



Staff Report

Administration – Town Clerk

Report To: Committee of the Whole
Meeting Date: March 9, 2021
Report Number: FAF.21.042
Title: 2022 Municipal Election – Alternative Voting Method & Use of Vote Counting Equipment
Prepared by: Corrina Giles, Town Clerk

A. Recommendations

THAT Council receive Staff Report FAF.21.042, entitled “2022 Municipal Election – Alternative Voting Method & Use of Vote Counting Equipment”;

AND THAT Council direct the Town Clerk to request input from electors of the Town of The Blue Mountains on their preferred method of voting for the 2022 Municipal Election through a survey posted to the Town website;

AND THAT Council direct the Town Clerk to provide a followup report to a future Committee of the Whole meeting with the survey results, for Council consideration.

B. Overview

This report seeks Council direction to receive input from electors in the Town of The Blue Mountains as to their preferred method of voting for the 2022 Municipal Election. A person is entitled to be an elector at an election in a local municipality if, on voting day the person:

- a. resides in the local municipality or is the owner or tenant of land there, or the spouse of such owner or tenant;
- b. is a Canadian citizen;
- c. is at least 18 years old; and
- d. is not prohibited from voting under the *Municipal Elections Act*, or otherwise by law.

C. Background

The 2022 municipal election is October 24, 2022. The *Municipal Elections Act* provides that the Council of a local municipality may pass by-laws authorizing the use of voting and vote-counting equipment such as voting machines, voting recorders or optical scanning vote tabulators, and authorizing electors to use an alternative voting method, (i.e. vote by mail, telephone or internet), that does not require electors to attend at a voting place in order to vote. A by-law authorizing the use of voting, vote-counting equipment and alternative voting methods applies

to a regular election if the by-law is passed on or before May 1 in the year of the election (by May 1, 2022).

The 2018 municipal election was the first election that telephone and internet voting was utilized in a Town of The Blue Mountains municipal election. The 2006, 2010, and 2014 municipal elections were conducted using vote by mail, with the use of tabulators.

The following is a summary of the voter turnout for the previous four elections:

2006	34.24%
2010	38.81%
2014	37.85%
2018	39.66%,

Though a significant slow-down was experienced on the 2018 municipal election day requiring the Clerk to declare an emergency and extend the vote for one additional day, it was confirmed that the municipal election was never compromised. Attached is Staff Report "FAF.18.148 Follow-up to The Blue Mountains' 2018 Municipal and School Board Election" that provides a summary of the 2018 municipal and school board election.

D. Analysis

This staff report is provided to Council well in advance of the May 1, 2022 deadline to pass a by-law authorizing the use of vote counting equipment and alternative voting methods. To increase public engagement in the municipal election, staff are recommending that a survey be conducted to receive input from electors in The Blue Mountains on the preferred method of voting for the 2022 municipal election. Staff will provide a followup report to a future Committee of the Whole meeting with the results of the survey, to assist Council in making a decision on the method of voting in the municipal election.

As referenced in the attached Staff Report, though some concerns were raised by the public with the choice of telephone and internet voting in the 2018 municipal election, staff feel that the 2018 municipal election was a success.

The Town utilizes the Municipal VoterView software program that assists with elector, candidate and worker management, and assists with data cleansing of the voters list (identifies duplicate electors, elector data errors). The use of Municipal VoterView was paramount and worked seamlessly in the vote by mail elections (2006, 2010 and 2014), and the more recent telephone and internet election (2018).

The Town Clerk must ensure that the municipal election process is accessible to the voters, that the secrecy and confidentiality of the voting is maintained, and that the integrity of the process is maintained throughout the election.

Council may consider a variety of voting methods that are summarized below for information.

Internet and/or Telephone Voting:

Electors are mailed a “Voter Information Letter” that provides the elector with a Voter ID and PIN number, together with the list of candidates. Electors use the information contained on their Voter Information Letter, together with a third identifier (in 2018 it was year of birth) to allow the elector to vote via Internet or Telephone. Internet and telephone voting provides voter convenience, improved accessibility, enhanced voter privacy, reduction in ballot errors and spoiled ballots and improvements to the efficiency of elections. Internet and telephone voting extends the voting period for electors, allowing electors to cast their votes much closer to the close of voting, ensures that persons with disabilities are able to vote and have the same convenience as other electors, provides increased convenience for non-residents. Internet and telephone voting decreases the number of staff required to manage the election. Electronic tabulation of the vote eliminates errors in a manual count, and provides an accurate and quick publication of election results.

The Council Chamber was set up as a Voting Centre that allowed voters to attend to utilize Town devices to vote, and receive assistance, if requested.

Staff work very closely with the Town’s IT Department to ensure all risks are addressed in an Internet and/or telephone Voting Election.

