



## Flood Watch – Beaver River, Clarksburg

Due to the extreme cold temperatures over the past week, with cold temperatures expected to continue through the coming weekend, combined with the fact that the Beaver River still has not fully frozen over throughout the system, frazil ice continues to be generated within the upper reaches of the river.



**CLARKSBURG** – Update: Tuesday, February 3 at 9:30 a.m. - Water levels in the Beaver River through Clarksburg have stabilized, and the Flood Watch issued by the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority has expired. Residents are advised to remain aware of changing conditions as water levels remain higher than normal. An excavator will be held on standby and can be called upon on short notice if required to continuing clearing the river.



## Craigleith Main Lift Station, Mill Street Sewage Pumping Station and Bay Street East Reconstruction Project - \$53.56 million

*from the Town Project page*

The Town is responsible for providing municipal sanitary sewer services (wastewater) and water services to connected properties. Revenue for these projects come from users.

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. 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 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. 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.

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

Staff Report CSOPS.23.044. 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

## Sanitary Forcemain Failure - Bay and McAuley Street

The Town of The Blue Mountains is advising the public of a sanitary forcemain failure that occurred on Monday, February 2, 2026, resulting in wastewater being released to land at the corner of Bay Street and McAuley Street.

The affected forcemain conveys wastewater from the Mill Street Pumping Station to the Thornbury Wastewater Treatment Plant. At approximately 6:30 a.m., contractors observed wastewater surfacing near the intersection of Bay Street and McAuley Street. In response, Town staff immediately stopped pumping operations and initiated repair and remediation of the affected area.

The sewage spill has been reported to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks and the Grey Bruce Public Health Unit. Town staff are continuing to follow direction provided by these agencies. The impacted area has been secured, and staff are actively coordinating response and environmental remediation efforts.

To safely complete repairs and the required clean-up, the intersection of Bay Street and McAuley Street will be fully closed to traffic. Detours and appropriate traffic control measures will be implemented.

Further updates will be provided as more information becomes available.



### 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

### FREE SEWING CLASSES

beginning Tuesday,  
February 17, 2026 and  
running for 10 weeks.

Classes will be held from  
3-5pm at First Baptist  
Church, Thornbury.

There is no charge.

For information please call :

Maryann @ 519 599 2680 or

Pat @ 519 538 0020.



**E-NEWSLETTER** - Use the subscribe form on our website to receive the weekly E-newsletter. [www.bluemountainsreview.ca](http://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](mailto: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.

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continued from page 1

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.

**July 15, 2024 - Direction to proceed with preliminary design of one-way street**  
Staff Report CSOPS.24.031.

**October 29, 2024 - Approval to execute HEWSF agreement**  
Staff Report CSOPS.24.078 The Town of The Blue Mountains has been successful in receiving \$25,397,523.99 from the Ontario Ministry of Infrastructure for this project.

**February 4, 2025 - Direction to proceed to final design, tender and construction**  
Staff Report OPS.25.004. The report sought Council direction to proceed to final design, tender

and construction based on the previously approved road cross sections.

**November 3, 2025 - Construction Notice issued**

The Town has issued the Construction Notice for the Bay Street East Reconstruction Project. Arnott Construction will be on site to begin preliminary work.

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

Staff Report OPS.25.049. The report requested a construction budget increase of \$19 million to support the remaining untendered work within the Craileith 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 Craileith 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.

**From Staff Report Feb 2, 2026**

Generally, overages pertaining to capital projects are not unusual and in many instances the scale can be difficult to foresee given economic conditions, contractor availability, scope modifications etc. Additionally, major infrastructure such as pumping stations and water/sanitary distribution pipes are critical services that the municipality is required to build, operate and maintain which constrains decision-making when a project is over-budget.

Including this increase earlier in the capital budget would not have changed the tax rate, as the tax rate is driven by the annual operating budget and debt servicing requirements, not by the total value of a capital project in any single year. Capital projects are funded and financed over many years, so a higher project cost affects long-term financial planning rather than the immediate tax levy.

As this work is completed, it may result in the need to pause, defer, or reprioritize other capital projects to ensure the Town remains within sustainable financial limits.

### Announcement

Grace United Church Thornbury is pleased to welcome Rev. Brian Goodings as part time minister at Grace United Church. Rev. Goodings is well known and respected in Southern Georgian Bay. From 2012 to his retirement in 2023, he served at Trinity United Church in Collingwood. He ministered at Grace United Thornbury from 1998 until 2012.

Rev Goodings is known for his meaningful sermons that inspire and resonate in this new world order that challenges the meaning of Church and peace itself. Rev. Goodings shares this thought, "We find ourselves in extremely challenging times and need to support and accompany each other as a loving community of hopeful and active people. Our collective future depends upon coming together to shape a just and peaceful world for all." Please join us for Sunday services, 10:30 am or with livestreaming.

All are welcomed at Grace United Church. Yes everyone!



Thornbury, Ontario  
**Grace United Church**  
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140 Bruce St. S. Thornbury

**Grace United Church invites you to attend our Sunday Services @ 10:30 am.**  
**We will have Rev. Dr. Brian Goodings presiding.**  
**All are welcome and Sunday School is provided for children.**

519.599.2438 • [www.graceunitedthornbury.ca](http://www.graceunitedthornbury.ca)

## Nominations Open for 2026 Volunteer Awards

The Town of The Blue Mountains is pleased to announce that the nomination period for the Town's 2026 Volunteer Recognition Awards is now open. Nominations will be accepted from **February 2 to March 6, 2026**.

Launched in 2022, the Town's annual Volunteer Recognition Awards event celebrates the outstanding residents and organizations that make The Blue Mountains a welcoming and vibrant community. This year's awards ceremony will be held at the Beaver Valley Community Centre on **Wednesday, April 22, 2026 beginning at 5:30 p.m.** as part of National Volunteer Recognition Week.

The Volunteer Recognition Awards will feature six categories that aim to recognize individual volunteers and community groups for their contribution to the local community:

- Arts & Culture Award
- Blue Mountains Community Builder Award (Youth under 26 and Adults 26+)
- Heritage Award
- Outstanding Community Group Award
- Sports and Recreation Award
- Sustainability Award

To nominate an individual or group for their dedication to the community, please complete the online nomination form by visiting the Volunteer Recognition Awards web page.

In addition to the **Awards Ceremony**, the Town will host a Volunteer Fair from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. where local community groups can meet with the public and discuss local volunteer opportunities. An application form is available for interested groups.

To register your community group for the Volunteer Fair, or for more information regarding the Volunteer Recognition Awards, please contact:

Community Services Department  
Town of The Blue Mountains (519) 599-3131 ext. 254  
[www.thebluemountains.ca/volunteerawards](http://www.thebluemountains.ca/volunteerawards)

## Town of The Blue Mountains Publishes New Snow Plowing Progress Map

The Town of The Blue Mountains is proud to release a new interactive Snow Plowing Progress map on the Town's Open Data Hub. The map has been developed internally by staff and allows the public to see when roads



throughout the municipality were last plowed. The data is gathered through GPS systems installed in the Town's snow plows, and is intended to support residents with trip planning during winter months.

The Town is responsible for winter maintenance on Town-owned roads. Certain roads including Highway 26, some boundary roads and some smaller local roads are not maintained by the Town. The status of these third-party plowed roads is not displayed on this map. Seasonal roads also do not receive winter maintenance. More information about Winter Road Maintenance can be found on the Town's website. [www.thebluemountains.ca](http://www.thebluemountains.ca)

The Town works to keep roads and sidewalks safe throughout winter in accordance with the Town's Minimum Maintenance Standards. Weather, traffic and road conditions influence when work happens. While crews aim to clear snow quickly, roads may remain snow-covered for a period of time after significant storms. For up-to-date road information, please visit [www.Municipal511.ca](http://www.Municipal511.ca) or [Grey County Roads](http://Grey County Roads).

Grey County road conditions and closures are available at your fingertips. Call 1-866-266-7569.

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

# In Memoriam



## JOESPH LEONARD ARDIEL ("LEN")

Joesph Leonard Ardiel, known to many as Len, was born at the family farm in Heathcote, Ontario, on Saturday, November 22nd, 1941. Len passed away at Brightshores Health System in Owen Sound, Ontario, on Monday, January 19th, 2026.

