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Vol 11 Issue 48

DECEMBER 17TH, 2025



Thank you for the past 11 years of support and looking forward to serving you in the New Year. We will return with the January 7th, 2026 Edition.
Wishing you a festive and joyful holiday season.

Bay Street East Reconstruction - \$53.56 million

From the Project Page on the Town Website

The 2021 Town Budget included funding for a capital project intended to make upgrades to the Craigleith Main Sewage Lift Station.

May 3, 2022 - Approval to bundle project engineering

Staff Report CSOPS.22.041 was presented at a Special Committee of the Whole meeting on May 3. The report asked that Town Council approve the cancellation of the "Craigleith Main Sewage Lift Station Upgrades" project that was included in the 2021 Town Budget, and approve the creation of a new project titled "Mill Street Sewage Lift Station and Craigleith Main Sewage Lift Station Upgrades." The purpose of combining these projects was to streamline the engineering process. The report also asked Council to approved a budget of \$2,000,000 for engineering and contingency, with \$1,000,000 coming from the Wastewater Asset Replacement Reserve Fund and \$1,000,000 coming from Wastewater Development Charges. Committee voted 3-3 regarding the recommendations. The report was pulled for further discussion at the May 24 Council meeting where staff provided further background information about the projects. Council voted 5-1 in favour of the recommendations.

The Town's Asset Management Plan indicates that the underground infrastructure on Bay Street in this location is in poor to very poor condition and is approaching the end of its useful life. The existing sanitary sewer and watermain are both made of asbestos cement, and both experience significant leakage issues. The installation of the secondary forcemain will involve road excavation that is likely to result in many more leaks as the ground shifts and settles. Considering that Bay Street from Mill Street to Grey Street will need to be significantly disturbed for the installation of the forcemain, this provides a great opportunity to reconstruct the entire road. This will ensure that the watermain, sewers and stormwater systems are adequate for the next 50-75 years. Addressing leaking watermains and sewers reduces the burden on both the water and wastewater systems, freeing up needed capacity and allowing more connections to current infrastructure.

April 14, 2023 - Approval to increase project budget

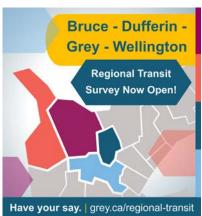
Staff Report CSOPS.23.019 was presented at a Special Meeting of Council on April 14. The report requested Council approval to increase the engineering services budget for the Craigleith Sewage Lift Station, Mill Street Sewage Pumping Station and Mill Street Forcemain projects. Council voted 6-0 in favour of the recommendations.

continued on page 2

Regional Transit Survey Seeking Public Input on Future of Rural Transportation

The counties of Bruce, Dufferin, Grey, and Wellington, together with Saugeen Mobility and Regional Transit (SMART), are inviting residents to share their transportation needs and priorities as part of a joint Regional Transit Study.

A new study is exploring how to better connect and move residents across all four counties. The study will assess





if a unified transit network is possible, with the goal of making travel easier for passengers, identifying efficiencies through collaboration, and expanding transit service to areas that currently have limited transportation options.

A public survey, open until January 25, 2026, asks residents about how they currently travel, what matters most when it comes to transit service, and their thoughts on existing transportation options across the region.

The Regional Transit Survey is available online at www.surveymonkey.com/r/BDGWtransitsurvey and takes approximately 5 to 10 minutes to complete. Responses remain confidential and their only use is to inform the study.

Transit needs are growing across rural communities in the region. Population growth, aging demographics, and rising costs are increasing demand for transportation options across Bruce, Dufferin, Grey, and Wellington Counties. This study will help identify what residents need, assess what transportation options are feasible, and estimate what resources are needed to operate an effective system.

Dillon Consulting Limited has been engaged to design and assess the feasibility of a unified regional transit network. The study will identify routes and service levels suitable for the region, passenger fare strategy and cost structure, and integration opportunities with existing transit services. A study presentation will go to county councils for consideration in mid-2026.

Community engagement is a key component of the planning phase. In addition to the online survey, three public open houses are scheduled for January 2026. Two sessions are in-person, and one session will be available virtually. The project webpage at www.grey. ca/regional-transit will share details on dates, times, and locations in the coming weeks. Project staff will also attend community events throughout January to answer questions and gather feedback.

For more information about the Regional Transit Study, visit grey.ca/regional-transit.

The Regional Transit Study is receiving funding from the Province of Ontario and the federal Rural Transit Solutions Fund.





