







# LEISURE ACTIVITIES PLAN

UPDATE 2020

FINAL REPORT - APRIL 2021







WE WILL FOSTER A HIGH  
QUALITY OF LIFE FOR FOR  
FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME  
RESIDENTS OF ALL AGES AND  
STAGES, WHILE WELCOMING  
VISITORS.



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# MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Content pending.





# MESSAGE FROM THE CAO

Content pending.





THE BLUE MOUNTAINS  
WELCOMES YOU



# LEISURE ACTIVITIES PLAN UPDATE 2020

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Town of The Blue Mountains formally embarked on a Leisure Activities Plan Update following Council approval of the annual budget, March 30, 2020. This was 5 days after The Town declared a State of Emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

At that time there was a lot of uncertainty in The Blue Mountains and around the world. What can we do? How can we do it? Is it safe to do it? These were questions we were all asking ourselves while epidemiologists and other medical professionals worked towards understanding the pandemic and developing a strategy to deal with it on a global scale.

June 3, 2020, Dunbar & Associates Recreation Consultants provided an unsolicited proposal to Town staff. Staff brought this proposal forward to Council, recommending that they single source this project to Dunbar & Associates. Council approved the recommendation June 29, 2020.

Staff worked closely with Dunbar & Associates to begin collecting documents, data and developing a public consultation plan. Dunbar & Associates had already reviewed a number of Town documents including the 2015 Leisure Activities Plan, Corporate Strategic Plan, DC Background Study to name a few. While the consultants conducted their research, Town staff began a review of recreation amenity inventories. Staff reviewed existing documents, and compared them with the current inventories including parks, trails, facilities, cemeteries, and amenities. An area that was new to the Leisure Activities Plan was a review of all Town owned or managed waterfront properties. As the municipality grows, property owners transition to work from their TBM residence or make their TBM residence their primary residence as they retire and tourism booms, the Town is experiencing pressure in a number of areas including publicly accessible waterfront. Town of The Blue Mountains staff and Council identified the Leisure Activities Plan as an opportunity to update a previous waterfront review and classify each of the properties to highlight any unique or sensitive features, primary and intended use of the properties and to recommend actions that identify, delineate, add amenities, and communicate these to residents and visitors.

While these activities took place, staff worked to develop a Leisure Activities Plan Steering Committee. The committee would be established to advise Council, administration, and the project management team on specific matters as they pertain to the preparation and delivery of the 2020 Leisure Activities Plan update. The committee structure included one member of Council and 6 members of the public. The committee was split between permanent residents and property owners that do not primarily reside in The Blue Mountains. The Blue Mountains Public Library CEO was invited to attend all meetings as a guest of the committee.

The next step was the most important component of the project, consultation. We wanted to find out what Leisure Activities TBM residents and stakeholders were satisfied with, not satisfied with and what the Town was missing. Dunbar & Associates, with Town staff, developed a 3-pronged approach that included, a public survey, key stakeholder interviews and focus group sessions.



1. The public survey included 20 questions ranging from demographic information to specific inquiries about facilities and amenities. The Town received 733 responses to the survey.
2. While the survey took place the consultants performed 50 key stakeholder interviews including local and regional political representatives, community associations, clubs, private and corporate entities, The Blue Mountains Public Library, Georgian Shores Minor Hockey, Beaver Valley Athletic Association, neighbouring municipalities, Grey County, Simcoe County and more. Additional consultation took place with The Blue Mountains Public Library which resulted in a request to include the following resolution from the Library Board:

**BMPL-Resolution 2021-067**

Moved by Joanne Vivona and seconded by Rob Potter THAT this Board acknowledges that the L.E. Shore library branch, is a community hub within the West end of The Town of The Blue Mountains; and THAT any additional space needs for enhanced services in Thornbury would be developed in the form of expansion, and not relocation, of the L.E. Shore facility. CARRIED.

3. The final piece of the consultation approach was the public focus group sessions. This included 3 sessions, lasting approximately 2 hours each and included a total of 12 residents. Although these were small groups, the feedback from the engaged residents was very valuable. Traditionally these focus groups sessions would be held in person. Due to the pandemic, they were held virtually which resulted in some challenges but still provided valuable insight.

The Leisure Activities Plan Steering Committee held their inaugural meeting October 15th, 2020 with all members in attendance. The committee met bi-weekly reviewing presentations and documents from Dunbar & Associates including, demographics, survey reports, parks and recreation research trends, key stakeholder interview summaries and the final consultants' report. The committee also reviewed the Town inventory documents, including parks, trails, and facilities as well as the Town owned or managed waterfront property classification documents. There were also deputations to the committee that included suggestions for new activities, opinions on waterfront and support for winter activities. The committee has been an invaluable resource to the Town providing guidance from a number of different perspectives including personal experience, professional experience, in depth research, physical reviews of properties, facilities and activities. The committee received a significant amount of information and always provided thoughtful, timely feedback which has made the 2020 Leisure Activities Plan Update a comprehensive, well thought out document that staff will be able to use as a guiding document for the Community Services department and will also provide valuable information for other plans.

While consultation and committee deliberations took place, staff continued to update and refine the inventories, research waterfront properties and review financial opportunities and challenges. Significant time and effort was committed by several staff members to update, review, gather new information and research property ownership. This was a joint effort between several municipal departments which has provided great detail within this document.

This is a large document with a number of components: trends research, interview and survey summaries, demographics, parks, trails, and facilities inventories that have all contributed to the recommendations from Dunbar & Associates, the Leisure Activities Plan Steering Committee and staff.

This document and the recommendations within are presented to Town of The Blue Mountains Council for consideration. Following Council's consideration of the document, staff will react to either modify recommendations as directed by Council and/or begin to implement the recommendations.

Implementation of the recommendations will be executed through the Town's annual budgeting process. Staff will review the recommendations that are approved by Council and will then make recommendations for implementation by assessing them one by one and determining the staffing and financial resources required through annual budget processes.

As each budget is approved by Council, staff will have looked at each recommendation and applied a RASCI (Responsible Accountable Support Consulted Informed) matrix for each project.

Recommendations have been broken into 3 categories: staff recommendations, steering committee recommendations, and consultant recommendations. Staff recommendations reflect the formal recommendations required in the staff report process and current issues that require consideration. Steering committee recommendations reflect specific properties and items outside of the scope of work for the consultants. The consultants' recommendations are listed below which reflect their professional opinion and are also within the consultants report with additional detail.

#### **STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:**

THAT Council receive Staff Report CSOPS.21.030, entitled "Draft Leisure Activities Plan Update";

AND THAT Council receives the Leisure Activities Plan Update 2020;

AND THAT Council approves the recommendations listed in the Leisure Activities Plan Update 2020 Executive Summary for consideration through future budget processes;

AND THAT Council directs staff to include a budget item in the 2022 budget to survey all Town owned waterfront properties that do not have current surveys;

AND THAT Council directs staff to address all encroachments on Town owned waterfront properties;

AND THAT Council directs staff to conduct a multi-use community hub facility study with funds that were approved in the 2021 budget process.

#### **STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:**

THAT Council directs staff to further review public access options for Sunset Boulevard Plan 442 Block A;

AND THAT Council directs staff to further review consideration of expansion of waterfront area through possible closures of a portion of Harbour Street;

AND THAT Council directs staff to perform a review of current and future arts & cultural opportunities within the Town and the arts & culture be included in future Leisure Activities Plan updates;

AND THAT Council directs staff to develop more ongoing communication opportunities for all residents to provide feedback about recreational amenities and opportunities;

AND THAT Council directs staff to review existing facilities space and needs to consider new use in available times;

AND THAT Council directs staff to perform a full Leisure Activities Plan update in 5 years.



## CONSULTANT RECOMMENDATIONS:

- As part of the 5-Year Review of the Official Plan in 2021, amend or update the Municipal Official Plan to reflect the parks and trails Master Plan recommendations and other service recommendations when appropriate.
- Implement existing parkland developments and improvements as identified in Ten-Year Capital Plan.
- Collaborate with regional, local and municipal organizations to enhance park services. For example: Create a regional vision for major parkland acquisition over the next 10-15 years with neighbouring communities to provide for the growing population in an efficient and cost effective manner.
- Develop a strategic land use assembly and future landholding strategy in conjunction with the Official Plan to be triggered by formal municipal planning processes.
- Optimize opportunities for parkland securement, including amenities, by applying density bonusing and alternate provision standards permitted under the Planning Act and enabled by the Official Plan and Zoning By-laws (i.e., Section 37 and 45 of the Planning Act).
- Accept cash-in-lieu of parkland only in the following circumstances:
  - i) Existing parkland allocation meets the standard conveyance rates of 2% for commercial or industrial purposes and 5% for all other cases, and a larger park area is not desirable;
  - ii) The projected growth will have adequate provision and distribution of parks and recreational facilities;
  - iii) A proposed development or redevelopment has achieved long term capital support and provides
  - iv) alternative leisure opportunities to a broad base of the Municipal population;
  - v) Future developments can provide necessary parklands for future growth;
  - vi) Land does not provide an active transportation link to other parks, facilities or trail heads.
- Continue to ensure that benchmarking, best practices and continuous improvement initiatives are specifically contained in each budget submission and work plan to Council each year.
- Continually look for ways to protect and enhance parkland for future generations. Reduce the carbon footprint of parks operation and maintenance, such as naturalizing areas for reduced grass cutting, planting more trees, choosing heritage or native species, and so on.
- Appoint a community-based Parks Committee to support the Recreation Department in developing and managing parks. Build a strong partnership with community residents early in the park planning or re-development process. Such a group would play an invaluable role in:
  - i) acting as a sounding board for ideas,
  - ii) generating solutions for management, safety, or maintenance issues,
  - iii) identifying emerging needs (e.g., fitness stations, signage, off-leash dog areas, trail connections, shaded sitting areas, playground equipment, etc.),
  - iv) ensuring parks are designed for all abilities and are barrier-free,
  - v) suggesting suitable programming in parks, such as yoga, tai chi, arts fair, mom and tot, pick-up basketball, special events, etc.
- Create a process for new park design and development.

- Establish a municipal parkland classification system for existing and new parks. Within each park classification (Neighbourhood, Community, Parkette, Open Space), there should be guidelines for standard design features (e.g., form, location, and amenities) for all new or redeveloped parkland. Where possible, parks should be at least 2 hectares so care and maintenance is more efficient.
- Establish parks in new and re-developed areas by using a community-based assessment (demographics, socio-economic factors, population projections, proximity to existing parkland, desired urban type) to determine how much (4.0 ha/1000 gross and minimum 1.2 ha/1000 net) and where parkland is needed.
- As a condition of development of land, the municipality will ensure that lands will be conveyed to the municipality for park and recreational purposes using the standard rate of 2% (proposed development or redevelopment for commercial or industrial purposes) and 5% (in all other cases) or cash in lieu in accordance with Recommendation 6 in Section 4.1.1. Review parks and trails assembly, linear parkland, and parkland/trail acceptance policies in the context of an assured level of service (i.e., minor parks or playgrounds within 800 metres of each residence). Update standards to include timing of provision of parkland amenities so that such facilities are available to residents when 25% occupancy, or sooner, of a subdivision is reached. In the future, the municipality may consider undertaking the requisite consultation and study to provide for alternative parkland dedication rates for cash-in-lieu, as provided in the Planning Act.
- Upgrade existing parks. Develop policy and accompanying procedures and maintenance practices consistent with provincial best practices. For example, commit to a long term policy in regards to replacing existing or installing new park play structures that ensures all landing areas are replaced with CSA approved composite/rubberized (or equivalent) and in addition maximizing physical accessibility should be a priority in the design. Maintain inspection reports on structures on a monthly basis.
- Keep current and respond to new or changed provincial policy with municipal by-laws, such as the municipal by-law ensuring that all Municipal lands and public use areas are designated as tobacco free, including parks, play areas, and trails.
- Adhere to guidelines and principles of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) and Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) legislation for park design. As well, use design features to avoid conflict between active and passive park uses.
- Maintain in new subdivisions an Urban Forestry Canopy Cover (UFORE) for new development of 40% for the Municipal settlement areas.
- Develop an overall goal, specific criteria and performance measurements for park maintenance and consider creating and maintaining a GIS-based maintenance tracking database to facilitate service delivery.
- Develop a yearly review of activities, issues and general performance.
- Continue and expand Town beautification and horticultural projects. Ensure Staffing levels meet growing needs for creating and maintaining garden features; park maintenance; establishing community garden plots (which could be a suitable use for smaller, fragmented parks) if there is sufficient interest; assisting with outdoor rinks, winter trails or other recreation facility maintenance in winter.
- Provide more shade trees and shade features in parks, near facilities, along trails, etc. for personal enjoyment, safety, and in response to climate change.



- Investigate best option for off leash dog run(s) which should include shade. There should be off leash dog runs in Craighleith and Thornbury.
- Create and host an interactive, web-based, parks map to increase awareness of facilities.
- Recruit and Work with volunteers or partners for initiatives such as tree planting, protecting/ enhancing natural habitats, donating benches, litter pick-up, special park projects, and so on.
- Undertake determined upgrades to Skateboard facility. Consult with users.
- Investigate and consider the construction of Splash pad/water features as part of amenities planning for the various parks properties.
- Investigate and consider the construction of an outdoor rink, using existing ice plant in Thornbury arena and build extension in most efficient manner.
- Investigate and consider the construction of a permanent, or acquire a portable outdoor amphitheatre/stage for music, theatre, performances, and movie nights.
- Establish guidelines and strategies to better manage and protect the beaches in 2021 and in the future.
- Set control mechanisms, such as capacity levels for all properties and prepare a detailed response to handle overcrowding pressures on resources, such as at Northwinds, Peasemars, and other public beaches.
- Work in conjunction/partnership with community partners, private business, and other stakeholders.
- Improve and expand trail linkages wherever possible for residents to easily access the waterfront.
- Perform needed maintenance/upgrades on harbour and pier and enhancements to make it a first-rate facility (boat launch, sustainable long term surfacing of the pier, patio, food service).
- Provide ramps/beach mat system to enable wheelchair access to the waterfront. Consult accessibility regulations and community groups regarding best products to install.
- Dedicate staff time, or hire a staff person to organize, coordinate and promote programs.
- Start discussions immediately with possible program partners, both private and public, on ways to work together to offer more equitable recreation active-ties and program offerings across the entire Town. --What existing facilities can be shared now with private/public uses, short and longer term? --Could there be new recreation facilities established in partnership for public/private co-operation and shared use?—long term.
- Make the decision to move ahead with the planning process for a multi-use facility, including a financial-business model.
- Keep abreast of the implications of human rights legislation, such as gender equity, and accessibility legislation, as well as physical literacy and national and provincial standards. Implement program guidelines and policies to ensure program accessibility and inclusivity regardless of gender, race, income, age or ability and adapt programs and services accordingly for safety and quality of recreation services.
- Implement a Volunteer Development Plan for recruitment, screening, orientation, training and recognition of recreation service volunteers.