Vote by Mail:

The Vote by Mail voting method was successfully used in the 2006, 2010 and 2014 municipal elections in The Blue Mountains. Each elector is mailed a “Voter Kit” several weeks in advance of voting day. The Voter Kit includes a ballot, security declaration and pre-paid return envelope. The elector is required to sign their declaration, complete their ballot, and return the pre-paid envelope containing the declaration and ballot to the Town via Canada Post, or by dropping it off to the Town Hall, on or in advance of the close of voting on election day. Vote by mail provides voter convenience, improved accessibility, enhanced voter privacy, and efficiency of elections. Vote by mail provides increased convenience for non-residents.

Vote by mail is convenient for electors on the voters list, with no additional accessibility provisions required to be considered for the election. When tabulators are utilized to count the ballots, vote by mail elections do not require a significant amount of additional staffing.

Vote in Person:

A Vote in Person election is the most traditional of all voting methods, requiring an elector to attend a polling station, either through advance polls, or on Election Day to cast their vote. Because of the number of Blue Mountains electors that reside elsewhere, a Vote in Person election is not recommended by Staff.

E. Strategic Priorities

1. Communication and Engagement

We will enhance communications and engagement between Town Staff, Town residents and stakeholders

F. Environmental Impacts

None

G. Financial Impacts

Approximately \$500 for communications to advertise the survey, plus staff time to prepare and release the survey and compile survey results.

H. In Consultation With

Shawn Everitt, CAO

Tim Hendry, Manager of Communications

I. Public Engagement

The topic of this Staff Report has not been the subject of a Public Meeting and/or a Public Information Centre as neither a Public Meeting nor a Public Information Centre are required. Staff recommend releasing a survey to receive input on the preferred method of voting for the 2022 municipal election.

Any comments regarding this report should be submitted to Corrina Giles, Town Clerk, townclerk@thebluemountains.ca.

J. Attached

1. Staff Report FAF.18.148 Follow-up to The Blue Mountains' 2018 Municipal and School Board Election

Respectfully submitted,

Corrina Giles
Town Clerk

Shawn Everitt
Chief Administrative Officer

For more information, please contact:
Corrina Giles, Town Clerk
townclerk@thebluemoountains.ca
519-599-3131 extension 232



Staff Report

Administration

Report To: Committee of The Whole
Meeting Date: November 5, 2018
Report Number: FAF.18.148
Subject: Follow-up to The Blue Mountains' 2018 Municipal and School Board Election
Prepared by: Corrina Giles, Town Clerk

A. Recommendations

THAT Council receive Staff Report FAF.18.148, entitled "Follow-up to The Blue Mountains' 2018 Municipal and School Board Election" for information purposes.

B. Overview

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a follow-up to The Blue Mountains 2018 Municipal and School Board Election.

C. Background

In 2017, Council approved Electronic Voting – being Internet and Telephone Voting, as the voting method for the 2018 Municipal and School Board Election as authorized under subsections 42(1) and (2) of the *Municipal Elections Act*, 1996.

The lower-tier municipalities in Grey County, with the exception of Township of Chatsworth, approved electronic voting, being internet and telephone, for the 2018 Municipal and School Board Election.

D. Analysis

Declaration of Emergency

Section 53(1) of the *Municipal Elections Act*, 1996 states the following:

"The clerk may declare an emergency if he or she is of the opinion that circumstances have arisen that are likely to prevent the election being conducted in accordance with this Act".

On Monday, October 22 prior to the end of voting under the authority of the Act, an emergency was declared due to circumstances arising which the Clerk, in her capacity, deemed likely to prevent the election being conducted in accordance with the Act at that time.

Accordingly, the voting period was extended to 8:00 p.m. Tuesday, October 23, granting electors an additional 24 hours to cast their ballots.

Election staff noted at approximately 5:45 pm on October 22 that the telephone and internet voting system was not responding as required, with electors unable to access the system using the Help Centre devices. Electors contacting election staff confirmed that the issue was being experienced on personal devices as well. The Town Clerk promptly contacted Dominion Voting Systems (DVS), the voting service provider, to report the issue. It was during this time that a Declaration of Emergency was issued extending the voting period. An update was sent to news subscribers and media channels, and an emergency notice was posted to the Town's website in addition to appearing on the Elections page. After several hours, Dominion Voting isolated the issue, confirming the "load issue...to be the result of a Toronto-based Internet Colocation provider placing an unauthorized limit on incoming voting traffic that was roughly 1/10th of the system's designated bandwidth". DVS confirmed that "at no time was the integrity of the system at risk of compromise, or in any way insecure". DVS's full statement is available as Attachment 2. Attachment 3 provides answers to Frequently Asked Questions, as supplied by DVS.

On Tuesday, October 23 at the close of voting, the Town Clerk, in accordance with section 53(4) of the Act, declared the emergency ended.

Public Outreach and Communication

In the implementation of Council's approved voting method, Town election staff provided multiple community engagement opportunities. The community engagement offered electors additional information regarding the election, enabled individuals to confirm they were on the Voters' List, and provided an opportunity to ask election-related questions.