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

INDOOR WALKING

Beaver Valley Community Centre, Thornbury Mon. and Thurs. from 9-11am no pre-registration and no fee. Walking with poles with rubber feet and walkers allowed.

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

SKATING AT BEAVER VALLEY ARENA



In addition to regularly scheduled Public Skating on Saturdays and Sundays, additional Public Skating times have been added over the holiday break on the following dates.

December 22 - 1pm - 3pm December 23 - 10am - 12pm December 29 - 1pm - 3pm December 30 - 10am - 12pm December 31 - 1pm - 3pm

Skating program times are subject to change on a week-to-week basis.

- 10am - 12pm

Public Skating

January 2

Sat & Sun: 12pm - 2pm Excluding: Jan. 10, Jan. 17, Jan. 18, Feb. 1, Feb. 7, Feb 8, Mar. 7, Mar. 8, Mar. 29 Ages 18+: \$3 per person Under 18: Free

Adult Skating

Mon & Wed: 10am - 12pm Thurs: 1pm - 3pm

Excluding: Dec. 24, Dec 25, Jan. 1,

Feb. 16; \$3 per person

Must be 18 years of age or older.

Stick & Puck

Mon & Wed: 12pm - 1pm Excluding: Dec. 24, Feb. 4, Feb. 16, Apr. 6; \$3 per person Must be 18 years of age or older. All skaters are required to wear a certified hockey helmet.

Parent & Tots

Tues & Thurs: 11pm - 12pm Excluding: Dec. 23, 25, 30, Jan. 1, Feb. 3, Mar. 17, 19; Free

The REVIEW Blue Mountains: Thornbury, Clarksburg, Craigleith, Heathcote, Ravenna

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

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

ARTICLES are from media releases or those that are submitted 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

August 15, 2023 - Approval to increase project scope and budget

Staff Report CSOPS.23.044 was presented to Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, August 15. The report requested Council approval for the following items:

- Addition of engineering for the full reconstruction of Bay Street from Mill Street to Grey Street to a full urban cross section.
- Increase the engineering services budgets for the Craigleith Sewage Lift Station, Mill Street Sewage Pumping Station, Mill Street Forcemain and Thornbury Wastewater Treatment Plant (TWWTP) Outfall.
- Initiate negotiations with WT Infrastructure to complete the engineering for the full reconstruction of Bay Street from Mill Street to Grey Street, and with IBI Arcadis to complete the engineering for the TWWTP Outfall.

Committee of the Whole voted 6-0 in favour of the recommendations. This was adopted by Council at their meeting on August 28.

July 15, 2024 - Direction to proceed with preliminary design of one-way street

Staff Report CSOPS.24.031 was presented to the Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, July 2, 2024. The report provided a summary of the feedback received through the first Public Information Centre, and requested direction to proceed with the design of Bay Street and Grey Street including sanitary forcemain, sanitary sewer, storm sewer and watermain with restoration to the Town Standard Local Urban 20m Right of Way with No Parking cross-section with 7.5m asphalt width, and 2.7m multiuse trail. Following a thorough discussion, Committee voted 6-0 in favour of a motion that directed staff to provide another Staff Report with the following information:

- A complete review of the four options offered for the forcemain alignment presented in the Public Information Centre and the options proposed by the members of the community at the July 2, 2024 Committee of the Whole meeting in response to CSOPS.24.031, including costs for each of these options.
- Further information on the costs, savings, and cross-section of the one-way street, two-way street and centering options, plus consideration of an additional option of status quo amenities (no sidewalks, no multi-use trail and no curb).
- Cross-section drawing of pipe placement with corresponding measurements (horizontal and vertical).

Council pulled the report and Committee motion for further

discussion at their meeting on Monday, July 15. Following a thorough discussion, Council voted against the motion directing staff to provide an additional staff report with a complete review, including costs, of the forcemain alignment options. In a separate decision, Council voted to direct staff to proceed with:

The design of Bay Street East including sanitary forcemain, sanitary sewer, storm sewer and watermain by undertaking a preliminary design of a one-way street cross section with an alignment which minimizes the impact to the existing street scape while not compromising safety or the needed infrastructure. The preliminary design is to include:

- Stormwater bike safe grates/ basins within the asphalt and/ or semi-mountable curb
- No sidewalks, multi-use trail, or drainage ditches



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 The design of Grey Street beginning south from Bay Street East to Highway 26 in a complimentary manner to Bay Street East crosssection from Highway 26 to the Wastewater Treatment Plant with restoration to the Town standard local urban 20m ROW with no parking cross-section with 7.5 metre asphalt width and 2.7 metre multi-use trail including the installation of the outfall sanitary forcemain, storm sewer and watermain

