



April 1, 2026

Mayor Andrea Matrosovs and Council
Town of The Blue Mountains
32 Mill Street
Thornbury, ON N0H 2P0
RE: Thornbury BIA, New Board Member Appointments

Dear Mayor and Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains,

At the April 1st, 2026, Thornbury Business Improvement Area Board Meeting, the Board passed the following motion to request Council to appoint Andrea Fernandes, Jaime Sirna, and Ingrid Bromse to the Board of Directors. Please see the motion below for Council consideration.

THAT the Thornbury Business Improvement Area Board requests that Council appoint Andrea Fernandes, Jaime Sirna, and Ingrid Bromse as Directors to the Thornbury Business Improvement Area Board for the remainder of the 2022-2026 Term of Council.

We welcome the interest, enthusiasm, and expertise of Andrea, Jaime, and Ingrid.

Submitted on behalf of the board of management.

Sincerely,

Niki Hilton

General Manager, Thornbury BIA
info@thornbury.ca



www.on.legion.ca

The Royal Canadian Legion Ontario Command

“Military Service Recognition Book”

Dear Sir/Madam:

Thank you for your interest in **The Royal Canadian Legion Ontario Command**, representing **Ontario’s Veterans**. Please accept this written request for your support, as per our recent telephone conversation.

The Royal Canadian Legion Ontario Command is very proud to be once again printing over **10,000 copies of our 14th annual “Military Service Recognition Book”**, scheduled for release by October 2027. This unique remembrance publication recognizes and honours our Province's Veterans and helps us fulfill the Legion's role as the **"Keepers of Remembrance"**. Proceeds raised from this annual appeal are also used to support Veterans Transition Programs to help modern day Veterans that suffer from PTSD and other challenges.

The Legion is recognized as one of Canada’s largest Veterans Support Organizations and we are an integral part of the communities we serve. This project helps ensure the Legion’s continued success. We would like to have your organization's support for this Remembrance project by sponsoring an advertisement space in our **"Military Service Recognition Book."**

Please find enclosed a rate sheet for your review. Whatever you are able to contribute to this worthwhile endeavor would be greatly appreciated. For further information please contact **Ontario Command Campaign Office** toll free at **1-855-241-6967**.

Thank you for your consideration and/or support.

Sincerely,

Lynn McClellan
President



MSR Guide



www.on.legion.ca

The Royal Canadian Legion Ontario Command

“Military Service Recognition Book”

Advertising Prices

<u>Ad Size</u>	<u>Cost</u>		<u>HST</u>		<u>Total</u>
Full Colour Outside Back Cover	\$2,579.65	+	\$335.35	=	\$2,915.00
Inside Front/Back Cover (Full Colour)	\$2,243.36	+	\$291.64	=	\$2,535.00
2 Page Spread (Full Colour)	\$3,588.50	+	\$466.50	=	\$4,055.00
Full Page (Full Colour) 7" X 9.735"	\$1,765.49	+	\$229.51	=	\$1,995.00
½ Page (Full Colour) 7" X 4.735"	\$969.03	+	\$125.97	=	\$1,095.00
¼ Page (Full Colour) 3.375" X 4.735"	\$575.22	+	\$74.78	=	\$650.00
1/10 Page (Full Colour b/card) 1.735" X 4.735"	\$349.56	+	\$45.44	=	\$395.00

H.S.T. Registration # 10686 2824 RT0001

All typesetting and layout charges are included in the above prices.

A complimentary copy of this year’s publication will be received by all advertisers purchasing space of 1/10 page and up, along with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Ontario Command.