Election staff provided the following public outreach:

- Blue Mountain Ratepayers Association Annual General Meeting, May 12, 2018;
- 'Lunch n' Learn' for Blue Mountains' Staff, August 15, 2018;
- Information sessions at the L.E. Shore Memorial Library, August 25, 2018 & September 11, 2018;
- Information session provided by Dominion Voting at Town Hall, August 28, 2018;
- Blue Mountains Chamber of Commerce All Candidates Meeting, September 19, 2018;
- Blue Mountain Ratepayers Association All Candidates Forum, September 22, 2018;
- Blue Mountain Village Association All Candidates Meeting, September 29, 2018;
- Citizens' Forum Mayor/Deputy Mayor Candidates Meeting, October 10, 2018;
- Attended Grey County Housing to add qualified electors to Voters' List, provide a device on which to vote, and assist electors if requested, September 12 & October 16, 2018;

- Attended Errinrung Nursing Home to add qualified electors to Voters' List, provide a device on which to vote, and assist electors if requested, September 13, 2018, October 17, 2018 and October 19, 2018;
- Attended Errinrung Retirement Home to add qualified electors to Voters' List, provide a device on which to vote, and assist electors if requested, September 13, 2018, October 17, 2018 and October 19, 2018;

In August 2018, Staff included election information in the tax bills that were mailed to each property owner in The Blue Mountains. The insert detailed the type of voting method for The Blue Mountains, information on help centres and how to be added to the Voters' List as well as contact details for election staff. A copy of the information provided in the tax insert is included as Attachment 1.

Additionally, election staff offered a Help Centre at Town Hall during the following dates and times:

Friday, October 5, 2018	4:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Saturday, October 6, 2018	9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Saturday, October 13, 2018	9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Monday, October 15, 2018	9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday, October 16, 2018	9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Wednesday, October 17, 2018	9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Thursday, October 18, 2018	9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Friday, October 19, 2018	9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Saturday, October 20, 2018	9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Monday, October 22, 2018	9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday, October 23, 2018	9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Election Staff received a significant amount of traffic to the Help Centres on Saturday, October 13 and 20, 2018 from voters requesting to be added to the Voters List, receive a replacement Voter Information Letter, or use the devices at the Town Hall for voting. Other than the two Saturdays during the Voting Period, the extended Help Centre dates were not well-utilized by electors.

During the voting period, the L.E. Shore Memorial Library and the Craigleith Heritage Depot were available as technology hubs for anyone requiring a device to vote, or requiring an internet connection to use a personal device.

Staff estimate that approximately 232 hours were dedicated to offering the help centre with extended hours, the technical hubs at the library and Craigleith Heritage Depot and assistance at Grey County Housing and Errinrung. Further, Staff confirm that over 170 electors attended the Help Centre at Town Hall in order to utilize the devices provided and cast their ballot during the voting period.

In addition to the public engagement conducted and the help centres that were available, election staff coordinated with other Grey County municipalities to offer radio announcements during the month of October on The Dock 92.3, Bayshore Broadcasting (560 CFOS, Mix 106.5, and Country 93), The Jewel 99.3, and paper advertisements through the Enterprise Bulletin and jointly with other Grey County municipalities in The Sun Times.

The Town's website, www.thebluemountains.ca was also utilized to provide a comprehensive elections page, which included resource documents, candidate contact information, election forms, advertisements for public information sessions, and links to the Dominion Voting System tutorial videos.

Voters' List

The Preliminary List of Electors is prepared by the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC). Elections staff made efforts to ensure that the Voters' List was as accurate as possible, with duplicate or deceased electors removed.

Because the method of voting required that the voters list include the Voters' date of birth, elections staff communicated with voters that did not have their date of birth included in their elector details. Some electors called Elections staff to advise that they were unable to vote, and on further review, it was identified that their date of birth was incorrect. Elections staff worked with those Electors to make corrections to the system to allow the elector to vote.

Elections Staff continuously made corrections to the Voters' List, as soon as errors were noted and appropriate documentation was received. All changes made to the Voters' List will be sent back to MPAC to update their records.

In The Blue Mountains, the number of eligible electors on Election Day was 12,066 which is an increase of 1,272 electors over the 10,794 eligible electors on Election Day in 2014. The 2018 voter turnout was 39.66%, a slight increase over the 2014 voter turnout of 37.85%, but more considerable given the 1,272 additional eligible electors between 2014 and 2018.

Elections staff processed:

- 431 EL15 Forms to "add an elector to the voters list", "correct an elector's information on the voters list" or "delete the applicant or family member from the voters list". 20 electors received their Voter Information Letters via email from Elections Staff.
- 147 EL53 Forms for electors that had lost, misplaced or did not receive their voter information letter in the mail. 46 electors received their replacement Voter Information Letters via email from Elections Staff.

Voter Turnout

Attachment 4 to this report provides a number of graphs from the recorded electors data statistics, as noted below.

Recorded Electors by Day. The graph shows the number of votes cast on each day during the Voting Period, including the extended day (October 23).