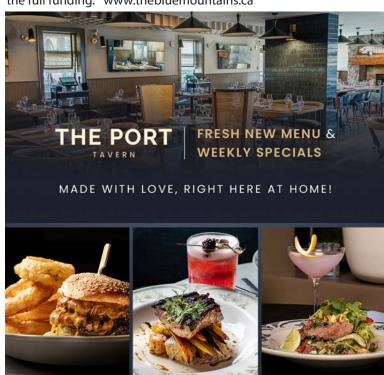
October 29, 2024 - Approval to execute HEWSF agreement

Staff Report CSOPS.24.078 was presented to Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, October 29, 2024. The report requested Council authorization for the Mayor and Clerk to execute the necessary agreements regarding the Housing-Enabling Water Systems Funding grant for the Craigleith Main Sewage Lift Station, Mill Street Pumping Station and Forcemain. The Town of The Blue Mountains has been successful in receiving \$25,397,523.99 from the Ontario Ministry of Infrastructure for this project. Committee voted in favour of the recommendation.

December 15, 2025 - Approval of additional construction budget and implementation of control measures

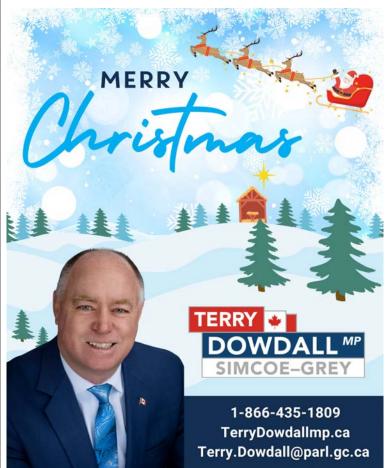
Staff Report OPS.25.049 was presented to Committee of the Whole on Monday, December 15, along with a special presentation by the Town's Director of Operations. The report requested a construction budget increase of \$19 million to support the remaining untendered work within the Craigleith Main Lift Station, Mill Street Sewage Pumping Station and Bay Street East Reconstruction project. Based on early estimates, the original approved budget for the three aspects of the project was \$34.79 million. As the design and scope evolved, the Town's engineering consultant provided a revised estimate of \$53.56 million.

Construction contracts for the expansion of the Craigleith Main Lift Station and the reconstruction of Bay Street and Grey Street have already been awarded. The remaining untendered work primarily includes the expansion and upgrading of the Mill Street Sewage Pumping Station. Moving forward with this work is critical as it will significantly reduce the risk of basement flooding, help prevent sewage bypasses to the Beaver River and Georgian Bay, and strengthen the Town's ability to manage increasingly intense rainfall events. The Town has been awarded \$25.3 million for the project through the province's Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund, and must complete the work by March 31, 2027 to be eligible to receive the full funding. www.thebluemountains.ca





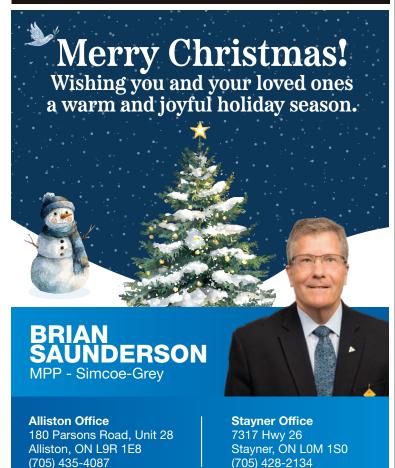






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As Flu Activity Rises, GBPH Is Reminding Residents **To Protect Themselves Against Respiratory Viruses**

With the holiday season approaching, Grey Bruce Public Health is urging residents to take steps to protect their health and reduce the spread of respiratory viruses.

This reminder comes as influenza activity in Ontario continues to rise - with flu cases expected to peak in late December or early January – and as many people prepare to attend or host indoor gatherings to celebrate the holidays.

"The festive season is typically a time when people attend larger indoor events and celebrations and visit with loved ones, including more vulnerable family members. Unfortunately, these types of settings make it easier for respiratory viruses, such as the flu and COVID-19, to spread," says GBPH Physician Consultant Dr. Brittany

"Getting vaccinated against the flu and COVID-19 is an effective defence against these viruses and helps to reduce the risk of developing severe illness, hospitalization, and potentially serious complications, especially for people who are at high-risk."