- Explore opportunities for joint-use agreements with neighbouring municipalities:
  - i) The Town of Collingwood. Can access to recreation in Collingwood through joint-use agreements be more affordable than building smaller, similar facilities at the Eastern end of the Municipality and more accessible than traveling to the West side of the community?
  - ii) The Town of Meaford. Examine potential ways in which The Blue Mountains could enter joint ventures with new partners to address programming and facility needs, and look at ways to work together to offer better access to recreation across the region. Discussions might include the new high school, regional curling club for south Georgian Bay, new outdoor skating area adjacent to existing Thornbury arena, swimming pool, diving area, fitness centre, climbing walls, and indoor/outdoor courts and fields.
- Explore potential partnerships with Marsh Street, Lemonade Collective, Plunge, Small Halls, community groups (e.g., curling, baseball, tennis, Rotary, library, arts, crafts, culture, entertainment, Events for Life), other municipalities, schools and school boards, private sector, etc., to assist in provision of equitable program offerings across the entire Town and avoid duplication.
- Mobilize existing skill set and expertise of volunteers already in the community. Seek out and involve retired professionals, community champions, group leaders, parent volunteers, and those with skills to share in teaching, coaching, advising, spearheading, fundraising, governing, grounds keeping, and so forth.
- Prepare a recreation guide and community maps to market programs to the community, educate about policies and services, and so on. Offer both on-line, interactive and hard copy versions. Consider innovative ways of using apps, such as Strava.
- Work with organized clubs, groups, and associations (e.g., cycling, hiking, trails, water sports, skiing, snowshoeing groups) to offer more unstructured activities and programs.
- Consult with youth regarding desired program opportunities.
- Improve maintenance, enhancements and upgrades to parks and trails, to service growing demands for unstructured recreation. See Parks and Trails sections for specific recommendations.
- Research best practices and processes as used by other municipalities that have completed successful like projects (i.e., Georgina process). A major consideration is confirming the population base that may be appropriate depending on scale and proposed components.
- Begin the groundwork for building a multi-use facility, such as forming an advisory committee, tendering a Feasibility Study, investigating regional partnership opportunities, applying for government funding opportunities, and so on.
- Explore a regional approach, of recreation facilities, services, and programs, led by the Town and in collaboration with a diverse group of strong, committed partners, including other municipalities, corporations and the private sector, developers, sponsors, and relevant groups and organizations. The list of potential partners includes, but is not limited to: Meaford, Grey Highlands, Collingwood, Clearview, Grey County, schools and school boards, Canadian Forces, developers, private sector, the Y (e.g., for their expertise in operating pools) Blue Mountain Resorts, Blue Mountain Village Association, private and public ski operations, and the federal government (grants and initiatives, infrastructure funding programs, economic recovery initiatives, COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream funding, etc.)

- In particular, lay the groundwork for a potential partnership with Meaford by:
  - i) Reviewing in detail, Meaford's Report No. COR 2020-37 as received, referencing the LAP project.
  - ii) Doing a regional review of all current facilities, infrastructure and open spaces.
  - iii) Evaluating the state of local infrastructure and understanding current lifecycles.
  - iv) Developing levels of service, related to service areas (existing and possible future) for local municipalities.
  - v) Considering other partnerships and potential partners.
- Consider 'Joint-Use Agreements,' being a successful process and potential opportunity between municipalities and other potential partners.
- Identify and prioritize short-term initiatives to upgrade, refurbish, or enhance existing facilities (e.g., Crossan Court tennis courts, curling facility, arena, Tomahawk golf course, Community Centre, baseball diamond, playgrounds, pier and harbour, cycling lanes, and others)
- Prioritize geographical areas in need of service.
- Increase number of tennis and pickleball opportunities.
- Secure a reliable indoor tennis facility in appropriate location.
- Investigate the possibility of Thornbury and Meaford Curling Clubs working together to fundraise and develop a new curling centre by repurposing the Thornbury arena into a curling club and outdoor skating rink for the region. This recommendation is dependent on an arena being part of a new multi-purpose facility. The existing arena ice plant would require upgrades for outdoor skating, and it would be an efficient repurposing of the ice plant and arena.
- Confirm/develop standards for regular maintenance.
- Be aggressive in trail planning and development over the next five years and build momentum for trail planning with these initiatives:
  - i) Develop a five and ten year plan for trail linkage and amenities and trail historic signage and incorporate waterways for canoeing and kayaking.
  - ii) Create an Active Transportation Plan for The Town of Blue Mountains (which includes 1. Walking; 2. Biking; 3. Mass transportation; 4. Car traffic) in that order of priority.
  - iii) Promote a Town and Grey County Trails Strategy that links with the Simcoe County trails plan and marketing opportunities.
  - iv) Create a wayfinding plan for the Municipality (Note: it would be easy to adopt the current system in Collingwood.)
  - v) Promote "Share the Road" and other safe-cycling policies and procedures
- Immediately upgrade the trail planning process with coordination of transportation planning and recreation management. The Georgian Trail is a significant travel corridor or "highway" and should be connected to all residential developments (minimum 10 foot, off road linkages) and be accessible to all residents in the Municipality. Therefore, desirable corridors of safe connection must be incorporated into all future planning
- Adopt Active Transportation Municipal Policies, strategies, and standards, to convey Municipal intent to staff and community members
- Broaden the definition of trails to include The Town of Blue Mountains waterways, or "blue trails" (and identify opportunities for kayak, canoe and paddle board travel or in combination with hiking or biking trails.



- Earmark Waterfront Rehabilitation funds for trail and waterfront improvements.
- Review existing subdivisions, making improvements to trail accessibility and safety where possible.
- Require all new subdivisions, commercial and public areas to connect their on-site pedestrian routes to offsite sidewalks and trail access points as part of the Official Plan Review. Design pedestrian routes to allow clear and unobstructed passage, with a minimum width of 1.5 metres with no abrupt side slopes, and a minimum overhead clearance of 2.5 metres. All street furniture should be off the pedestrian route of travel and storm sewers should be placed where they won't interfere with active transportation.
- Upgrade and develop the Municipal trail and active transportation system using a three-phase strategy:
  - i) Join the waterfront to the downtown core with asphalt surface.
  - ii) Connect the trail system to schools and parks.
  - iii) Connect all trails to the Georgian Trail; and/or establish other major parallel routes for cycling and other uses.
- Prepare short, medium and long-term forecasts for trail development, then budget, seek grants, encourage the private sector to donate, etc., to meet objectives. Consider that additional staff may be needed as trail network expands, including possible winter maintenance for year round trail use.
- Include policy in Official Plan during review to support implementation of trails and active transportation; and include a conceptual trails plan in the Official Plan update. In addition, review current planning procedures and add language that requires all new site development agreements to make trails, cycle routes, and active transportation provisions essential.
- Allocate funds from sale of any town properties to the appropriate Parks/Trails reserves.
- Create a budget line for both capital expenditures for making new trails and a trails maintenance account. Review the capital forecast, and determine the need for financial repositioning of some projects to allow trail work to commence and start the active transportation plan as soon as possible.
- Form a trails and active transportation community volunteer committee to support the Recreation Department in developing and managing trails. Build a strong partnership with community residents early in the trail planning process. Such a group would play an invaluable role in:
  - i) acting as a sounding board for ideas,
  - ii) generating solutions for management issues or conflicting uses and helping to write guidelines,
  - iii) identifying emerging needs (e.g., fitness stations, trailhead parking areas, signage, cross country ski trail, bike rack locations, staging points, historical, ecological, or interpretive plaques with QR codes, etc.),
  - iv) ensuring trails are designed for all abilities and are barrier-free and making maps available that identify level of trail difficulty, and
  - v) suggesting suitable programming on trails, such as cycle safety, art walks, story book walk, pole walking, fitness areas, etc.
- Recruit and train a volunteer group of trail users who can be trail ambassadors to promote the trail, monitor trail surfaces, note dangerous conditions, falling trees, garbage problems, signage maintenance, etc. and notify staff for a quick response.

- Inventory all existing trails and prepare a detailed report on each. There needs to be a formal trails map that indicates the permitted uses and the conditions of all trails that enter the Municipality. The staff must develop a current maintenance report card on all trails
- Set minimum levels of acceptable trail maintenance standards and develop trail maintenance schedules. Spring inspections are recommended, as well as periodic inspections throughout the year to identify such maintenance issues as eroding trail surfacing, missing signs, encroaching vegetation, dumping, vandalism or garbage.
- Evaluate current trailheads and identify choke points that restrict traffic flow, provide inadequate parking or staging room, or otherwise inhibit access to the trail (based on inventory completed). Upgrade construction details of parking areas at trailheads to include more signage that recognizes the need for AODA compliance. There should be a minimum of three parking spaces (two regular spaces and one accessible) per parking area. Parking areas are provided preferably for trails that provide at least a 20-minute walking experience.
- Based on Engineering Standards and inventory, upgrade existing trails and build all new trails to meet the following standards:
  - i) Hard surface (either stone dust, asphalt or concrete)
  - ii) 10 feet/3 metres wide
  - iii) 2 feet/1.5 metres clear cut zones on each side.
- Identify sidewalks and trails that require additional benches, shade, and resting areas for barrier-free and inclusive access.
- Provide the following conditions on all pedestrian routes (as part of the Official Plan review process) to promote and enable walking:
  - i) All residential areas need connection throughout the development and the distance a pedestrian must walk to reach a connecting pathway should be no further than 150 meters.
  - ii) Cul-de-sacs and other types of dead ends need to provide connection of a minimum of 3 meters wide, which should be hard surface (compacted gravel as a minimum).
- Connect all trails and sidewalks to safe road crossings where possible. When this is not prudent, the Municipality should:
  - i) Provide signage warning of upcoming traffic/road crossing.
  - ii) Use stop bars, fences, boulders, curvature options on incoming trails/walkways to warn users of change or upcoming traffic.
  - iii) Install curb extensions and refuge islands if crossing distance is greater than 3 lanes.
  - iv) Install pedestrian activated crossing lights.
  - v) Install countdown lights to assist walker/rider in road crossing; audible crossing signals are beneficial.
- Place standard-style Municipal bike racks at visible locations at public facilities, trail heads, play areas and public spaces. All commercial developments should be encouraged to provide covered and safe bike racks for employees.
- Improve Municipal trail signage and wayfinding, that is appropriate for all physical abilities, and that has a consistent format which includes information about distance, direction, destination and difficulty. Consider the use of new technologies, such as QR codes, apps and downloadable maps that may enhance the trail user's experience.



- Use QR code technology on some signs to give directions, location, and emergency information, as well as interpretive text, such as local history, culture, geology or ecology.
- Develop a trail guide (Note: see Collingwood trail map as an example; advertisers on map pay for the production of the map; map boxes create a revenue flow for trail maintenance) that could complement Collingwood trails and maps so there is a regional connection, promotion and consistency.
- Celebrate active transportation in the Municipality with a special community event, for example, walk or bike to work and school day. The event will demonstrate the will of the community to celebrate a healthier lifestyle choice and a new way of thinking about transportation in Municipality.
- Initiate the practice of seeking trail donations at Municipal offices as well as selected businesses. Make cards available at funeral homes so donations can be made to The Blue Mountains Trails in memoriam.
- As roads are being repaved, extend the pavement surface by an extra 1.25 metre (MOT Book 18/or other standard to be established) for paved shoulder riding.
- Identify popular and preferred cycling routes in consultation with user groups, and place in a priority list for shoulder paving as road upgrades are being done. Two priorities for improved signage and paved shoulder upgrades are Concession #10 as a major north/south travel corridor, and Sideroad 33 for an east/west travel corridor.
- Separate recreational trail cycling from road cycling by a minimum 10 feet (3 metres) and where possible by a physical barrier (to be coordinated with standards being developed within Transportation Master Planning).
- Refer to the Grey County Cycling and Trails Master Plan and the Simcoe County Trails Master Plan (Dunbar et al, 2006) to plan trail linkages to the greater regional trail network and create consistent maps, signage, and maintenance standards.
- Continue representation on County Active Transportation Committee and work to implement the Active Transportation Plan. Advance Municipal active transportation initiatives by looking worldwide at towns with similar characteristics as The Blue Mountains to establish a desired course of action on operating and capital budget decisions.
- Promote the Municipality as a destination point for cyclists. Recreational cyclists from the GTA and neighbouring Counties will ride to the region to enjoy the downtown, waterfront, countryside, etc.
- Work with neighbouring municipalities and Active Transportation Plan to improve the experience for road cyclists (for example, paved shoulders)
- Research, review and plan a formal off roads trail to connect to the Collingwood trails system. This would extend trail use for visitors and residents to cycle to Midland, Tiny Township, Penetanguishene, Wasaga Beach and all throughout the Simcoe County trail network. Over the long term, create a joint County committee to market and promote a cycle experience between Simcoe and Grey Counties which would have positive economic benefit for the tourism sector while providing affordable, local recreation for family and all ages.
- Research potential partnerships or joint-use agreements with private clubs.
- Examine ways to extend the seasonal use of courts, or develop multi-use courts (e.g., tennis in the summer; outdoor skating in the winter)

- Form a community-based athletic fields and court advisory body for input and planning to address needs and trends.
- Refurbish existing tennis courts, subsequent to detailed inspections and seek input from users.
- Add new tennis courts, and establish tennis programs for youth
- Expand opportunities for indoor and outdoor pickleball, with input from users.
- A major parameter for the overall and ongoing recreation planning is to ensure that there is/will be opportunities for 'fields and courts' facilities across the geographic areas of the Town.
- Advance programs for use of courts. Pickleball seems to have a well-organized group that deals with club membership, scheduling, etc. The Nipissing tennis facility has an established membership public-use model that could be established for other facilities .
- Make connections, wherever possible, of courts and playing fields to active transportation, cycling routes, and trails. Refer to Trails Section Recommendations.
- Consider including indoor and outdoor courts in a multi-use facility.
- Continue ongoing collaboration with the Beaver Valley Athletic Association (BVAA) which has provided much support and resources over the years.
- Seek partnerships, joint-use agreements and other strategies to expand the number of year-round, indoor and outdoor program offerings in the community.
- Form athletic fields and court youth advisory body for input and planning to address needs and trends specific to youth and families. Consult youth for their ideas on more relevant recreation activities for today, such as skate park, bmx park, skiing, snowboarding, roller blading , biking , hiking, swimming, walking , kayaking , paddling, clubs and interest groups, arts programs, girls-only, co-ed, etc.
- Upgrade and repair baseball diamonds as needed.
- Upgrade soccer fields as needed.
- Look for regional arena facility partnerships (i.e., soccer and hockey activities have evolved with a regional structure and other recreation activities can as well with collaborative planning).
- Upgrade Skateboard Park and consider building bmx bike park.
- Build outdoor basketball courts.
- Ensure facilities are spread across Town.
- Set standards and schedules for basic field and court maintenance for consistent and regular upkeep.
- Connect all fields and courts, where possible, to trails, cycle routes, and active transportation or public transit.
- Encourage local and house league play which could offer well-trained coaches, skill development training, affordability, less travel and less impact on family time. Support local coaches in meeting training requirements by hosting clinics, referee certification workshops, etc.
- For the long term, plan for indoor and outdoor fields and courts, integrated with a multi-use facility offering programs that are multigenerational, intergenerational, and family-oriented.
- Ensure tracking, measuring and reporting on the economic benefit of special events in community.
- Encourage event organizers, within the planning and permitting process, to include components for local participants, especially youth, and with local prom-otions. Establish a set of criteria for evaluating whether or not certain special events are congruent with the Town's image and are desirable to host.



- Set standards or benchmarks to determine if an event is accessible to all abilities, and inclusive.
- Form partnerships with stakeholders to ensure efficient and effective logistics in terms of traffic, parking, etc.
- Explore options for special events away from Town centres, such as trail events or fair grounds, to lessen congestion issues and offer variety.
- Construct a permanent, or acquire a portable outdoor amphitheatre/stage for music, theatre, performances, and movie nights. This may be phased into overall upgrades to existing parks or be part of a multi-purpose facility, or be moved to various special event locations.
- Consider/Investigate the potential for a multi-use regional sport and recreation centre as part of the Multi-Use Recreation Centre Feasibility Study process.
- Confirm public opinion regarding a wakeboard/cable park through the planning process.









Town of The Blue Mountains

# Parks and Recreation Trends Research

## Leisure Activities Plan

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**Dunbar &  
Associates**

December 2020





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## **Introduction**

The *2015 Leisure Activity Plan* for The Blue Mountains identified several trends: the growing appeal of “drop in” and drop off” forms of recreation; the increasing population of active older adults; and the rising number of non-permanent residents and visitors who want more recreational opportunities and amenities. Today, these trends are still significant and will continue into the foreseeable future. As well, new and emerging trends are surfacing, posing new opportunities and challenges.

## **More of the Same!**

The popularity of “drop in” and “drop off” types of recreational activities (such as biking, walking, hiking, paddling, stand-up paddle boarding, cross country skiing and snowshoeing to name a few) continues to grow. The demand for unstructured and unscheduled recreation activities is a broader societal trend, and the Town of The Blue Mountains is ideally situated to deliver such top-notch opportunities. It is known for being a well-connected, well-serviced, four-season tourism and lifestyle community.