Len was well known throughout the Georgian Triangle, having lived in Heathcote, Collingwood, Thornbury, Meaford, and Owen Sound. He is survived by his son, Shawn Ardiel; his grandchildren Alexandra Ardiel, Payten, Adysen and Brynn Gilder-Ardiel; his sister and brother-in-law, Ruth and Doug McWhirter; his sister, Lorna Menzies; and his nieces and nephews: Terry and Sharon McWhirter, Debra Schaffrath, Tom and Susan Meingast, and Curtis and Todd Davidson. Len was predeceased by his parents, Gordon and Ida Ardiel; his sister and brother-in-law, Margret and Udo Meingast; and his brother-in-law, Chuck Menzies.

Everyone remembers Len as a "Good Guy"—known as a lifetime salesman, an amazing storyteller with a mischievous streak for exaggeration, and someone with a unique talent for remembering everyone's name. He loved golf and curling and was an avid Blue Jays fan. For many years, Len could be seen mowing lawns or snow-blowing driveways around his neighborhood on his beloved John Deere tractor. There are no current plans for a funeral, and a small private memorial will be held at a future date.



## FRANK MCENANEY

Gillian and family would like to thank those who braved the snow squalls to attend the memorial for Frank McEnaney (August 15, 1944 - January 4, 2026) and many others for their messages of condolence. Special thanks to Ken Haigh for officiating and Neil Buddell on piano in the lovely art gallery of The Blue Mountains Public Library on January 17, 2026.

Beloved to Gillian, precious Dad to Galen, (Mary) Taliesin (Coire) and Risa (Nic) and adorable Grandad to Liamna, Frank enjoyed

a wild 1950s childhood, wandering the ravines, hitchhiking across Canada and seeing Elvis Presley live at the Maple Leaf Gardens in 1957. While attending U of T in the 1960s he founded the magazine *Random* whose writers included Michael Ignatief and Bob Rae. Working as a writer and playwright in the 1970s, Frank also led the pack as house-husband supreme, twice turning down the offer of Playwright-in-Residence at the National Theatre in Ottawa to care for his growing family while his wife attended medical school.

For his second act, in the mid-1980s, Frank moved into a converted schoolhouse on top of Blue Mountain with Gillian and proceeded to lead a life of joyful discipline around his many interests: writing, meditation, wood carving, memory work, hiking, tai chi, partner dancing, learning piano, wood stacking, and dishes. He did his set of Tai Chi almost every morning for over 40 years, hiked the entirety of the Bruce Trail from Niagara to Tobermory three times in his 70s, and memorized enough poetry to recite a poem a day for an entire year. In his words, he was a man with "extreme discipline for purposeless activities".

As a dad, and companion, we hit the jackpot; loving, steadfast, trusting, hilarious, inspiring. We never had to grasp for his love, he shared it in so many different ways. Tea and chats were gold standard. Intellectually curious, and delightfully eccentric, his company will be forever missed but his memory will never cease to inspire.

"My uselessness is very useful to me." Lao Tzu  
If you wish to remember Frank with a donation:  
[worldbeyondwar.org/canada](http://worldbeyondwar.org/canada)



## DONALD STEPHEN POSLUNS

Donald Stephen Posluns passed away peacefully on January 16, 2026 in his 88th year. Donald leaves behind a legacy of integrity, curiosity and a quiet generosity.

Donald was a successful academic garnering numerous degrees at the Masters and PhD levels from various North American Universities.

Donald, a lawyer by profession, was a principled advocate by nature. Throughout his career, he was deeply committed to standing up for the rights of others, approaching every challenge with intelligence, analytical insight and an unwavering sense of fairness.

Beyond his professional accomplishments Donald was a man of many passions. He had a deep appreciation of family history and took great joy in understanding and preserving the stories that connected generations. His passions varied from farming to woodworking and crafting intricate pieces of furniture, to competitive sailing, skiing and travelling by train.

In addition to his many academic, professional and personal passions, Donald's greatest love in life was the family he raised with his beloved wife Lynda, and their sons Mark and TJ (Thomas Jacob) and grandson Parker. Donald also maintained lifelong friendships and enjoyed many travels with Lynda visiting friends and family near and abroad. He was an engaging conversationist and often told stores of the love he held for his family growing up: his parents Sam and Rebecca Posluns; his brothers Avram and Michael who predeceased him, and his beloved sister Susan. Donald treasured spending time with his family and was always interested in the small details of the lives of those close to him.

Donald will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by all who knew him. His legacy of curiosity, love and respect will be carried on through his family. May his memory be a blessing to all who knew him. Family gathered for interment at Beth Tzedec Memorial Park Cemetery in Toronto on Sunday, January 18, 2026. As your expression of sympathy, donations to the Meaford Hospital Foundation or a charity of your choice 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](http://www.fergusonfuneralhomes.ca)



## PHILIP J. LAVELL

On January 2, 2026 Phil passed away surrounded by love at Campbell House Hospice in Collingwood.

These last 14 months were a gift. Friends from near and far away as England, came to spend time with him. Childhood hockey and football friends came to spend time with him. Family, including his seven grandchildren, came to spend time with him.

These visits gave Phil so much pleasure. Neighbourhood visits in 'the Lounge' - Tuesdays with Morrie - going for a drive in his blue '82 Chevy pickup truck- sitting at the water's edge with our morning coffee - we kept on making memories.

We could not have navigated this journey without the incredible, caring support that we received from the health care practitioners-our awesome GP Dr. Fauser, our wonderful homecare nurses with a special hug to Nurse Cindy, the Grey County paramedics who loved Phil's cookies, "our rock" Nurse Kate, The 'angels' at Campbell House Hospice - all of whom were part of our journey.

A Celebration of Life will be held at The Bear Estate, 300 Balsam St, Collingwood, on Monday, May 4th, 2026, from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Donations to be made to the Hospice Georgian Triangle Foundation or the Meaford Hospital Foundation for the ER department.

Friends may visit Phil's online Book of Memories at  
[www.fawcettfuneralhomes.com](http://www.fawcettfuneralhomes.com)

## ERIC WILLIAM GARBUTT

March 30, 1983 - December 15, 2025

It is with profound sadness that family and friends wish to share the passing of Eric Garbutt on Monday, December 15, 2025 in Thornbury.

Eric was born in Toronto and spent his life living, learning, and working in Aurora and in the southern Georgian Bay area of Ontario. He also spent many years with family and friends in Winnipeg and Victoria Beach, Manitoba.

Eric loved the outdoors, snowboarding, biking, skateboarding and camping when he could. He was passionate about history, cars, food and learning about things that were of interest to him. Eric became a skilled woodworker and chef, choosing to learn these skills on his own terms.

Eric had a big heart and a generous soul. He approached his life with a fiery passion and was a loyal friend, brother and son. He loved his dogs who were his constant companions. Most recently Chapo a spunky Chorkie.

Eric was plagued with multiple health issues over the years. His quiet strength and resilience through this past year was nothing short of admirable albeit heartbreaking. Eric passed away from complications of Type One diabetes. No longer in pain and at peace, he will be remembered with love and will be missed beyond belief.

A Celebration of Eric's life will take place in the Spring (he was not a great fan of winter lately), with a date to be determined.

As your expression of sympathy, donations to Diabetes Canada or to the Georgian Triangle Humane Society 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](http://www.fergusonfuneralhomes.ca)



## LAUREN "LAURIE" THERESA PAGE (NEE O'BRIEN)

January 1, 1936 – January 20, 2026

It is with profound sadness that we announce the peaceful and painless passing of our mother Laurie Page on January 20, 2026 in Oshawa, Ontario, with her family by her side at the age of 90.

Laurie of The Blue Mountains, formerly of Toronto, will be sadly missed by her three sons, Chris (Lisa), Steve (Marie) and Mark, along with her six grandsons Cole, Austin, Aidan, Blaise, Dylan and Connor. Laurie also leaves behind four great grandchildren, Oakley, Lincoln, Aurora and Liam, who

cherished her deeply.