Respiratory illness season usually begins in the fall and continues through the winter. Common respiratory viruses include the flu, COVID-19, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV).

While COVID-19 and RSV activity remain low in Ontario, flu activity has been steadily increasing since October. The percent positivity rate - the share of tests that come back positive - for Influenza A is considered high. COVID-19 activity is expected to remain stable over the next two weeks, while flu and RSV activity is expected to continue to increase.

In Grey-Bruce, there are currently eight active outbreaks in longterm care/retirement homes, with most relating to a respiratory virus.

This season's COVID-19 and influenza vaccines are available from primary care providers and at participating pharmacies. Both vaccines are publicly funded and can be given at the same appointment.

All adults and children six months of age and older should get the updated flu vaccine each fall. The flu shot takes about two weeks to take full effect. Individuals at higher risk of developing a severe illness from the flu should also talk with their healthcare provider to plan for testing and treatment.

The COVID-19 vaccine is also available to anyone aged six months and older. The vaccine is recommended for individuals with a higher risk of COVID-19 or severe COVID-19 disease, including adults aged 65 and older, residents of long-term care homes and other congregate living settings, and people with underlying medical conditions.

The publicly funded RSV vaccine is available to seniors aged 75 and older and certain high-risk adults aged 60 to 74 who meet eligibility criteria established by the Ministry of Health. Eligible adults should contact their primary care provider about getting the vaccine.

Infants, high-risk children, and pregnant people may also be eligible for protection against RSV.

GBPH can assist individuals who are unable to receive an influenza, COVID-19, or RSV vaccine at a primary care provider's office or local pharmacy. Call 519-376-9420 and select Option 2 to connect with a member of the Vaccine Preventable Diseases Team.

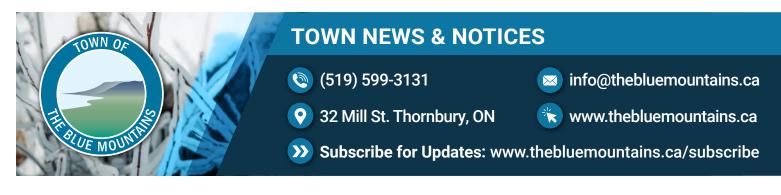
Along with vaccination, everyday actions can help reduce the spread of respiratory viruses. These include:

- Washing hands often
- Staying home when sick
- · Covering coughs and sneezes
- Cleaning and disinfecting high-touch surfaces and objects
- Improving indoor ventilation.

For More Information:

To connect with the Medical Officer of Health or the program manager, please contact:

Denis Langlois, Communications Co-ordinator, Grey Bruce Public Health, 519-376-9420 or 1-800-263-3456 ext. 1315, Communications@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca



Combat the Silent Killer: Ontario Fire Code Expands Carbon Monoxide Alarm Requirements

Changes are coming to the Ontario Fire Code and Blue Mountains Fire Services wants residents to know how it affects them.

As of Jan. 1, 2026, the Ontario Fire Code is introducing **new requirements for Carbon Monoxide (CO) alarms** in residences.

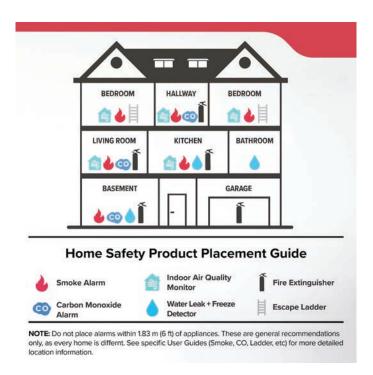
- In homes with a fuel-burning appliance, fireplace, or an attached garage, alarms will now be required on **every storey**, not just near sleeping areas. (same as smoke alarms)
- In homes where forced air heat comes from a fuel burning appliance located outside the home.
- In multi-unit residential buildings, alarms must be installed in **all suites meeting certain conditions**, service rooms, and, in some cases, public corridors. (same as smoke alarms)
- In care facilities and certain group homes, alarms will be required in suites and common areas. (new additional detection for vulnerable occupancies)

Carbon monoxide is known as the silent killer due to its nature – it is odourless, colourless and tasteless. Exposure can cause serious health issues and even death, and it is the leading cause of accidental poisonings in Ontario. It is undetectable without a **CO** alarm, making working alarms crucial for saving lives.

CO is produced when you burn any type of fuel, and it can be found both indoors and outdoors. It is lighter than air and can move freely throughout indoor spaces.