Recorded Electors by Age. The graph shows 10 year increments on the age scale and provides an overall voter turnout percentage of 39.66%

Recorded Electors by Residency Status. The graph details recorded electors by residency status. The graph shows voter turnout by resident and non-resident showing the following:

- Resident voter turnout was 3,316 electors, accounting for 54.58% of the overall voter turnout
- Non-Resident voter turnout was 1,469 electors, accounting for 24.52% of the overall voter turnout

Recorded Electors by Occupancy Status. The graph details recorded electors by occupancy status. The graph shows voter turnout by owner, spouse, tenant and boarder, as follows:

- **Owner** voter turnout was 4,004 electors out of 10,156 registered electors, accounting for a 39.42% turnout by owners.
- **Spouse** voter turnout was 292 electors out of 591 registered electors, accounting for a 49.41% turnout by spouses.
- **Tenant** voter turnout was 281 electors out of 566 registered electors, accounting for a 49.65% turnout by tenants.
- **Boarder** voter turnout was 208 electors out of 752 registered electors, accounting for a 27.66% turnout by boarders.

Feedback from Electors

Electors in The Blue Mountains provided a variety of feedback on the alternate methods for voting, including:

- Some electors expressed concern over internet and telephone voting methods, usually expressing a lack of technical expertise with the devices. Elections staff noted that many electors, after successfully casting their ballots, either through the help centre or on their personal devices, commented on the relative ease of the internet voting module.
- Town Staff received positive feedback from electors who contacted the Town requiring a new Voter Information Letter to be issued as the elector had lost or misplaced their Voter Information Letter
- Electors that were unable to attend the Town Hall to receive a new Voter Information Letter, were pleased to be able to receive their Voter Information Letter via email, while following the procedure established by the Election Staff.
- Some electors struggled with the telephone voting system; the feedback provided was usually due to the elector rushing the system. When electors asked about the ease of telephone voting, elections staff recommended to run through the telephone system slowly, listening to all prompts prior to casting ballots.
- Some electors appreciated the alternative method of voting as they are rarely in the area, or unable to attend a polling station because of health concerns.
- Some electors commented that traditional voting method with polling stations should be re-implemented.

E. The Blue Mountains Strategic Plan

Goal #2: Engage Our Communities & Partners

Objective #1 Improve External Communication with our Constituents

Objective #2 Use Technology to Advance Engagement

Goal #4: Promote a Culture of Organizational & Operational Excellence

Objective #3 To Consistently Deliver Excellent Customer Service

Objective #5 Constantly Identify Opportunities to Improve Efficiencies and Effectiveness

F. Environmental Impacts

none

G. Financial Impact

This report is for information only, with no financial impact.

H. In consultation with

1. Shawn Everitt, Interim CAO
2. Town of The Blue Mountains Elections Staff

I. Public Engagement

The topic of this Staff Report has not been subject to a Public Meeting and/or a Public Information Centre as neither a Public Meeting nor a Public Information Centre are required. However, any comments regarding this report should be submitted to Town Clerk, Corrina Giles by email at townclerk@thebluemountains.ca.

J. Attached

1. Tax Insert from August 2018
2. Dominion Voting Systems Statement Regarding Internet Voting Service Slowdown Affecting Ontario Municipalities, dated October 22, 2018.
3. FAQ from Dominion Voting Systems dated October 23, 2018
4. Voter Turnout Statistics.

Respectfully Submitted,

Corrina Giles
Town Clerk

Shawn Everitt
Interim Chief Administrative Officer

For more information, please contact:
Corrina Giles, Town Clerk
townclerk@thebluemountains.ca
519-599-3131 extension 232



The Blue Mountains News

Issue 4

August 2018

2018 Municipal and School Board Elections

From October 12 to 22, 2018, VOTE using telephone or internet in the comfort of your home or anywhere in the world, 24 hours per day, using a device of your choice!

Please note paper ballots are not being used in the 2018 Municipal and School Board Elections.

Voter's List

Are you on the Voter's List, do you want to be added to the Voter's List, or has your mailing address changed? Election staff are available at the Town Hall and can advise if you are on the Voters' List.

If you are not on the Voter's List, and are eligible to vote in The Blue Mountains, staff can add you to the Voters' List (identification is required).

Key Dates

October 4, 2018	You should receive your Voter Information Letter in the mail on or around this date
October 12, 2018	Voting Period opens at 10:00 a.m.
October 22, 2018	Voting Period closes at 8:00 p.m.
October 22, 2018	Results posted no earlier than 8:15 p.m. at Council Chambers, 32 Mill Street, Thornbury
December 3, 2018	Inaugural Meeting of new Council at 11:00 a.m. in Council Chambers, 32 Mill Street, Thornbury

Require Assistance?