Laurie was a feisty Irishwoman who enjoyed great conversations with family and friends and always had a unique ability to provoke thoughtful dialogue no matter what the topic was. Laurie worked with the TD Bank for years honing her skills as finance director for Page Flooring, the family business, where she kept her husband Del in line. Always quick with a joke, Laurie was an astute observer with a keen eye and will be missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing her, as well as those who found themselves occupying a chair at Laurie's debate table "holding court."

"Mom was the consummate mother, a dedicated teacher, and a champion of the Catholic faith. Mom would check up and call daily to make sure we were always doing things better. Always an inspiration to us."

"She often encouraged me to go have some fun. She loved to hear about my dinner parties. She would remember friend's names and the issues of the day and create conversation around that. In recent years, she knew some of my friends nearly as well as I, just through conversation. She was selfless and genuinely interested in other people's lives. Mom developed a very tough constitution (surrounded by men and boys), a strong character trait that has served me well. Mom always put others first, never missing a school event, a doctors appointment, a trip to the dentist or a daily life lesson. To me, Mom was a true matriarch of the highest Irish order. A true soldier for the Catholic Church."

Laurie joins her loving husband Del, to continue their eternal journey together.

The family wishes to extend their gratitude to the nurses, staff and residents at Harmony Hills Retirement Home in Oshawa for their care, love and support of Laurie over the past several years.

Friends and family were invited to a Funeral Mass at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, 63 Elgin Street, Collingwood, January 31st.

Donations made in memory of Laurie may be made to St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church would be appreciated by her family. To leave a message of condolence or share a memory, please visit Laurie's Book of Memories at [www.chattersonfuneralhome.com](http://www.chattersonfuneralhome.com)

## DOROTHY JEAN FROST



Dorothy passed away peacefully at her home in Thornbury on Monday, January 19, 2026 at the age of 91.

Born on the Thornbury/St. Vincent Townline

on March 27, 1934, Dorothy was a daughter of the late Robert & Annie 'Nan' (nee McLean) Nixon and grew up on Bruce Street South in Thornbury.

Some of her early jobs were working in Marge Gilson's Dress Shop and the Bell Telephone office as an operator in the 1950's.

After her marriage to William 'Bill' Frost they moved to East York and started their family. Later they moved to Scarborough in 1962 and resided there for 40 years before retiring back to Thornbury in 1999.

Dorothy worked many years at the Bank of Nova Scotia, St. Clair & O'Connor Branch as a Loan's Officer. In retirement she worked at Eaton's in the Scarborough Town Centre.

She was a loving Mother to Rob Frost and Barb (Eric) Stevens and the much-loved grandma of Dylan & Will Frost and Kailey & Makenzie Stevens.

Dorothy was an excellent hostess and made everyone feel welcome in her home. Bill and Dorothy enjoyed travel to England, Scotland, the Barbados, Niagara Falls, family camping out west, and a visit to Whitehorse; as well as many visits back home to Thornbury. She was proud of her Thornbury roots to the very end.

Dorothy will be missed greatly by her family; her sisters Isobel (late Ray) Levacque and Debra (Roger) McLeod, was predeceased by her brother Bill Nixon, sister-law-law Betty Nixon (late Dale Vanderlinden), and brother-in-law Joe Frost. Dorothy is survived by many nieces and nephews and their families.

Dorothy's family thank the CarePartners Nursing Staff, PSW's and Doctors for the care and respect given to Dorothy over the last couple of years. Much appreciation to Dorothy's wonderful neighbours, she will be greatly missed.

As per Dorothy's wishes, cremation has taken place and small family gathering will occur at a later date. Dorothy will be interred at Thornbury-Clarksburg Union Cemetery with her late husband William Thomas Frost.

As your expression of sympathy, donations to Charity of Choice 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](http://www.fergusonfuneralhomes.ca)



Rotary Exchange Students enjoy two days of skiing and comradeship with 13 fellow students.

## SOS Screenviews:

A Non-AI take on What to Stream by Anne Britton  
*Memorable: I would watch this show again by myself.*

*Watchable: I would watch this show again with someone else.*

*Bearable: I would watch this show again if someone paid me.*

Here are three shows that you might find interesting this month:

### M: The Last Kingdom (Netflix)

This series is based on Bernard Cornwell's novels that make up the Saxon Chronicles. They are set in 9th century Britain when the Saxons were fighting the Vikings for supremacy. The success of this show depended upon getting the right actor to portray the Saxon born, Danish raised protagonist, Uhtred of Bebbanburg. Alexander Dreymon was a perfect choice as he is able to portray the various facets of the character from a warrior with the "battle joy" to a husband mourning the loss of his wife to a comrade with a sense of humour. The cast is terrific from beginning to end. If you enjoy the series, you might want to consider reading or listening to the books.

### W: Bright Long River (Crave)

This is a show about a young female police officer in Chicago who happens to have a sister who is a drug addict and prostitute. It is a rather typical murder mystery with some delving into family drama and is based on a book by Liz Moore.

### B: Shirley (Netflix)

This movie is about Shirley Chisholm (Regina King) who was the first black woman elected to Congress. It was worthwhile to know about who she was and what she had to endure from the racists around her. Honestly, it is amazing any of these people who broke barriers managed to get through the days and years without giving up.

If you are interested in more recommendations, my blog address is <https://sosscreenviews.blogspot.com>. Enjoy your screenviews!



## The Supportive Outreach Services (SOS) program is



expanding its ability to care for the community with the addition of a new, highly modified Sprinter van. This mobile clinic is designed to provide a safe, comfortable, and welcoming space where trust can be built, and care can be delivered with dignity.

The SOS van allows outreach teams to offer services in downtown areas, rural locations, and remote encampments. It has been thoughtfully designed to create a warm and private environment that supports mental health counselling, harm reduction education, drug checking, addiction medicine, and primary care.

The van is divided into three separate rooms. There is a private counselling space, a primary care examination room, and a washroom. The van has lighting, secure storage cabinets, and internet access to support communication with partners and health care providers. A solar-powered electrical system allows the van to operate for several hours without external power, helping ensure reliable service in a wide range of locations.

The purchase and conversion of the Sprinter van were funded through a grant from Health Canada.

SOS provides care for individuals experiencing homelessness, mental health challenges, substance use issues, or difficulty accessing traditional health and social services. Operating seven days a week, the team delivers medical care, mental health support, harm reduction services, and help connecting to housing and other supports. By building trust and removing barriers to care, SOS helps prevent emergencies and connects people to ongoing support.

SOS runs regular clinics across the county that are free to access with a mobile team available throughout the week. The program receives support and is fully funded by Health Canada and Ontario Health.

Services include:

- Medical care and mental health counselling
- Harm reduction education and supplies, including naloxone kits
- Drug checking services
- Addiction medicine and primary care
- Basic needs support such as food, clothing, and hygiene products
- Assistance with housing and service navigation
- Case management and follow-up support

The mobile team includes paramedics, a nurse practitioner, mental health counsellors, peer support workers, and social navigators.

For information about the SOS program, visit [www.grey.ca/sos](http://www.grey.ca/sos).



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For over 50 years the Thornbury - Clarksburg Rotary Club has sponsored and hosted international exchange experiences for local and international students.

T-C Rotary began supporting the Rotary Youth Exchange program in 1973, when George Slama Jr. became the first "outbound" exchange student sent abroad.

Our current outbound student is Olivia Eagles who is spending a year in Belgium. And while Olivia is in Belgium, T-C Rotary is hosting Abie Sibaja Gonzales, our "inbound" student who arrived in November from Mexico.

"Outbound" RYE students live and go to school for a year in foreign communities. "Inbounds" are hosted in our community. Volunteer families host them and both T-C Rotarians and the District RYE program officers support them as they live through a life changing experience.

Tina Koemmerer from Valence, France presented her poem at the Thornbury-Clarksburg Rotary's Ski Days dinner meeting in January. Tina was in the Town of the Blue Mountains enjoying two days of skiing and comradeship with 13 fellow Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE) students.

Tina's poem highlights the power of youthful dreams and the Rotary Youth Exchange program.



