to ensure users are able to find what they're looking for and content has incorporated the use of plain language to simplify and increase readability for users."

The new website is compatible with all smartphones, tablets and computers, and meets the highest level of accessibility standards for government organizations. In addition, the website offers the ability for users to subscribe for Town news and information, and project-specific updates.

"Town staff have worked collaboratively with the Community Communications Advisory Committee to design and develop the new website and I would like to thank all residents that participated in the website user testing workshops," explains Chief Administrative Officer, Shawn Everitt. "As we launch the new website, residents are encouraged to share their feedback about its features and usability through the online feedback form, and staff will continue to monitor analytics to make further adjustments as necessary."

For more information, please contact:

Tim Hendry
Manager of Communications & Economic Development
519-599-3131 ext. 282

Notice - New Off-Leash Dog Park at Heritage Park

The Town of The Blue Mountains would like to advise residents that Heritage Park has been selected as the location for the new dog park in Craigleith.

Heritage Park is located in Craigleith at 118 Kandahar Lane. The park features ample green space and a parking area that is maintained during the winter months. Due to the existing nature of the park, major landscaping and tree removal will not be necessary.

To select the site, a public survey was issued within the Craigleith area, asking residents to rank their preferences of site locations. The survey received 314 responses and identified Heritage Park as the most suitable and preferred site. The other proposed locations were Nipissing Ridge, Craigleith Meadows, and Jozo Weider Park.

Construction of the dog park is scheduled to begin on October 25, 2021, by B & L Farm Services Ltd. and is expected to be completed by November 30, 2021.

For more information, please contact:
Terry Green, Manager of Parks and Trails
519-599-3131 x353

The Town of The Blue Mountains Notice of Complete Application and Public Meeting Proposed Zoning By-law Amendment

Property Locations:

Northwinds Beach – 209605 Highway 26
Lion's Park – 118 Lion's Park Lane
Little River Beach – 4 Harbour Street
Beaver Valley Community Centre – 58 Alfred Street W.
Moreau Park – 76 Victoria Street S. and 128 Alfred Street W.
Tomahawk Recreation Complex – 417230 10th Line
Heathcote Park – 236668 Grey Road 13

As this proposed Zoning By-law Amendment applies to various lands no key map is provided.

Public Meeting: November 22, 2021 at 1:00 pm
(Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams)

What is being proposed?

The Town of The Blue Mountains has received and deemed a complete application for a Zoning By-law Amendment.

The Town of The Blue Mountains is considering permitting the use of a Refreshment Vehicle on the property locations noted above.

The purpose and effect of this Zoning By-law Amendment, if approved, would be to allow the use of a Refreshment Vehicle, as a temporary use, on these lands for a period of not more than three years as part of a municipal pilot project (except for the Beaver Valley Community Centre land). The Beaver Valley Community Centre land is proposed to be rezoned to allow a Refreshment Vehicle for special community events on a permanent basis.

A Refreshment Vehicle would mean any motor vehicle, trailer, cart or similar vehicle or device used to serve food for consumption. For the purposes of this definition, motor vehicle shall not include an unassisted bicycle or tricycle operated by a single rider.

Public Meeting Information

To help limit the spread of COVID-19, this Public Meeting will be held in a virtual (online) format. You are encouraged to provide your comments or questions in writing using email or regular letter mail to the Town Clerk in advance of the Public Meeting. Written comments will be circulated to Council. Comments received at least one (1) business day in advance of the Public Meeting (by November 19, 2021 by 10am) will be read by the Town Clerk at the Public Meeting.

Anyone wishing to speak on this matter at the Virtual Public Meeting is encouraged to pre-register early, and no later than five (5) business days in advance of the Meeting (by November 17, 2021 10am). For those without a computer, a dial-in number is available. Contact the Town Clerk to pre-register at townclerk@thebluemountains.ca or by calling the Town at 519-599-3131 extension 232.

Where do I find more information?

For more information about this matter, including information about appeal rights, contact Planning Services at the Town of The Blue Mountains at 519-599-3131 extension 308 or planningservices@thebluemountains.ca

You may also visit Planning Services at Town Hall during regular office hours Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Details of this proposed amendment are also posted to the Town Website. You may also request a copy of the full public Notice and view any application materials.

Staff Report FAF.21.176, entitled "2022 Budget Pressures"

The 2021 tax levy was approved at \$17,396,763 with the growth achieved through 2021 a net zero 2022 tax levy is \$17,773,645 which takes in to account \$600,000 in growth.

Below is a list of the major pressures on the 2022 Budget.

Committees of Council

Through 2021 and into 2022 the Town will have completed four major studies: Economic Development Study, Communications Study, Leisure Activities Plan and the Sustainability Plan. All four of these studies have generated action items which require funding to be completed.