CO alarms are a life-saving early warning system against Carbon Monoxide. Working **CO** alarms alert you to the presence of potentially dangerous levels of **CO** in your home and prevent **CO** poisoning or even death.

CO poisoning symptoms are similar to symptoms for many other illnesses and may go un-noticed or un-detected without **CO** alarms. The alarms are a necessary device in any home with a fuel fired appliance.



Fuel sources where **CO** alarms are required include Natural Gas, Propane, Fuel Oil, Wood or Wood Products, etc.



Blue Mountains Fire Services urges everyone to follow the new Fire Code regulations and install additional **CO** alarms where required.

For questions or assistance in understanding how this impacts you or your home, please contact fireprevention@thebluemountains.ca

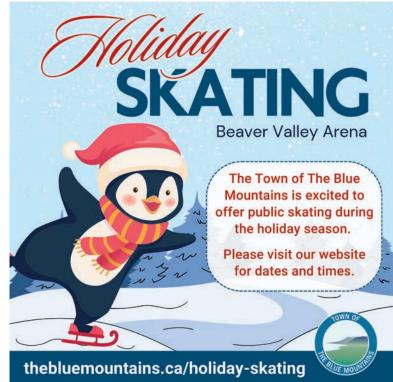


TOWN NEWS & NOTICES

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A warm welcome to Advent and Christmas at

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

Advent for Holy Communion Sunday December 21st at 9:00 a.m.

Christmas Eve Holy Communion

Wednesday December 24th at 7:00 p.m.

Celebrating the coming of the

Christ Child by Candlelight



Grace United Church Thornbury

invites you to join us for our Christmas service,

Sunday December 21st @ 10:30 am.

with Rev. Dr. Brian Goodings presiding.

Our Christmas Eve service on

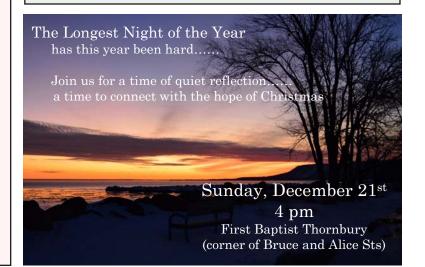
Wednesday, December 24th @ 5:00 pm will

be fun for all. Bring your children to enjoy

singing Christmas carols, the lighting of

candles and a drama called

LOVE FINDS A WAY.







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8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

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The Arts & Culture Council Presents...

The Last Picture Show

54 Years of Painting | J. David Murphy







Exhibition Jan 3-28 2026

Grand Opening January 10 2-4pm

Meet & Greet January 24 1-4pm

After 54 years of painting and 40 exhibitions in Canada and Europe, J. David Murphy reflects on the culmination of his artistic journey with a exhibition of his favorite works: impressionistic Northern Ontario landscapes, European urbanscapes, abstract pieces, and a few unexpected surprises.



TheGallery@TheBlueMountains.ca TheBlueMountainsLibrary.ca | 519-599-3681 173 Bruce Street South | Thornbury, Ontario

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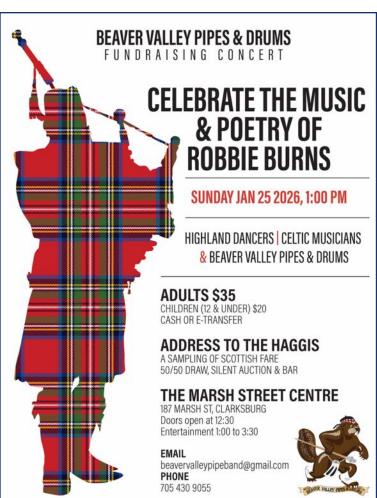






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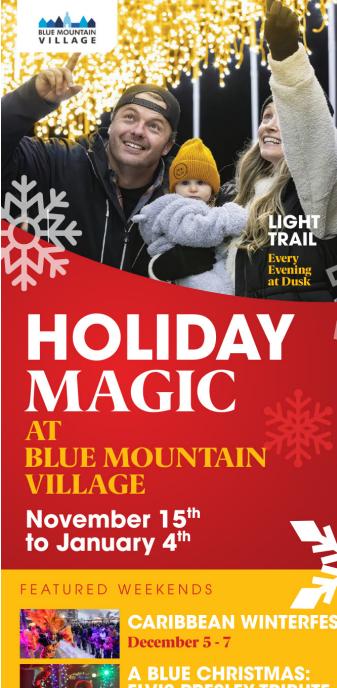
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December 13



MENORAH LIGHTING CEREMONY

December 14



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