The Town attracts and serves active retirees; non-permanent residents; and tourists and visitors with the appeal of its outstanding natural features (e.g. Blue Mountain Resort, Blue Mountain Village, private ski clubs, the Niagara Escarpment, Bruce Trail, scenic rural countryside, agri-tourism, Georgian Bay, Georgian Trail, Kolapore Wilderness Trails, the Beaver River, Craigeith Provincial Park, Pretty River Valley Provincial Park, etc.) and all the infrastructure and amenities of the surrounding region. Permanent residents continue to want unstructured, unscheduled recreation opportunities too, so the challenge of accommodating both residents and non-residents continues for the Town.

Due to COVID-19, even more people will relocate to the Blue Mountain area, seeing it as an attractive alternative to city life. Potential residents may perceive the Town to be a safe, less crowded place to live and they have learned throughout the pandemic that they can perform their job remotely. Certainly a new trend in this region is the ability to buy in the Georgian Bay area and rent a small unit in the city for those days when it is necessary to work from the city office. Other communities, such as Prince Edward County, are starting to



see this influx as well. The Toronto Star (Saturday, July 18, 2020) reported that “Torontonians are fleeing the city for cheaper homes, more green spaces and a balanced life. While there are no statistics to measure the outflow, real-estate agents in and outside of Toronto say the trend is real.” Locally, Ian Hawkins of Royal LePage writes that the past month can only be re-capped with one word, Unprecedented. Our report editor has coined the month of July as “WILD THING! JULY SEES STRATOSPHERIC, ALL-TIME RECORD VOLUME AND UNIT SALES.” (Southern Georgian Bay Real Estate Market Snapshot: July 2020).

Trails, trail systems and active transportation continue to be in high demand and will be for the foreseeable future. Trails offer lots of opportunities for unstructured recreation, are affordable, inclusive of all ages and abilities, and contribute to a healthy environment. Escarpment Magazine writes, “The bicycle plays a very important role in Southern Georgian Bay...It’s no secret that anything bicycle related has been in great demand throughout Covid... demand for bicycles is outweighing the supply chain.” Municipalities are planning for and adding more cycling infrastructure, as well as providing safety and education materials, maps, marketing other related services.

The older adult population remains a strong influence in the community. For all the reasons above, The Blue Mountains can offer retirees a healthy, active lifestyle in a beautiful setting with all the services and infrastructure that they need to be happy. They will continue to be a growing market, however, there will be emerging influence from the Millennials.

## **New and Emerging Trends on the Horizon**

Current issues, interests, and values in our society drive many of the trends in parks and recreation. The Town of The Blue Mountains has already been experiencing some of these newer trends. Some will continue to intensify, such as the call to reduce the carbon footprint of parks and recreation, or programs that advance gender and racial equality. Others will start to appear in the near future, such as Amazon or pizza drone deliveries to parks and beaches, or fitness courses for dogs and their owners. These trends have

implications for not only the kinds of amenities people are looking for, but also how they are delivered, who they are delivered to, and how they will be managed.

Emerging trends, in no particular order, are:

### ***Continued and Increasing Interest in Environmental Sustainability***

There is a significant and growing trend in many aspects of our lives to live more sustainably, to protect the earth and our communities, and to improve personal health. We equate healthy environments to healthy people. Increasingly, recreation participants want to know that they are doing something beneficial for the environment, or at the very least, not harming the environment. There is a growing expectation that recreation programs, parks, and facilities are environmentally conscious in the programs and services they provide, in how they manage and operate their facilities, and in the choices they make. The literature and research points to actions that parks and recreation can take, such as:

- Reducing its carbon footprint wherever possible
- Being more pedestrian friendly (e.g. fewer cars, walkable communities, more trails, active transportation)
- Being more conscientious about waste (e.g. reducing waste and single-use plastics, more re-use and recycling, biodegradable pet waste bags, composting, etc.)
- Providing more green space and trees for better air quality and mental health, preservation and conservation of biodiversity, habitat, plant and animal species
- Running energy efficient parks and facilities (e.g. energy saving devices, solar power, wise use of water, planting drought tolerant plants, naturalization for less grass cutting, etc.)
- Enabling community gardens for food security and leisure activity (e.g. urban gardening club, seed exchange boxes, events, festivals, markets that combine fresh produce vendors with music, dance, programs, etc.)
- Mobilizing the growing community sense of stewardship, activism, activation to get projects done and create innovative environmental programs.

- Providing amenities to counter the effects of climate change (e.g. shade, canopies, splash pads and water features, carbon neutralization, recreation facilities used as indoor cooling centres, etc.)

### *Increasing and Changing Use of Technology*

Technology changes quickly and its implications for parks and recreation may pose some remarkable opportunities as well as some management dilemmas! For example, drones are a wonderful management tool to do site inventories and mapping, but widespread public use in parks may require certain by-laws and enforcement. With smart phone technology, people are using apps for fitness, training, hiking and biking maps, geocaching, finding site locations, or the closest public washroom.

Most of this is driven by Millennials (persons born between 1982-2004). Origin (a marketing agency) finds that “by 2025 they will account for 75% of the population and have very different expectations for recreation than GenX or the Boomers.” (Andrew Bethune, *Consumer Trends Impacting Outdoor Marketing*, Sept., 2017, at <https://www.originoutside.com/insights/5-consumer-trends-impacting-outdoor-marketing>). They are also driving the rise of the e-sport industry. The Millennial population expects mobile marketing and being able to connect via their smartphones to anything that the parks and recreation department is doing. They want to be relevant, engaged, connected and involved. The best way to reach them is not through traditional marketing channels, such as life stage groups, but through the social groups they belong to and identify with --such as lifestyle groups, social cause groups, and so on (Sujan Patel, 3 *Essential Tips for Marketing to Millennials*, in *Entrepreneur*, May 18, 2015, at <https://www.entrepreneur.com/article/246199>).

What are some key technologies on the horizon?

- Smart park benches with solar powered docking stations
- Easy access to wi-fi
- Interactive information kiosks



- Increased use of drones for parks and trails management (site inventory and mapping); delivery of pizza or food to people at the beach or park; recreational use of drones in public spaces
- Increased need for video surveillance in parks and recreation facilities
- Increasing participation in E-sport and requests for training rooms, coaching, hosting tournaments
- More micro mobility devices (e-scooters, e-mountain bikes, hover boards) on trails. Some are considered eco-friendly and enabling trail use for participants with a wider variety of abilities.
- Social media influencers (some who can amass thousands of dedicated followers) who express their opinions and knowledge on social media platforms and who can be good or bad for business at your facility, program, or park.

### ***More Dog Parks and Pet-Friendly Places and Activities***

Dog parks continue to be in high demand. A growing trend is for provision of opportunities for pets to engage in recreation with their owners. Amenities such as integrated fitness stations or obstacle courses along trails, that can also accommodate pets are of interest to pet owners, and programs like goat yoga are catching on! More pets will imply shady rest areas, bag stations with biodegradable waste bags, watering amenities, off-leash areas, pet specific areas in beaches, parks, trails, and maybe even indoors, as well as no fertilizer or pesticide use.

### ***Accessibility and Inclusivity For All***

Programs and facilities that are multigenerational, intergenerational, and family-oriented are growing in demand and this necessitates modifications and adaptations to ensure program and facility accessibility for everyone. This means greater customization of programs because one size no longer fits all, but all sizes must be available. It also points to the need of enabling a variety of abilities to participate, maybe at the same time, in the

same place (e.g. fitness program for grandma or mom with child; or dad plays pick-up hockey while son takes swim class at same facility). Emerging trends are:

- Increasing commitment to achieve social equity (for all persons regardless of gender, race, income, age or ability) in parks and recreation policies, programs, services and facilities
- Getting kids active younger and keeping them active longer – kids programs that are gaining popularity are tennis, kayaking, swimming, biking, jogging – activities they can do all their life
- Age is just a number and older adults want a wide variety of programs available to them, and not necessarily in age-segregated classes
- Intergenerational programs (e.g. painting classes for grandpa and granddaughter or yoga class for mommy and toddler)
- Family programs where the whole family can do things together and/or go to the same facility but do different activities.
- Incentive-based plans, for example: the more you participate (and pay) the more points you earn for a program or facility discount
- Continued demand for multi-use trails, accessible to all abilities
- Integrated fitness stations along trails

### ***Expanding Definition of the Role of Recreation Centres and Facilities***

Recreation facilities are expanding beyond traditional recreation services and programs. In a growing number of communities, they are becoming fitness, health and wellness hubs. They may provide after school programs, food and nutritional assistance, or be on the front line of addressing homelessness or the opioid crisis. Global News (August 2020) reported that Shoppers Drug Mart has a trial underway in several locations making clinic services available for physicians to see patients and take walk-ins. This is the sort of initiative that could one day be hosted in other community facilities. In other areas, theatre and the arts have been incorporated and facilities provide art classes or performance spaces. Providing

such an array of programs and services usually means consortiums with other community partners and integration of services.

*The 2020 Report on the State of the Managed Recreation Industry--A Look at What's Happening in Recreation, Sports & Fitness Facilities* is an up-to-date, detailed study, surveying over 1300 parks and recreation service providers this year. It found that the following types of initiatives were being tackled by recreation facilities and programs:

### Top Ten Initiatives in Recreation Facilities

Type of Initiative	% of Facilities
Wellness initiatives	57.2
Inclusion initiatives for those with physical disabilities	49.3
Outreach to underserved populations	44.6
Outreach to economically disadvantaged populations	44.1
Inclusion initiatives for those with developmental disabilities	42.7
Outreach to minority populations	39.3
Initiatives to connect people with nature	33.6
Resource conservation and green initiatives	32.9
Initiatives to reduce hunger/improve nutrition	22
Disaster recovery assistance	16.4

What is more telling, is the following list of initiatives that **increased in 2020** over the previous year. This indicates an upward trend for recreation facilities to become more engaged in:

- inclusion initiatives for those with physical disabilities
- initiatives to reduce hunger and improve nutrition
- disaster recovery assistance
- outreach to minority populations, and
- outreach to economically disadvantaged populations



As well, facilities reported that the areas of concern for facility management that **showed the greatest increase** were:

- environmental and conservation issues
- social equity, and
- access issues.

**COVID-19** --There hasn't been enough time to see trends in terms of long-term implications for recreation because of COVID-19, but the 2020 facilities report cited above found that many recreation centres and facilities immediately responded to the crisis by providing programs and services that went beyond the traditional scope of recreation:

- Programs that address food security
- On-line wellness and fitness programs
- Education support for kids
- Childcare for front line workers

### ***Sport Continues to be Changeable***

Participation in sport continues to be changeable and at times hard to read. There are declines in some sports while others seem to be increasing, and the trends to play some types of sports can vary by region. For example, cricket is growing in popularity, but not all regions are seeing this upswing. The challenge for local communities is to be aware of the broader trends and where sport appears to be heading, while keeping a pulse on participation trends close to home. For example, The Blue Mountains has seen a decline in hockey participation over the past few years, but it is likely to remain as a viable sport, with a long-standing tradition, in the Town. Interest in basketball participation may surge with the NBA victory of the Toronto Raptors in 2019 and youth tennis is gaining popularity. Soccer, swimming and dance remain strong.

Sports media groups have a pulse on the popularity of sports in Canada. Although they may not all agree on the ranking, there is general consensus that the top ten most popular

sports in Canada, to watch or play are: hockey, basketball, soccer, rugby, lacrosse, baseball, cricket, curling, tennis, and golf.

The Aspen Institute and Sports and Fitness Industry Association found that in 2017, youth sport participation was enjoying a slight up take. “In 2017, 56.5 percent of children played a team sport in some form at least one time during the year — more than at any point in the past six years. Over the past three years, the percentage of children falling into that category has grown in baseball, basketball, ice hockey, field hockey, wrestling, flag football, gymnastics, and swimming on a team, despite a major drop in soccer participation, according to SFIA. In the past year, volleyball and track and field have also rebounded.”

Alternatively, many sources suggest an overall decline in participation in youth sport. There are several contributing factors for the decrease in play, including:

- Growing concern for injury and concussion
- Lack of trained coaches
- High participation costs for a number of sports
- Increase in elite travel teams, which drains membership on recreational teams
- Increase in video game playing by youth

There may be a good opportunity for municipal recreation to revitalize house league or recreational league play. Increasingly, elite teams have try-outs and recruit the players with the highest skill level and house league teams are branded as inferior. The challenge is to convince parents that house league play provides excellent quality at an affordable price. Local leagues could offer well-trained coaches, skill development training, affordability, less travel and less impact on family time.

The *Canadian Youth Sports Report* named swimming and soccer as having the highest participation rates of youth, ages 3-17, in Canada (followed in order by dance, hockey, skating, basketball, gymnastics, track and field, ballet and karate). More Canadian youth are in dance than hockey, largely due to the fact that 1 in 4 Canadian girls participate in dance, gymnastics or ballet. Basketball and soccer are the most popular youth team sports among

new Canadians (Solutions Research Group Consultants, Inc., 2014, <http://www.srgnet.com/2014/06/10/massive-competition-in-pursuit-of-the-5-7-billion-canadian-youth-sports-market/>).

A few other trends in sport are:

- More specialized training facilities, which go hand-in-hand with the increase in elite sport teams (e.g. indoor soccer pitches, year-round baseball facilities)
- There is more support for Olympic sport with programs such as RBC Training Ground
- Multi -purpose recreation complexes are favourites with parents who want to get some food, or do a fitness class, or use facility wi-fi while their child is practicing or playing
- Artificial turf is gaining popularity as it facilitates round-the-clock programming. Many school boards are moving toward this.
- In the 2018 Federal Budget, the Government of Canada announced a target to achieve gender equity in sport at every level by 2035. This included an initial three-year commitment of \$30 million to be used to increase participation of females in sport, leadership, coaching and officiating, as well as address issues of gender-based violence.
- Kids are becoming interested in activities they can do all their life and which may not be on teams (e.g. tennis, kayaking, biking, jogging).
- E-sport is quickly growing

Covid's effect on sports has been dramatic. An infographic prepared by Sport for Life shows the devastating impact that the pandemic has had on local sporting organizations. For example, 38% of the organizations don't expect to survive more than 6 months without financial support and 1/3 are ineligible for that support. Staff have been laid off in 66% of the organizations and 70% have experienced a decrease in registration.



## Facility and Amenity Trends

The 2020 Report on the State of the Managed Recreation Industry--A Look at What's Happening in Recreation, Sports & Fitness Facilities forms a basis of comparison for the Town of The Blue Mountains and gives a sense of what facilities and amenities are, or will be, in demand. The report, which was generated from the responses of over 1300 recreation facilities including schools, municipalities, private fitness centres, Y's, camps, and so on in rural, suburban and urban communities. Over half of the facilities provided the following amenities in 2020:

**Most Frequently Provided Amenity in Recreation Facilities**

Type of Amenity	% of Facilities
Playgrounds	61.5
Classrooms and meeting rooms	60.6
Bleachers and seating	59.9
Outdoor sports courts for sports such as basketball, tennis	59.7
Wi-fi	57.7
Open spaces such as natural areas and gardens	56.6
Locker rooms	55.6
Park shelters like gazebos	54.9
Concessions	54.4
Walking and hiking trails	52.9
Natural turf fields (baseball, soccer, football, etc.)	52.8
Indoor sports courts (basketball, racquet courts, etc.)	52.7
Park restroom structures	50.5

While the above chart show the current level of service, some of those amenities show an **upward trend** , indicating a growing demand. Those showing an **increase of 2+ percentage points**:

- Open spaces
- Wi-fi
- Walking and hiking rails
- Outdoor sports courts

Those showing an **increase greater than 3 percentage points** are:

- Park restroom structures (+8.4 percentage points)
- Dog parks (+4.7)
- Community centres (+4)
- Splash play areas
- Outdoor fitness areas
- Indoor sport courts

Looking ahead, the same facilities are planning to add the following amenities in the future. Again, this is an indicator of growing demand.

