



February is Black History Month

Each February, people across Canada participate in Black History Month events and celebrations that honour the legacy and contributions of Black people in Canada and their communities.

Black Canadians and their communities have been a part of shaping Canada's heritage and identity since the arrival of Mathieu Da Costa, a navigator and interpreter whose presence in Canada dates back to the early 1600s.

Black History Month is a time to learn more about Canadian stories and the many other important contributions that Black Canadians and their communities have made to the history and continued growth of this country.

In 1978, the Ontario Black History Society (OBHS) was established. Its founders, including Dr. Daniel G. Hill and Wilson O. Brooks, presented a petition to the City of Toronto to have February formally proclaimed as Black History Month. In 1979, the first-ever Canadian proclamation was issued by Toronto.

The first Black History Month in Nova Scotia was observed in 1988 and later renamed African Heritage Month in 1996.

In 1993, the OBHS successfully filed a petition in Ontario to proclaim February as Black History Month. Following that success, Rosemary Sadlier, president of the OBHS, introduced the idea of having Black History Month recognized across Canada to the Honourable Jean Augustine, the first Black Canadian woman elected to Parliament.

In December 1995, the House of Commons officially recognized February as Black History Month in Canada following a motion introduced by Dr. Augustine. The House of Commons carried the motion unanimously.

In February 2008, Senator Donald Oliver, the first Black man appointed to the Senate, introduced the Motion to Recognize Contributions of Black Canadians and February as Black History Month. It received unanimous approval and was adopted on March 4, 2008. The adoption of this motion completed Canada's parliamentary position on Black History Month.

The 2025 theme for Black History Month is: "Black Legacy and Leadership: Celebrating Canadian History and Uplifting Future Generations." This theme acknowledges the diversity of Black Canadians, the importance of Black leadership and the legacy being built for future generations. Black communities are diverse at many levels. Those with a long history in this country have established a legacy for the newer communities. The theme underscores that Black Canadians have a rightful place in the nation's narrative, with over 400 years of historical presence on these Indigenous lands, deserving acknowledgment and celebration.

We invite all Canadians to learn more about Black Canadian communities, and how they continue to help shape Canada.

<https://vreg.registertovoteon.ca/en/home>

X Elections Ontario

Get ready to vote in Ontario's provincial election! Mark your X on or before **February 27th** to elect your Member of Provincial Parliament. Elections Ontario offers many ways to vote, including by mail, at your local election office, at an advance voting location, and on election day. To be eligible to vote, you must be: 18 years of age or older; a Canadian citizen; and a resident of Ontario.

Helpful information to get ready to vote:

Confirm, update or add your voter information to the Register by February 17 to receive a voter information card in the mail with information on when and where to vote.

www.vreg.registertovoteon.ca/en/home

- Voter information cards will be in the mail from February 17 to 22.
- Apply to **vote by mail** before February 21 at 6pm (Eastern Time) to receive your voting kit in the mail. Elections Ontario must receive your completed voting kit by 6pm on February 27 to be counted.
- Vote in person at your **local election office** from January 30 until 6 pm on February 26. *Remember to bring your ID.*
Simcoe-Grey local election office. This location is accessible
818 Mosley Street, Wasaga Beach 1-(833) 505-3411
You can vote from Jan 30 - Feb 26
Mon - Sat: 10am - 8pm Sun: 12pm - 5pm
Other Voting location information will be available after Feb. 14.
- Vote at any **advance voting location** in your electoral district from 10am to 8pm from February 20 to 22. *Remember to bring your ID.*
- Vote at your **assigned voting location** on election day from 9am to 9pm on February 27. *Remember to bring your ID.*
- You can use **assistive voting technology** at your local election office from February 20 to 26 and at designated advance voting locations from February 20 to 22. You can also contact your local election office to make an appointment to use assistive voting technology on election day, February 27.

As of February 4th, Simcoe Grey Candidates include:

TED CRYSLER	Ontario Liberal Party
ALLAN KUHN	Green Party of Ontario
BRIAN SAUNDERSON	PC Party of Ontario

Others have until Feb. 13 at 2 p.m. to become candidates.

www.elections.on.ca



In Ontario, a day is set aside to reflect on the importance of families and to celebrate with loved ones. Family Day is a provincial holiday on the third Monday of February, extending the weekend for one extra day.

In 2025, Family Day is Monday, February 17.



St. James' Fairmount Anglican Church

196759 Grey Rd 7, Meaford
corner of Grey Rd 7 & Grey Rd 40

1st & 3rd Sunday 9am

Holy Eucharist BCP

2nd & 4th Sunday 9am

Morning Prayer BCP

5th Sunday 4pm Evensong BCP

Rector Jeff Kischak

519-770-7979

stjamesfairmount.ca



Klaus Müller

Thank you to all who attended Dad's visitation and funeral at Fawcett's Funeral Home in Flesherton. Dad, you will always be forever in our hearts until we meet again. From your daughter Susan.

Beaver Valley Arena

Public Skating

Sat & Sun: 12pm - 2pm;

Excluding: Mar. 1-2

Ages 18+: \$3 p/p; Under 18: Free

Adult Skating

Mon & Wed: 10am - 12pm;

Thurs: 1pm - 3pm

Excluding: Feb. 17; \$3 p/p;

Must be 18+ years of age

Stick & Puck

Mon & Wed: 12pm - 1pm;

Excluding: Feb. 17, \$3 p/p.

Must be 18 years+ of age. All skaters must wear a certified hockey helmet.

Parent & Tots

Thurs: 11am - 12pm, Free.

Excluding: Mar. 13

Thank you to Desiree from Daphne. A promise to pay it forward.

Professional female seeking private room with shared kitchen.

Call 519-378-4734

or email

georgianbayhomeshare@gmail.com

DROP-IN BRIDGE

Monday 1-3pm; \$2 p/p; St.

George's Anglican Church,

Clarksburg

BID EUCHRE

Wednesday & Thursday, 12:50-3:30pm

\$2 per day, Small Hall

Beaver Valley Community Centre

Lessons Available - Bev 705-507-0563 or Dorothy 519-599-5044



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

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

DONATE - by e-transfer to info@visitblue.ca or by cheque to Riverside Press, Box 245, Clarksburg, NOH 1J0

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.

Publisher Linda Wykes, printed by Riverside Press. Your events, stories and photos of interest to our community can be emailed to info@visitblue.ca for inclusion in the newsletter by each Friday. Advertising rates available on the website or call 519-599-3345

Simcoe-Grey Candidates

Simcoe Grey includes The Blue Mountains, Collingwood, Wasaga Beach, Clearview, New Tecumseth, Adjala-Tosorontio and Essa.

TED CRYSLER, Ontario Liberal Party

After graduating high school in Collingwood, he attended Carleton University in Ottawa and has an Honours B.A. in Political Science and History, and a Master of Arts in International Affairs. Ted obtained his Bachelor of Laws degree in 1993. After law school, Ted spent a year working in Europe at the European Court of Human Rights and the North Atlantic Assembly before returning to article at McCarthy Tetrault in Toronto. He was called to the Bar in 1996. Ted started his career in private practice at law firms in Toronto, and also spent 6 months at the Canadian Mission to the European Union in Brussels. In 2004, he joined the Legal Department at Rogers Communications, where he worked until 2018 as Managing Counsel with responsibility for technology, procurement, network, outsourcing, and patent matters. He currently has his own practice concentrating on technology and corporate/commercial law and working with existing businesses and entrepreneurs in the technology sector. Ted is passionate about improving the lives of Ontarians. A promoter of economic affordability, a strong proponent of public health care and education, an advocate for our ageing citizens, and a lifelong environmentalist, Ted will fight for progress in all of these areas as part of the Liberal team. tedcrysler.ontarioliberal.ca/biography



ALLAN KUHN, GREEN PARTY OF ONTARIO

Allan was born in Guelph, and for the past 17 has lived in Angus. He lives with his partner Patty, son Riley, a golden retriever and a rescue cat! He is a social farmer and is employed at a non-profit that works together with people with developmental disabilities. Together they grow a 5 acre biodynamic/ organic Market Garden, and sell at the Angus and Barrie Farmer's Markets! He has a diploma in Organic Agriculture Management from the State of North Rhine Westphalia, and participated on a few not-for-profit boards locally and internationally. He is standing up for the Greens to help communities bring into action solid solutions to Social and Environmental inequality!! We need to act now, with our families, with our friends and with our neighbours to bring peace back into our lives and to the living systems of this planet! Thank You!! Go Green!! gpo.ca/candidate/allan-kuhn



BRIAN SAUNDERSON, PC PARTY OF ONTARIO

Brian is a husband, father, lawyer, teacher, coach, volunteer, and has been the member of provincial parliament for the riding of Simcoe-Grey since June 2022. He is a great believer in the power of the individual in our communities and has served on boards of numerous not-for-profit organizations locally, provincially and nationally. Brian has served in municipal politics since 2014 and was elected the Mayor of Collingwood in 2018. During his time as mayor, he championed fiscal responsibility and the integrity of municipal governance striving to improve transparency and accountability. The Town of Collingwood reduced its external debt from approximately \$35 million in 2015 to approximately \$20 million in 2019. During that same time period, Collingwood advanced from a net deficit position of approximately \$6 million in 2015 to a net surplus position of \$34 million in 2019. Before his time in politics, Brian practiced law for 22 years primarily focusing on civil litigation, real estate, wills and estates, and corporation law. He also taught business law ethics at the Georgian College Barrie Campus. Brian was also a member of the Canadian National Rowing Team and competed at two Olympic Games, and three World Championships, winning a silver medal in 1990 as a member of the Men's Eight. briansaundersonmpp.ca



Open Letter

I would like to say a few words of praise for Lindsay Myles (Our New Nurse Practitioner). My first appointment with Lindsay took place just over a week ago! I felt rather anxious about my first visit because of past experiences with the Health Profession! As soon as I walked into her office, I knew I had finally found a genuine, caring member of the Health Profession.