Economic Development Study - \$92,500

Communications Study - \$36,500

Sustainability Plan - \$75,000

In addition, \$25,000 has been included for the Physician Retention and Recruitment Committee which has been the standard amount for the past few years. \$25,000 has been recommended by staff and is being included for the Rural Access to Broadband Internet Technology Task Force (RABIT) to fund potential initiatives that may be brought forward and are being driven by this Task force, mainly the exploration and installation of fibre cable. The Transportation Advisory Committee has also requested \$50,000 be included in the 2022 base budget for emerging technologies.

In total \$304,000 is being included in the 2022 Proposed Budget as directed by these committees.

Additional Firefighters

In staff report FAF.21.149 Situational Report of Fire Fighter Resources for the Town of The Blue Mountains, Council approved the addition of 4 full-time Fire Inspector/Suppression positions. These additional staff will have a \$520,000 (2.99%) impact on the Proposed 2022 Budget.



OIL TECH RUST PROOFING

BOOK ONLINE AT [BLACKSBRIDGE.COM](https://blacksbridge.com)

OR CALL/TEXT 705-888-3213

CAR DETAILING SERVICES WILL RESUME IN JANUARY

Annualization of 2021 Additions

During budget deliberations for the 2021 Budget the hiring date of positions was delayed lessening the burden of the additions on the 2021 tax rate. By doing this the 2022 tax rate has to then pick up the cost to annualize as some positions were delayed up to six months. In total the annualizing of those positions and the funding for the Fire Master Plan will add \$224,000 (1.29%) to the 2022 tax levy.

In FAF.21.083 – 2022 Budget report, this number was stated at \$110,000. The increase has been caused by the revenues that were attached to some of the positions that were not realized and therefore require additional taxation funding.

Additional Long-Term Debt

Through 2021 the Town took out two additional pieces of Long-Term Debt: one for the Landfill Mining and Expansion project and the second for the purchases of 19 Napier Street and 125 Peel Street. These debentures require \$219,000 (1.26%) in additional taxation starting in 2022.

Curbside Garbage and Recycling Contract

A trend that started in 2020 is continuing into 2022 as the Town is seeing large increases to the tonnage being picked-up through the curbside contract. This can be attributed to more part-time and seasonal residents spending more time in the Town.

The 2022 increase is forecasted at \$162,000 (0.93%); this increase is driven by two factors: the first is an annual indexing of the contract (\$40,500) and the second being the increased tonnage (\$121,500).

Currently a resident can put out one bag per week of garbage without a tag with bag two then requiring a \$3 bag tag. Included in the findings of the KPMG Comparator Review was the idea to charge \$3 per bag on all bags and remove the one free weekly bag. Staff have calculated a revenue budget of \$450,000 per year which would fully fund the garbage collection contract (not the recycling and organics portion). Making this change would align the residents that are using the service are paying for the service. Staff are seeking direction from Council on whether this change should be implemented through 2022. Staff are also looking for Council endorsement to explore other collection schedules (such as biweekly) for the next contract. Due to contract restrictions the Town cannot make this change until the current contract ends in 2023.

Increases to Asset Replacement Reserve Funds

Through 2021 in accordance with Ontario Regulation 588/17, the Town approved a number of Asset Management Plans. For a number of asset classes the Town was not sufficiently saving enough to fund the capital required to maintain the level of service that had been established by the Town; the main two classes being under-funded is bridges and roads linear (roads, stormwater, sidewalk, streetlights). In those specific asset management plans Council endorsed a phased in approach to increase the annual transfers over the next three to five years to close this funding gap.

For 2022 the increased is budgeted at \$513,000 (2.95%) with similar increases seen annually over the next three to five years. These increases are tied to specific projects and are based on the rational established in the various asset management plans. However, Council does have some options with this amount:

- Option 1 – do not increase the transfers to the asset management plan which would lead to an increase in long-term debt. This option is circular as the tax base will either be responsible for the transfer or the long-term debt
- Option 2 – lower the level of service offered by the Town and push out capital projects which in turn requires a lower annual transfer to the asset replacement reserve funds.

An example of this is around the Town's tar and chip roads. As per the asset management plan these roads are resurfaced every 7 years resulting in roughly 33 kilometers being resurfaced every three years at a cost of \$1.8M. Council could lower this level of service to resurface every 10 years resulting in a budget of \$1M every three years. Staff do not recommend making these changes on the fly without significant public consultation.