1. Splash play areas
2. Playgrounds
3. Park shelters
4. Dog parks
5. Park restrooms
6. Synthetic turf sports fields
7. Walking and hiking trails
8. Fitness trails and outdoor fitness equipment
9. Disc golf courses
10. Outdoor sports courts

### ***Programming Trends***

Looking at programming trends, *The 2020 Report on the State of the Managed Recreation Industry* 2020 report finds the following programs to be offered at the facilities:

#### **Most Frequently Offered Program in Recreation Facilities**

<b>Type of Program Offered</b>	<b>% of Facilities</b>
Holiday events and other special events	65.3
Educational programs	59.0
Group exercise programs	58.8
Fitness programs	57.6

Day camps and summer camps	57.3
Youth sports teams	55.2
Mind-body balance programs such as yoga and tai chi	51.2
Adult sports teams	46.0
Arts and crafts programs	45.8
Programs for active older adults	45.4
Sports tournaments and races	44.8
Swimming programs	44.7
Sport training (golf instruction, tennis lessons, etc.)	40.9
Teen programming	40.3

Of interest is that **22% of the facilities plan to introduce Environmental Education programs and 18% plan to introduce Special Needs Programs.** Neither of these types of programs were listed in the top 14 above.



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Town of The Blue Mountains

# Key Stakeholders Interview Summary

## Leisure Activities Plan

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**Dunbar &  
Associates**

December 2020





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## **Introduction**

Dunbar and Associates conducted interviews with approximately fifty key stakeholders and community advocates, such as local and regional Town officials, community associations and clubs, private and corporate entities, and other recreation stakeholders in the community. (See Interview Participants on p. 21). The intent of the interviews was to get a well-rounded and full perspective on the issues and challenges for the Town of The Blue Mountains and the best ideas and advice for advancing parks and recreation in the future.

This summary highlights the key messages from the interviews. It identifies the common themes as well as points of divergence in opinion. Information from the interviews and focus groups, as well as the survey results and trends research are analysed together to inform the recommendations for the future.

## **The Town of The Blue Mountains is Quickly Growing and Changing which is Stressing and Pressuring the Community in its Transition.**

Blue Mountains and area is an attractive, four season region for retirement. Increasing numbers of newly retired adults from the GTA, and other more urban areas, will continue to relocate to the Town of The Blue Mountains and this trend is currently being hastened by the Covid Pandemic as people leave densely populated cities as soon as they can. Not only does this increase demand for recreation services and facilities, but there are high expectations for the quality of those services as newcomers compare the Town's amenities to those that they were accustomed to in much larger cities. They are also accustomed to paying more for recreation and services than many of the long-time residents in Town.

Some residents reside in the area part of the time and so their patterns of use fluctuate which can have an impact on recreation services. Visitors, tourists, new residents and an increased local population base have created new pressures, especially on natural environment features which are intended to be protected and enhanced. Huge increases in use, along with limited staff and resources and a large acreage to maintain, have created a

stressful situation. Northwinds Beach Park and Peasemars are two local examples of excessively high use in 2020. Local staff was not ready to handle the extremely high volume of use. This increase may be related to Covid, but it also may be a sign of the future.

Some interview participants think that the newer residents, in higher income brackets, will advocate for and be willing to financially support facility development. However, long-time residents may not be as willing or as financially-able to do the same. One respondent said that tourism has brought the Town to this juncture and we must always welcome new visitors. Some say that the transition of attitudes will take 2 or 3 generations as the Town moves from rural to “rurban” to eventually urban. There is a tension between the desire to grow and improve recreation facilities and services, and the desire to preserve rural and country values and slow population growth.

Interview participants also note that the age of new residents is getting younger and they are seeing an influx in those 45-65 years of age. Young retirees are more active, well-educated, and have above average income to support their needs. The number of new families is increasing too as the Covid Pandemic has proven that work from remote areas is possible and that the country provides more space and perhaps a safer environment for family members. New families need various supports, services, and amenities and want sport and recreation activities for their children.

Demographic and trends research is essential in understanding the factors at play in the Town of The Blue Mountains and for getting the right balance of recreation within the various communities. It’s also important to make sure there’s no bias or over representation of any one area on the survey results. It is vital to understand what citizens will actually use (versus what they want) and what they are willing to pay.

## **The Covid Pandemic Has Intensified the Pressures and Stresses on the Town**

The Covid Pandemic has dramatically intensified the number of people moving to the Town of The Blue Mountains for a better quality of life in a more natural environment. People

who are financially secure and close to retirement have decided to leave densely populated urban centres. Regional real estate sales have been setting new records month after month with August showing an increase of 15% sales over July, which showed a 12% increase over June and September is 15% to 20% over the summer months!

Safe “bubbles” are in high demand in the real estate market, where families purchase country homes for more space and healthy living. In addition, if Covid continues, it’s predicted that families will not be going on vacation to Florida and other warm destinations so the market for part-time rentals will all but disappear. At the end of the pandemic, it will be obvious to many that they can successfully work at home, in the country, and will not return to live full-time in the city. These families will want recreation opportunities similar to what they had in urban centres.

Part-time residents, or snowbirds, who usually head south for the winter, will be staying in place. This means more people looking for recreation services in the winter.

Another reality is the increasing pressure on the Town’s waterfront parks and beaches, as well as trail systems and conservation areas. With a growing number of residents wanting beach front access, and an unprecedented number of visitors from the GTA wanting to escape the City for the day, the Town’s capabilities for maintenance, supervision, and supplying the demand, are exhausted. One respondent suggested that control mechanisms are essential for the next summer season. A capacity level must be established for all properties and a detailed response prepared to deal with these new pressures on resources.

## **Provision of Recreation Facilities, Amenities and Services Hasn’t Kept Pace with Municipal Growth**

Interview participants frequently raised the concern that the Municipal recreation infrastructure is stressed, stretched and deficient to serve the needs of the existing and rapidly growing community. Newer, updated recreational amenities are desperately needed to serve the dynamic municipality as well as to attract new residents looking for an



attractive community to move to and live in. One interviewee indicated that recreation and culture in the Town of The Blue Mountains is underfunded when compared to surrounding municipalities. Another said the provision of recreation amenities and services lags far behind an acceptable level.

Advice for rectifying that situation is divided. Many interview participants suggest that an ideal location for a recreation facility would be in an existing community hub area, such as west Thornbury where there is a large population to serve. This suggestion looks beyond municipal boundaries to include Meaford residents and some even recommend putting it on the Meaford election docket to determine level of interest. Another person said, in order to attract more viable partners, that a multi-use facility be located closer to Meaford than to Collingwood.

Other alternative locations mentioned include the Craigleith area, the Camperdown area, and the Cedar Run/proposed Wakeboard Park area. Many interviewees noted that the Craigleith area has a large and growing population, and few municipal recreation services or facilities. It also represents a significant tax base.

A third option suggested was two smaller facilities, rather than one large centre. Locations recommended are Craigleith and Thornbury so that there would be better balance and sense of equality and fairness across the entire municipality. It was suggested that this approach could reduce the animosity between the different communities.

Another option might be a large multi-purpose centre in conjunction with a few satellites, for example, in the Craigleith area with the ski industry as partners (i.e. Blue Mountain has operated an outdoor skating rink and the Plunge Pool agreement ). As more families make the Craigleith area their primary residence, there is need for more recreation amenities, in this area.

## **Short Term or Interim Program and Facility Solutions are Needed Now**

Many realize a multi-use facility is a longer term solution to addressing the leisure and recreation needs of the community. There is a sense of urgency that action needs to be taken as soon as possible (and “before I die!” as one survey respondent says) to provide more amenities, services and programs right away. Some who were interviewed make suggestions for interim steps, such as:

- Providing programs and activities this winter to enhance family life during Covid restrictions, or working on the Moreau Park Pavilion.
- Starting discussions immediately with possible program partners, both private and public, on ways to work together to improve recreation activities for residents as soon as possible. Ask “what existing facilities can be shared now with private/public uses – short term? Could there be new recreation facilities established in partnership for public/private co-operation and use—long term?” Public and private partners already operate facilities and run programs, so they have a business model in place, and some are interested in forming a relationship with the Town to expand their level of service and offerings. They suggest that talks with the Town could result in an expanded level of service for all.
- Hiring a recreation programmer immediately to improve existing programming and work towards expanding into all segments of the town.
- Working with the cycling and active transportation interests to identify areas to make enhancements, such as “staging points,” writing and approving cycling guidelines, developing walking and running loops
- Looking at ways to secure a reliable community indoor tennis facility (maybe at Bayview Park adjacent to existing courts.)
- Investigating the possibility of Thornbury and Meaford curling clubs working together to fundraise and develop a new curling centre by repurposing the Thornbury arena into a curling club and outdoor skating rink for the region.

## An Accessible, Inclusive, Multi-Purpose Facility is Overdue

“A multi-use facility is overdue and would be well used by the community,” said one interview participant. Many agree that a multi-purpose recreation facility is important for the physical, mental, and social health, or fabric, of the community and is long overdue. In order to have the greatest impact on residents, most said that the facility needs to be easily accessed and serviced. It must be inclusive and integrated, providing opportunities for all abilities, ages, and interests.

Interview respondents said that a multi-purpose facility should be close to main travel corridors, such as highway 26, follow the 8-80 active transportation guidelines, provide bussing/mass transportation from local communities, and be accessible to all. It should be in a location that is serviced easily, has generous parking, and doesn’t add to traffic congestion. Some feel that it would be nice if the facility was near to or easily accessed by kids and schools and close to local businesses that would benefit from increased traffic to and from the facility. It need not be on prime land which would be costly.

Some people who were interviewed said that although the area has a large retired, older adult population, it was important not to forget about the youth in the community and working families. One interviewee said, “while the community demographic seems to be getting older, it’s important to encourage the younger generations to participate in active recreation.” Any multi-use facility must provide a variety of components for an active community and give equal opportunities for all ages and stakeholders. There should be youth programs and support, and even a youth centre. Youth should be part of the planning process. As well, a facility that is attractive to families will be an incentive for more residents to move to the area, rather than locate in Collingwood.

Interviewees suggest that both indoor and outdoor amenities are important and should be built in a phased approach, starting with the most needed or highest priority components first, and adding additional features as capital becomes available. A huge centre may not be necessary or realistic. The following amenities were suggested as important by interview participants:

## Indoor Amenities

- There is strong interest in a **pool or pools** that could be used year round. Some suggest a 25 M pool with lap lanes and a recreation area for fun and lessons. This may be in conjunction with a deep dive end and dive tower and an adjacent warm water pool for exercise and physio. The area currently has three pools which need to be looked at in a partnership context. Some believe that if the entire region (Collingwood, Meaford, Town of The Blue Mountains, Canadian Forces, and others) agreed to share costs, it may be possible to have a 50M pool which would attract large meets and competitions. Windsor has a most recent build of a 50M pool and operation costs are roughly 1.5 million/year.
- **Indoor courts** for basketball, pickleball, tennis and paddle sports
  - Pickleball is a growing sport in the Town of The Blue Mountains and provincially as well. There is need for both outdoor and indoor facilities as participation is capped now with 40 on a waiting list. Currently they are renting space at the Meaford military base.
  - Basketball and youth tennis are growth sports.
- **Walking track** and high end **gym equipment** for personal training and fitness. The current gym at Blue Mountain Resorts is overwhelmed with users. Indoor fitness and pool use seems to be on the rise, while team sport has slowed. An indoor walking track would be of great value in the winter months when it is difficult to walk on icy sidewalks.
- A large **theatre or multi-purpose space** (350-1000 seat capacity) for lectures, special events, music, cultural events, celebrations, continuous learning, etc. with a stage, podium, slide screen, sound system, racked floor, kitchen, and its own outside entrance. It's important to include arts and culture in a leisure plan and provide for more cultural equity.
- Meeting places, break out rooms, seminar spaces, and rooms to rent
- **Curling** -- facilities in Meaford are older and aging; it is difficult to attract new members and service existing members without adequate facilities. Collingwood Curling Club is a good example of how to successfully renovate an existing structure. The Town owns and runs ice plant for joint use and provides refrigerated brine for



attached outdoor full ice surface. Members funded the upstairs, which holds 400, for rentals and social gatherings. Current registration is over 700 with a large number of new community members.

- Two arena **ice pads** with an outdoor skating option off one end. The Town's arena is aging. One suggestion is that the old facilities could be re-purposed into other needed community facilities.
- Community **bowling**

Some interview participants mentioned the **library** and the fact that the LE Shore Centre is 25 years old and needs upgrades. The community supports the library in its present location, however some interviewees suggested that more library services are needed in the Craighleith area. Some mentioned the possibility of a satellite service and the subject comes up again in discussion about a community hub. Alternatively, some suggest that putting the library and recreation services under one roof may have advantages in sharing the same physical space, such as cost savings.

#### Outdoor Amenities

- **Outdoor track**
- **Soccer fields** with indoor washrooms
- **Baseball** -- the current diamonds and arena are in a good location for kids to access however they need attention and upgrades – pavilion and washrooms
- **Pickleball** courts
- **Skateboard park**
- **Splash pad**
- More **greenspaces, trails and parks**, and programming in these areas, such as art walks, cycle safety. The impact of Covid has increased the use and stresses on existing trails, beaches, and parks. Existing trails are well used and an important amenity. Moving forward we need to ensure trail master planning as a priority in provision of recreation services in Town. Parkland surrounding the multi-purpose centre is needed as there are limited places now for family time, picnics, relaxing and

enjoying nature. Enhancements such as gazebos, benches and more shade are needed. Parks, trails and greenspaces need to be connected.

- Interview participants also suggested that Sheffield Park should be supported by the town and use of public lands such as Pretty River Valley Park, Craigeleith Provincial Park, previous school board property on Grey Rd. #19, and County lands should be considered to address the requirement for more greenspace.

## **A Regional Approach with Strong and Committed Partners is the Way Forward**

Interview participants gave clear direction that the best way forward is a regional approach, led by the Municipality and in collaboration with a diverse group of strong, committed partners, including other municipalities, corporations and the private sector, developers, sponsors, and relevant groups and organizations. The list of potential partners includes, but is not limited to: Meaford, Collingwood, Grey County, Grey Highlands, Clearview, Beaver Valley Community School, Canadian Forces, developers (e.g. bonusing to negotiate facilities), private sector (with possible naming rights), dance group, the Y (e.g. for their expertise in operating pools) Blue Mountain Resorts, Blue Mountain Village Association, private and public ski operations, and the federal and provincial governments (grants and initiatives, infrastructure funding programs, economic recovery initiatives, COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream funding, etc.) One respondent suggested looking at new models for interacting or collaborating with the private sector, and partnering with, for example, banks, pharmacy, office space, equipment rental, climbing wall, or others.

Many see a regional approach as the best and most pragmatic way to achieve economies of scale and to break down the borders and competition among communities. “If we are willing to leave silly, local politics and join into a positive, cooperative regional process, this area can be a dominant driver in the future of Ontario,” said one interview participant. Opportunities such as this do not often come around and can easily be lost.

Situations, in which each small town is providing the same facilities, are no longer affordable and cannot be sustained. Local municipalities are in a high growth period with an influx of new residents from the GTA. After the Covid pandemic, there is likely to be a huge surge in recreation facility usage patterns. This is a regional challenge best handled by a regional association of three or more municipal partners that can bring existing services up to a more modern and acceptable standard.

The notion of an unique “bubble” or “sphere” of services provided by each partner was mentioned often. The intent of this is not to duplicate services and compete for user groups, but rather to complement and support each other while playing to the strengths of each community. For example, Collingwood might rather pursue a large, regional theatre and cultural facility rather than a multipurpose sport facility. Blue Mountain has expressed interest in pursuing the outdoor entertainment sphere. Canadian Forces might support facilities for their training, such as a deep dive pool, or Meaford a multi-use recreation facility that also provides grounds for their agricultural fair and a home for the Beaver Valley Agricultural Society. Thornbury and Meaford curling clubs could work together to repurpose the Thornbury arena into a curling club for the region.

This will not be easy! While working in partnership for the betterment of recreation for all communities and stakeholders may be ideal, it will take a lot of negotiation, sharing of information, a detailed review of current assets and capabilities, and then collectively deciding what will and won't work. Examples given were the growth of pickleball, aging arenas and curling facilities, and The Plunge pool agreement – collaborative planning across the region with neighbouring communities could better plan for growth pressures and new trends by working together to develop amenities, policy, procedures and maintenance standards for various facilities that are shared.