PLEASE MAKE CHEQUE PAYABLE TO:

The Royal Canadian Legion
Ontario Command
(RCL ON)
(Campaign Office)
P O Box 8055, Station T CSC
Ottawa, ON K1G 3H6



Carrie Fairley

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: April 1, 2026 9:48 AM
To: Town Clerk
Subject: Ontario Heritage Tree in Ravenna, TOBM
Attachments: FO_HTP_CERTIFICATE_HT-2021-263-271_REDUCED_FINAL.pdf; Forests Ontario Designation Letter_June 2023.pdf

Good morning, Corrina,

I've been meaning to write this letter for over a year now but was finally spurred to action when I saw that the Town of the Blue Mountains is applying for an Ontario Heritage designation for a tree on High Bluff Lane. Did you know the TOBM has another tree of such distinction?

The Royal Oak tree on our old schoolhouse property at [REDACTED] Ravenna, has also been recognized as an official Ontario Heritage tree. It was official in June 2023, but I have been saving the announcement for the Centennial anniversary of the Ravenna Schoolhouse which is May of 2027.

The plaque dedication will be part of the 100th celebrations next year, but as you are working on another application, I felt it was time to share. Can you please present the attached documents and my email as official correspondence at the next appropriate council meeting?

Further to the tree news, I would like to let council know that I am planning a celebratory event in May 2027. Date TBA. If council has any suggestions or would like to be involved, please let me know. Otherwise, I am thinking about a public "doors open" event. There are still many residents in town who attended this school – right up until its auction in 1968. If there is someone I should liaise with over the next year, please do let me know that as well.

Thank you very much and I do apologize for not bringing this to your attention sooner.

Laura & Michael Lucas
[REDACTED]
Ravenna, ON, N0H 2E0
[REDACTED]



15 Maple Ave Unit #103
Barrie, ON L4N 2N6

www.forestsontario.ca

June 19, 2023

Laura Lucas



Dear Laura,

Thank you for nominating your remarkable English Oak (HT-2021-263-271) for our Heritage Tree Program. We are pleased to inform you that following an evaluation of cultural and historical significance your nominated tree is now **recognized as a Heritage Tree**. Congratulations!

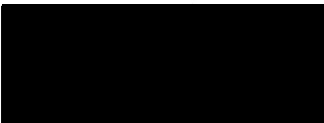
Forests Ontario and our partners collect and share the stories of important Heritage Trees across Ontario, and your tree has been added to our digital Heritage Tree map which can be found at <https://forestsontario.ca/en/program/heritage-tree>.

In acknowledgement of the importance of Heritage Trees in the communities in which they grow we have enclosed a certificate and tree tag. If you wish you may attach the tag to the tree at eye-level – approximately 5 feet up from the ground – allowing community members to also recognize its significance. Suggested attachment instructions can be found enclosed in this package.

Of course, feel free to share a photo of your tree on social media and tag Forests Ontario (@Forests_Ontario) with the hashtag #HeritageTree. We also encourage you to reach out to your local media and community to help celebrate your tree; if you need any assistance in this regard, our communications team is more than happy to help get you started.

Your nomination adds to the growing number of Heritage Trees collectively telling the story of Ontario's rich, natural heritage. These trees are of tremendous value, not just to our urban tree canopy, but to the cultural fabric of our communities. Thank you again for your participation and hearty congratulations!

Warm regards,



Jessica Kaknevicus
CEO
Forests Ontario



Recognized Heritage Tree

English Oak, *Quercus robur*

HT-2021-263-271

This enchanting English Oak is believed to be more than 80 years old, and although it may still be a relatively young tree, it has a noble history.

In the late 1930s, King George IV and Queen Elizabeth gifted acorns from the Royal Forest to various schools. The seeds were given to the school boards chairperson with the expectation they would be planted in the school yard. Thomas and Mary Gould, a local family, were gifted two acorns which they sprouted in a flowerpot near their kitchen window. Once the trees were strong enough, they were planted in front of the Ravenna Schoolhouse, now in Grey County. Although one did not survive, the other continues to grow today.