During the Voting Period (October 12 to October 22, 2018), during normal hours of operation and during the extended hours as listed below, a Help Centre will be available at Town Hall, 32 Mill Street, Thornbury, as follows:

Saturday, October 13	9 a.m. to 3 p.m.	Thursday, October 18	9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Monday, October 15	9 a.m. to 8 p.m.	Friday, October 19	9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Tuesday, October 16	9 a.m. to 8 p.m.	Saturday, October 20	9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Wednesday, October 17	9 a.m. to 8 p.m.	Monday, October 22	9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

For more information contact the Clerk's Office at election2018@thebluemountains.ca, or 519-599-3131 ext. 232.

Fire Hydrants

The Town would like to remind everyone to please ensure that all fire hydrants located in front of your residence are clearly visible and unobstructed at all times.

In accordance with the Fire Code Section 6.6.4.3 hydrants shall be readily available and unobstructed for use at all times.

We appreciate your cooperation!



THE **BMPL YEAR IN REVIEW** IS AVAILABLE AT
[HTTP://WWW.THEBLUEMOUNTAINSLIBRARY.CA/LIBRARY-BOARD.CFM](http://www.thebluemountainslibrary.ca/library-board.cfm)

SAVE THE DATE: COMMUNITY PRESENTATION OF THE DRAFT
STRATEGIC PLAN - THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 13TH 6:30PM.



Notes on Fire and Open Air Burning

The Blue Mountains Fire Department does not monitor open air burning or the use of consumer fireworks. The use of consumer fireworks shall be in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.

In the event the Fire Department is requested to respond to an open air burning related incident, and the burning is not within the suggested guidelines, user fees in accordance with By-law 2018-08, Schedule B, Emergency Response Services, Item 3 may be issued to the property owner.

Complaints relating to open air burning should be directed to the Blue Mountains By-law Department at 519-599-3131 ext. 249. **Dial 911 for all other fire related emergencies.**

Guidelines for open air burning are posted on the Town website at www.thebluemountains.ca/open-air-burning.cfm

If you require further information regarding open air burning, please contact The Blue Mountains Fire Department during normal business hours (Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) at 519-599-5411.

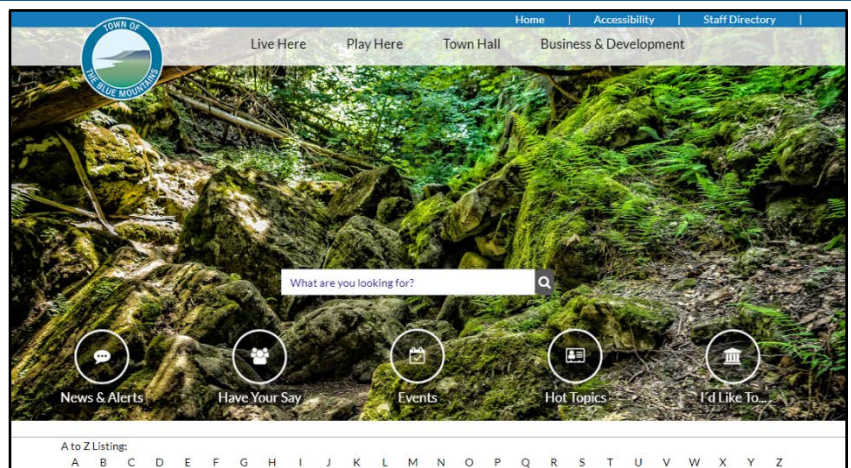
New Town Website

On June 5, 2018 the Town launched a new website! The Town's website address is the same: www.thebluemountains.ca.

The main page features streamlined navigation buttons to assist users in finding what they are looking for, in addition to a prominent search bar for keyword entry.

Subscribe for E-Newsletters

E-Newsletters are still available but will require re-subscription. To re-subscribe, visit the **"News & Alerts"** button on the homepage, and select **"Subscribe for Updates"**. When you re-subscribe, you will receive an email from the Town that will require you to activate your account by clicking the link in the email. **If you do not activate your account, you will not receive the e-newsletters.**



Community Events Calendar

The new website offers users the ability to post Community Events on the Community Events Calendar. To add your community event and review the posting criteria, visit: www.thebluemountains.ca/add-community-event.cfm

Community Groups and Public Services Directory

The new website offers local groups and services the ability to post their listings on the Town's Community Groups and Public Services Directory. To add your listing, visit: www.thebluemountains.ca/add-your-community-service.cfm

Business Directory

The new website offers businesses within The Blue Mountains the ability to post their business listings on the Town's Business Directory. To add your business, visit: www.thebluemountains.ca/add-your-business.cfm

Questions & Feedback

If you have any questions related to the Town website, or wish to provide feedback, please contact the Website Committee at websitecommittee@thebluemountains.ca or 519-599-3131 ext. 254.