One potential partner who shows interest in exploring a regional partnership with the Town of The Blue Mountains is Meaford. Laying the groundwork for such a partnership would involve:

- Doing a regional review of all current facilities, infrastructure and open spaces
- Evaluating the state of local infrastructure and understanding current lifecycles

- Developing levels of service, related to service areas (existing & possible future) for local municipalities
- Considering partnerships and potential partners

The municipality of Grey Highlands has also confirmed interest regarding reviewing potential partnering, once they proceed with their Recreation Master Planning process!

## **A Well-Planned, Executed and Phased Approach With Room to Grow Is Needed**

One interviewee says that it all *must start with the decision to move ahead* with plans for the multi-use centre so that Town staff can begin the process of applying for new government funding opportunities. Many of the stakeholders interviewed advise that solid plans need to be developed that are based on a business approach and detailed financial analysis of capital and operating expenses. Conducting a Feasibility Study for the multi-use centre would be an important first step. The Town will need to review tax implications and the major costs associated with infrastructure needs for hard services. Furthermore, there should be a long-term, phased plan that stages the build over 10 or 20 years and takes into consideration plans in other sectors, such as infrastructure, servicing and transportation. Some suggested that a starting place would be a drawing, floor plan or footprint/vision of the facility with projected costs to build and operate. Phase 1 might include the priority amenities (such as pool, fitness centre, walking track, basketball courts) and Phase 2 and Phase 3 would look at expansion. The sentiment is “walk before you run” and it is time to get on with it. The Town has money in reserves, has been collecting development charges, can afford it, and needs to get behind it.

Key criteria in the well planned and phased approach include:

- Making the decision to proceed with the multi-use centre so that staff can start applying for new government funding opportunities and then, identifying all the immediate fixes, and all those that may be scheduled over the next five to ten years.
- ensuring room for growth and expansion as trends and markets change, some suggest about 50 acres



- listening to the survey and what residents want, but also considering what they'll actually use
- thinking outside the box and being change agents – this is a big opportunity
- building on what already exists – the full gamut of tourism amenities (restaurants, accommodation, attractions, etc.)
- determining the life expectancy of the current arena and community centre

## **Complement, Enhance and Learn from Best Practices**

Many of the people who were interviewed suggested that the Town of The Blue Mountains would best be served by seeking out best practices and learning from other communities about what works and doesn't (e.g. Goderich Centre/Paris, Y, Hanover P & G, Lora Bay as an example of a community with organized activities). The idea is to explore successful multi-use facilities that have private-public agreements. It may be possible to attain operational costs from comparable facilities, or use them as "blueprints."

One suggestion was to talk to municipalities of comparable size to find out what their average deficits are for a 25 m pool, a single arena, twin rinks, basketball courts, libraries, etc.

They also advised against reinvention and competing with other municipalities, the private sector, or other groups within the same municipality. The emphasis, they feel, should be on complementing, enhancing, and building on what the Town already has (e.g. Marsh St. Centre, Ravenna and Craighleith Halls, Lemonade Collective, BVCC, the well-developed tourism sector, etc.).

## **This is a Critical Investment in our Future and We Have to Get it Right**

"Be bold, use imagination, think outside the box, this is for the future, build it right," commented one interview respondent. Many interview participants feel that building and operating a multi-use facility should be Municipal-led. It will require top-notch expertise

and experience. There is a lot at stake as it is a critical investment for the future and the Town has to get it right. What this means is:

1. Showing political will and securing funding. From the perspective of being a good candidate for receiving provincial funding and grants, this means stating a strong business position, supported by the municipality, that shows positive economic impact on the region. Some of the criteria for a successful funding application are:
  - Having a regional focus, not a small town/small initiative vision
  - Showing strong support/endorsement from private and public sector partners and neighbouring communities
  - Demonstrating how the project will help local business and create employment and COVID-19 recovery (e.g. COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream provincial funding for municipal projects including community recreation)
  - Integrating a sport tourism aspect
  - Incorporating age-friendly community planning and quality of life perspective for all residents
2. Hiring the best engineers, planners, marketers, etc. and getting strong guidance from business-minded, experienced professionals in engineering, marketing, promotions, operations, finances, communications, and so on.
3. Hiring highly skilled municipal staff with skill sets specific to the components and activities within the facility (e.g. pool operation) and the ability to successfully manage and drive the facility. Good communication and business skills will be necessary to work with user groups.
4. Forming a Board of Management or Directors. Suggestions are:
  - maximize effectiveness of operations, without being involved in direct management of the facility.
  - have regional representation and operate under set regional guidelines.
  - include a combination of Councilors, full-time and part-time residents, and facility manager.

- select people who have experience and proven track record in running large-scale people businesses
  - Board directs day-to-day facility operations, with guidance from Council
5. Mobilizing the existing skill set and expertise of volunteers already in the community. Seek out and involve this huge resource of retired professionals, community champions, group leaders, parent volunteers, and those with skills to share in teaching, coaching, advising, spearheading, fundraising, governing, grounds keeping, and so forth. Volunteers can be invaluable partners and one interviewee suggests that all the new people moving into the area bring new money, new experiences, new skills and they are willing to volunteer..."just ask!" Good communication is essential and valuing the work volunteers do will sustain this valuable resource.

Community groups can also assist, if provided with Town support, to make funding applications. They need Town support and assistance in navigating grants research and finding opportunities as well as completing the application forms.

## **User Fees and Funding: How to Be Inclusive and Affordable While Covering Costs**

Setting user fees and funding a new facility is multi-faceted and there were many different perspectives and not much consensus on the best way to do it. Without having an actual facility and its components (and a capital and operating costs analysis) it is a bit premature to address implications for municipal taxes and user fee calculations. There will be a cost for increased recreational services and this is compounded by the County tax situation which continues to leave much less for local services. Many suggested that a regional approach would maximize efficiencies and spread the capital and operating costs over a larger population, making it more affordable for all.

Interview respondents offered many ideas on the criteria that should be considered in setting fees and funding a facility. A respondent suggested that a review of typical pricing

models applied in other jurisdictions might be informative. There was a bit more agreement that whatever strategies are used, it will depend on the facility components and operating costs. People expect to pay user fees and they should be reasonable and affordable, and in some cases free, nominal or subsidized (e.g. for families, youth and/or seniors who are in need). It was noted that many residents are working in the service industry which does not provide a lot of high paying jobs.

#### User Fee Suggestions

- Different Rate for Residents and Non-Residents – there should be some benefit to being a resident and paying taxes; this might work similar to Library fees where non-residents pay a different fee than residents – resident card system or a stepped or strata pricing system
- Same Rate for Visitors and Residents – we shouldn't discourage tourists and out-of-town visitors from using our facilities because they're important to our economy
- Pay-as-you-go
- Different rate for non-profit groups and private/for profit groups
- Membership (e.g. \$600/year) or annual dues with additional fees for participation in activities or programs
- Offer price incentives, similar to the private sector, so the more you use the facility the more price breaks you get (e.g. play 3 sports, get the third for half price)

#### Funding Options

- COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream
- A tax receipt option for those residents making capital donations or ongoing gifts
- Source out sponsors (e.g. Tim Horton's curling)
- Development charges
- Rent office space to private sector and attract long-term committed tenants
- Provide rental blocks to GTA groups or the Canadian Forces in off-peak hours
- A grants and donations funding committee



## **A Community Hub, Incorporating Health Services, would be a Catalyst for the Municipality and Promote an Active Healthy Community**

Many interview participants spoke to the benefits of a community hub facility. A combination of a wide array of services, amenities and programs would bring excitement and energy. It would be a positive selling feature for the community and attract both young families and older adults looking for a healthy lifestyle and a great place to live -- health and wellness for all generations. As well, it has the potential to bring long-time residents and newcomers together.

The list of potential “good fits” for such a hub is long and includes components of:

- Recreation, heritage and culture, Center for Black heritage and Indigenous community
- Wellness, health and fitness (e.g. pharmacy, physician offices, clinic, physio and rehab services, massage therapy, vision care, health seminars, therapy pool, etc.)
- Education, high school, youth centre, child care
- Supports for mental and social health and outreach services
- Library (or library satellite) Existing library with Beaver Valley school next door is a good hub now.
- Community information services and meeting rooms for community groups

The interview participants had suggestions for selecting which components to house at the hub. Two important questions are:

1. Which components make the most sense from a healthy living perspective, and integrate or “cross pollinate” well with one another, and
2. Which ones can contribute to the capital and operating costs of the hub?

It was advised to think long-term and outside of ordinary parameters to come up with a dynamic, feasible and sustainable plan for the future. The hub should be a 24/7 one-stop-shop in a good location, with available transportation links, good servicing with room for expansion. It should not compete with existing facilities.

In order to be financially viable, a business model/approach should be used and private partnerships developed. Private partners should be carefully selected to ensure they are committed to long term investment (e.g. paying rent, or sharing capital and operating costs) in the hub, and have businesses related to the health and wellness sector. The Innisfil Medical Center was given as an example.

## **Tap Into Regional Sport/Tourism Market**

Some people interviewed see an opportunity for a regional sport and recreation facility to attract large numbers of visitors to the area which in turn would increase traffic to local business and create jobs. Through partnerships with local BIA's, the tourism sector, and municipalities, a regional, state-of-the-art facility could be a venue for special events, regional tournaments, swim meets, hockey camps and training and be a draw in the shoulder seasons. A good business model would maximize the advantage for both residents and visitors, reduce the bottom line, and benefit the hospitality sector. This viewpoint came from the private business sector and may not be shared by other residents.

Hockey, curling, basketball and soccer are an untapped market in the GTA and Northern United States. And there are local demands for indoor, off-season sports fields, such as soccer, basketball and baseball. A new facility that provides for some or all of these needs would be of benefit and enable older facilities, such as the Thornbury arena (35+ years old) to be re-purposed to serve other recreational needs.

Such a facility could, for example, become a regional "Centre for Sports Excellence" operated by the "South Georgian Bay Sports Authority" (Clearview, Collingwood, Grey Highlands, Thornbury, Meaford) and achieve efficiencies of scale as well as decreasing competition among smaller, older facilities. Simcoe County Waste Management was provided as an example of an effective regional approach.

Sporting authorities (e.g. Sport Alliance Ontario) could become partners and pay rent to use the facility as their head field office (e.g. skiing, boarding, cycling, hockey).

Another important cornerstone of regional tourism is trails. Grey County has recently endorsed a 'Cycling and Trails Master Plan,' which is described as a multi-year guidance document for the implementation of the cycling and trails network. The plan is also intended to improve opportunities for economic development and tourism. Simcoe County has done the same with the Simcoe County Trails Strategy. Trails, trail systems and active transportation continue to be in high demand and even more so now due to Covid-19 and people looking for ways to socially distance, get outside, and stay active. The County master plans are a way for all municipalities to connect to a larger regional network that enhances economic growth and provides residents and visitors with greatly desired recreation.

## **Interview Participants**

A wide variety of interests were represented in the interview process (as grouped below) to get as broad a perspective as possible.

Clarksburg Village Association

Blue Mountains Curling Centre, Curling Club

Thornbury Pickleball Club

Nipissing and other tennis groups and players

Beaver Valley Athletic Association

Thornbury BIA

Mayor, Deputy Mayor and former Mayors

MP

Councillors

Private Developers

Staff of TBM and some neighbouring municipalities

Senior Executives Blue Mountain Village Association and current and previous Blue Mountain Resorts management

Real Estate and Commercial Development

Ratepayers Associations

Sheffield Park Black History Museum

TD Canada Trust

Beaver Valley Community School

March Street Centre

Rotary Club

Grey Sauble Conservation Authority

Lions Club

Private Ski Clubs

Events for Life

Lemonade Collective

Cycling/active transportation

County of Grey/Economic Development, Tourism and Culture

Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Cultural Industries





Town of The Blue Mountains

# Survey Report

## Leisure Activities Plan

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**Dunbar &  
Associates**

December 2020



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## **Survey Administration**

The Town of The Blue Mountains Leisure Activities Plan on-line survey gave residents an opportunity to give their input into the planning process. The survey was posted on the Town website and opened to the public on August 5, 2020 and closed October 16, 2020. Postcard mailers, press releases, radio and newspaper ads, signage and social media were used to encourage participation.

A total of 733 respondents participated in the survey. This is an excellent and very high rate of response and it is indicative of strong public interest in this planning process. Many of the respondents provided numerous detailed comments and suggestions, further indicating their interest in the process. Paper copies of the survey were made available to those people who could not access a computer or who preferred to complete a written survey. Paper copy surveys were manually entered and are included in the final tabulation.

## **Limitations of the Survey**

The on-line survey was not administered to a predetermined, representational number of people. It was a voluntary survey, open to any resident who wished to complete it. This introduces some bias as some residents are more likely than others to complete a survey. Therefore it may not be representational of the entire Town of The Blue Mountains community, and it is advisable to supplement survey findings with other public consultation techniques to make sure all viewpoints are heard.

This type of survey is effective for giving as many people as possible input into the planning process. It is a useful method for getting ideas and opinions, identifying themes and testing issues. When combined with other forms of gathering input, such as interviews and focus groups, a well-rounded understanding of issues and their solutions can be achieved.

Confidence in the results is raised when there is a high response rate from a good cross section of people in the community. Results can be skewed or biased if segments of the population are over represented. For example, if a disproportionate number of respondents were over 65 years of age, it is unlikely the responses would reflect the thinking of the general population. This was not the case in the Town of The Blue Mountains on-line survey. A total of 733 people participated, which is a very high rate of return, and those communities with the larger populations (such as Thornbury, Craigleith, and Clarksburg) also completed a higher number of surveys. For example, according to the 2016 Census, Thornbury's population represents 35% of the total population of the Town of The Blue Mountains; the number of Thornbury residents completing a survey was also 35% of the total number of surveys completed. Similarly when age is considered, the 2016

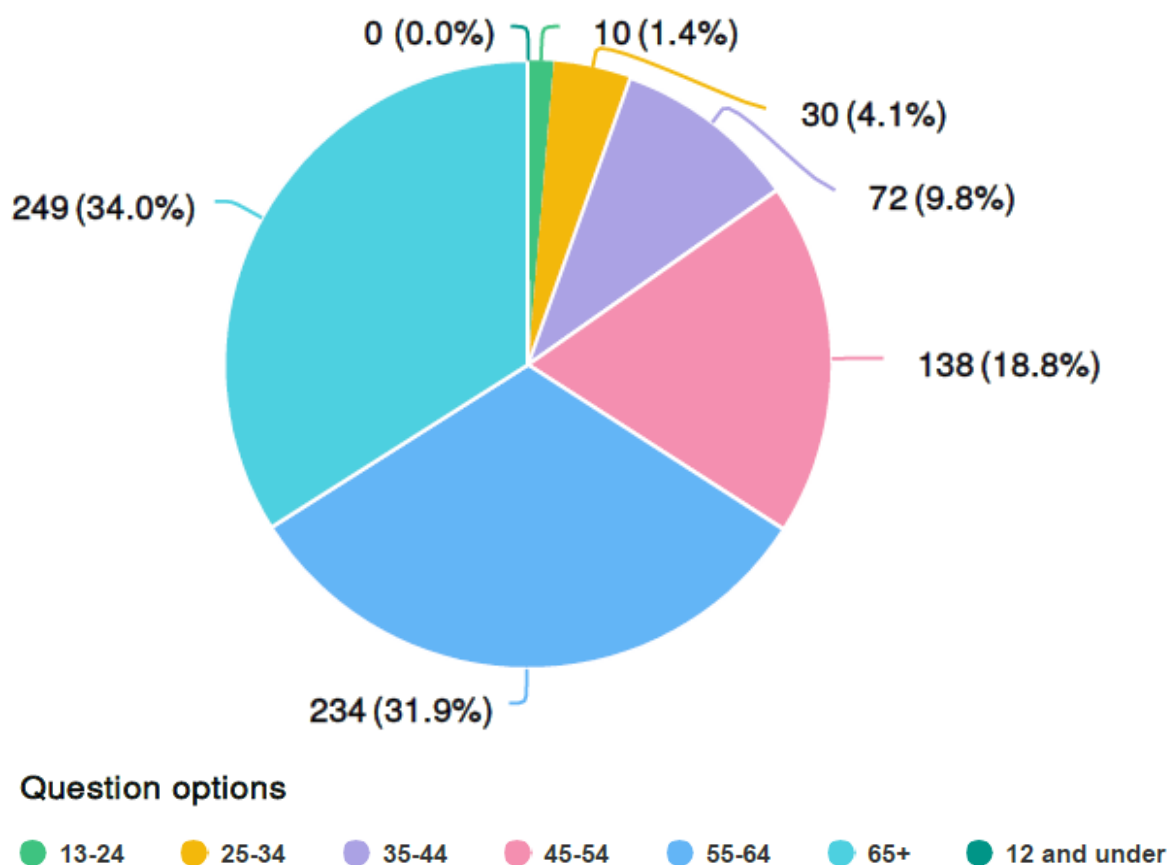


Census for the Town of The Blue Mountains reports 57.3% of the residents are between the ages of 15 to 64 years of age; and survey totals show that 56.2% of people in this age bracket completed a survey. For those 65 years of age and older, 34% completed a survey and the Census reports that 33.4% of the total Town population falls into this age bracket. The proportion of survey respondents appears to be fairly representative of the larger population.