The first thing that struck me was her quiet, kind demeanor! She took the time to listen to my concerns. (Yes! My God I know my own body especially after being on this earth for 76 years)!

Within an hour of my visit, Lindsay had booked two appointments for me. One a blood test and the other an x-ray of my foot! (by the way my second x-ray)!

Since my first visit with Lindsay, I have had to text her about another issue with my body. (I am normally a very healthy person). Once again Lindsay phoned me within two minutes of receiving my text. By lunch time the same day I was back in her office. Within an hour of my visit she had sent a prescription to my local pharmacy!

I get a tremendous amount of comfort knowing that there is excellent medical care just a phone call away! Thank you from the bottom of my heart Lindsay! We need you!

Best wishes, Jen Burke

Provincial and territorial health plans will cover primary care provided by nurse practitioners, pharmacists and midwives starting next year, federal Health Minister Mark Holland announced on January 10th. Holland said regulated health-care professionals who aren't doctors will be able to bill the government for medically necessary services that would otherwise be provided by a physician. The changes are part of a new interpretation of the Canada Health Act that takes effect on April 1, 2026, the minister said, noting that the move is needed because some patients are paying out of pocket for necessary care, including at some private nurse practitioner clinics.

BARB BLASER
BROKER

JANET NIELSEN
REALTOR®

HomesInGeorgianBay.com
Your Neighbourhood Realtors®

519-599-6134
INFO@HOMESINGEORGIANBAY.COM

RE/MAX
HALLMARK YORK GROUP REALTY LTD.
RAISING THE BAR

*Not intended to solicit buyers or sellers currently under contract.

Blue Mountain Legacy Fund

Helping The Community

FOR INFORMATION VISIT
www.bluemountainlegacyfund.ca

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

BVO is calling all couples, families, students, and businesses to give back to your community.

Your time can make an impact!

Bottles for BVO raises over \$30,000 annually, helping fund vital programs.

Join our volunteer team and be part of making good things happen!

For more information contact Janice at volunteer@bvo.ca or call 519-599-2577 ext. 125.

JOIN OUR TEAM!



Happy Valentine's Day

TERRY

DOWDALL MP
SIMCOE-GREY

1-866-435-1809 • TERRYDOWDALLMP.CA • TERRY.DOWDALL@PARL.GC.CA

In Memoriam



WILLIAM 'BILL' MCMURRAY

April 11th 1939 – January 18th 2025
Bill McMurray of Thornbury peacefully passed away after a courageous battle with Cancer. Bill had chosen MAID as treatments were no longer effective and his pain was too much for him to handle. With his family by his side

in the comfort of his own home he has been reunited with Elaine.

Bill leaves behind, his son Sean (Jennifer), Granddaughters Grace, Elyse (Honey) and grandson Nicholas (Stephanie) and his beloved Bernese Mountain Dog Dublin. Bill was born in Kingston, Ontario to Fred and Rena McMurray, after the war his parents moved to Newmarket Ontario. That is where he met the love of his life Elaine. They were married in 1965 and found their way from Toronto to St. Thomas Ontario where he founded the St. Thomas Travel Agency. Their son Sean was born in 1971. Bill enjoyed being a part of the community in St. Thomas and was a proud member of the Kinsmen and Kiwanis, Board member of the YMCA and a proud supporter of local business as a member of Chamber of Commerce.

After Bill and Elaine retired, they found their way to The Beaver Valley where they lived in the country and enjoyed hiking, Skiing and biking. Bill was a huge advocate for the local section of the Bruce Trail where he and Elaine maintained several key positions locally. If you ran into Bill on the trail, and you were local he had an application in his back pocket for you to be a member of The Beaver Valley Bruce Trail Club. Upon Elaine's tragic death in 2015 he found himself travelling the world, driving around the summers in his beloved 1976 MGB and shuttling many hikers as a member of the Trail Angel club.

Bill moved to Thornbury to spend more time with his family, as they shared a home where he was well looked after by his son Sean, Daughter in Law Jen and his 2 granddaughters, He loved the time spent with many of the billets from the Meaford Knights and exchange students that came into their home.

Celebration of Life in Clarksburg at the Marsh Street Centre, Sunday, May 25, 2025 from 1 until 4 p.m. As your expression of sympathy, donations to the Bruce Trail Conservancy would be appreciated and may be made through the Ferguson Funeral Home, 48 Boucher St. E., Meaford, ON N4L 1B9 to whom arrangements have been entrusted.

www.fergusonfuneralhomes.ca



WAYNE ALEXANDER MCFARLANE

Wayne Alexander McFarlane passed suddenly at the age of 78 at his home on the morning of January 31st, 2025, with Michael Armistead, his life partner and best friend of 24 years at his side. His daughter Laura McFarlane Bodell, was also at his side in hospital.

He was proudly born and raised on a farm in Shelburne, Ontario, by his parents Hazel and Forbes McFarlane.

Wayne graduated Guelph University as a CPA and was a Fellow of The Chartered Institute of Accountants of Ontario and worked a full and successful career leading Human Resources with PricewaterhouseCoopers for over 30 years. He was also a Paul Harris Fellow.

In his retirement, he spent 15 years as Executive in Residence at Ryerson's Ted Rogers School of Management (now TMU) helping MBA students find their career paths. This was his lifelong passion and was recognized with the first Distinguished Professional Advisor Emeritus awarded to a non-academic at Ryerson University.

Taken too soon, Wayne was loved by all he met, he was the life and soul in every room, loved people, loved his family dearly, loved helping people - particularly students, & loved a great party with his friends at Lora Bay! He was my partner in everything, my confidant, my best friend, - we will miss him every day. He was proud to be a great grandpa and loved all things Tina Turner - Wayne, partner, Dad, Grandpa & friend is Simply the Best!

Wayne will be missed by his partner Michael Armistead, daughter Laura McFarlane Bodell, son-in-law Derron Bodell, grandsons Alex and Forbes McFarlane Bodell, great granddaughter Lilly Bodell, sister Anne McFarlane, and many wonderful friends.

A celebration of Wayne's life will take place at Lora Bay Clubhouse, a place near and dear to his heart, on Friday, February 7, 2025 from 2 until 5 p.m., with tributes shared at 3 o'clock.

"I have witnessed first-hand the unlimited potential of the students at this school and to ensure lasting support for the excellence of our future leaders, I would like to establish this scholarship."

As your expression of sympathy, and in lieu of flowers, donations to the Wayne McFarlane Scholarship would be greatly appreciated and may be made directly at <https://secure.donate2torontomu.ca/regisrant/DonationPage.aspx?eventid=383968&langpref=en-CA&Referrer=direct%2fnone> or through the Ferguson Funeral Home, 48 Boucher St. E., Meaford, ON N4L 1B9 to whom arrangements have been entrusted.

www.fergusonfuneralhomes.ca



647-544-8437

Sauna Rentals
Mobile Public Saunas
Festivals & Events

SAUNA SOCIAL

SAUNA-SOCIAL.CA

BEAVER VALLEY

POP IN TO THE PORCH AT THE LILLYPAD SPA!
DISCOUNTED WOMEN'S CLOTHING & OUTERWEAR NEW OR GENTLY USED ARE ON SALE AT THE LILLYPAD SPA IN THORNBURY

ALL ITEMS \$30 OR LESS
CASH OR ETRANSFER

IN SUPPORT OF EVENTS FOR LIFE (EFL)

WWW.THELILLYPAD.CA
WWW.EVENTSFOR.LIFE

100% OF THE PROCEEDS GO TO EVENTS FOR LIFE



45th Annual Bowl for Kids' Sake Fundraiser

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Grey Bruce and Western Simcoe (BBBSGBWS) is thrilled to announce its 45th annual Bowl for Kids' Sake fundraiser, set to take place from April 24th to 26th, 2025 in Owen Sound and on May 2nd, 2025 in Collingwood. This exciting event is a cornerstone of the organization's efforts to support its no-cost, life-changing mentorship programs for local youth.

"Forty-five years marks more than just an annual fundraiser – Bowl for Kids' Sake is a legacy of this community's commitment to supporting young people. The event's history and impact can be traced back to our early years and to this day, the event exists as a vital fundraiser for our organization and its growing impact" (Beth Aubrey, Executive Director).