Youth Exchange Officer Heather Walton,  
Exchange Student from Valence France Tina Koemmerer,  
and Thornbury-Clarksburg Rotary Club President Ellen Kalis

**rotary**  
**youth**  
**exchange**

## A Vivid Flame

*When I was 10, my biggest dream was to stop taking English classes.  
They stole my time, and they felt too hard for little me, in those hours that  
never passed.  
I blew my candles, but my wishes never came true.*

*When I was 11, my dream was to live in those North American teen  
movies.  
They looked so much brighter than my school, I wanted a locker as tall as  
me,  
A yellow bus rolling, a door swinging free,  
To finish class early, and finally let myself be.  
And...to stop my English classes.  
I blew my candles, but my wishes never came true.*

*When I was 12, I dreamed of growing faster, to explore the world  
unknown.  
To walk on streets where I'd never been, to make each corner my own.  
I wanted the movies, the laughter, the scene,  
And I wanted to stop my English routine.  
I blew my candles, but my wishes never came true.*

*When I was 13, my dreams stayed the same, but this time I chose to fight  
for them.  
I wanted the world, I wanted the life I'd hoped for.  
They told me "too far", "too costly", "not you"  
But I held my hopes and I saw them through.  
I carried my dreams like a secret flame,  
Too small to be broken, too bright to tame.  
I blew my candles, but my wishes never came true.*

*When I was 14, I left my English class.  
I thought, at last, little me would be proud.  
In exams I wrote of leaving France behind,  
But no one believed I'd the right key to find.  
Locked doors stood tall, too heavy to break through.  
I blew my candles, but my wishes never came true.*

*When I was 15, my mother came near,  
"I told her of you," she said with cheer.  
"She knows some people who only have happiness as an aim,  
A group so small where I lived no one knew its name.  
But they carry the dreamers across the sky"  
I ran where I could find them, ROTARY written on a sign that was nearby  
I blew my candles.*

*When I was 16, on a sunny day,  
I woke in a room where the world felt new.  
A yellow bus rolled down the lane,  
Tall lockers stood, and school ended soon.  
The scenes I dreamed had come alive,  
No candles blown, yet dreams survived.*

*I don't need to wish anymore, it's true,  
For at last my candles brought me to you.*



## Winter Storm Scenery

While walking home in a storm, Will Shortt captured a beautiful photo of the old apple trees on Arthur Taylor Lane, Clarksburg

### TFSA VS RRSP VS DEBT: YOUR 2026 SAVINGS PLAYBOOK

As 2026 unfolds, many clients are asking how best to grow their savings. **Tax-Free Savings Accounts** (TFSAs), **Registered Retirement Savings Plans** (RRSPs) and debt repayment each offer unique benefits, depending on your financial situation.

The **2026 TFSA** contribution limit is \$7,000, with a cumulative total of \$109,000 for those eligible since 2009 who have not contributed to a TFSA in the past. TFSAs offer tax-free growth and flexible withdrawals and are an excellent option for both short-term and long-term goals.

**RRSPs** provide tax deductions and tax-deferred growth. They are particularly advantageous for high-income earners and are most effective when you contribute at a higher tax bracket than you withdraw at. While interest rates have eased, reducing high-interest, non-deductible debt still delivers a reliable, risk-free return and greater financial peace of mind. When assessing the above options, some factors to consider are:

- Your marginal tax rate now vs. at withdrawal: RRSPs work best when your marginal tax rate is higher at contribution than at withdrawal. If you expect the reverse, prioritize a TFSA.
- Interest rates/ Investment returns: compare expected long-term investment returns with the after-tax cost of debt.
- Type of debt: prioritize high-interest, non-deductible debt first.
- Other retirement income: if you have a pension, debt repayment might be more beneficial.

#### ***Certain targeted accounts can amplify tax benefits for those who qualify***

**FHSA (First Home Savings Account):** For first-home savings; contributions are tax-deductible and qualifying withdrawals are tax-free.

**RESP (Registered Education Savings Plan):** For children's education; government grants can boost savings.

**RDSP (Registered Disability Savings Plan):** For those eligible for the Disability Tax Credit; grants and bonds may apply (eligibility and amounts vary by age and family income).

When you partner with us, we use advanced financial planning software to compare these strategies and tailor recommendations to your specific circumstances. This helps ensure you make the most of every dollar you save.

If you'd like to review your savings strategy or discuss your options, please give me a call. I'm here to help you achieve your financial goals.

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

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## 2026 Digital Resident Parking Permits & Friends and Family Parking Permits Now Available

Parking permits must be registered annually, and residents are required to re-register their vehicle for the 2026 calendar year. Registration can be completed online through the Town's website or in person at Town Hall during regular business hours. Proof of residency and vehicle ownership is required at the time of registration.

With a valid digital parking permit, residents may park for free at all municipally owned paid parking locations, including beaches, parks and trails. Please note that Town parking permits do not apply to privately owned paid parking lots.

New for 2026, the Town is offering Friends and Family Parking Permits, allowing residents to register visiting guests for temporary digital parking permits. Each household is permitted up to 14 calendar days annually for Friends and Family Parking Permits, at a rate of \$5 plus HST, per day.

To purchase a Friends and Family Parking Permit, residents must create a household account through the Town's online parking permit portal.

A household account enables residents to register multiple household vehicles under a single account and easily manage temporary permits for visiting guests throughout the year.

At the time of purchase, residents must provide the visitor's licence plate number and the dates the permit will be used. Once registered, guest vehicles may enjoy the same benefits of a resident parking permit and park at any Town-owned paid parking location.

However, residents who have already registered for a 2026 parking permit and wish to purchase Friends and Family Parking Permits will be required to create a household account through the Town's website.

[www.thebluemountains.ca/parking-public-transit](http://www.thebluemountains.ca/parking-public-transit)  
(519)599-3131 ext. 249

## Vision 2050

Inspiring our youth to imagine the world they will inherit - in a creative and positive way"

This was the theme for our first collaborative project!

Local volunteers from The Climate Action Now Network (\*CANN) together with the Beaver Valley Community School teachers & students, created a thoughtful learning event, in Fall 2025.

We encouraged students to write love letters to our community! Grade 3 and 4 students wrote letters to community spaces that they appreciate. They put them in envelopes and posted them in the places that they love. The students wrote heartfelt and descriptive messages. The language that they used is very impressive! Other students made posters inviting members of the Blue Mountain community to come and join them at a Pop-Up picnic in Lions Park (Clarksburg). The picnic was held to celebrate our community and to build a sense of belonging, inclusion and responsibility. After eating their lunch, the kids played games to encourage cooperation and respect for others.



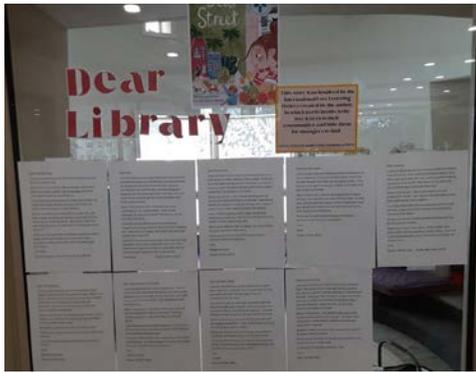
These wonderful love letters can be viewed by all, at the following Thornbury locations: the L.E. Shore Library entrance display, and the library Story Tower windows at the Grace United Church.

The letters and posters are also displayed in the showcase at the entrance

of the Beaver Valley Community School! Have a look and feel the warm embrace of this beautiful area!!

Our next collaborative project will be to promote Earth Hour 2026 on March 27 and 28.

\*Climate Action Now Network (TBM CANN) is a volunteer group in the Town of The Blue Mountains.