Contact Us

Town of The Blue Mountains
32 Mill Street, Box 310
Thornbury, ON N0H 2P0
www.thebluemountains.ca

Phone: 519-599-3131
Toll free: 888-258-6867
Fax: 519-599-2474

Notes on Assessment and Taxation

Total Phased-In Assessment for taxation in 2018 is \$4.089 billion. Assessment Growth in 2017 was 2.2%

2018 Final Property Tax Due Dates

First Instalment – August 24, 2018

Second Instalment – October 26, 2018

Tax Payment Options

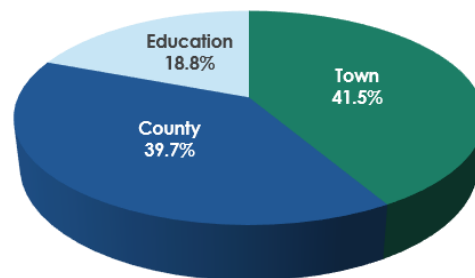
Please see the reverse of your Tax Bill for tax payment options. A Pre-Authorized Payment Plan (PAP) application for your taxes is available on the Town's website at: www.thebluemountains.ca/assessment-taxation.cfm

To Calculate Your Taxes

The following example shows how to calculate 2018 realty taxes levied on a residential property valued at \$300,000: (Exclusive of local improvements, if any). $\$300,000 \times .00904445 = \$2,713.34$

How Your Tax Dollar is Spent

Of every residential tax dollar that is collected by the Town, \$0.40 goes to the County and \$0.19 goes to education.



Penalty and Interest charges

Penalty and interest charges of 1¼% per month (15% per year) are added to unpaid taxes on the first day of the month following the due date and on the first day of each month thereafter until taxes are paid.

Application of Payments

Payments are applied to oldest to current penalty/interest first and then to oldest to current taxes.

Supplementary Tax

For properties with new construction or renovations in 2016 or 2017 (not included on the assessment roll for 2018) and properties with new construction or renovation in 2018, taxes will be billed on a Supplementary Tax Notice later this year once the assessment details are received from MPAC.

Tax Reductions

Pending Tax Reductions as a result of an Assessment Appeal, Request for Reconsideration, Section 357 Reduction, Tax Incentive or Vacancy Rebate will be processed in due course after the final tax bill.

Tax Incentive Programs

To confirm your eligibility or to find out more information, please contact the agencies listed below:

Farm Property Class Tax
Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food
1-877-424-1300
farmtax.omafr@ontario.ca
<http://www.ontario.ca/farmtax>

Conservation Land
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
1-800-268-8959 cltip-info.mnr@ontario.ca
<http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/CLTIP/>

Managed Forest
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources Integration
Branch
1-855-866-3847
mftip@ontario.ca
www.ontario.ca/mftip

Questions about your tax bill?

For further information or questions about your tax bill, please contact us.

Phone: 1-888-258-6867 ext. 221
Fax: 519-599-2474

Email: tax@thebluemountains.ca
Website: www.thebluemountains.ca

Questions about your assessment?

Contact the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC)

Phone: 1-866-296-6722

Fax: 1-866-296-6703

Email: enquiry@mpac.ca

Website: www.mpac.ca



Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 9808

Toronto, ON M1S 5T9

2018 Tax Rates – Town of The Blue Mountains By-law 2018-22

(Excerpt of most common rates. For full schedule: www.thebluemountains.ca)

Property Class	RTC/Q	Town	County	Education	Total
Residential	RT	0.00375347	0.00359098	0.00170000	0.00904445
Resort Condominium	OT	0.00375347	0.00359098	0.00170000	0.00904445
Farm	FT	0.00093837	0.00089774	0.00042500	0.00226111
Managed Forest	TT	0.00093837	0.00089774	0.00042500	0.00226111
Multi-Residential	MT	0.00540949	0.00517531	0.00170000	0.01228480
Commercial	CT	0.00490556	0.00469319	0.01340000	0.02299875
Industrial	IT	0.00697465	0.00667271	0.01340000	0.02704736

Important Notes

Payments made during the last two weeks of July may not be reflected in the Past Due amount on your tax bill.

Please retain your tax bill for future reference. There is a \$10 fee for reprints

Please advise us of mailing address changes in writing by regular mail, fax at 519-599-2474, or e-mail at tax@thebluemountains.ca. Failure to receive your tax bill does not relieve the liability for taxes or penalty/interest charges.

Solid Waste News

The Waste Tab

If you use a stationary roadside garbage box, you must use The Waste Tab to indicate you have waste for removal. Contact the Town if you did not have a Tab delivered to your garbage box at 519-599-3131 ext. 276.

Waste Disposal Site

Location:

788090 Grey Road 13 (South of Clarksburg)

Clarksburg, ON N0H 1J0

Hours:

Tuesdays: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Thursdays: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Saturdays: 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Household Hazardous Waste is accepted from May to the end of September only.

Download the “TBM Waste Resource” mobile app!

This app provides you with the following information:

- Information specific to your address
- Collection calendars
- Service disruption alerts
- Electronic reminders
- Waste Wizard Searches (i.e. Can I recycle this?), and more!