This year's event will once again be made possible by the generous support of Bruce Power, Century 21, and the Bowling Alley. Those contributions help ensure that every dollar raised goes directly to our mentorship programs, reaching children, youth and families across the three counties served.

Event Details:

The Bowling Alley, Owen Sound

April 24: 6:30-8:00pm; April 25: 6:30-8:00pm; April 26: 10:00-11:30 am

Georgian Bowl, Collingwood

May 2: 5:00-6:30pm; 6:45pm- 8:15pm; 8:30pm-10:00pm

Event Highlights:

- Peer-to-Peer Fundraising: Rally your friends, family, and colleagues to raise funds for BBBSGBWS's mentorship programs, making a direct impact on local youth and families.
- Bowling Tournament: Celebrate your fundraising efforts in a friendly bowling competition with exciting prizes for the top individual fundraisers, highest scorers, and the top fundraising team.
- Silent Auction: Don't miss the chance to win incredible prizes in our silent auction, launching on April 1st, 2025.
- Community Connections: Meet like-minded community members who are passionate about supporting youth and helping young people thrive.

How to Participate

Sign up and get more event details online at <https://greybruce.bigbrothersbigsisters.ca/2025-bowl-for-kids-sake>

Your involvement will help us build stronger communities and create brighter futures for young people in Grey Bruce and Western Simcoe.

About Big Brothers Big Sisters of Grey Bruce and Western Simcoe

For over 60 years, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Grey Bruce and Western Simcoe (BBBSGBWS) has been a leading force in youth development in our region. As one of the original 10 chartered agencies in Canada, BBBSGBWS provides no-cost, one-to-one and group mentoring programs to help young people unlock their full potential and thrive in their communities.



Gordon Pet Services PERFECT POOCH Dog Training



After working with more than one thousand dogs in dog walking, boarding and daycare for over eighteen years I came to realize that most dogs are perfect if trained to live with humans.

If you want to teach your puppy to become an enjoyable companion contact Agnes Gordon for a chat: 519 942-2121

E-mail: contact@gordonpetservices.com



Lindsay Myles
Nurse Practitioner

Primary Episodic Health Care Every Monday in Thornbury



lindsaymylesnp@gmail.com

<http://mountainmetabolic.ca>

BOOK ONLINE



YOUR WINNING BET FOR HANDYMAN SERVICES

SCOTT WHITTON
705-441-2619

NOLIMIT.SCOTT@GMAIL.COM

"SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 2005"



DR. MIKE BUDREWICZ, DDS

PROVIDING COMPLETE DENTAL CARE INCLUDING
AESTHETICS, DENTAL IMPLANTS,
ENDODONTICS AND DENTURES



DR. MIKE BUDREWICZ

519-599-9962 · 115 KING ST. E., THORNBURY · THORNBURYDENTAL.CA



Barb Picot

Ron Picot

Detailed Driven
Strategies for Success
Talk it over with
The Picot Team

C: 705.444.3452
picot@rogers.com

THEPICOTTEAM.COM



Chestnut Park® Real Estate Limited, Brokerage
393 First Street, Suite 100, Collingwood, ON L9Y 1B3

*Sales Representatives

Grey Ag Winter Course Programs!

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

Trendy Triticale

Presented by: *Christine O'Reilly, Forage & Grazing Specialist, OMAFA.*
Tues. Feb 11, 7:00 - 8:00 pm. Webinar: Attend online through Zoom.

Regenerative Agriculture 101

Presented by: *Christoph Wand, Sustainability Specialist, OMAFA.*
Thurs. Feb 13, 6:45 - 9:15 pm. Hybrid course:
Attend in-person at Grey Ag Services or online through Zoom.

In The Know Training

Presented by: *Jackie Ralph, CMHA Grey Bruce.*
Tues. Feb 25, 10 am - 2 pm.
In-person course: Attend at Grey Ag Services in Markdale.

Interpreting your Soil Test Results

Presented by: *Craig Reid and Brandon Dietrich, Agronomists at Sprucedale Agromart.*
Wed. Feb 26, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm.
In-person course: Attend at Grey Ag Services in Markdale, with the option to stay for lunch and an afternoon course on the same day.

The Role of Lime for Optimal Crop Production

Presented by: *Taylor Knott and Craig Reid, Agronomists at Sprucedale Agromart.*
Wed. Feb 26, 1:00 - 3:00 pm.
Hybrid course: Attend in-person at Grey Ag Services in Markdale or online through Zoom.

Economics of Feeding Beef Calves

Presented by: *Steve Duff, Chief Economist; James Byrne, Beef Specialist; and John Molenhuis, Business Management Specialist; all of OMAFA.*
Thurs. Feb 27, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm.
In-person course: Attend at Grey Ag Services in Markdale.

Key Nutrients in the Equine Diet and Their Function in the Horse's Body

Presented by: *Jessica McCoag, Equine Nutritionist, Purina.*
Thurs. Feb 27, 7:00 - 9:00 pm. Hybrid course:
Attend in-person at Grey Ag Services or online through Zoom.

Advanced Grazing Systems - Paddock Design Workshop

Presented by: *Dean Cober, Producer, Cobercow Hay and Cattle.*
Fri. Feb 28, 1:00 - 5:00 pm. In-person course: Attend at Grey Ag Services.

Improving Grassland Bird Habitat on Farms

Presented by: *Bird Ecology and Conservation Ontario & Collaborating Farmers.*
Sat. Mar 1, 1:30 - 4:00 pm.
In-person course: Attend at Grey Ag Services in Markdale.

Funding Program Opportunities

Presented by: *Reps from 11 organizations offering funding to farmers.*
Tues. Mar 4, 1:00 - 4:15pm.
In-person course: Attend at Annesley Church, Markdale.

Building for the Future: Considerations for New Dairy Barns

Presented by: *Tom Wright, Dairy Cattle Specialist; Cynthia Miltenburg, Lead Veterinarian; Christoph Wand, Sustainability Specialist; and Angie Wilson, Dairy Cattle Specialist; all of OMAFA.*
Thurs. Mar 6, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm.
In-person course: Attend at Grey Ag Services in Markdale.

For further courses in March and April and full descriptions, visit: www.greyagservices.ca or call 519-986-3756

HOW AND WHEN TO CONVERT A RRSP TO A RRIF

- Converting your Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP) to a Registered Retirement Income Fund (RRIF) is mandatory by December 31 of the year you turn 71. The process is simple: open a RRIF account and transfer your RRSP holdings as-is.
- You must start taking minimum withdrawals from your RRIF the following year, at age 72. The minimum payment is based on a percentage of your account's value, which increases with age. At 72, the minimum withdrawal is 5.40% of the closing balance on December 31 of the previous year.
- If you have multiple RRIFs, consider consolidating them into one account for easier management and a single payment.
- While the deadline is 71, you can convert earlier. Converting a small portion at 65 may be advantageous if you lack other pension income, as it can help you qualify for the \$2,000 pension income credit.
- For Locked-In Retirement Accounts LIRAs, the conversion to a Life Income Fund (LIF) is similar. The main difference is that LIFs have both minimum and maximum annual withdrawal limits, while RRIFs only have a minimum.
- Remember, RRIF withdrawals are taxable, but there's no withholding tax on minimum withdrawals unless requested. The amount you withdraw will be added to your income and taxed at your marginal rate.

Contact me today at (226) 665-0764 for a complimentary consultation or email me at Elliot.sinukoff@ig.ca to receive my free Retirement and Estate Planning newsletter.

Elliot Sinukoff, B.A., B. Comm, PRP, CEPA

Senior Financial Consultant, IG Wealth Management
Investors Group Securities Inc.

This is a general source of information only. It is not intended to provide personalized tax, legal or investment advice, and is not intended as a solicitation to purchase securities. Elliot Sinukoff is solely responsible for its content. For more information on this topic or any other financial matter, please contact an IG Wealth Management Consultant.



DISTRICT 'E' - 7th Annual

SENIORS 55+ LITERARY COMPETITION
ALL ONTARIO RESIDENTS WELCOME TO ENTER



Submit your original entry for -
POEMS, ESSAYS, MEMOIRS, SHORT STORIES,
ELECTRONIC ENTRIES ONLY OR QUESTIONS to:

districtseniorsliterary@gmail.com

COMPETITION OPENS – FEBRUARY 14th
CLOSES – midnight WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30th

Awards Luncheon to be hosted by Branch 171 Alliston,
Sunday, June 22, 2025 – 1:00 pm


For more info on SENIORS LIT COMPETITION

Contact Seniors' Chair Bruno Scaturchio – 416-347-0621

Or Dist E Sec/Srs Lit Co-Chair Betty-Jean Murray – 705-528-9292



TOWN NEWS & NOTICES

 (519) 599-3131

 info@thebluemountains.ca

 32 Mill St. Thornbury, ON

 www.thebluemountains.ca

 **Subscribe for Updates:** www.thebluemountains.ca/subscribe



COUNCIL CAFÉ

Residents are invited to join Mayor Andrea Matrosovs and members of the Council for an open and informal 'meet and greet' from 8 am to 10 am to discuss topics of interest for the community.

Coffee, tea and breakfast snacks will be provided.