*Dear Plants in our Community,*

*I love you because your flowers bloom first. They are really beautiful and smell like honey. You are so pretty because your colour lights up the area with your bright colours. It's so fun to jump in your leaves and build forts with you. When I look at you, I see bees collecting pollen and kids following them back to their hives. I see kids climbing trees and collecting different coloured leaves.*

*I can hear the breeze in the background. It is so nice to feel the wind when it pushes me down the hill. Being in nature feels relaxing and calm.*

*Thank you for your sap in the maple trees, to the pollen in the flowers. I promise to keep you clean from people that don't care about the environment.*

*Love, Dermot, Mason, Grade 3 Potter, BVCS*

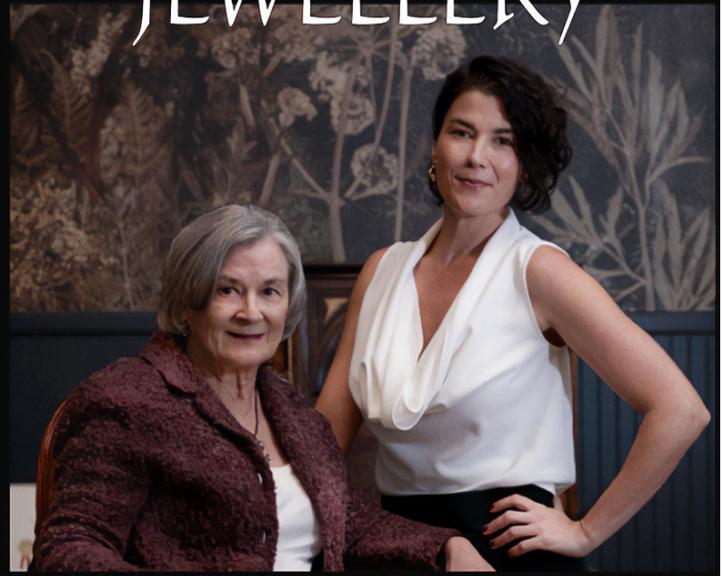
*Dear Blue Mountain,*

*I love you because your delicious death cookies are so mouth-watering. I love your cocoon crawl, it is so fun to crawl through the holes up into higher levels. I love how your mini-golf course goes higher and higher and gets harder and harder. When I look at you, I see an amazing place to spend the day. I can hear the nice calm flowing water running down the hill and very happy children laughing as they play. Being here makes me feel joyful and excited for the fun games and activities.*

*Thank you for a great place to play and explore. I promise to visit as much as possible.*

*Love, Ryker Grade 4 Potter, BVCS*

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**BRIAN SAUNDERSON**  
MPP, Simcoe-Grey

**My team and I can help you with:**

**CONGRATULATORY CERTIFICATES**

**ONTARIO DOCUMENTS:**  
Birth or Marriage certificate,  
Health card, Driver's licence

**ASSISTANCE WITH PROVINCIAL PROGRAMS:**  
ODSP, OW, WSIB, OSAP and more



**Alliston Office**

180 Parsons Road, Unit 28,  
Alliston ON L9R 1E8  
(705) 435-4087

**Stayner Office**

7317 Hwy 26,  
Stayner ON L0M 1S0  
(705) 428-2134

**Connect With Me:**

✉ Brian.Saunderson@pc.ola.org  
🌐 www.briansaundersonmpp.ca

📌 MPPSimcoeGrey  
✂ BrianSaunderson  
📍 BrianSaundersonPC

*Together, let's make every day, a better day, in Simcoe-Grey!*

## HOCKEY AT DAVOS



He scores! She scores! The crowding cries blend to nations far and close,  
 For this arena has gathered a cornucopia of wealth, an entourage of power,  
 Where spectators are the spectacle, and players the conscripted puppets.  
 Such the setting of Econohockey, its walls of play to gild rules of capitalism,  
 The puck fleetingly struck, a currency of onside, offside, and out-of-play!  
 Fans applaud, flipper like, as goalies fend off the opposition's slings and arrows,  
 And forwards anew imagine the score of goals and opponents trampled.  
 Did not we once embrace rubrics of Fair Play, when scores signalled courtesy?  
 No more, for the Davos tournament witnessed POTUS in his armour of abuse,  
 Salivating on slap, penalty, and chaos, changing rules mid play, moving posts,  
 While the Minister of Maple Leaf regaled in his team's tailored dignity and skill,  
 Drew fans from seat to feet as the puck made its drive across the crease of USA.  
 And we the Nation, we the referee, recall hockey belongs to Canada!

Jeremy Wentworth-Stanley    [jeremy@officeinthebarn.com](mailto:jeremy@officeinthebarn.com)

## Art Around Town

Art by Ruth McWhirter featured on the shed at St. George's Anglican Church, Clarksburg (photos by Robert Burcher)



Celebrating the Colour Orange at the L.E. Shore Library Gallery, Thornbury for the month of February (photo by Robert Burcher)



Art by the artists at the Marsh Street Gallery is currently being featured on the light poles in downtown Clarksburg



DISTRICT 'E' - 8<sup>th</sup> Annual

## SENIORS' LITERARY COMPETITION

ALL ONTARIO RESIDENTS 55+ WELCOME TO ENTER



Submit original - unpublished, never previously submitted  
**POEMS, ESSAYS, MEMOIRS, and SHORT STORIES**

**ELECTRONIC ENTRIES ONLY**

For questions and entry forms email to  
[districtEseniorsliterary@gmail.com](mailto:districtEseniorsliterary@gmail.com)

**COMPETITION OPENS FEBRUARY 14TH**  
**CLOSES - MIDNIGHT, APRIL 30TH, 2026**

For more info and info pkg on Seniors' Literary Competition  
 Contact Seniors Chair Bruno Scaturchio - 416-347-0621

Dear Editor,

## Support the Protection of the Beaver River Trail!

With a simple zoning change – from unopened road allowance to Open Space, we can protect this section of the Beaver River Trail in perpetuity! There is a public meeting coming up on February 10<sup>th</sup> – please show your support!

**A bit of background.** In the 1800s, surveyors mapped out a visionary plan for our community's roads. Since then, our town has evolved from a bustling lumber and farming hub into a highly desirable four-season destination, surrounded by beautiful countryside and active farms. Where roads have not been built, some undeveloped road allowances remain.

Inevitably, with this growth, we have lost much of our tree canopy and natural areas. Recent public surveys highlight our community's strong commitment to conserving and enhancing these natural assets. And our Town's leaders have reflected these values in numerous policies and plans.

The Beaver River Trail is one of our most valued natural areas. Stretching from the northern terminus at Thornbury Harbour to the southern terminus at the Clendenan Dam Conservation Area, the trail provides a vital connection between Thornbury and Clarksburg.

**What does this have to do with road allowances?** An important portion of this trail, located south of Highway 26 at Grey Street (near the sewage lagoons) to Arthur Taylor Lane, runs parallel to the Beaver River along the heavily wooded **Russell Street road allowance**. This beautiful, natural linear trail is home to important woodland and native plant habitats and serves as a crucial stopover and feeding area for over 160 bird species, especially during spring and fall migrations.

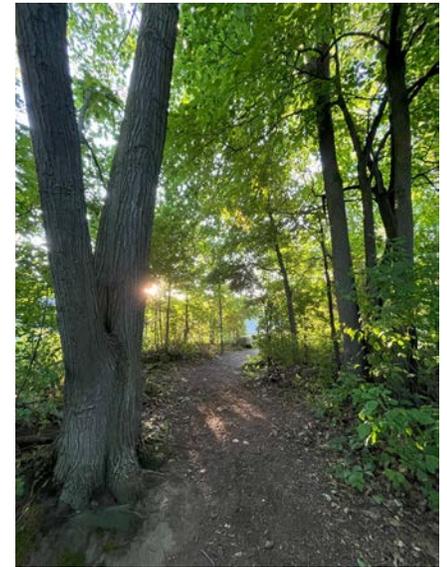
Now, at the request of the community-led Beaver River Trail Working Group—supported by nearly 1,000 trail users—the Town is hosting a public meeting to consider the group's request to permanently close this unopened road allowance and two access points at Alice and Arthur Streets. This action would ensure the trail's long-term conservation and continued public use.

Let's Protect What We Have: The Working Group is requesting a simple rezoning: from potential use as a public road to a commitment for public open space. Should development occur in the area, existing access roads are sufficient to support growth.

How you can help:

- Attend the public meeting on February 10th at Town Hall, 9:30 a.m.
- Speak at the public meeting (in person, up to 10 minutes, Thank you for considering this important request to protect and preserve the Beaver River Trail for future generations.