Most questions allowed for open ended comments and these have been grouped according to topic and are included, complete and unedited. The comment sections are valuable in gaining clarity and understanding of opinions.

## Age of Survey Respondents (733 responses)

### Which Age Group Are You In?



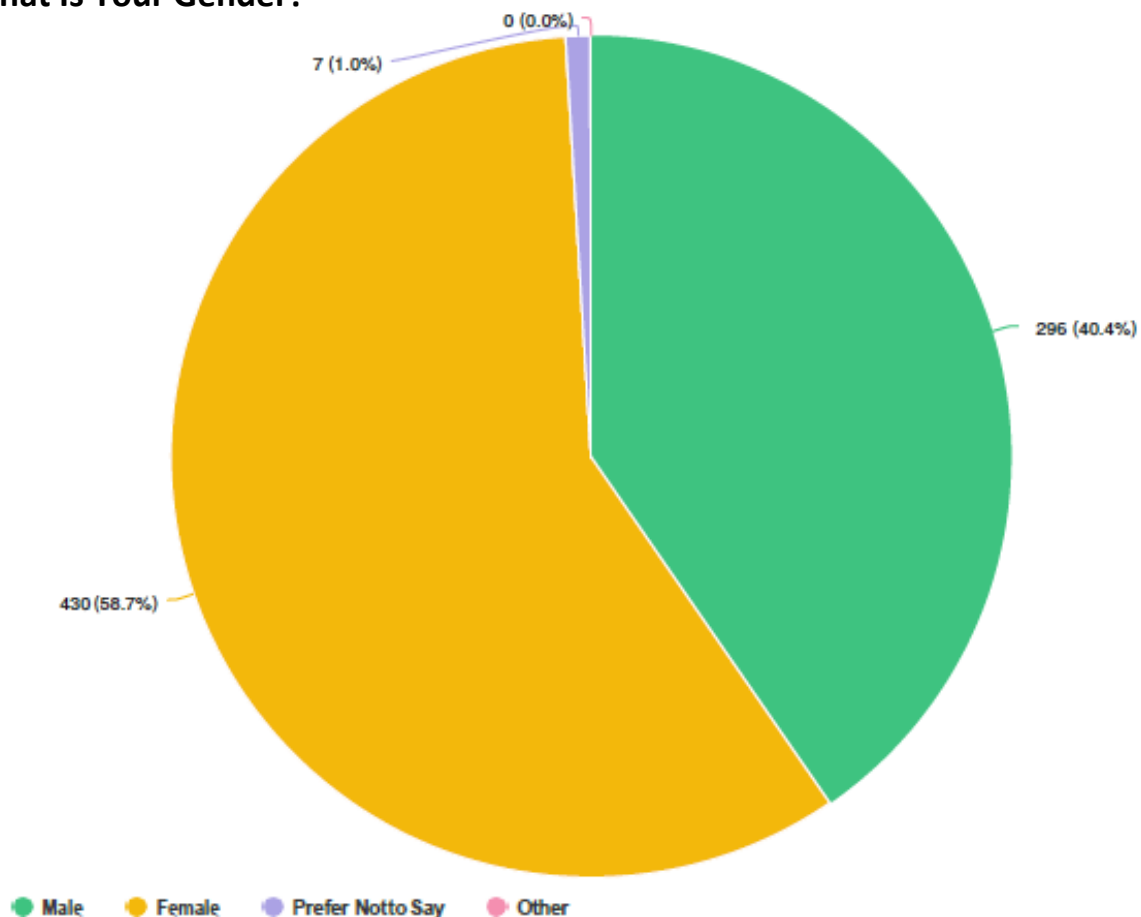
Roughly two thirds (65.9%) of those responding represent the 55+ age groups, with fairly equal representation between the 55-64 year olds and the 65+ age group.

The proportion of survey respondents appears to be fairly representative of the larger population in the Town of The Blue Mountains when age is considered. The 2016 Census for the Town of The Blue Mountains reports 57.3% of the residents are between the ages of 15 to 64 years of age; and survey totals show that 56.2% of people in this age bracket completed a survey. For those 65 years of age and older, 34% completed a survey and Census reports that 33.4% of the total Town population falls into this age bracket.

One caution though is that no one younger than 25 completed a survey and only 10 people in the 25-34 year old age group completed a survey. It is advisable to use interviews, focus groups or other means to get more input from this sector. One survey respondents said, “Although the younger generations are not always able to come to town meetings due to work and family commitments their voices should still be heard.”

## Gender of Survey Respondents (733 responses)

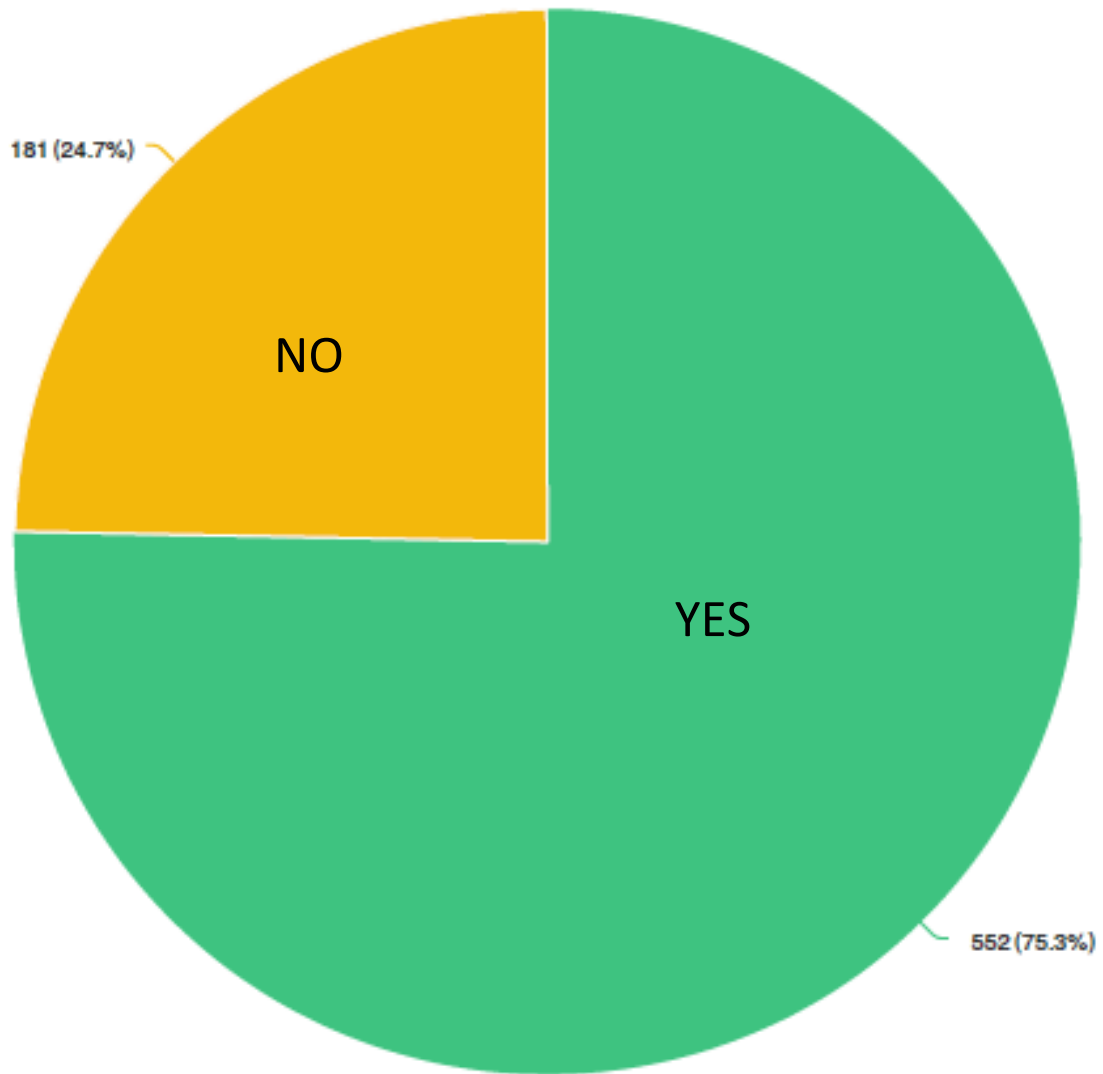
### What Is Your Gender?



More females (58.7%) participated than males (40.4%).

## Residence of Survey Respondents (733 responses)

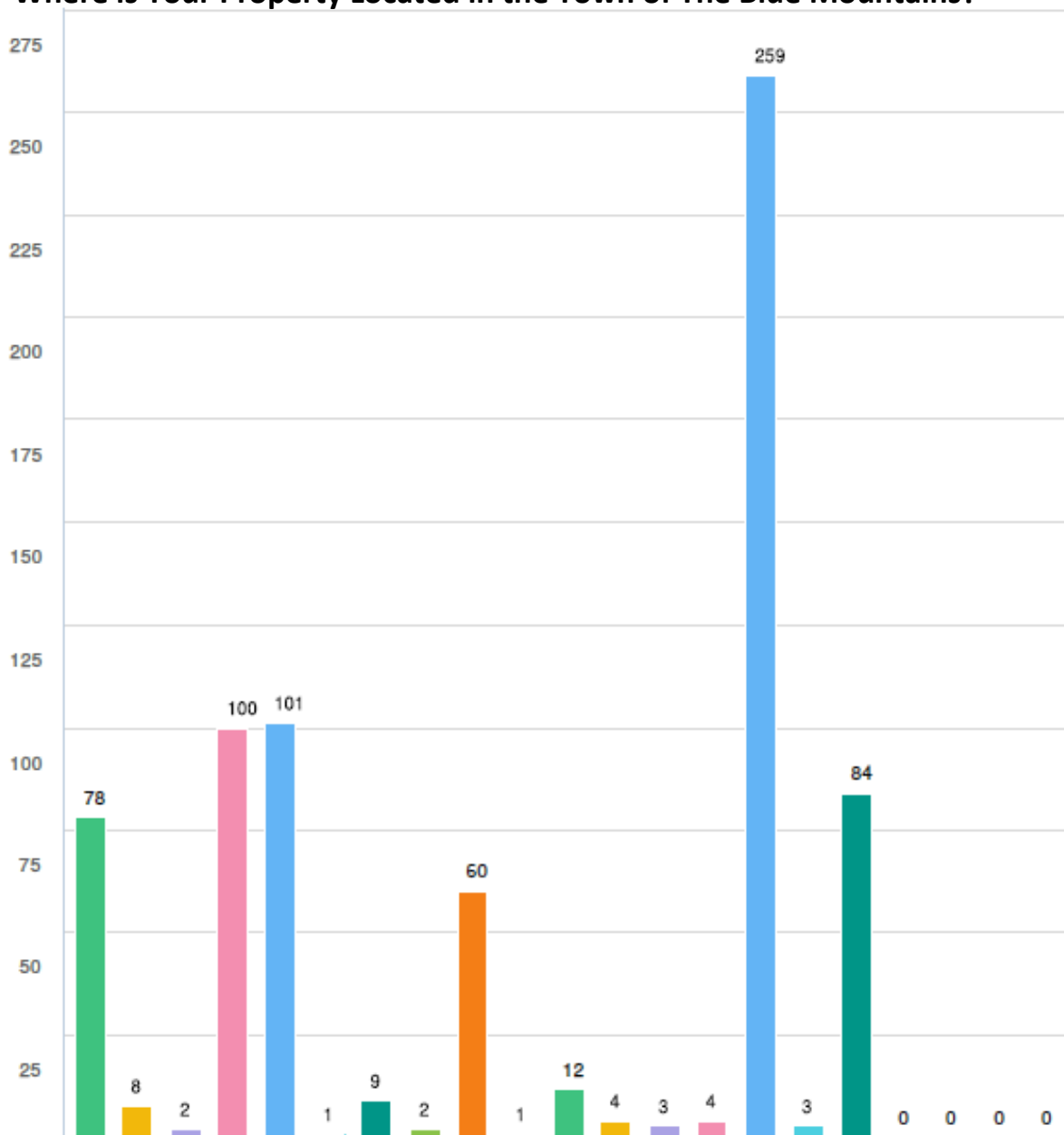
### Is The Blue Mountains Your Primary Residence?



Three quarters of respondents (75.3%) say The Blue Mountains is their primary residence. One quarter (24.7%) do not make The Blue Mountains their primary residence.

## Community of Residence (722 responses)

### Where is Your Property Located in the Town of The Blue Mountains?



#### Question options

Blue Mountain Village   Camperdown   Castle Glen   Clarksburg   Craigleith   Egypt   Heathcote  
 Kolapore   Lora Bay   Loree   Ravenna   RedWing   Slabtown   Swiss Meadows   Thornbury  
 Victoria Corners   Other (please specify)   Banks   Gibraltar   Osler   Sandhill



Those communities with larger populations also completed a higher number of surveys. For example, according to the 2016 Census, Thornbury's population represents 35% of the total population of the Town of The Blue Mountains; the number of Thornbury residents completing a survey was also 35% of the total number of surveys completed.

Important to note are those communities with very low or no participation, such as Banks, Gibraltar, Osler, Sandhill, Castle Glen, Egypt, Kolapore, and Loree.

However, this question also had a lot of respondents choosing to write down their community of residence, rather than select from the menu of place names provided. It could be in fact, that representation from various communities is actually higher than what the graph suggests. The interview and focus group consultations can be used to get additional information about communities that may be underrepresented on the survey.