Meeting Date

March 28, 2025, Marsh Street Centre

www.thebluemountains.ca

Volunteer Recognition Awards and Fair

APRIL 30, 2025

Volunteer award nominations and fair applications will be open to submit on February 24, 2025

For more information, visit: www.thebluemountains.ca/volunteerawards



Digital-Only Parking Passes

Grace period ends February 3, 2025, for residents to register their vehicle licence plates. Town parking passes are fully digital and physical hanging parking passes will no longer be issued or accepted.

For more information, visit: www.thebluemountains.ca/parking



Overnight Winter Parking Restrictions

Overnight parking is prohibited on all Town streets from 2:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. These restrictions are in effect between November 1, 2024, to April 1, 2025.



TOWN NEWS & NOTICES



(519) 599-3131



info@thebluemountains.ca



32 Mill St. Thornbury, ON



www.thebluemountains.ca



Subscribe for Updates: www.thebluemountains.ca/subscribe

Notice of Public Meeting: With regard to the 2025 Draft Budget and 2025 Draft Water and Wastewater Budget

Date of this Notice: January 27, 2025

Tuesday, February 18, 2025, at 9:30 a.m.

Hybrid Format: In-Person AND Virtual/Online

Town Hall, Council Chambers

32 Mill Street, Thornbury, ON N0H 2P0

What is being proposed?

The Blue Mountains Council will be holding a Public Meeting to provide information to the public and to allow the public the opportunity to review and comment on the 2025 Draft Budget and supporting Tax Rate Changes as well as the 2025 Draft Water and Wastewater Budget.

Notice is hereby given that the Council of The Corporation of the Town of The Blue Mountains, at its regularly scheduled Council meeting on Monday, March 10, 2025, intends to adopt the Estimated Revenues and Expenditures for all departments of the Town for the year 2025 and intends to adopt the 2025 Water and Wastewater Budget.

Copies of the 2025 Draft Budget and the 2025 Draft Water and Wastewater Budget will be available through the Town's website, www.thebluemountains.ca.

When will a decision be made?

It is important to note that a decision on the 2025 Draft Budget and 2025 Draft Water and Wastewater Budget has NOT been made at this point and will NOT be made at this Public Meeting. After reviewing the 2025 Draft Budget and 2025 Draft Water and Wastewater Budget and comments from the public, Staff will bring its recommendations to a future Committee of the Whole Meeting.

How can I make my views known about this proposal?

Any person or agency may provide comments on this matter in writing or verbally at the Public Meeting.

Comments at the Public Meeting assist the Town and Council in their decision-making process, so be sure to have your say!

Questions? Want more information? Ask a Staff Member!

Monica Quinlan, Director of Corporate & Financial Services

Phone: (519) 599-3131 ext. 231; Email: directorcfs@thebluemountains.ca

Under the authority of the Municipal Act, 2001 and in accordance with Ontario's Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA), all information provided for, or at a Public Meeting, Public Consultation, or other Public Process are considered part of the public record, including resident deputations. This information may be posted on the Town's website. and/or made available to the public upon request. This document can be made available in other accessible formats as soon as practicable and upon request.

How do I submit my comments?

Written Comments – You are encouraged to provide your comments or questions in writing using email or regular letter mail to the Town Clerk. Written comments received by **9:00 a.m. Friday, February 14, 2025**, will be read by the Town Clerk at the Public Meeting for the benefit of everyone in attendance and will be included in the record of the Public Meeting.

Comments can be faxed to (519) 599-7723, or emailed townclerk@thebluemountains.ca.

Any submitted comments become part of the **public record**, including names and addresses.

Verbal Comments – This Public Meeting is a hybrid meeting, allowing the public to attend the meeting in person or virtually. Those that wish to make verbal comments **virtually** are required to pre-register with the Town Clerk, no later than five business days in advance of the Public Meeting, by **Monday, February 10, 2025**.

Anyone wishing to provide their verbal comments **in person** at the Public Meeting, can attend the Town Hall, Council Chamber.

Want to be notified of a decision?

You must make a request in writing to the Town Clerk if you would like to be notified of a decision on this proposal to:

Corrina Giles, Town Clerk


Town Hall, 32 Mill Street, Thornbury, ON

Fax: (519) 599-7723

Email: townclerk@thebluemountains.ca



TOWN NEWS & NOTICES

 (519) 599-3131

 info@thebluemountains.ca

 32 Mill St. Thornbury, ON

 www.thebluemountains.ca

 **Subscribe for Updates:** www.thebluemountains.ca/subscribe

Notice of Public Meeting: With regard to amendments to By-law 2024-19 for the Imposition and Collection of Fees and Charges for Certain Municipal Services and Activities, amendments to By-law 2024-20 for the Solid Waste Management Fees, and amendments to By-law 2024-21 for the Imposition of Water Charges and Sewer Charges.

Date of this Notice: January 27, 2025

Tuesday, February 18, 2025, at 9:30 a.m.

Hybrid Format: In-Person AND Virtual/Online

Town Hall, Council Chambers

32 Mill Street, Thornbury, ON N0H 2P0

What is being proposed?

The Blue Mountains Council will be holding a Public Meeting to provide information to the public and to allow the public the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed amendments to the Fees and Charges By-law, Solid Waste Management Fees By-law, and Water Charges and Sewer Charges By-law.

It is proposed that Council will consider enactment of these revised By-laws at its regularly scheduled Council Meeting on Monday, March 10, 2025.

Copies of the proposed amendments to the By-laws will be available through the Town's website, www.thebluemountains.ca.

When will a decision be made?

It is important to note that a decision on the By-laws has NOT been made at this point and will NOT be made at this Public Meeting. After reviewing the By-laws and comments from the public, Staff will bring its recommendations to a future Committee of the Whole Meeting.

How can I make my views known about this proposal?

Any person or agency may provide comments on this matter in writing or verbally at the Public Meeting.

Comments at the Public Meeting assist the Town and Council in their decision-making process, so be sure to have your say!

How do I submit my comments?

Written Comments – You are encouraged to provide your comments or questions in writing using email or regular letter mail to the Town Clerk. Written comments received by **9:00 a.m. Friday, February 14, 2025**, will be read by the Town Clerk at the Public Meeting for the benefit of everyone in attendance and will be included in the record of the Public Meeting.

Comments can be faxed to (519) 599-7723, or emailed townclerk@thebluemountains.ca.

Any submitted comments become part of the **public record**, including names and addresses.

Verbal Comments – This Public Meeting is a hybrid meeting, allowing the public to attend the meeting in person or virtually. Those that wish to make verbal comments **virtually** are required to pre-register with the Town Clerk, no later than five business days in advance of the Public Meeting, by **Monday, February 10, 2025**.

Anyone wishing to provide their verbal comments **in person** at the Public Meeting, can attend the Town Hall, Council Chamber.

Want to be notified of a decision?

You must make a request in writing to the Town Clerk if you would like to be notified of a decision on this proposal to:

Corrina Giles, Town Clerk
Town Hall, 32 Mill Street, Thornbury, ON
Fax: (519) 599-7723
Email: townclerk@thebluemountains.ca

Questions? Want more information? Ask a Staff Member!

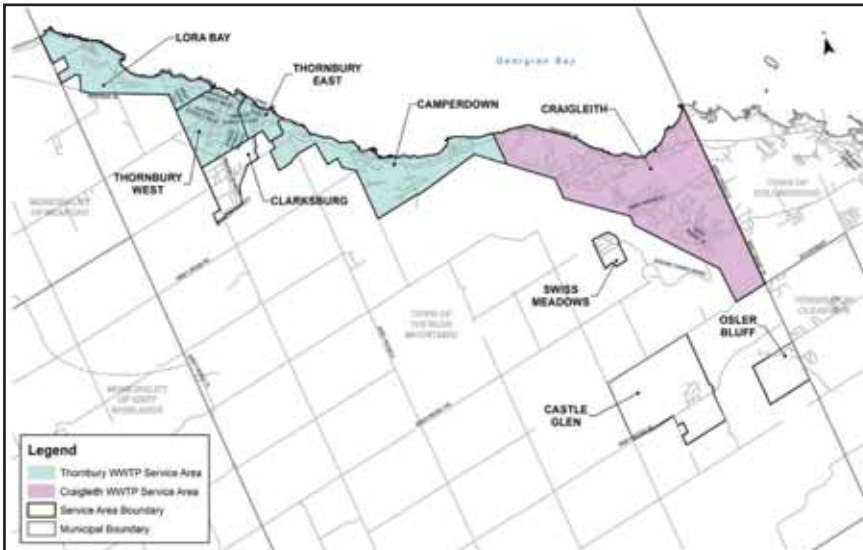
Monica Quinlan, Director of Corporate & Financial Services

Phone: (519) 599-3131 ext. 231; Email: directorcfs@thebluemountains.ca

Under the authority of the Municipal Act, 2001 and in accordance with Ontario's Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA), all information provided for, or at a Public Meeting, Public Consultation, or other Public Process are considered part of the public record, including resident deputations. This information may be posted on the Town's website. and/or made available to the public upon request. This document can be made available in other accessible formats as soon as practicable and upon request.