This impressive English Oak that once grew in the Gould's kitchen, now towers over the property, providing both people and wildlife an astounding view. Former students say that they were never allowed to climb the tree due to its historical significance and its noble origin. 2027 will mark the Centennial of the current Ravenna Schoolhouse.



www.heritagetree.ca

Circumference: 302 cm

Height: 13.5 m



BY EMAIL

April 10, 2026

Council for the Town of The Blue Mountains
32 Mill Street
Thornbury, ON N0H 2P0

Dear Members of Council for the Town of The Blue Mountains:

Re: Closed meeting complaint

My Office received a complaint about a closed meeting held by council for the Town of The Blue Mountains (the “Town”) on October 21, 2024. The complaint alleged that council held a closed session vote contrary to the open meeting rules in the *Municipal Act, 2001* (the “Act”) to cancel the Campus of Care project.¹

The Campus of Care project involved the sale of land owned by the Town for the development of a long-term care facility. The project was initiated in 2022, and at the time of the October 21, 2024 meeting, the Town was conducting negotiations with developers to sell the land. On November 8, 2024, the Town announced that negotiations for the Campus of Care project had been terminated.²

I am writing to advise that my review has determined that council did not contravene the Act during its meeting on October 21, 2024.

Ombudsman’s role and authority

The Act gives anyone the right to request an investigation into whether a municipality has complied with the open meeting rules in closing a meeting to the public. Municipalities may appoint their own investigator. The Act designates the Ombudsman as the default investigator for municipalities that have not appointed their own. My Office is the closed meeting investigator for the Town of The Blue Mountains.

¹ SO 2001, c 25 [*Municipal Act, 2001*].

² Campus of Care Project Update Report, online: <<https://www.thebluemountains.ca/town-hall/news-notices/campus-care-project-update-report>>.

My Office has investigated hundreds of closed meetings since 2008. To assist municipal councils, staff, and the public, we have developed an online digest of open meeting cases. This searchable repository was created to provide easy access to the Ombudsman's decisions on, and interpretations of, the open meeting rules. Council members and staff can consult the digest to inform their discussions and decisions on whether certain matters can or should be discussed in closed session, as well as issues related to open meeting procedures. Summaries of the Ombudsman's previous decisions can be found in the digest: www.ombudsman.on.ca/en/info-public-bodies-and-officials/municipal-government/municipal-meeting-digest.

The Ontario Ombudsman also has the authority to conduct impartial reviews and investigations of hundreds of public sector bodies. This includes municipalities, local boards, and municipally-controlled corporations, as well as provincial government organizations, publicly funded universities, and school boards. In addition, the Ombudsman's mandate includes reviewing complaints about the services provided by children's aid societies and residential licensees, and the provision of French language services under the *French Language Services Act*. Read more about the bodies within our jurisdiction here: www.ombudsman.on.ca/en/make-complaint/what-we-can-help-you/organizations-you-can-complain-about.

Review

My Office reviewed the materials from the meeting on October 21, 2024, including closed session and open session minutes. We also reviewed a video recording of the closed session and spoke with the Town's Clerk. We commend the Town for its practice of making recordings of its closed meetings, as this provides investigators with an accurate and complete meeting record.

October 21, 2024 council meeting

Council met on October 21, 2024. During the meeting, council passed a resolution to move into closed session. The complaint to my Office pertains to council's closed session discussion about a staff report regarding the Campus of Care. According to the video recording of the closed session, council received an update from staff about the negotiations with the developers to sell the land for development into the Campus of Care. Staff shared legal advice from the Town's solicitor and made recommendations to council regarding options for next steps. The video recording and the closed meeting minutes show that council held a vote directing staff to take specific steps with respect to the negotiation.

Council relied on three open meeting exceptions to hold the discussion in closed session: (1) plans or instructions for negotiations; (2) acquisition or disposition of land; and (3) advice subject to solicitor-client privilege.