Visit www.thebluemountains.ca/solid-waste.cfm



For Immediate Release
October 22, 2018

Dominion Voting Statement Regarding Internet Voting Service Slowdown Affecting Ontario Municipalities

(TORONTO, ON) - Dominion Voting Systems has issued the following statement regarding today's Internet Voting Service slowdown affecting Ontario Municipal election customers:

Just after 6:00 PM ET this evening, voters in approximately 51 Ontario Municipalities using Dominion's Internet Voting (IV) portal experienced slow traffic into the system. This load issue was documented, reviewed and determined to be the result of a Toronto-based Internet Colocation provider placing an unauthorized limit on incoming voting traffic that was roughly 1/10th of the system's designated bandwidth. Our company was unaware of this issue until our municipal customers and their voters reached out to us for assistance, or to share complaints.

Once we became aware of the problem, Dominion was able to quickly identify the source of the issue and work with the provider to resolve all issues with the system service by 7:30 PM ET.

Unfortunately, the 90-minute slowdown and resulting bandwidth issue caused a varying number of voters to experience slow response times and system time-outs.

Given this issue was no fault of the voters who attempted to cast ballots during this time, some municipalities are extending voting hours for this election. Voters who were affected by this issue should check with their election office for more information on options that are available.

Dominion regrets the challenges that our system load issue posed for both election officials and voters alike in today's elections. We appreciate the public's patience in resolving this matter. We want to assure Ontario voters that we will work to ensure this problem does not occur in future elections. It is important to note that at no time was the integrity of the system at risk of compromise, or in any way insecure.

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About Dominion Voting Systems:

Dominion Voting Systems is a leading provider of hardware and software election tabulation solutions in the U.S. and Canada. More information: www.dominionvoting.com.

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FAQ: Internet Voting Service Disruption Impacting Ontario Municipalities

Q: What happened to Internet Voting service for Ontario Municipal customers on Election Day?

Just after 6:00 PM on Election Day (22 October 2018), Dominion became aware that voters in 49* municipalities who were using our Internet Voting portal were experiencing slow service and system time-outs (some townships report issues that began around 5:35 PM ET). These issues were determined to be the result of a load issue caused by a limit placed on incoming voting traffic to the system at the hosting Internet Service Provider. Once alerted to the issue, the company was able to work with the provider to restore full system service by 7:30 PM ET. However, given that many voters attempting to vote during this period could not access the system, election officials extended voting hours.

Q: Were any votes successfully cast during this period?

Yes. Several thousand votes were cast during the disruption period, although we can verify that many more voters were not able to access the system during this time. Allowing all affected voters a further opportunity to cast a ballot served as the primary motivation for those municipalities that extended their voting hours.

Q: Is the integrity of the vote in question due to this event?

No. At no time were any security-related issues detected or reported, nor was the system itself at risk. We are able to clearly identify the reason for the service slowdown and we have been in regular contact with our third-party DDoS and firewall security provider for our system. All Ontario customer municipalities have followed proper procedure in conducting their election and results will be accurately tallied and reported.

Q: Was any part of the audit capability of the system affected?

No. Municipalities have full audit capabilities on every part of the ballots cast and the corresponding audit record for each transaction.

Q: What is being done to verify this issue not repeat during the extension of voting hours?

Dominion has been in regular contact with our Internet Service Provider to ensure that the bandwidth limit that caused the issue does not reoccur. Dominion, along with Municipal IT staff, have made efforts to test the system and we will remain in regular contact to monitor system Internet traffic up to the close of polls.

Q: What will Dominion do to ensure this issue will not happen again?

Regardless of what went wrong, Dominion Voting remains accountable for the service disruption that occurred and we apologize for taking 90 minutes to resolve the issue, which is unacceptable by our own company standards. We are committed to conducting a more thorough post-election review, with any necessary changes to address potential problems from happening in future elections.