Notice of Public Information Centre

Town of The Blue Mountains Wastewater Master Plan



The Town of The Blue Mountains has initiated a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (MCEA) to complete a Wastewater Master Plan (Master Plan) for the Town's wastewater collection and treatment system. The Master Plan will provide guidance on short and long-term wastewater infrastructure improvements within the urban boundary of the Town. This study is being conducted according to the requirements of Phases 1 and 2 of the MCEA process which is an approved process under the Environmental Assessment Act. This Master Plan is being completed as an Approach 2 Master Plan with sufficient detail to fulfill the requirements for Schedule 'B' projects (e.g., new or upgraded sewage pumping stations, force mains, etc.).

Existing and future collection and treatment system deficiencies (Phase 1 of the Master Plan) were presented during Public Information Centre #1 held on May 23, 2024. As part of Phase 2 of this Master Plan, the Town is developing a set of infrastructure improvements required for future sanitary servicing needs, as well as proposed phasing for the implementation of these projects.

How Will This Affect Me?

The purpose of the study is to evaluate the Town's long-term wastewater treatment and collection system needs and identify a preferred solution to be implemented to improve the system to accommodate the Town's growth. This process will help to identify system requirements and assist with long-term capital planning.

Public and agency consultation is a key element of the process and input will be sought throughout the study to inform the evaluation and selection of the preferred wastewater servicing strategy.

How Do I Get More Information?

If you wish to add your contact information to the study mailing list, or if you have any questions regarding the study, please see the Contact Information section of this notice. A dedicated project page has been added to the Town's website at:

www.thebluemountains.ca/WWMasterPlan

This notice was originally issued on February 5, 2025.

Contact Information

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

Town of The Blue Mountains
Allison Kershaw
Manager of Water and Wastewater Services
akershaw@thebluemountains.ca
(519) 599-3131 ext. 226
32 Mill Street, P.O. Box 310
Thornbury, ON N0H 2P0

J.L. Richards & Associates Limited
Jane Wilson, P.Eng.
Senior Environmental Engineer
jwilson@jlrichards.ca
(226) 780-7487
107-450 Speedvale Avenue West
Guelph, ON N1H 7Y6

Project Timeline

Study Commencement
Q2 2022

Study Completion
Q3 2025 (est.)

Public Consultation

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

Date: February 26, 2025

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.

Seniors Matters Today

Income Tax filing time is not far away: April 30th. In March, Beaver Valley Outreach's Seniors Centre Without Walls, will offer offering information sessions about **Seniors Tax Benefits and Credits, provincial and federal.**

The sessions will take place at L.E. Shore Library. The tax specialists will attend by Zoom on the big screen; they will be able to see and hear the audience and answer questions.

Tuesday, March 4th, 1 – 3 p.m., L. E. Shore Library, **Ontario's Tax Benefits & Credits,** with Jocelyn Lalonde, Senior Program Advisory Specialist, Ontario Ministry of Finance
Thursday, March 27th, 1 – 3 p.m., L. E. Shore Library, **Canada's Tax Benefits & Credits** with Cindy Marlor, Canada Revenue Agency Tax Specialist, Canada Revenue Agency.

Presentations will be comprehensive and include ways to file tax, income splitting, caregiver & disability tax credits and much more. Register for these programs by contacting Beaver Valley Outreach 519-599-2577 ext. 6 or seniors@bvo.ca

Ontario's Ministry of Finance now has **Tax Talk** on the internet. Access this on your computer or tablet. www.ontario.ca/TaxTalk

- It offers free webinars during the year,
- Webinars are usually 1 hour & you can ask questions
- Presented by provincial tax program experts, experienced in outreach and education

Remember that filing your income tax return on time (by April 30th) is really important if you are receiving benefits such as the Guaranteed Income Supplement, (federal), or the Guaranteed Annual Income Supplement (provincial). It helps to make sure that your benefits continue without a break. You don't need to reapply every year as long as you file your income tax by the deadline.

Also, please note that Beaver Valley Outreach is a partner with Canada Revenue in the Community Volunteer Income Tax Preparation program. BVO has hosts a free tax clinic. Trained volunteers complete tax returns, at no cost, for people with modest incomes and a simple tax situation. For more information, contact BVO's Seniors' programs (519 599 2577, ext. 6

Everyone is welcome to join these fun activities at the Beaver Valley Legion, Branch 281, Marsh Street, Clarksburg Winter Lunches, every Friday until early March. Doors open @ 11:30. Soup, bread & dessert for \$10.00. No cover. Bar open for beer, wine, pop, coffee/tea

February 14, Valentine's Day – lunch & special treats



The Ministry of Health services, (usually covered by OHIP) formerly called Home and Community Care Services are now Ontario Health at Home. Their services include Nursing, Occupational, Nutritional, and Physiotherapies, Personal Support Workers, Medical Supplies & Equipment plus placement in Long Term Care Homes. The contact # remains the same 310 2222. healthcareathome.ca/region/south-west



HCSS, Grey-Bruce, provides community based services that support independence and improve quality of life for clients and caregivers. Small user fees may apply. Services include: Transportation, Meals on Wheels, Day Away program and Overnight Respite for people experiencing cognitive loss, Friendly visiting, Housekeeping. It is also the central sign-up point for many other support services in the area. Call 1 833 659 5491, www.hcssgreybruce.com

innerworx

MOVEMENT & HEALING STUDIO

STEP INTO WELLNESS

A space dedicated to holistic healing and self-discovery. Meet some of our practitioners!



MINDFULLY NOURISH

Melissa Courvoisier
HCA-RHNC, MEd., BA, RYT200
Empower your mental well-being and nutritional health with evidence-based coaching rooted in CBT & Transformational Nutrition. Melissa specializes in holistic health and wellness.

mindfullynourish.com



PBM LIGHT SESSION

Kelly Williams
BA, BEd, MEd
Revolutionary and backed by science, the Granted Light headset uses photobio-modulation (PBM) technology to enhance mental wellness. The results can have many benefits that include memory boost, increased clarity, elevated mood, and enhanced sleep cycles.

kellywilliams.love



SHIATSU THERAPY MASSAGE

Agnes Gordon

Dispel Stress, Boost Energy & Find Your True Self.
This gentle yet powerful technique helps remove those pesky energy blocks helping you to feel rejuvenated and ready to enjoy life in the bliss of relaxation.

ahimsa1945@gmail.com



SAVIDGE HEALTH

Chris Savidge

R.TCMP, R.Ac
With 18 years in practice, Chris specializes in Acupuncture and Chinese medicine. ACU and TCM can be used to treat: muscle and joint pain, sports injuries, digestive disorders, autoimmune diseases, anxiety and depression, prediabetes and diabetes, and neurological conditions.

savidgehealth.ca

Scan the QR code to check out all our services; Osteopathy, Reiki and more. Balance and Vitality await.

705-607-4531
53 Arthur St. W., Unit 2
(Hwy. 26) Thornbury
connect@innerworx.ca



innerworx.ca

What's The Buzz On Greenland? *by Robert Burcher*

I own a piece of Greenland already, so Donald Trump better listen up! Grant it; my piece of Greenland is tiny, and I can carry it in a briefcase! It is incredibly valuable because it is an archaeological artifact from Newfoundland that came in a Viking boat with Leif Erickson in the year 1000. If you don't believe that, hang in and hear the whole story.

As many know, I have been going to Newfoundland since 2001 to explore the truth in an ancient myth that Celtic monks sailed across the North Atlantic in a leather boat. Yes, I said leather, and it was done as a successful re-enactment in 1978. But over the years, I got distracted by Vikings and a little mystery that you never hear about when you go to the L'anse aux Meadow Viking site at the tip of the Northern Peninsula of Newfoundland. The mystery is that it is not the first place where the Vikings landed. It is a subsequent settlement where Leif's sister Freya tried to duplicate her brother's success. Professional archaeologists and amateurs have been looking for the original site for decades. Even National Geographic magazine supported a dig in 2017 with a famous American archaeologist claiming she had found a Viking site on the east coast of Newfoundland. It turned out to be an old farm from the 1930s!

So, what about my search? Well, it started with an offhand comment from an archaeologist about Viking runes found on the island's south shore on Trinity Bay. I checked it out, saw the runes and was intrigued. But not being a licensed archaeologist, I could not do anything about it. However, in further book research, I discovered that Farley Mowat had been to this same harbour in the 1950s. He believed this was a perfect place for the Vikings to have landed, and he wrote a book called *West Viking* about the theory. That added fuel to my fire.

Going down a proverbial rabbit hole, I find out that a Danish man had read Farley's book and had gone to this same harbour – Bellevue Beach on Trinity Bay and found what he thought were ballast stones from a Viking boat. I made another trip back to the site and started to put all the pieces together like some forensic detective. I asked

the owner of one of the ballast stones if I could have a sample of the unique boulder to have it analyzed with a mass spectrometer. That's like doing a DNA test on a rock. I thought that, eventually, I could find the source of the stone and get a match. I thought Iceland was where I should be looking, but I had no luck after seven years of trying. Then, by chance last year, I found some data on the internet from the University of Edinburgh in Scotland on very special basalt rock formations in Greenland. I checked it out and was overjoyed that I had a match to my stone from Newfoundland. The matching site in Greenland just happens to be the same fjord that Leif Erickson was living on when he decided to head west to what he called "Vinland" or, as we know it, New-Found-Land. Leif took home a boatload of timber to be used in Greenland and was hailed a hero.