The purpose of the exception for plans and instructions for negotiations at paragraph 239(2)(k) of the Act is to allow “a municipality to protect information that could undermine its bargaining position or give another party an unfair advantage over the municipality during an ongoing negotiation.”³ In order for the exception to apply, the municipality must show that the following conditions are met:

- i. The *in camera* discussion was about positions, plans, procedures, criteria, or instructions;
- ii. The positions, plans, procedures, criteria, or instructions are intended to be applied to negotiations;
- iii. The negotiations are being carried on currently, or will be carried on in future; and
- iv. The negotiations are being conducted by or on behalf of the municipality.⁴

In this case, council discussed potential courses of action for the Campus of Care project based on information shared by staff. This discussion concerned the Town’s position regarding ongoing negotiations with the developers and the developers’ requests. Accordingly, this discussion fit within the exception for plans and instructions for negotiations.

Both the exception for acquisition or disposition of land and the exception for solicitor-client privilege also applied to the discussion.

The purpose of the exception for acquisition or disposition of land at paragraph 239(2)(c) of the Act is to protect a municipality’s bargaining position during negotiations to purchase or sell land.⁵ My review confirmed that council’s closed session discussion involved the negotiations and pending sale of Town-owned land for the Campus of Care. As there was a specific land transaction under consideration, the Town’s discussion fit into this exception.

The exception for advice subject to solicitor-client privilege at paragraph 239(2)(f) applies to discussions between a municipality and its lawyer in seeking or receiving legal advice intended to be confidential.⁶ It is not necessary that the municipality’s lawyer be present in order for the exception to apply. I have previously found that the exception for advice subject to solicitor-client privilege can apply to circumstances where staff conveys

³ *Grey Highlands (Municipality of) (Re)*, 2021 ONOMBUD 11 at para 17, online: <<https://canlii.ca/t/jfzr8>>.

⁴ *St. Catharines (City of)*, 2019 ONOMBUD 1 (CanLII), at paras 30-31, online: <<https://canlii.ca/t/hxrk5>>.

⁵ *Fort Erie (Town of) (Re)*, 2018 ONOMBUD 2, online: <<https://canlii.ca/t/hvmtm>>.

⁶ *Amherstburg (Town of) (Re)*, 2022 ONOMBUD 11 at para 26, online: <<https://canlii.ca/t/jr5rc>>.

communications or advice from a solicitor to a council.⁷ In this case, during the closed session, staff presented council with legal advice obtained from the Town's solicitor regarding the Campus of Care negotiations. Council considered the legal advice during its discussion.

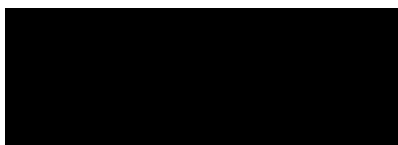
The Act does not allow voting during closed session unless the meeting was permitted to be closed under one of the open meeting exceptions and the vote pertains to a procedural matter or for giving directions to employees of the municipality.⁸ In this case, council was permitted to discuss the matter in closed session, and the vote directed staff to take specific steps in the Town's negotiations with the developers for the Campus of Care project. Accordingly, the closed session vote met the requirements of the Act and was permissible.

Conclusion

Council for the Town of The Blue Mountains did not contravene the *Municipal Act, 2001* on October 21, 2024 when it voted in closed session.

The Clerk indicated that this letter will be shared with council and placed on the agenda for the next council meeting, and that a copy will be made available to the public prior to that meeting. At that time, I will also post a copy of this letter on my website at www.ombudsman.on.ca.

Sincerely,



Barbara Finlay
Acting Ombudsman of Ontario

CC: Corrina Giles, Town Clerk, Town of the Blue Mountains

⁷ See, for example: *Owen Sound (City of) (Re)*, 2015 ONOMBUD 36 at paras 20-21, online: <<https://canlii.ca/t/gtp7l>>; *Collingwood (Town of) (Re)*, 2022 ONOMBUD 1 at para 42, online: <<https://canlii.ca/t/jlvk1>>; and Letter from the Ontario Ombudsman to the Town of Grimsby (29 November 2023), online: <<https://www.ombudsman.on.ca/en/our-work/municipal-meetings/town-grimsby-november-29-2023>>.

⁸ *Municipal Act, 2001*, s 239(4)(a).