**Approximate number of 51 revised based on company review and confirmation*

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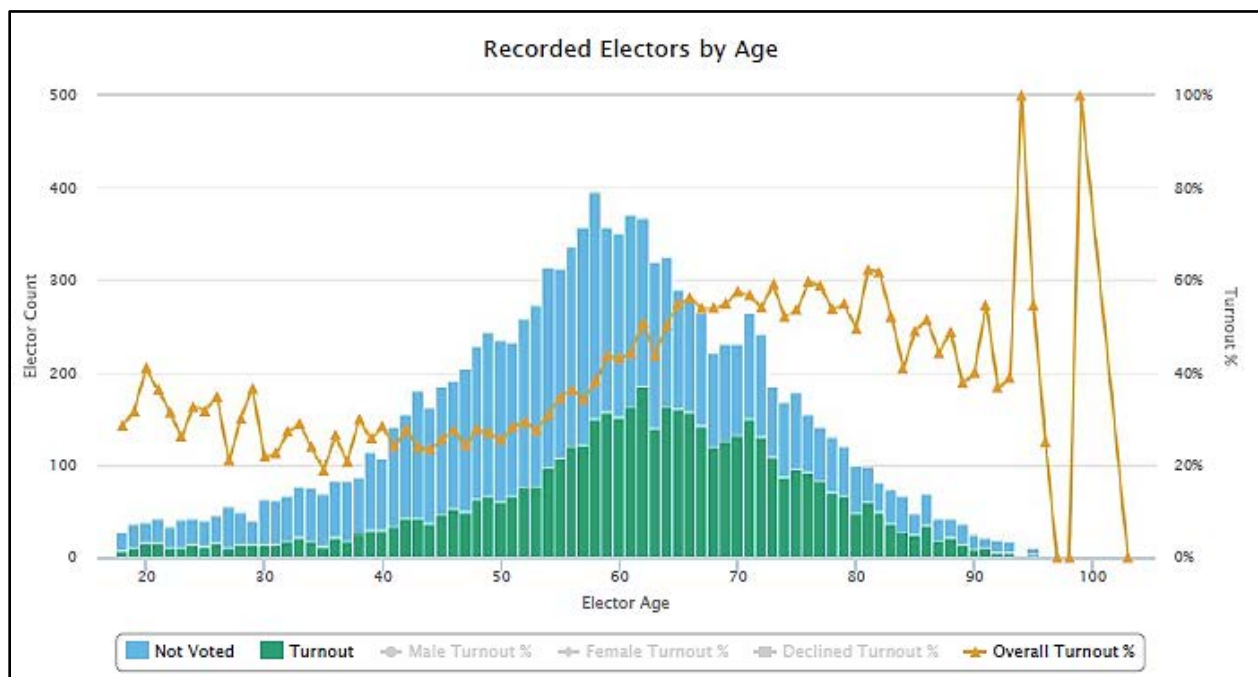
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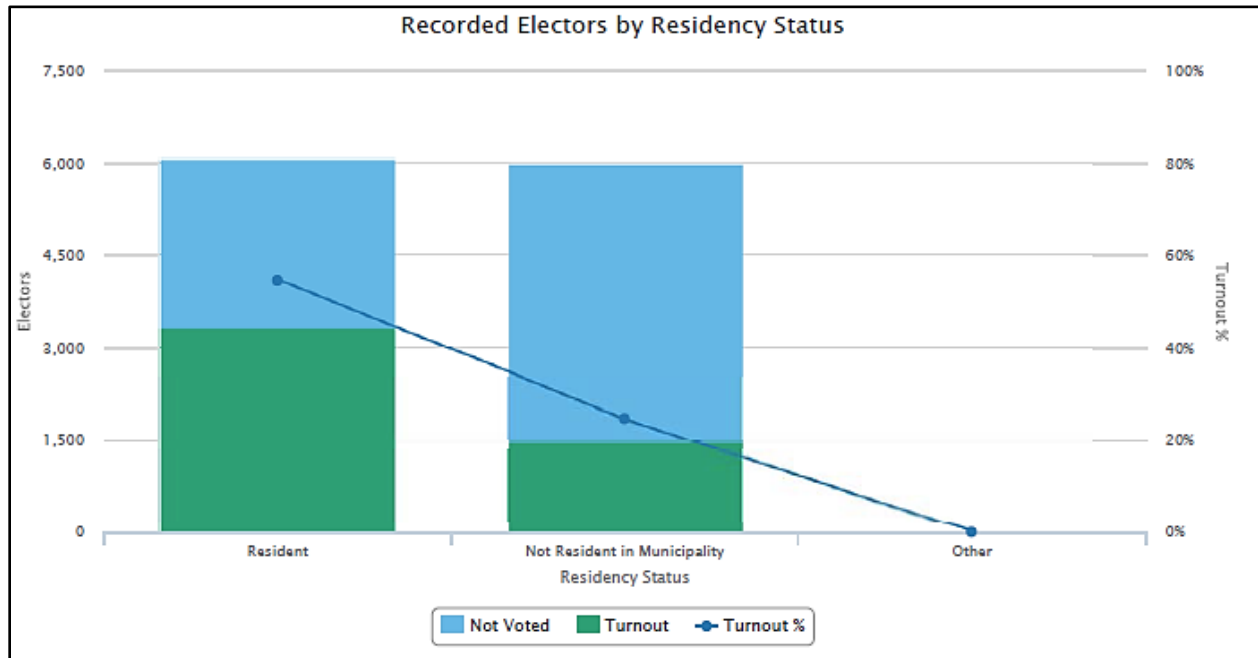
Recorded Electors by Day

Date	Number of Recorded Electors
Friday, October 12, 2018	274
Saturday, October 13, 2018	224
Sunday, October 14, 2018	226
Monday, October 15, 2018	425
Tuesday, October 16, 2018	285
Wednesday, October 17, 2018	341
Thursday, October 18, 2018	370
Friday, October 19, 2018	320
Saturday, October 20, 2018	372
Sunday, October 21, 2018	680
Monday, October 22, 2018	956
Tuesday, October 23, 2018	312
TOTAL	4,785

Recorded Electors by Age



Recorded Electors by Residency Status



Recorded Electors by Occupancy Status