So now I know from the DNA test of the rock that my little piece of Greenland is valuable as a Canadian historical artifact and chock full of rare earth minerals and uranium!

Thus, the big reveal about Greenland. The fjord where Leif Erickson lived in the year 1000 is the site of the world's second-biggest deposit of rare earth minerals and the sixth-largest deposit of uranium. An Australian prospector found the site on the Kvanefjeld Peninsula, and the rights were sold to CHINA! So that's what Mr. Trump is all worked up over. China is already way ahead of the USA in claiming this location and wooing the 50,000 residents of Greenland that this will be their cash machine into the future.

Greenland was unhappy about this turn of events, so they denied China the mining permit. China has taken Greenland to the World Court to fight the issue. Right now, all is before the courts, as they say.

But you have to know this as well. To process the Rare Earth Minerals, they would have to be taken to China, where there are very lax environmental rules, and the workers in the mills would most likely be disposable Uyghur enslaved people. For us Canadians, the issue is hugely crucial because the shortest route to move the ore from Greenland to China happens to be through our North West Passage! Not possible, you say? Well, why is China building the world's biggest nuclear-powered icebreaker?

Why are Chinese "research" boats showing up in Tuktoyaktuk?

A new cold war is starting in the Arctic, with Russia and China leading the way. We have been asleep at the wheel on this one. No wonder that President Trump is going ballistic about Greenland. I can't say that I approve of his bully tactics in trying to buy Greenland, but he has been getting some scary news from the defence gurus in Washington. Soon, we will all wake up to the reality of a cold war in our northern waters.



FINE ESTATE JEWELLERY

JEWELLERY REPAIR · CUSTOM DESIGN / REDESIGN
BUYING OF GOLD AND SILVER · CONSIGNMENT
ON-SITE GRADING & APPRAISALS

OVER 40 YEARS EXPERIENCE
THEGEORGIANARTISANSHOP.COM
5 BRUCE STREET SOUTH THORNBURY



Come for lunch!

Open for lunch
Monday to Friday
11 am to 1 pm



www.eventsfor.life 58 Alfred St. Thornbury



Paddle To The Sea by Robert Burcher

You may not have ever read the famous kid's book by that name. But it was a pivotal book for me about a native kid who carves a toy canoe and launches it into a local stream in Northern Ontario. The toy boat floats downstream for years as it follows the Great Lakes all the way down the St. Lawrence River and out to sea. It was a great way to learn the geography



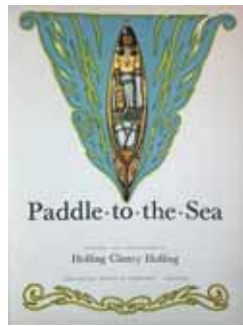
of our Great Lakes. I was reminded of that book last summer when I visited the new Canoe Museum in Peterborough, where the story is featured. Obviously, other canoe lovers had the same input as children. If you have a chance this coming summer, make the pilgrimage to Peterborough to see this iconic museum to honour all things "canoe." I inhaled the place and the experience.

A remarkable incident happened to me in the farthest, darkest corner of the top floor when I saw a standard-looking red canvas-covered canoe hanging from the ceiling. I wondered what the big deal was because it looked like everyone's cottage canoe. I had to read the written statement about that boat.



OMG, WHAT? I know that boat! I helped the owners portage it around the Thornbury Dam in 1992. Suzanne and Greg Brown, who lived on a farm on the Epping Sideroad at the time, carried their boat to the Beaver River to begin an unbelievable EPIC TRIP. From our little river, they entered Georgian Bay and paddled around the far eastern shore north to the French River. From there, they followed the fur trade route into the Ottawa River, but instead of going down the river they went UP the Ottawa into Northern Quebec. They then made a short portage into a north-flowing watershed of the Bell and Nottaway Rivers, which took them to James Bay.

Even trying to follow their route on Google Maps makes me tired! Yes, they "Paddled-to-the-Sea" in real life and ended up on James Bay. After a winter off, they returned to James Bay, where the canoe had been stored and continued paddling their trusty reliable canoe up the east coast of Hudson Bay! With determination and two more summers, they arrived in Arctic waters and travelled as far as Kujjuaq in Ungava Bay. Overall, it became a four-year enterprise to get that far. Then, realizing the challenging conditions of the Hudson Strait at the top of Labrador, they started yet another trip north, leaving once again from Thornbury and heading out in a freighter canoe down the St. Lawrence River and up the coast of Labrador to once again get into Ungava Bay and thus complete a circumnavigation of Quebec. Imagine the geography that they experienced! Yet hardly anyone locally knew what these intrepid explorers did on their "summer holidays"!



But that legendary trip had two so-called warm-up trips. In 1967, as a Centennial Project, Greg (as a teenager) and friends paddled from Yellowhead Lake on the BC/Alberta border down the Upper Fraser River to Quesnel in central BC. An impressive 700 kms!

That was followed up a few years later by the Browns on another legendary jaunt across Canada on the traditional fur trade route from Lac La Loche / Methye Portage in northern Saskatchewan to Montreal. That was a mere 3,600 km!

Greg and Suzanne are a couple that few people have ever heard of. They didn't feel the need to boast or brag about their exploits, unlike some contemporary canoe braggarts who are now making money off their "misadventures" with books and lectures.

So, for those of you who knew the Browns, I can tell you that I have tracked them down, living in BC and still travelling! Although now it is a comfortable camper with all the amenities. I think they deserve it.

Take a day or a weekend next summer to travel to Peterborough to see the Canadian Canoe Museum and witness the honourable red canoe that has blessed the waters of Canada from west to east to the Arctic! While you are there, marvel at how the canoe has influenced our culture, from the first Indigenous dugouts to the Fur Trade to our obsession with summer canoe camps and Paddle-to-the-Sea childhood stories.



The Canadian Canoe Museum is a 65,000-square-foot museum located at 2077 Ashburnham Drive, Peterborough. The museum's mission goes beyond simply caring for watercraft and sharing their stories. It aims to provide visitors and young people with firsthand experiences that highlight the transformative nature of the canoe and the enjoyment of the outdoors. The Museum has been stewarding the world's largest and most significant collection of canoes, kayaks, and paddled watercraft for the past 25 years. With over 600 watercraft in its collection, the museum offers a unique opportunity to understand our past and collective future through the stories these vessels tell.

Live Every Day.



VON Community Support Programs

The VON Assisted Living Program offers a variety of services tailored for high-risk seniors with complex needs, enabling them to stay in their own homes. Clients are referred through Ontario Health atHome to receive both scheduled and unscheduled (urgent on-call) visits, available 24/7, with the possibility of multiple visits throughout the day if necessary. Services encompass care coordination, safety checks, and support with personal hygiene, daily living activities, and essential homemaking tasks.

In the Grey Bruce region, this service is available in several supportive housing facilities, as well as anywhere within the town limits in Meaford and Thornbury, Owen Sound, Wiarton, Kincardine, and Saugeen Shores. Eligible residents benefit from personal support worker visits throughout the day, helping them maintain their independence.



von.ca

Master Gardener's Corner

Things to do in and for your garden each month, taken from the Ontario Master Gardener Calendar by John Hethrington, Past President, Master Gardeners of Ontario Inc. For more information, or to get your copy of the 11" x 17" calendar of the full year's tips for a \$2 contribution to Master Gardeners, + postage, call John Hethrington 519-599-5846.



Things to do for, or in, your garden in February

- The snow came early and deep in late December and it snowed almost every day in January, giving us good snow coverage for your plants. But, before we get a February thaw and refreeze, mound up all the available snow and any new snow that falls around tender plants like roses.
- If you have a few evergreen branches, put them over tender plants to catch the snow. It is the freeze/thaw cycle that kills plants, not just the cold.
- Start planning your garden projects for 2025. Make a long list for the Spring (then you will know what you didn't get done when you check it in June). I have mine done and I am tired already. Luckily, a garden is never finished, someone once said!
- Go online and order up Spring Catalogues. I just got mine from Botanus in British Columbia, packed with spring and summer plants like dozens of colourful Dahlias, beautiful Begonias, lovely Lilies and Achilleas. Check them out at www.botanus.com
- Start propagating stem cuttings of geraniums, fuchsias, etc. by the end of the month.
- Plant slow germinating seeds inside now for the spring, like impatiens, peppers, eggplants, etc.
- Don't over-water house plants. Wait till the soil in the pot is dry down at least an inch before adding more water. Then water well and wait until it's dry again.
- Check your tools. Clean off any rust and sharpen pruners, shears, clippers, shovels, etc.
- As the weather warms, you can start pruning shade trees, fruit trees and shrubs, if you can get to them through the snow. Leave trees that "bleed" like maples and birch until after the spring sap runs and the leaves appear.
- You can forget about the biggest garden show again this year. Canada Blooms has been again defeated by lingering fears of COVID. But the Peterborough Garden show will be at the Healthy Planet Arena in Peterborough on Saturday April 5th 9am – 6pm and Sunday April 6th 9am – 3pm. It's a 250K hike, 3-hours, but worth it.
- To get an earlier, closer WHIFF OF SPRING, plan to take in the Barrie Spring Garden & Home Show, March 8th & 9th from 10am to 5pm at the Bradford Greenhouses Garden Gallery in Springwater, on Hwy 90, just west of Barrie, or east of Angus. It's about 80K and just an hour. It's worth the drive to Springwater!