Sincerely, Sally Leppard



## Beaver River Trail Designation

Open letter to the Members of Town Council,

I am writing regarding the recommendation to designate the Beaver River Trail, which runs adjacent to my 74-acre agricultural property, as a park.

While I support the continued public use of the trail for walking and cycling, I have concerns about designating this land as a park at this time. It is relatively easy to rezone land as a park, but experience shows it can be very difficult to change such a designation in the future, even when circumstances and community needs evolve.

The adjacent 74 acres is presently zoned agricultural and is subject to the sprays, crops and possible sounds and odours common for intensive farming practices. Given its location, the 74 acres will likely be rezoned in the future for housing and community use as the TBM expands.

These future needs may require a more flexible approach to land use planning than a permanent park designation would allow.

For these reasons, I believe it is best to leave the trail designated as the Beaver River Trail for now, rather than rezoning it as a park, until such time as it can be thoughtfully incorporated into the future land-use flexibility and long-range growth management plans in a coordinated and comprehensive manner.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely, Tom Kritsch

# Development Notice



## Application for Zoning By-law Amendment, Stop Up & Close

Town File #: P3553

Applicant: Town of The Blue Mountains

Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains, in response to a request by the Beaver River Trail Working Group, has expressed interest in stopping up and closing a portion of Alice Street, Russell Street and Arthur Street and converting the lands into a permanent public park.

The proposal includes the creation of a parcel of land to be owned by the Town for park purposes, and to consider a Zoning By-law Amendment application to place the lands into the Open Space 'OS' zone in order to recognize and permit the proposed park use.



Portion of Alice Street,  
Russell Street and Arthur  
Street (Thornbury)



Email  
[planning@thebluemountains.ca](mailto:planning@thebluemountains.ca)



Phone  
(519) 599-3131 ext. 263



Online  
[thebluemountains.ca/BeaverRiverTrail](http://thebluemountains.ca/BeaverRiverTrail)



A hybrid Public Meeting has been scheduled at Town Hall and virtually on February 10, 2026 at 9:30 a.m. Register by phone at: (519) 599-3131 ext. 232 or by email at: [townclerk@thebluemountains.ca](mailto:townclerk@thebluemountains.ca)

For more information about this matter, including information about preserving your appeal rights, contact the Town of The Blue Mountains.



## TOWN NEWS & NOTICES

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### Notice of Intention to Designate A Property under the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18

**TAKE NOTICE** that the Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains intends to designate the property municipally known as Roll Number 4242000015008450000, High Bluff Lane, Plan 16M14, Block 27, under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18 as a property of cultural heritage value or interest for the purpose of designating a Heritage Tree located on that property.

**Property Description:** Located on the southeast corner of the intersection of the 10th Line and High Bluff Lane, north of and adjacent to the Georgian Trail, a 0.42 acre municipally owned property, known as Roll Number 4242000015008450000, High Bluff Lane, Plan 16M14, Block 27, Town of The Blue Mountains. Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest: the property is considered for designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18 as amended, as representing a site of cultural heritage and interest within the Town.

A 152-year-old sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*) located on the above-described property possesses significant cultural heritage value under Ontario Regulation 9/06 due to its historical, aesthetic, and contextual significance.

**Historical:** The tree, estimated to be 152 years old, is a rare and enduring example of the natural heritage of the region, predating significant settlement and development in the area. It represents a living link to the pre-settlement landscape and the ecological history of the region, reflecting the prominence of sugar maples in Ontario's early agricultural and maple syrup production traditions.

**Aesthetic:** The sugar maple exhibits exceptional visual qualities, with its expansive canopy, vibrant seasonal foliage, and robust form, making it a striking and iconic feature in the landscape. Its aesthetic appeal enhances the scenic quality of the Georgian Trail, a significant recreational corridor.

**Contextual:** The tree serves as a prominent landmark along the Georgian Trail, a key recreational trail connecting communities and attracting visitors for its natural beauty. Its highly visible location from the public road right-of-way establishes it as a defining element of the local landscape, contributing to the area's sense of place and community identity.

Description of Heritage Attributes: The following attributes embody the cultural heritage value of the sugar maple:

- Its age, approximately 152 years, as determined by measurement, visual assessment and historical photography.
- Its physical form, including its height, trunk diameter, and expansive canopy demonstrate its maturity and health.
- Its vibrant seasonal foliage, showcasing brilliant red, orange, and yellow hues characteristic of the species.
- Its specific location adjacent to the Georgian Trail and near the public road right-of-way, ensuring high visibility and accessibility.
- Its ecological role as a native species, supporting local biodiversity and reflecting the region's natural heritage.

**Notice of Objection:** Any person may object to the proposed designation by serving a Notice of Objection to the Town Clerk within 30 days of the publication of this notice. The notice must set out the reason(s) for the objection and must be served by mail or delivered to:

Corrina Giles, Town Clerk,  
Town of The Blue Mountains  
32 Mill Street, P.O. Box 310  
Thornbury, ON N0H 2P0.

Dated at the Town of The Blue Mountains, this 2nd day of February, 2026.

### Future 2026 Council and Committee Meetings:

- Committee of the Whole, February 2, 2026
- Committee of the Whole, February 3, 2026
- Council, Public Meeting, February 10, 2026
- Council Meeting, February 17, 2026
- Committee of the Whole, February 23, 2026
- Committee of the Whole, February 24, 2026

All meetings are at the Town Hall, 32 Mill Street and Virtual. Council and Committee of the Whole Meetings are live-streamed on the Town's website, and the meeting recording is posted to the Town website following the meeting.

For meeting times, please call (519) 599-3131 Extension 232 or check the Town website at [www.thebluemountains.ca](http://www.thebluemountains.ca)



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### The Blue Mountains Fire Department – Fire Prevention Inspections

Your TBM Fire Department does a lot more than just FIRE. TBM Fire Prevention conducts more than 500 Fire Safety Inspections each year.

Fire Prevention Inspections aren't just a checklist; they're a key part of Community Risk Reduction.

TBM Fire Prevention visits businesses and properties on request, proactively, for licensing requirements, and on referral or complaint. The inspections are aimed at ensuring life safety systems are working, they are maintained, impairments and hazards are addressed and corrected, and risks are effectively mitigated before an emergency happens.

Fire Prevention inspections help to protect you, your property and our firefighters.

Fire Prevention and Education is the first step to saving lives!

If you have questions or concerns regarding fire safety, please reach out to TBM Fire Prevention at [firepreventio@thebluemountains.ca](mailto:firepreventio@thebluemountains.ca)  
TBM Fire Prevention phone: (519) 599-3131 ext. 9016



**February 13, 2026 - 10am to 12pm**  
**L.E. Shore Library**

[thebluemountains.ca/special-events](http://thebluemountains.ca/special-events)

## Volunteer Recognition Awards & Fair

**April 22, 2026**

**Nominations for the Volunteer Recognition Awards and applications to have a booth at the fair will be open until March 6, 2026.**

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



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## Moreau Park Revitalization Design Open House

With the support of the Thornbury-Clarksburg Rotary Club and other community organizations, the Town plans to revitalize Moreau Park in Thornbury. Proposed elements include a new skate park for all ages and abilities, a year-round walking path, new plantings and an accessible playground.

Come see the preliminary designs, ask questions and provide feedback at our Design Open House.

Unable to attend in person?  
View the designs online as of February 12  
and provide feedback at:

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



### Event Details

Thursday, February 19, 2026  
5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Beaver Valley Community  
Centre - Large Hall





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## Who Else Knows the Plan

Mary recently watched a close friend lose their partner—the one person who knew everything about their financial life. They did have an advisor, but only for investments. When their partner passed, they were left trying to piece together accounts, documents, and contacts they'd never seen before. They didn't know where anything was, who to call, or even what questions to ask. The stress of simply trying to locate assets was overwhelming. Hearing them describe that experience stayed with Mary.

It made her wonder what would happen if something happened to her partner, John—the one who manages every detail in their household.

John has always been a committed DIY investor. He tracks markets, manages their accounts, and keeps their financial world running smoothly. But now in his early 70s, the constant upkeep has started to feel more draining than rewarding. He wants more time for life, not spreadsheets.