Reasons for residents choosing to write down their place of residence are numerous and may include:

- They didn't see their place of residence listed (e.g. one respondent noted that Duncan was omitted from the list)
- They overlooked their community on the list or misread
- They wanted to give a more specific or detailed description of where they live
- They may be new to the area and do not know the place names given
- They don't identify with living in the place names given

In addition to the communities on the graph, 83 respondents preferred to identify their place of residence as:

Community Name	Number of Respondents
Windfall	14
Snowbridge	7
Base of Blue Mountain, but not in Village	5
Christie Beach	4
Monterra	4
Heritage Drive	2
Thornbury	2
Crestview	2
Georgian Peaks (Wensley Drive)	2
Brooker Blvd	2
McMurphy Settlement	1
Union	1
Scenic caves Rd	1
Chateau Ridge	1
Indian Circle	1

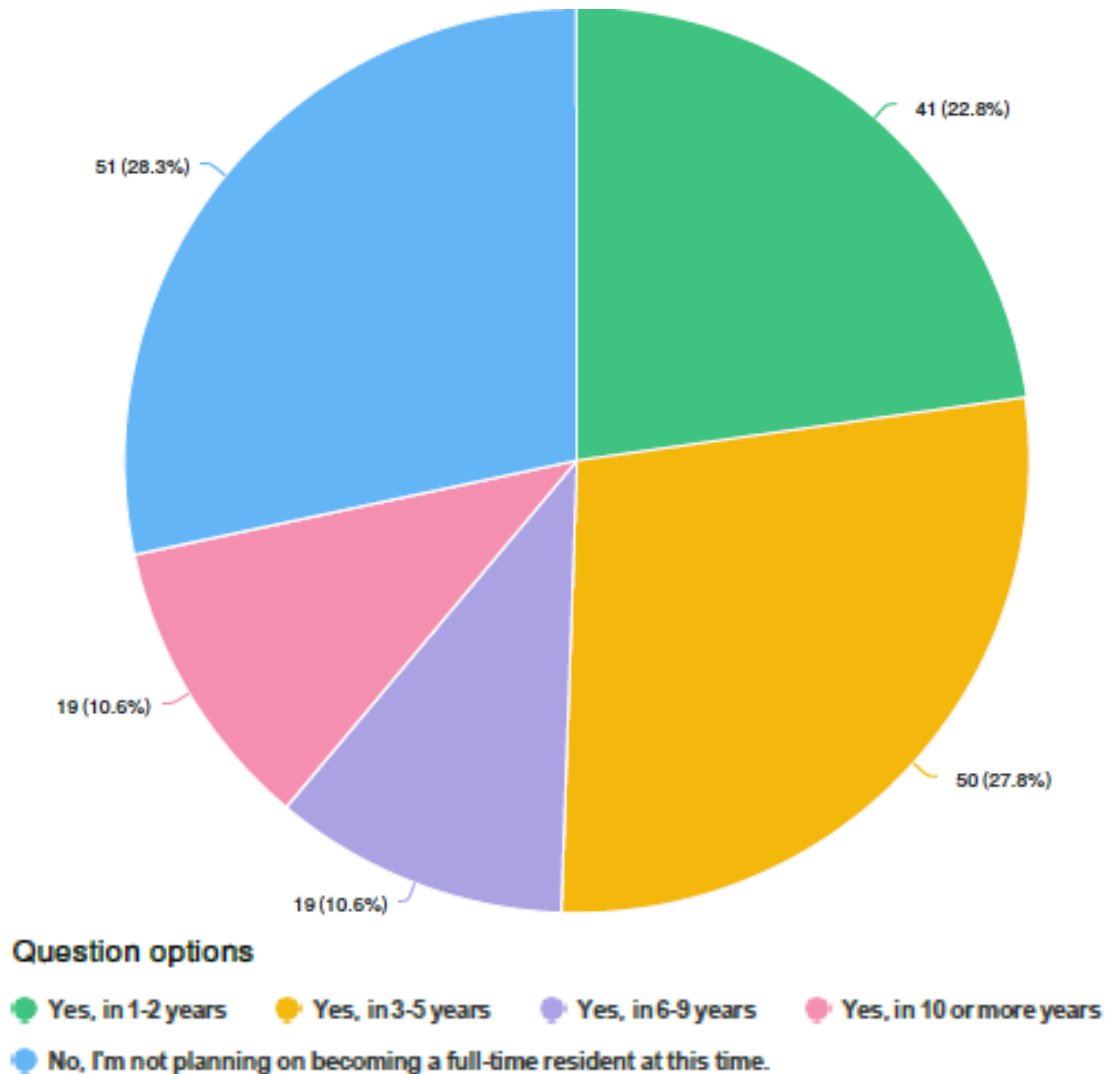
21 side road/Loree	1
Blue Mountain	1
Wards	1
Heritage Park area Settlers Way	1
Off Arrowhead Rd.	1
Peaks Bay, waterfront property	1
Grey Rd 40	1
Closer to round about by Blue	1
Prices	1
Eastwind Lane	1
Craigleith	1
<b>From Other Communities</b>	
• Collingwood	8
• Meaford	6
• Grey Highlands	2
• Don't have property here	2
• St Vincent	1
• Ajax	1
• Markdale	1
• Out of Town	1
• Singhampton	1

When the above chart of “other” responses to location is summarized, there are 60 respondents who reside in the Town of The Blue Mountains, and 23 who are from other communities.

Town of the Blue Mountains		Other Communities	
Craigleith and Blue Mountain Village	45	Collingwood	8
Lora Bay	4	Meaford	7
Camperdown	7	Grey Highlands (includes Markdale)	3
Thornbury	2	Ajax	1
Loree	1	Singhampton	1
Other (Union)	1	Not specified	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23</b>

## The Blue Mountains As Primary Residence (180 responses\*)

### Are You Planning To Make The Blue Mountains Your Primary Residence?



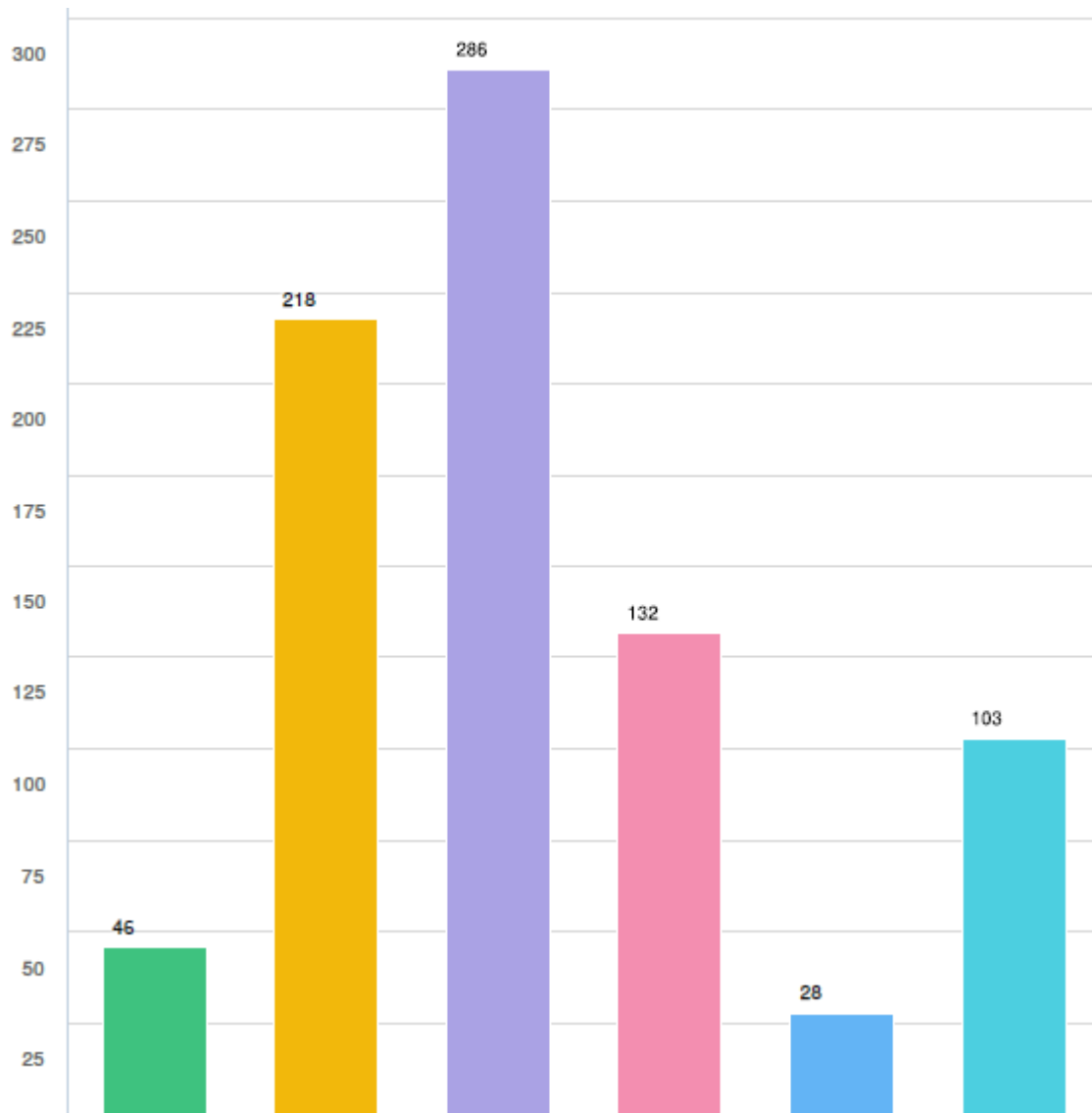
Half (50.6%) of the 180 respondents to this question are planning on making The Blue Mountains their home in 1 to 5 years. A quarter (21.2%) will follow in 6 to 10 years. Another quarter (28.3%) have no plans at this time to make The Blue Mountains their primary residence.

Part of the incentive to move to The Blue Mountains may be a result of the Covid-19 epidemic as more people want to leave crowded cities for open space and they have learned that they can work from home. In fact, local real estate markets are showing a large boom in sales and this may be indicative that people are shortening their time lines to relocate to The Blue Mountains. As well, some of the “no plans to become a full-time resident” respondents may change their mind.

*\*Those who already consider The Blue Mountains their primary residence skipped this question.*

## Level of Satisfaction with Recreation Programs (733 responses\*)

**Overall, How Satisfied Are You with the Recreation Programs Provided by The Town of The Blue Mountains?**



*\*Respondents could indicate their satisfaction level and/or write a comment, so column numbers do not total 733.*

### Question options

- Very satisfied
- Satisfied
- Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
- Dissatisfied
- Very dissatisfied
- If you would like to comment, please do so in the box below. (Select to make the box appear)



Approximately 36% of respondents are satisfied or very satisfied with the program offerings in Town, while 22% are dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with programming. Almost 40% of respondents are neither satisfied or dissatisfied. This may indicate that they don't have a strong opinion about the programs, or they may feel the programs are "okay," but could be better.

It is a red flag when dissatisfaction levels approach 10% and indicates that people would like to see improvements. In this case, the number of dissatisfied respondents is twice that. When the high number of respondents who are neutral (40%) is considered, as much as 62% of the respondents might like to see the Town provide better and/or more recreation programming.

By improving the level of programming within the Town, resident satisfaction levels can be increased and improved. This presents itself as an opportunity for the Town to make positive change which will immediately translate to higher levels of satisfaction in the community.

## Open Ended Comments

Many respondents (103) offered comments that shed light on why they are unhappy with current program levels and/or ideas for improving the situation. An overview of the comments is provided, with all unedited comments following. In some cases, where respondents talked about more than one issue, their responses were divided according to the theme areas.

### 1. THERE IS A LACK OF FACILITIES TO RUN AFFORDABLE PROGRAMS IN OUR COMMUNITY

Many of the comments point at the lack of recreation facilities in the community to support program development. They say there are few indoor facilities for year-round recreation, that the community is underserved and behind in providing recreation infrastructure, and that the time to act is now to address the growing needs in an expanding community.

Respondents voiced concern about having to go to other communities for recreation and pool use, racquet courts, fitness programs, and even splash pads, and having to "cram into the library for exercise classes." Existing facilities need upgrading to be able to offer programs. Some examples given were the arena, curling facilities, baseball diamonds, outdated playgrounds, and insufficient number of neighbourhood parks.

### 2. THERE'S AN INTEREST IN HAVING MORE PROGRAMS PROVIDED BY THE TOWN

Respondents who chose to comment about programs suggest that there is not enough of them, nor facilities to house them, that it's a bit of a patchwork of activities run by community groups, and there are limited opportunities for specifically youth and seniors. Suggestions include keeping programs affordable and spreading them out across the entire Town.

### **3. THERE IS LACK OF COMMUNICATION ABOUT AVAILABLE PROGRAMS**

A number of respondents were unaware of recreation programs in Town. A parks and recreation guide may be useful to long-time residents and newcomers.

### **4. A WAKEBOARD PARK WOULD APPEAL TO THE YOUNGER POPULATION AND CONTRIBUTE TO REGIONAL TOURISM**

A group of respondents are in favour of supporting a Wakeboard Park, which would appeal to young adults and contribute to regional tourism, attracting a similar demographic as Blue Mountain skiers/snowboarders.

### **COMPLETE, UNEDITED COMMENTS**

#### Multi-Use Community/Recreation Centre

- Having had the opportunity to visit other comparable small towns we are way behind in recreational infrastructure. We need to step up for the kids and yes, the adults. Adult cycling is huge and growing and yet we continue to throw good money after bad and persist with tar and chip on the prime cycling routes and resist paved shoulders. The “skateboard park” is a joke and would be an activity popular with the kids. I’ve been lucky enough to spend the last few winters in Whistler which seems to be a comparable used by some councillors. They have an extensive paved bike/activity trail which is plowed and used year round. Their skateboard park is an example we could follow. I could go on. They fund their rec infrastructure with a designated hotel tax. Their rec center is awesome and open for pay as you play. They get behind their locals to support a healthy active life style.
- The Library is too small to accommodate all the seniors who want to exercise and maintain. Hurry up to build a facility so I can use it before ai die.
- Exercising at the library’s is over crowded.
- The Town of Blue Mountains provides no recreation facilities where I live and pay taxes.
- Outdoor facilities in the summer are satisfactory, however in spring, fall and winter there are insufficient indoor spaces for activities.
- Community centre for all ages needs to be expanded updated or re-built to include more options and activities.
- As the town grows it needs a new recreation complex and more programs
- There are very few indoor facilities.
- Need to have a community fitness centre. Currently fitness gyms are limited
- Please consider building an indoor track and field facility and/or outdoor track and field facility.
- There could be a designated area encompassing many of the recreational activities inclusive of soccer pitches, pickleball, tennis, baseball, agricultural interests, meeting facilities, etc. and other activities such trails, arts and theatrical venues.
- We need a community centre, preferably with a pool in Thornbury.

### Fitness or Multi-use Facility with Pool

- We desperately need a town rec centre with a pool for family swim, swim lessons for children, aquafit for seniors. I am fed up making the trek to the Y in Collingwood for these facilities. I want to be part of my own community.,
- No swimming pool and lack of gym facilities
- We need a public pool and gym.
- The town needs a community centre that has fitness equipment, fitness classes, yoga and a swimming pool. Currently local fitness classes cost \$15-20 a session. Contrast that with the YMCA which offers \$55 per month membership for all their equipment and classes. The pool could be used by the schools for swim lessons and swim teams.
- There needs to be more swimming areas in Thornbury, and or a splash pad for the younger children
- No indoor swimming pool
- As a senior there are no facilities for our fitness needs. Like an INDOOR POOL!! Even Wasaga Beach has one. A must for post operative physio and general fitness for older bodies. Year round. Important for the growing population of youngsters to learn to swim as well.
- I want to fill in the blank in the survey: Recreation in the Town of the Blue Mountains really needs AN INDOOR SWIMMING POOL - 25 METRES MINIMUM 50 BETTER!
- Decent facilities, but would like to see a full indoor pool with decent adult lane swimming - this only exists in Collingwood and Owen Sound
- We need an indoor facility with a large pool, a therapeutic warm pool (not a hot tub), a running/walking track, a basketball court and an exercise equipment area for when we can actually touch things again
- We would like to see an indoor/outdoor pool, fitness club and exercise room for classes and education courses.

### Pickleball and Racquet Sports

- There are NO legitimate pickleball courts (indoor or outdoor) in Blue Mountains. There is NO proper fitness and weight training facilities.
- The Town needs to complete the approved 4 outdoor pickleball courts ASAP
- We really need more indoor and outdoor pickleball courts. .
- There is a lack of available public tennis courts. The courts in Thornbury are very busy in the summer months which leaves Nipissing Ridge. Due to Covid closing the private club at Nipissing Ridge it is obvious the Township should take back the courts from Nipissing Ridge Tennis Club OR impose strict measures on the NRTC Board requiring only full and part time residents of The Town of Blue Mountains qualify for membership. There are numerous residents of Collingwood who are members of the NRTC. They are not TBM taxpayers. Membership should be restricted to TBM full or part time residents.
- More pickleball courts please. Both indoor and outdoor. This is a rapidly growing activity. Blue Mountain seems to be lagging behind Wasaga Beach which is providing their residents ever increasing resources and opportunities to play this sport.
- Outdoor pickleball courts are very much needed.
- The tennis courts on Crossan Court have been in disarray for years and unusable. It's

been months since they've begun resurfacing them, and we are still waiting for them to finish. Where is the pickle ball? More tennis courts?