LOOKING AHEAD: WHAT'S IN STORE FOR 2025?

The end of one year and the start of another is a great time for reflection, it is also a great time to review your financial plan and investments.

Reflecting on market performance, 2024 saw significant movements in the stock markets. For the full year, the U.S. market was up just over 36%, and the Canadian market was up a little over 22%.¹ How did your portfolio do?

These market performances, whether directly reflected in your portfolio or not, provide valuable context for evaluating your own financial position. They offer insight into broader economic trends and can help you gauge the effectiveness of your investment strategy.

What about risk, do you have too much, too little? What about asset classes, are you in the right ones? Should they be rebalanced or changed? What about economic opportunities and challenges, is your portfolio agile or appropriately aligned? Have your financial circumstances or objectives changed since last year?

Sharing insights, with local business leaders recently, I had the privilege of delving into these topics during an economic update seminar hosted by our local chamber of commerce at the library. The event provided a platform to discuss current market trends, economic indicators, and strategies for navigating the financial landscape in 2025.

Macroeconomics play a role in portfolio analysis. The extent of their role depends on the portfolio manager, some are strictly concerned with individual stocks, whereas others want to look at the bigger picture.

On January 17th, The Willson Investment Group was hosted by the local Chamber of Commerce to provide an economic update over breakfast. The economic update examined the following topics: the path down for interest rates in 2025, how much room there is for the economy to accelerate, the impact of the US election results on the Canadian economy, how the Ontario economy differs from the national picture, and what risks and opportunities are associated with those differences.

Whether you're a seasoned investor or just starting your financial journey, staying informed is crucial.

If you missed the chamber seminar, but are interested in learning more about how recent economic developments might impact your financial plan, please reach out.

Fraser Willson, CFP, CIM | Senior Wealth Advisor | CIBC Wood Gundy | Collingwood | Fraser.Willson@cibc.com | (647) 588-4344

CIBC Private Wealth consists of services provided by CIBC and certain of its subsidiaries, including CIBC Wood Gundy, a division of CIBC World Markets Inc. The CIBC logo and "CIBC Private Wealth" are trademarks of CIBC, used under license. "Wood Gundy" is a registered trademark of CIBC World Markets Inc. Fraser is an Investment Advisor with CIBC Wood Gundy in Collingwood. The views of Fraser do not necessarily reflect those of CIBC World Markets Inc. Clients are advised to seek advice regarding their particular circumstances from their personal tax and legal advisors. If you are currently a CIBC Wood Gundy client, please contact your Investment Advisor. This information, including any opinion, is based on various sources believed to be reliable, but its accuracy cannot be guaranteed and is subject to change.

¹ <https://www.cibc.com/en/asset-management/insights/markets-and-economy/2025-market-outlook.html>

Legion 

All Welcome

Branch 281
Beaver Valley

202 Marsh St, Clarksburg

FRIDAY LUNCHES
are back!

Open at 11:30

Soup, bread, dessert \$10



KILTS
226 974 1621
Call or Text
Dustin McLean

- ⑤ Landscaping
- ⑤ Handyman
- ⑤ Odd jobs
- ⑤ Heavy Lifting

**BOOK NOW FOR
SPRING CLEANUP
AND GRASS CUTTING**



Home Horizon is hosting its 10th annual Coldest Night of the Year event, a national event that raises funds for youth who are at risk of homelessness in our community. With over 190 charities participating across Canada, Home Horizon has secured a spot in the top 10 ranking 6th overall in total fundraising in 2024 and hopes to keep climbing in the top 5 this year. On February 22, 2025, we will walk together (or apart) to show our support for those youth who do not have a safe place to call home.

“Our high ranking is thanks to our caring community,” says Joan Schatz, Fundraising Chair for Home Horizon.

“South Georgian Bay values our work and puts youth safety and futures first. We still need your support—start a team and walk with us!” Thank you to our long-time Event Lead sponsors Beavertails, The Insurance Store and MJ Byrnes Irish Pub.

With a goal of raising \$150,000 this year, Home Horizon’s mission is to extend their reach in the community to help as many youth as they can. Home Horizon targets youth experiencing homelessness in the Southern Georgian Bay area. The Barbara Weider House, their transitional housing program, is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and currently has capacity for ten youth to live in the House.

There are currently 12 youth on the wait list for the Barbara Weider House. The youth outreach program also helps connect youth with other housing service organizations in our community. They work with youth facing complex and challenging barriers including poverty, mental health and addictions, sex trafficking, racism, trauma, family breakdown, conflictual home lives impacted by gender identity or sexual orientation. Home Horizon has served 236 youth, including the 10 youth currently living at the Barbara Weider House, and presently has 23 youth actively working with our Outreach Worker and the program to locate stable/long-term housing.

About the event:

On February 22nd, Collingwood & South Georgian Bay will unite for a powerful cause—supporting Home Horizon and the Barbara Weider House, which provide vital services for youth at risk of homelessness.

This 2-5 km winter walk is part of a nationwide movement across 190+ communities. Every step we take shows that our community cares and is ready to make a real difference in the lives of those who need it most.

The in-person event kicks off at Trinity United Church, 140 Maple Street, Collingwood, while other teams will walk in their own groups.

Let’s show the strength of our community - start a team, invite your friends, and walk with us.

Together, we can change lives! Please join us and sign up for the event and help Home Horizon reach their goal.

To register go to cnoy.org/collingwood
705-888-2149 homehorizon.ca

Our Journey by Alice Otrysko

A friend of mine transitioned to new life on Christmas Eve. She loved Christmas and would keep Christmas decorations in her house all year round. It was hilarious walking in on a hot summer day and seeing Christmas in its glory.

At the Celebration of Life for her, this was read aloud by her son.

I thought it would give all of us something to think about as we go on day by day on our journey.

THE DASH by Linda Ellis

I read of a man who stood to speak at a funeral of a friend. He referred to the dates on the tombstone from the beginning... to the end.

He noted that first came the date of birth and spoke of the following date with tears but said what mattered most of all was the dash between those years.

For that dash represents all the time they spent alive on earth and now only those who loved them know what little life is worth.

For it matters not, how much we own, the cars... the house... the cash. What matters is how we lived and loved and how we spend our dash.

So, think about this long and hard; are there things you'd like to change? For you never know how much time is left that still can be rearranged.

To be less quick to anger and show appreciation more and love the people in our lives like we've never loved before.

If we treat each other with respect and more often wear a smile... remembering that this special dash

Might only last a little while.

So, then your eulogy is being read, with your life's actions to rehash, would you be proud of the things they say.

CUSTOM DECKS
DECK FENCE PERGOLA EXTERIOR
+ CUSTOM CARPENTRY SERVICES +

HLC

705 351 1984 brent@hunterloudon.com @hunterloudon
Design + Build + Restore + Expand
15 + years experience + Sustainability Focused Operation
Call Today to discuss your project + Big or Small.
Southern Georgian Bay

We have individuals looking for shared housing



GEORGIAN BAY HOME SHARE
Matching home providers with home seekers

www.georgianbayhomeshare.ca
georgianbayhomeshare@gmail.com
519-378-4734

Community ASSISTS DAY

FREE drop-in event | Meet local support organizations
Learn how to register and vote with Elections Ontario

this month

X Elections Ontario

Voter information | Affordable Housing | Women's Shelter
Health information | Seniors Programs | and more!

Drop-in to Community Assists Day
Your Community. Your Support. Your Day.

L.E. Shore Library
Wed, Feb 12
2:00 - 4:00pm

Doors 6:30 • Introduction 6:45 • Showtime 7:00

BIG TROUBLE IN LITTLE CHINA

February 18th

FANTASTIC CINEMA CLUB



Thornbury

Spark, Ember, Guide, Pathfinder

69th Thinking Day

(formerly Valentine Tea & Bake Sale)

Tea & Bake Sale

Saturday, Feb. 22, 2025

2 pm to 4 pm

Tickets \$4.00

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church



Bring a reusable bag for baking



TBM Repair Café
140 Bruce St. S. Thornbury

Saturday, February 22nd
9am-Noon
Bring broken items for free repair and enjoy a snack.
Go **Green** for a better **Blue!**
www.repaircafethebluemountains.ca



FOURTH ANNUAL

SAVE THE BAY Polar Dip

Fred Raper Park, Meaford | Saturday, February 22

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

- Register, sign-in and collect your wristband
- Save the Bay toques available for purchase
- Enjoy complimentary coffee and hot chocolate

12:45 PM -Drummers and Welcome
1:00 PM -The dip!