- Fleet Asset Management Plan
- Bridges and Culvert Asset Management Plan
- Sidewalk Asset Management Plan
- Streetlight Asset Management Plan
- Stormwater Asset Management Plan
- Road Asset Management Plan
- Wastewater Asset Management Plan
- Water Asset Management Plan
- Parks and Trails Asset Management Plan
- Facility and Equipment Asset Management Plan

Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) and Step Increases

Included in each year’s budget is a COLA increase for Town staff which up until 2020 was based on market comparators. In 2020 the Town established with Council approval of the Compensation Administration Program Policy (POL.COR.20.05); the policy states: Economic Increase: Annually a Cost of Living Adjustment will be applied. This COLA increase will be set to match the Canadian Consumer Price Index (CPI) as reported in September annually, as approved through the budget process. At the time this report was written the September CPI had not been published and staff have been carrying a 2% COLA as a starting point. In addition, staff budget positions based on the step that the employee is at rather than budgeting all staff at step five. For 2022 there are a number of positions moving up a step which in turn is putting more pressure on the salaries and benefits budget. In total the COLA and Step Increases are adding \$311,000 (1.79%) and this amount is expected to go up as September CPI is expected to be well above 2%. The Town Performance Management Program that was endorsed by Council was implemented in 2021 and will have staff go through a formal process to achieve progress through steps. The Program was initially proposed to be implemented in 2020, however staff recommended not to move forward with its implementation due to the COVID Pandemic.

Revenues

For 2022 some revenues are increasing and a few streams decreasing. Staff are budgeting for some new streams to start in



2022 such as Food Truck revenues; however, they are hard to budget given no history of sales.

Council has a few options for increasing revenues and improving efficiencies:

- Increase the set fee – the Town could increase an already established fee such as increasing paid parking from \$5/hour to a higher amount. Staff recommended \$10 per hour in 2021 and fees per hour were set at \$5.00;
- Introduce new fees and charges;
- Consider local service area fees;
- Consider selling land that could be declared surplus to the Town’s needs;
- Introduction of Resident and Non-Resident Fee’s; and
- Bring specific services to or close to self-funded.

Other Items

At the time of writing this report the Town is still waiting on additional information to complete the budget:

- OPP Contract Cost for 2022
- Grey Sauble Conservation Authority 2022 Budget
- Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) grant
- Compensation Review both for Non-Unionized Staff and a report by the Council Compensation Committee Review Committee
- Community Improvement Plan Contributions

All these items could have an impact on the 2022 budget.

Additions

The chart below summarizes the Council directed and staff priorities for additions to the 2022 budget. Given the current budget pressures staff are not going to include any of these initiatives for Council consideration unless given clear direction to do so through this report.

Please note giving the direction to include a business case in the 2022 Proposed Budget does not approve the addition; however, requires staff resources to complete for a fulsome understanding of each specific ask.

Addition Taxation Requests

Addition Taxation Requests	Directed by
Noxious Weed Control	Council
Programming and Special Events Co-ord	Council-Leisure Activities
Land Surveying	Council-Leisure Activities
Waterfront Enhancements	Council-Leisure Activities
Customer Service Model for Centralized Customer Service with inquiry tracking	Council
Splitting Manager of Economic Development and Communications into two positions	Council
Director of Smart Cities	Council - RABIT
Tomahawk Seasonal Staff	Staff
Additional By-law Staff	Staff
Parks and Trails Full-time Operators	Staff
IT Infrastructure Analyst	Staff
Manager of Capital Projects	Council User-Fees
Building – Full-time Administrative Assistant	Staff
Development Engineering Reviewers	Staff
Harbour Summer Student	Staff

Currently the budget for 2022 is at \$19.2million = a 7.25% increase.

The following is a list of important dates in the 2022 Budget Process which are included in the 2022 Budget Timeline:

- November 12, 2021 – 2022 Proposed Budget is available on the Town’s website.
- December 2-3 & 6-7, 2021 - Committee of the Whole Budget Meetings.
- December 16, 2021 - An updated 2022 Draft Budget is available on the Town’s website.
- January 24, 2022 - Public Information Centre and Public Meeting for the 2022 Draft Budget.
- February 1, 2022 – Staff Report to Council, outlining the public’s comments from the Public Meeting and Public Information Centre

Recipes for Life

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

Don't beat yourself up if you don't get everything done. I think it is a very good idea to write a shopping list, a plan of what you want to do that day. You don't always have to follow it. The act of writing imprints on memory and concretizes your intention in a way that texting doesn't. The act of writing uses a different part of the brain.

Once you are focused, address what you need to accomplish first. No excuses. Do it. Every professional organizer will tell you = do what is important first. If you've got a choice between getting gas and a pit stop at Dollarama, guess what? Get gas.