When we met, the goal wasn't to replace what John had built—it was to make sure Mary wouldn't be left trying to untangle it alone. Together, we simplified their accounts, organized their tax strategy, clarified their estate plan, and created a roadmap Mary could follow with confidence. For the first time, she felt she could step in if needed without fear or confusion.

John now enjoys the relief of knowing Mary won't be left scrambling. And because I live right here in Thornbury, support is close by—someone they can meet with in person, not a voice in a call centre.

Many people reach this same crossroads—whether they've managed everything themselves for years or they work with an advisor who focuses only on investments. Life gets more complex, the "what if" questions get louder, and gaps that once felt small start to matter, especially when one person knows everything. If you've been thinking about how prepared your household would be, it may be worth taking the time to make sure everything fits together in a clear, workable plan.

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

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## VALENTINE'S *by Alice Otrysko*

Valentine's Day also called St. Valentine's, is celebrated each year on February 14. It is a celebration which originated as a Christian Feast Day in honour of Valentine who died as a martyr.

Later on through folk traditions it has become a significant, cultural and religious day focusing on love, romance and gift giving throughout the world.

Saint Valentine was a martyr who was imprisoned in Rome under the Roman Empire. He performed miracles including restoring sight to the blind daughter of his jailer.

Tradition holds that Valentine performed weddings for Christian soldiers who were forbidden to marry by the Roman emperor. His signature included "Your Valentine" which has been adopted since then when exchanging notes or cards with your loved one.

The Catholic Church recognized at least three different saints named Valentinus, all of whom were martyred.

One legend contends that Valntine was a priest who served during the 3<sup>rd</sup> century Rome. When the then Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families, he outlawed marriage for young men.

Valentine defied Claudius and continue to marry couples in secret and for that he was executed.

Others contend that Valentine was a bishop and he was beheaded by Claudius for refusing to renounce his faith.

Other legends and stories contend that Valentine might have been killed for attempting to help Christians escape the harsh Roman prisons and tortures. Apparently he had sent a love letter to a young girl who visited him in prison. The letter was signed "From your Valentine", as usual.

Valentine's Day is celebrated in the middle of February to commemorate the anniversary of Valentine's death which probably occurred around A.D. 270 .

Other stories claim the Christian church might have decided to place St. Valentine's feast day in the middle of February in an effort to make Christian the pagan holiday of Lupercalia, a fertility festival celebrated February 15.

During the Middle Ages a common belief across France and England held that February 14 was the beginning of birds' mating season which added to the fact that Valentine's Day should be an occasion for romance.

Cupid is often seen on Valentine cards. The Roman god Cupid was the Greek god of love, Eros. According to Greek legend, Eros was a handsome immortal who played with emotions of gods and men using golden arrows to incite love. It was not until the Hellenistic period that he began to be portrayed as the mischievous, chubby child often seen on Valentine cards.

According to Hallmark, more than 145 million Valentine Day cards are sent each year which is the second largest card sending holiday after Christmas.

Red roses, chocolates and cards are the traditional ways today of expressing your love and admiration for friends. Family and lovers.

As a teacher in Elementary Schools, we always celebrated Valentine's Day and the children were very excited to be exchanging cards. Mothers often brought candy and chocolates to school and the teacher received red or pink roses. Some schools cancelled that celebration claiming that any child who did not receive a card felt left out. Some schools discourage mothers bringing cakes and sweets concerned about the nutrition value of those sweets.

Valentine's Day should be a happy occasion. It brings joy in the winter season which at times seems to be dreary and cold.

I've always thought of Valentine's Day as a happy day and encourage everyone to honour it even with just a smile.





# 2026 WINTER COURSES

## AGRICULTURE & LIVESTOCK

- Preparing for Calving (Feb 12)
- Chronic Diseases of Sheep (Feb 17)
- Economics of Dairy Goat Farming (Feb 25)
- Conditions of the Equine Foot (Feb 26)
- Building for the Future: Considerations for New Dairy Barns (Mar 9)
- Separating the Grain from the Chaff – Soil Health (Mar 10)
- Modernizing Your Dairy Barn (Mar 23)
- Economics of Feeding Beef Calves (Mar 24)
- Starting a Cut-Flower Business (Apr 9)

## HOMESTEADING

- Composting: From Scraps to Soil (Feb 24)
- Hand Stitches for Mending & Sewing (Mar 11)
- Raising Rabbits (Mar 14)
- Gardening: Small Space, Big Impact (Mar 31)

- FARM TOUR INCL.
- LUNCH INCL.
- AVAILABLE ONLINE

## COMMUNITY & WELLNESS

- Scamdemic: Fighting Fraud (Feb 10)
- In The Know – Mental Health (Mar 26)

SCAN TO VIEW  
FULL DETAILS &  
REGISTER ONLINE



- ✓ Affordable pricing - many courses only \$20
- ✓ Open to Everyone
- ✓ Practical learning!

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## FRIDAY LUNCHES

On these cold winter days, The Legion is, once again, running its Friday Lunches. Drop in for a hot bowl of soup or chili, bread roll, dessert for \$10, Friday at Noon through February & March, while stock last.



## VETERANS' COFFEE/LUNCH

Starting on Thursday March 19<sup>th</sup> from 11.00am, Branch 281 will host a coffee/lunch, monthly, free of charge, for veterans. All veterans are welcome, whether or not you are a Legion member. Come out for a chat and comradeship. 202 Marsh Street, Clarksburg

**COUNCIL CAFÉ**

Join the Mayor and members of Council for coffee, tea and casual conversation.

February 13, 2026 - 10am to 12pm  
L.E. Shore Library

## Winter Woolies Workshops at L.E. Shore Public Library with Kimber Valley Farms!



Felted Gnomes  
January 30th  
1:00 - 4:30pm



Felted Bunny  
February 13th  
1:00 - 4:30pm



Learn to Knit  
February 27th  
1:00 - 3:30pm

BOOK ONLINE: [kimbervalleyfarms.ca/workshops](http://kimbervalleyfarms.ca/workshops)

No experience necessary!

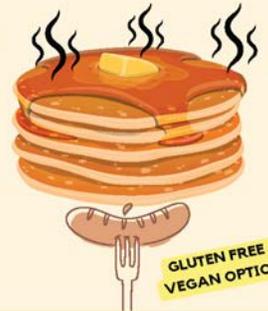
Learn about our unique Icelandic sheep and their amazing wool!

We provide all materials, tools and instruction and wool is provided compliments of our sheep, of course!

You will make a one-of-a-kind item to take home.



## SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER



**FEBRUARY 17<sup>TH</sup> (5-7PM)**  
**BEAVER VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**FREE COMMUNITY DINNER**  
**(DONATIONS WELCOME!)**  
**ALL PROCEEDS TO SUPPORT**  
**"EVENTS FOR LIFE"**



**IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE**  
**TOWN OF THE BLUE MOUNTAINS FIRE DEPT**  
**AND OUR LOCAL FIRST RESPONDERS**

# CHASING THE STARS

Light Pollution & What We Can Do  
with AstroGeoGuy Chris Vaughan

THURS FEB 19 | 6 PM

L.E. SHORE LIBRARY  
REGISTRATION REQUIRED



L.E. Shore Memorial Library  
519-599-3681  
thebluemountainslibrary.ca  
173 Bruce St S, Thornbury, ON N0H 2P0

## EVENT IN SUPPORT OF TOMORROW'S HOSPITAL

The CGMH Foundation is excited to highlight the upcoming event that gives the community an opportunity to come together in support of Tomorrow's Hospital. Proceeds from this event will contribute to the Foundation's \$100+ million campaign to build a new, state-of-the-art facility for South Georgian Bay. **Backspin** will perform live at Side Launch Brewing Company on **Friday, February 20th, at 7:30pm**. Guests can enjoy craft beer from the cash bar and bites from Mamacita Tacoria's food truck. Tickets are \$25 per person, must be purchased in advance, and the event is open to all ages.

For tickets visit [cgmhf.com/events.on.ca](http://cgmhf.com/events.on.ca) 705-444-8645



Early  
ON  
Child and Family Centre

TODDLERS

FEB  
20th

## Take Over the Library

A fun-filled afternoon for toddlers to learn, play, and grow!

Language skills

social skills

Physical skills.