Register or Sponsor at polardip.savegeorgianbay.ca
JOIN US IN PROTECTING GEORGIAN BAY

LUNCH BUNCH

4th Tuesday

FEBRUARY 25TH AT NOON

Come for lunch and bring a friend. Min. \$10 donation
St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 165 Russell St. E., Thornbury

INUIT BLOCK PRINTING

WITH MUCKPALOO IPEELIE, THE URBAN INUIT PROJECT




TUESDAY FEBRUARY 25
4-6PM
L.E. SHORE LIBRARY
LIMITED SPACES. REGISTER ONLINE.



UK CALLING

new wave - post punk - 2tone

80's DANCE PARTY
FEBRUARY 22, 2025
DOORS @ 7:00pm - SHOW @ 8:00pm
\$40 in Advance - \$45 at the Door

marshstreetcentre.com 519-599-7837




COMMUNITY • CREATIVITY • CULTURE



PRIDE BLUE MOUNTAIN

Feb 28 - Mar 02 2025

APRÈS SKI KIKI
STARRING **SASHA COLBY**
WINNER OF RUPAUL'S DRAG RACE
SATURDAY MARCH 1 8PM

ONTARIO'S LARGEST WINTER PRIDE FESTIVAL



SK!! PLAY!! SLAY!!






Exhibit Opening: Garden Stories, Saturday March 1st, 2 - 4pm, The Gallery at the L.E. Shore Library
 Artist Michael Black, with Victoria Huntley, presents an exhibition featuring abstract paintings and vibrant glasswork, contrasting the literal and metaphysical meanings associated with "Gardens". The beauty of our own beloved flowers and vegetables is juxtaposed with the devastating natural disasters occurring around the world, highlighting a deeper issue in our environment. Gardens have also been used in powerful symbolism: rich associations connected with garden imagery reach across time and cultural specificity – the nexus for creation stories or representations of paradise. As another winter comes to an end, we often find ourselves longing for the first promise of spring. This exhibition embodies that hope and promise.
 2pm: enjoy a special Talk from Michael and Victoria as they explore their work and the theme of the show.
 2:30-4pm: a drop-in wine and mingle time follows the artists' Talk, with refreshments and complementary wine provided. No tickets or registration required. All welcome! Show runs for the month of March

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER



MARCH 4TH (5PM-7PM)
BEAVER VALLEY
COMMUNITY CENTRE



FREE
COMMUNITY
DINNER
(DONATIONS
WELCOME!)

HOSTED IN PARTNERSHIP
WITH OUR FIRST RESPONDERS!



Amelie

March the 4th

Doors 6:30 Showtime 7:00

PROFITABLE PASTURES WEBINAR SERIES

March 4, 2025 - 7:30pm EST
 Grazing Networking Group: What It Is & How It Benefits Our Operation by Jim Whitley

March 5, 2025 - 7:30pm EST
 What Grass Wants
 by Dr. Eric Lyons With Dr. Marcus Talamani

March 6, 2025 - 7:30pm EST
 Special Considerations For Grazing Sheep & Dairy Cows
 by Christine O'Reilly

There is no cost but registration is required
 Head to bit.ly/profitablepastures



present:

Donovan Woods

LIVING WELL ACOUSTIC TOUR
 with special guest
ONTARIANS

**FRIDAY, MARCH 7
 CLARKSBURG, ON
 MARSH STREET CENTRE
 7:00 PM DOORS OPEN**

Tickets: \$50
www.marshstreetcentre.com

Supports
 MUSICARES UNISON

Living Well Tour

Donovan Woods has partnered with PLUS1 so that \$1 per ticket goes to supporting The Unison Fund and their work to provide counseling and emergency relief services to the Canadian music community. www.unisonfund.ca

Meaford International Women's Day

a feast of inspiration: women stories + flavour



Get ready to celebrate the power and achievements of women at the 3rd Annual International Women's Day event!

Join us on March 7th, 2025 at the Meaford Hall Galleries 1pm - 5pm for a day bursting with inspiration, connection, and empowerment!

You won't want to miss hearing from incredible speakers who will share their powerful stories and insights, reminding us all of the unstoppable strength we have as women!

Enjoy apples, nibbles, business marketplace and connect with amazing people. Plus, there'll be fabulous giveaways and awesome vendors to check out!

TICKETS \$50

Visit www.mhfoundation.ca/womensday for tickets
Information Call Andrea at 519 538 1311 x 4208



In Support of The Meaford Hospital Foundation + The Meaford Culture Foundation



EFL'S ANNUAL SOCK HOP



Thursday, March 20th, 2025

4:30 - 6:30

Beaver Valley Community Centre
58 Alfred St. W. Thornbury

Join us for a night of dinner and Dancing.
Ticket information to be released soon!

#LOTSOFSOCKS
www.eventsfor.life



THORNBURY/BEAVER VALLEY



DOORS 6:30 • TRIVIA 7:00

CASHLESS BAR • PIZZA

SAT MARCH 29 • LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Featuring

The Thirsty Night Boys



\$20 Per Player • Six Players Per Team

Tickets: marshstreetcentre.com

45th annual JURIED



ART SHOW

OPEN FOR ONLINE SUBMISSIONS
JANUARY 29TH - FEBRUARY 23RD 2025

Accepting 2D, 3D and digital artwork from artists across Ontario.
Cash prizes will be awarded to finalists of both Student (up to age 18) and Adult categories.

The Juried Art Show runs April 2nd - May 31st, 2025
65 Simcoe Street, Collingwood.

Visit bmfa.ca for more info and submission guidelines.

BMFA Sponsors & Funders:



Rick & Arka Lex

bmfa.ca

Rose Arose



Amidst the clarion call of winter's bloom,
arises the floral fauna in silhouette rouge,
A herald to passions revealed, a fragrance to melt the
icicles of our seasonal tread.
Can one icon of botany, one exclamation of an opening
petal upon a stem of thorns,
Can this pulse of beauty restore the
rhythm of hearts that tangle to worldly care?

Upon the Rose we make such plea,
to wit she will be the sunrise anew to our hearts,
In turn we shall be custodians of her passion,
to share and receive love's transfusion.
By ancient rote to days of Roman lore,
the Rose is Valentine's heraldic coat of arms,
And to that saint-bound image, we make
quiet inspection, to learn the root of "Valens",
A word of Latin's translation to impart strength,
vigour, health, power, and worth,
These shall acclaim the aspiring human heart,
and place the Divine within our mortal reach.



Whether at dawn, in shade of night
perhaps,
over the candle's taper and crystal,
The Rose is heart and soul of our
affection,
and as her petals bind in covenant,
So may we take the lover's leap
across days of our living calendar in
our daily rounds,
One day the world will see the Rose
at flattering ease embedded in the
Maple Leaf.

Jeremy W. Wentworth-Stanley
jeremy@officeinthebarn.com

Preventing Frozen Water Services

The Town of The Blue Mountains is reminding municipal water users of voluntary measures that can be taken to minimize the likelihood of experiencing frozen water pipes. Steady sub-zero temperatures can put uninsulated water services at risk, which could cause damage to your home or property. Please consider the following:

- Winterize outside faucets and ensure that outside water pipes/hose faucets are properly drained.
- Consider wrapping pipes to provide insulation. There are several products on the market that can be used by a licensed plumber to minimize the risk of frozen water pipes.
- Check your home for areas where water lines are in unheated areas (including basements, crawl spaces, attics, garages, under kitchen and bathroom cabinets, etc.). Areas adjacent to outside walls are most at risk.
- Leaving during the winter? Keep your thermostat set at 15 degrees or higher and have someone check your house regularly.
- Determine where your water shut off valve is located in your home and learn how to use it. Consider running your fixtures at a very slight trickle or consider flushing your taps for 3-4 minutes several times a day. The Town will not credit this voluntary water use.

If your water service does freeze, immediately notify a licensed plumber and, if required, the Town's Water Division by calling the 24-hour emergency water contact at (226) 665-0707. Charges will apply as outlined in the Town's Fees & Charges By-law.



The Market
on Marsh
188 Marsh St. Clarksburg

Open: Mon-Wed 8-430 Thurs-Fri 8-530 Sat-Sun 10-430



Independent
Your Independent Grocer

519-538-3230 | Hwy 26 East Meaford
Open Everyday 7am to 8pm



Save time Shop Online
with **PC Express.ca**

GOURMET MUSHROOMS
Locally grown and organically certified
Add enhancement taste and texture to your dishes
Fresh products as available may include Blue Oyster, Shiitake, Lions Mane
Buy direct at the Farm, Open Daily 10-4
Cash or E-transfer

357418 Blue Mountains/Meaford Townline, Thornbury
Follow The Signs To The Farm Shop

woodbloom

josh@joshdolan.com

705-446-8404

Josh Dolan

REAL ESTATE BROKER

joshdolan.com



National Gross Sales

Royal LePage 2022
Top 1% National Gross Sales 2022
Top 10 National Individual
Top 2% National Gross Sales 2023

ROYAL LEPAGE **LOCATIONS NORTH**
BROKERAGE
THORNBURY MEAFORD COLLINGWOOD



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