Sounds obvious? Yet how easy it is to wander through the day, choosing what we like not what we need, then live later with recrimination.

Writing a list is the best plan. It is one step toward doing. Whether you use a scrap of paper, scratch pad, notebook, paper bag, don't forget to take it with you as you go out the door.

Who remembers what's on their list once you leave the house?

Lists left at home are usually rendered useless.

Do what is essential first and the rest can wait until tomorrow. You'll find some things fall off the list because they are not necessary at all.

Multi-tasking may not be good for you. Stealth works better. Remember the slow turtle that won the race.

Judy Keeler Writing Services
jkeeler2323@gmail.com
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Ontario Helping Energy Customers Save Money with Green Button



Ontario is providing families and businesses more control over their electricity and natural gas bills with the introduction of a new Green Button standard that will allow them to track their energy use, reduce bills and save money. Studies have found that easy access to energy data, which Green Button, along with smart home devices, can help consumers make informed decisions and achieve energy savings of up to 18 percent. Ontario will become the first province in Canada to mandate the standard.

As of November 1, 2021, the government is requiring nearly all regulated Ontario electricity and natural gas utilities to provide Green Button to their customers within twenty-four months.

The implementation of the Green Button standard comes as the Ontario government celebrates one year of providing consumers with customer choice. For the first time, Ontarians can choose an electricity price plan that best suits their lifestyle and electricity usage. As of November 1, 2020, most families, small businesses, and farms can select either a time-of-use (TOU) or tiered billing structure for their electricity usage. Over the past year, more than 280,000 Ontario electricity customers have used this choice to better manage their electricity bills by switching their pricing plan to one that is a better fit. Green Button provides families and businesses the information they need to better understand their energy use so they can make an informed decision on which price plan is right for them, helping them to lower their energy bills.

Green Button first became available in 2012, and prior to the new regulatory requirement, offering it to customers was voluntary in Ontario for electricity and natural gas utilities. In 2015 London Hydro became the first Ontario utility to provide Green Button to their customers. Since its launch, 160,000 electricity and 106,000 water London Hydro customers have utilized Green Button.

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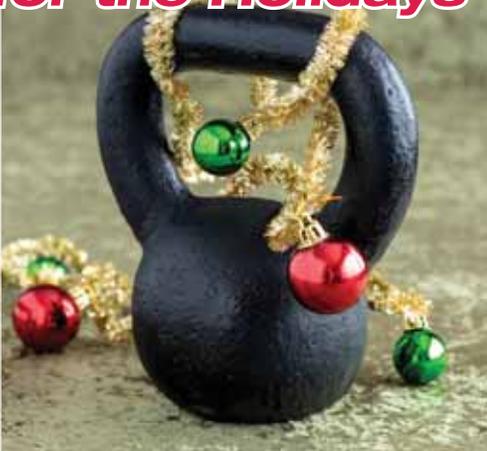


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Events & Activities

Ontario Helps Build Homes for Military Veterans Experiencing Homelessness

The Ontario government is providing nearly \$2 million to help build up to 25 tiny homes, as part of a Veterans' Village, for military Veterans experiencing homelessness. This investment includes the transfer of provincially-owned land and funding for planning and off-site servicing.

The province is working in partnership with the Homes For Heroes Foundation and the City of Kingston to convert one-and-a-half acres of land into a Veterans' Village. Located on the south-east corner of King Street West and Portsmouth Avenue, the Veterans' Village will be constructed from prefabricated modular housing. Each tiny home will provide transitional housing for one Veteran and be a private self-contained unit that includes a kitchen, living room, bathroom and sleeping area.

"Congratulations to Homes For Heroes for making this important project a reality," said Bryan Paterson, Mayor of Kingston. "We're honoured to be the first city in Ontario considered for a project



that will create up to 25 homes for military Veterans experiencing homelessness. The last year was spent laying the groundwork necessary to push this development forward. We're now one step closer to providing these brave men and women, people who dedicated their lives to the service of our country, with safe and secure housing."

To speed up the zoning process so that Veterans can be housed as quickly as possible, the Minister issued a Minister's Zoning Order (MZO) on November 10, 2021, allowing for residential and complementary uses of the site, such as a community hall which will serve as a resource centre that will be available to the Veteran tenants for social gatherings and peer-to-peer support. Without the MZO, it could take years for the site to be rezoned through a zoning by-law amendment and for construction of the Veterans' Village to begin.

This Veterans' Village is an example of how Ontario is helping to turn underutilized provincially-owned properties into affordable housing through More Homes, More Choice: Ontario's Housing Supply Action Plan. It is also a testament to the provincial government's leadership in bringing public and non-profit sectors together to deliver much needed housing for Ontario's heroes.

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