1:30-2:30pm

Blue Mountain Public Library



226-974-7767

earlyon@bvo.ca

bvo.ca

Thornbury Spark, Ember,  
Guide, Pathfinder

Girl Guides

70<sup>th</sup> Annual

# Thinking Day Tea and Bake Sale

Saturday, Feb 21<sup>st</sup>, 2-4pm



St. Paul's  
Presbyterian  
Church

165 Russell Street E., Thornbury

Bring re-usable bags for baking!



## Music at Grace

presents a

## Mid-Winter Concert

featuring local talent

Christopher Burton & Kerri McGonigle



Pianist



Cellist

Sunday February 22nd, 3:00pm

Grace United Church

140 Bruce St. S., Thornbury

Tickets: \$40 Adults; \$25 Students

Available at the church office Tues. and Wed.

Online at [graceunitedthornbury.ca](http://graceunitedthornbury.ca) through Eventbrite

Thornbury Pharmasave

and at the door

# LUNCH BUNCH

4th Tuesday

FEBRUARY 24TH AT NOON

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



**GREEN BURIAL**  
OUR LOCAL ECO-FRIENDLY  
RESTFUL OPTION

LEARN DETAILS FROM CANN'S GREEN BURIAL TEAM

For most of Human History, death was as natural as birth but in the last 100 years new traditions were adopted that left a heavy footprint on our planet. Find out how we can go back to a more "earth friendly" option.



**10:00 AM- 12:00PM**  
**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27**

FREE ADMISSION  
ALL ARE WELCOME!

LOCATION:  
L.E.SHORE LIBRARY  
173 BRUCE ST. S  
THORNBURY

# OPENING TO THE MYSTERY

A stage performance with author Jake McArthur with music by Violet Roseman on loss, love, spirits, and the quiet moments that still connect us

**Thursday February 26**  
**6-8pm**



Admission is Free  
Register Here  
or online via  
our website



L.E. Shore Memorial Library  
519-599-3681  
thebluemountainslibrary.ca  
173 Bruce St S, Thornbury, ON N0H 2P0



**TBM Repair Café**  
140 Bruce St. S. Thornbury

**Saturday, February 28**  
**9am-Noon**

Bring broken items for free repair  
and enjoy a snack.

Go **Green** for a better **Blue!**  
[www.repaircafethebluemountains.ca](http://www.repaircafethebluemountains.ca)

**Pretzel Logic**

Doors 6:30 pm Band 7:30 pm

**Saturday, Feb 28th, 2026**

Advance \$45 Door \$50  
Tickets: [www.marshstreetcentre.com](http://www.marshstreetcentre.com)

**International Women's Day**  
**TRIBUTE CONCERT**

**MARCH 5TH, 1PM AT THE MARSH**

**KRISTA BLONDIN'S**  
TRIBUTE TO  
CANADIAN WOMEN  
IN MUSIC

doors: 1pm  
showtime: 2pm

Kick-off concert to  
"Women of Distinction"  
Speaker Series

**FRIDAY MARCH 7TH** (doors open at 6:30) the Documentary called ***We Lend a Hand: The Forgotten Story of the Ontario Farmerettes*** will be shown at the Marsh Street Centre in Clarksburg - brought to you by the Meaford Theatre Company- accompanied by the author (Bonnie Sitter)  
 Tickets \$20 available at the Book Hive in Meaford or on line at: [www.3common.com/farmerette](http://www.3common.com/farmerette) or at the door



Coming March  
2026

INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY SPEAKER SERIES

# Lead Like Her



## Lead Like Her – Celebrating

### International Women’s Day in The Blue Mountains

They didn’t set out to break barriers, though many of them did. They followed their curiosity, pursued their passions, and built careers doing work they love.

Lead Like Her brings together a group of remarkable women who are sharing their stories of challenge, growth, and success in non-traditional careers. Through honest conversation and lived experience, these women offer insight, inspiration, and encouragement for the next generation of leaders.

Presented in celebration of International Women’s Day and Women’s History Month, Lead Like Her is a partnership between the Blue Mountains Public Library, the Blue Mountains Chamber of Commerce, and the Marsh Street Community Centre.

The series begins on International Women’s Day, March 8 at 2:00 p.m., with an afternoon concert at the Marsh Street Community Centre: **A Tribute to Canadian Women in Music**, featuring Krista Blondin. Tickets: Students \$20; Adults \$30

The celebration continues with four speaker events on consecutive Thursday evenings:

**March 12 – Mary Hindle, Firefighter**

L.E. Shore Library | 6:00 p.m.

**March 19 – Dr. Barbara Zimmerman, Naturalist & Researcher**

Marsh Street Centre | 7:00 p.m.

**March 26 – Local Business Leaders:** Morgan Anderson, Meredith

Brown, Heather McIlwee & Diane Scott

L.E. Shore Library | 6:00 p.m.

**April 2 – Major Deanna Brasseur (Ret’d), Fighter Pilot**

Marsh Street Centre | 7:00 p.m.

Speaker events are \$15 per event or \$45 for all four, with discounted student pricing available.

Tickets for the concert and speaker series are available at [www.marshstreetcentre.com](http://www.marshstreetcentre.com)

Proceeds from Lead Like Her will support My Friend’s House, a women’s shelter in Collingwood, and the Marsh Street Centre, a self-funded not-for-profit organization.

These speakers are groundbreakers. Women who have forged their own paths and are ready to share what they’ve learned along the way.

Join us. Listen. Learn. And get inspired to lead like her.

**Lead Like Her is generously sponsored by Trueland Wealth Management and Normerica Timber Homes.**

**SATURDAY MARCH 14, 2026**  
**MAGGIE'S WAKE**  
**MAGGIE'S WAKE**  
 DOORS 6:30  
 SHOW 7:30  
 TICKETS  
 \$35 ADVANCE  
 \$40 DOORS  
**2025**  
 prix folk awards  
 WINNERS  
 ON SALE NOW AT  
[WWW.MARSHSTREETCENTRE.COM](http://WWW.MARSHSTREETCENTRE.COM)

**MARSH STREET CENTRE**  
 COMMUNITY • CREATIVITY • CULTURE  
**ABBA**  
**REVISITED**  
**Sat, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026**  
 Doors 7:00 pm  
 Band 8:00 pm  
 Advance \$50  
 Door \$60  
 Tickets: [www.marshstreetcentre.com](http://www.marshstreetcentre.com)

**SATURDAY**  
**MAY 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026**  
 6TH ANNUAL  
**LOBSTER FEST**  
**ORDER ONLINE** **TAKE OUT**  
**FOR INFORMATION CALL 519-599-3345**  
[www.lobsterfestblue.ca](http://www.lobsterfestblue.ca)

# THE MARKET ON MARSH UPCOMING EVENTS

188 MARSH ST, CLARKSBURG

FEB  
4-22

**CHEER ON TEAM CANADA**  
WE'LL BE PLAYING THE WINTER GAMES  
IN STORE (DURING OPEN HOURS)

FEB  
21

**ENDURO ESPRESSO'S  
ROMANCE BOOK SWAP**  
10 AM - 12 PM BRING A BOOK, TAKE A BOOK

LUNCH - GROCERY - COFFEE - FROZEN MEALS

## GEORGIAN HILLS

VINEYARDS



**OPEN ALL WINTER!**

Thursday to Sunday 11am to 5pm

Join us for tastings, pairings or lunch!  
SATURDAYS UNCORKED with Live Music  
Jan 24 - Mar 21 2 to 5pm

For Reservations and Menu visit [www.georgianhillsvineyards.ca](http://www.georgianhillsvineyards.ca)

[joshejoshdolan.com](http://joshejoshdolan.com)

705-446-8404

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THORBURY MEAFORD COLLINGWOOD

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## March 27 - 29, 2026

The 8th annual 24H BLUE MTN returns as a high-energy, weekend-long fundraising festival.

Ski, ride, and compete in team challenges, then keep the celebration going with live entertainment and Village nightlife.

All proceeds support Special Olympics and local charities through the Blue Mountain Village Foundation.

Join the  
Movement &  
Register Now!



[24hbluemtn.ca](http://24hbluemtn.ca)