- Pickle ball players make more noise than their sport. Pickle Ball should be over by Tomahawk and they should be satisfied with that

### Cycling

- Bicycle lanes should be everywhere
- Wider shoulders need to be provided (specially on highway 2) to protect both cyclists and cars. Very dangerous passing bikes on hills and curves
- More bike trails and designated lanes along paved roadways.
- I'd like to see the Town offer cycling tours of the area. I'd also like to see improved cycling infrastructure and enforcement, to get bikes off of highway 26

### Skiing, Skating and More Winter Activities

- It would be great to have cross county ski trails on the Monterra Golf course...could even do rentals and charge trail fees at golf centre.
- Outdoor skating would relieve arena stress
- Passes for skating should be offered not pay each time you go. We need an outdoor skating rink
- I'd love to see a winter golf dome to practice
- I know Covid has restricted everything but a dedicated curling rink and additional tennis courts with night lights for evening play and bubble for winter play are essential. A public private not for profit setup would be ideal
- Curling facilities are a joke!

### Parks and Beaches

- The town needs an accessible playground for starters
- Would like to see more group activities, ie soft ball teams in and around my neighborhood. We also have no dog park at all in my neighborhood and only one little public park.
- The pier should be repaired, and Harbour area improved.
- Fix pier
- Very little public water access between Landsdowne St N and Lora Bay. All access is sold to developers without planning for parks.
- More beach access is required, specially for locals.
- Would like an off leash dog park in our area as we have high density and many dogs in our area. The demand is high.
- The playground at Heritage Park is dated and not suitable for toddler-aged children. That playground also is getting used more and more use as time goes by.

### Equestrian

- Although there are lots of recreational programs, none of them cater to me. It would be nice to see some equestrian facilities provided by the town for the many horse riders in the area



### ATV

- I would like to pursue the opportunity to atvs on some municipal roads for recreational purposes as is done in neighbouring townships.

### Need for More Recreation Programs

- Not enough variety of programming in sports or otherwise
- Public swimming pool. Paid staff to organize sports.
- Feel there's not enough actually run by the the town; the town leaves it up to community groups to provide all Rec and creative programs
- It feels like a patchwork of activities and facilities, not comprehensive nor seemingly well coordinated.
- There are a number of good activity options but space to access is limited. Also frequency of offerings per week are limited.
- You dont offer any
- Lots to do if you are retired, lots to do during day hours, but very little if you work during the day.
- With growing populations, and the example set by CoVid, more recreational activities need to be available.
- We are looking forward to using more recreational facilities once we move here full time

### Fitness Programs

- Great fitness for all ages that is year round, Very few fitness programs for active or older seniors such as Tai Chi, yoga for seniors or other fitness options. Not everyone golfs or sails. Some people are left out if they don't belong to an elite club. Need more multipurpose rooms for workshops, gatherings, childcare, and other fitness option. Something for everyone I prefer group exercise, swimming laps, group cycle, yoga and tennis
- I would love to see an exercise programmes and a gym with a track in Thornbury
- The town does not offer a gym or fitness classes. that might be a nice addition that would not be too expensive. almost every activity is priced sky hi
- I would like to see aquafit and weight -bearing exercise groups.

### Targeted Programs for Seniors, Youth and Families

- Generally satisfied, but feel there could be more programming for youth and seniors.
- Apart from golf all the other activities are generally for younger people. So in giving a 'Very dissatisfied' there is not much for people who don't want to participate in contact sport and who have never skated
- More activities are needed for the active retired residents of TBM. A proper sports/ recreational facility is needed to meet these needs.
- Expand programs to include more recreation relevant to youth and families such as skatepark, bmx park.
- Please spend some money on the skate park. Tomahawk is amazing though
- Seems to be enough going on for adults, however there are not many options available for youth.

- nothing for seniors like Aerobic , Gymnastic, slow movement classes, Tai Chee
- I feel the emphasis should be on the kids. Encourage parental involvement in the BVAA not just a donation.
- Would love to see more sports for tweens and teens such as football as kids have to go to Barrie if they want to play. Skateboard/BMX park would be really nice for our area. An indoor pool located between Craigleith and Thornbury would be very well used for swim lessons and Lifesaving courses. There are a lot of young families moving here so sports catered more toward young people and teens would be great. Our waterfront is not utilized all that well. Better access to beaches and watersports
- It would be great to have a community centre with more activities for kids, including and indoor pool.
- Covid19 makes this difficult for sure but I think sports especially for youth is very important such as hockey, soccer, baseball, figure skating etc. Physical activity need not stop because of Covid 19. Use the arena in the summer months for roller skating and build an outdoor amphitheatre in Thornbury for live concerts.
- There are very limited opportunities for children and youth, yet more and more young families are moving to this area. There are also many obstacles to accessible facilities and inclusive programming. The town needs an accessible playground for starters.
- These programs are fine for the vigorous. What about some programs for the less physically able? As in seniors.
- At 76, low impact exercise like walking is important. This has become more difficult, particularly in winter due to the lack of indoors recreational facilities.

#### Programs that Are Affordable and Geographically Accessible

- The Town seems to have a good variety of recreation programs available. The problem is that they are basically all in Thornbury. We live near Craigleith and there are no programs in the area.
- Everything is located in Thornbury
- My dissatisfaction with existing programs is related to the 75% fee increase for the Tomahawk Golf course
- Tomohawk increases are exorbitant this year. This is meant to be an opportunity to learn golf. It has been fine until this year. Swimming would be a wonderful addition to our town, particularly as we are surrounded by water. I am very pleased that the pickle ball courts are planned for Tomohawk area.
- Tomahawk is VERY over priced!
- He have a lot of hiking. In terms of other recreational activities, they're not always geared towards a lower income bracket . It's a good thing hiking is free!

#### Unaware of What's Available

- Actually do not know of any BM offerings, just those in neighbouring communities
- What golf and where is it
- A recreation guide is what's missing.
- Honestly I have no clue what is available. Note I had lived here as a child and did not use any rec. programs, but would love to partake now.

- Not aware where any of the above examples are offered.
- I love using the tennis courts, but I don't use the other programs. It would be good to have a brochure of programs, from the Town, and others like the BVO and library, similar to the Meaford program
- unaware of most if not all of them
- New to the area so not aware of the programs available just yet.
- I am not fully aware of all the activities provided by the Town.
- I didn't know the TBM offered any recreation programs.

#### Interest in Wakeboard Park

- Satisfied but looking for more! The blue mountain area attracts a very like minded crowd that would be perfect for a wakeboard cable park. I drive 2 hours to go to the parks in mount albert and newmarket.
- Would love a cable park
- It would be beneficial to add a wake park to the area, snowboarding blue mountains and wakeboarding a wake park in the summer keeps activities flowing all year around. Constant tourist attraction for any season.
- like to see a cable park as well
- A wake park for wakeboarding would be a good addition, bringing in extra influx in the summer/spring months
- I'd like to see a wakeboard park in the Town of The Blue Mountains
- While there are good offerings in town, there is nothing like the cable park facility being proposed. The park would be an incredible addition to the outdoor activities offered in the area.
- A wakepark is needed.
- Support Wake park

#### Other General Comments

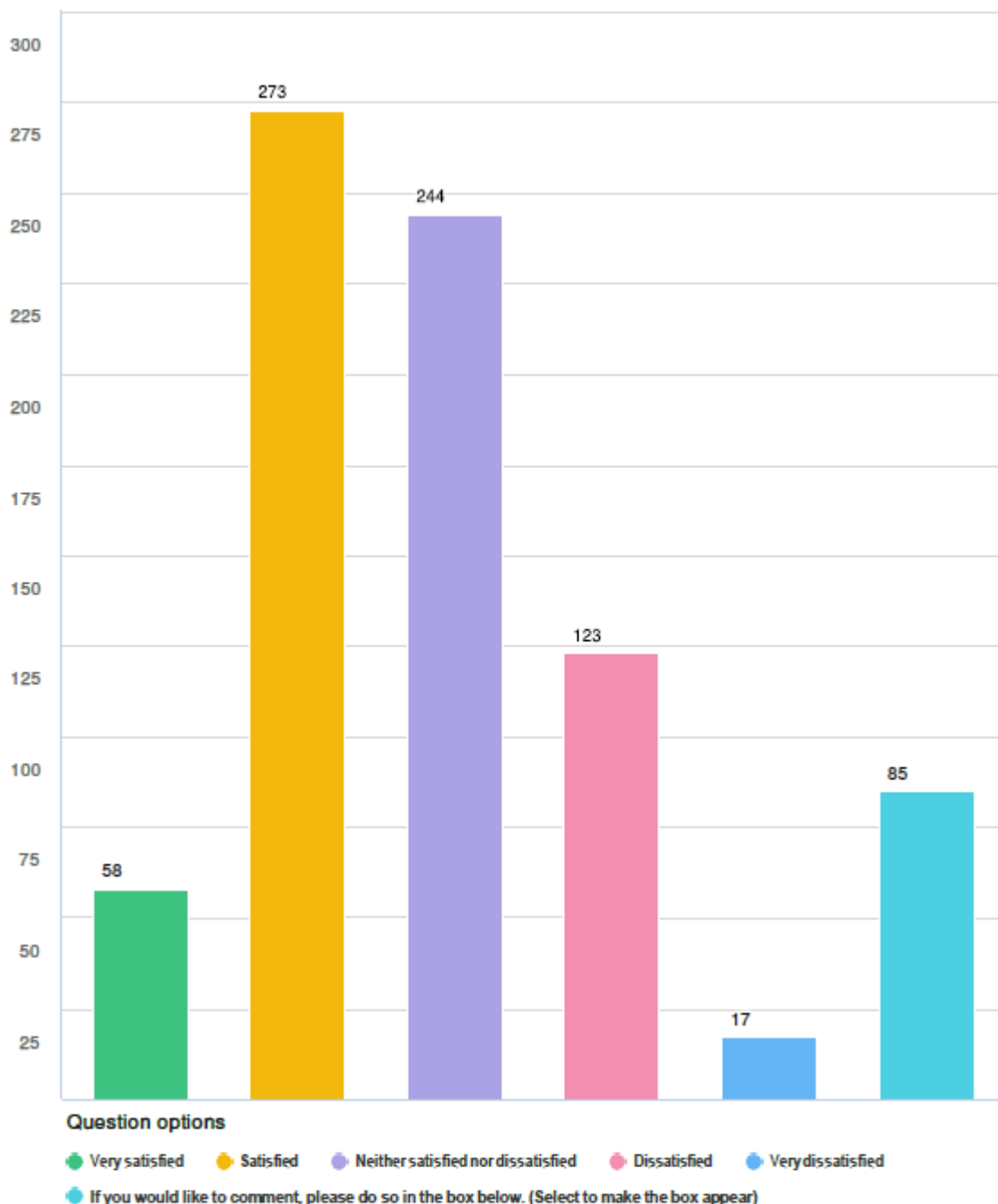
- I haven't taken advantage of opportunities in TBM.
- Healthy food options. Example - varied menus or venues for people with food restrictions great idea - Gluten free beaver tails.
- After Covid the area has deteriorated. The Blue mountain security is ineffective. It seems like the city people visiting the Blue Mountains have special treatments. It is sad that the town has chosen to sacrifice economic gains over law and authority for the city visitors. The short term rentals companies seem to have all the advantages and the owners of properties are not the priority anymore.
- In reality I live in Collingwood
- Very disappointed in decision to have paid parking at the beaches.
- I don't participate in programs offered by TBM. But I use the trails which are maintained by TBM.
- Tomahawk is a unique gem
- I have not taken advantage of many of these programs.
- I have not explored the available recreational programs

- The Georgian Trail has become hy-way 400 with cyclists and runners who fail to yield space during pandemic. "
- Unable to participate in.
- Other facilities are satisfactory.
- Would like to see mountain biking re-opened at Blue Mountain.



## Level of Satisfaction with Recreation Facilities (733 responses\*)

**Overall, How Satisfied Are You with the Recreation Facilities Provided by The Town of The Blue Mountains?**



*\*Respondents could indicate their satisfaction level and/or write a comment, so column numbers do not total 733.*

Approximately 45% of respondents are satisfied or very satisfied with recreation facilities in Town, while 19% are dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with facilities. Another 33% of respondents are neither satisfied or dissatisfied. This may indicate that they don't have a strong opinion about the facilities, or they may feel the facilities are "okay," but could be better.

It is a red flag when dissatisfaction levels approach 10% and indicates that people would like to see improvements. In this case, the number of dissatisfied respondents is twice that. When the high number of respondents who are neutral (33%) is considered, as much as half (52%) of the survey population might like to see the Town provide better facilities.

The results of this question have to be considered in context of the first question, which looked at recreation programs. Many respondents associated having better facilities with being able to deliver necessary programs.

## **Open Ended Comments**

Many respondents (85) offered comments that shed light on why they are unhappy with current facilities and/or ideas for what sorts of facilities they would like to see. An overview of the comments is provided, with all unedited comments following. In some cases, where respondents talked about more than one issue, their responses were divided according to the theme areas.

### **1. THERE IS A GENERAL LACK OF FACILITIES IN TOWN**

Respondents commented that existing recreation infrastructure is outdated for the existing population and anticipated growth. Some indicate that a sort of tipping point has been reached – facilities have been okay and adequate, but now they are not enough.

Not everyone agrees that a pool is necessary or affordable for the Town, but there are many who support the need for a pool, and that it be part of a multi-purpose recreation facility. Other desired facilities are: pickleball and tennis courts, parks (for dogs, neighbourhoods, a commons for informal gatherings, outdoor fitness classes), splash pads, indoor/outdoor track, gym, and fitness area. Many think that some or all of these amenities could be integrated with a multi-use centre, and others prefer that some of these amenities be spread throughout the Town.

Respondents also talked about targeting specific user groups, like families, seniors and youth and spoke about multi-generational and multi-use facilities that all could share. Barrier-free and accessible facilities and programs for all abilities were mentioned too. A wakeboard park was mentioned for the young adult group.

## 2. UPGRADE AND ENHANCE EXISTING FACILITIES

While there is interest in a new multi-use facility, there is also concern that existing amenities be upgraded and/or enhanced as they are important community assets. The Community Centre is showing its age and is in need of repair and maintenance. Other facilities mentioned were Tomahawk, the pier (reopen) and harbour, baseball diamonds with washrooms, upgrading playgrounds, and looking at ways to increase and improve cycling lanes.

Also mentioned was the existing Small Halls in Ravenna and Craigleith that play a key role in meeting the needs of rural communities and the growing population in Craigleith with programs, such as yoga.

Some respondents complimented the Town on specific improvements and facilities which are listed below in “Satisfaction with Current Facilities.”

## 3. SOME RESPONDENTS ARE UNAWARE OF THE FACILITIES

As was the case with programs, some residents are unaware of the facilities so a recreation guide might be useful.

## 4. MAKE SURE FACILITIES ARE AFFORDABLE AND FAIRLY DISPERSED ACROSS TOWN

There were a lot of comments pertaining to the high cost of golfing at Tomahawk and the need to consider recreation opportunities fairly across the Town and not just in Thornbury, or avoid “Thornbury-centric” thinking as one respondent said. Suggestions included looking at the tax base/revenue and income generators.

## COMPLETE, UNEDITED COMMENTS

### General Lack of Facilities

- The Town does a good job of operating what we have, we just don't have enough of the types of facilities or activities that I would utilize.
- Tomahawk and the Harbour are fantastic facilities. A good start but not enough.
- They are outdated for the population and anticipated growth. Developers do nothing to support this infrastructure.
- The question of satisfied and the answer of dissatisfied comes down to paying \$15,000 on taxes, no children at school. What are you getting for your taxes?
- Facilities are good but at capacity. There is a waiting list for Thornbury marina and tomahawk golf course is very busy (and not a good course)
- Lack of imagination and creativity. They could be so much more.

### Community/Recreation Centre

- See above, the Community Centre is sadly lacking
- The Town badly needs an indoor walking/running track, tennis facilities, and swimming pool.
- Would really like a rec centre with a pool and aqua fit program.
- We need an indoor multi-use recreational facility that includes a pool, indoor gymnasium for children and adults. Basically, we need the Y!
- I would love a gym with a track in Thornbury
- Not everyone skis or skates, or owns a sailboat. An indoor facility properly run and having a majority of paid memberships would be beneficial. Daily passes should be available for visitors or those who don't want a yearly membership. The cost should be reasonable.
- The current facilities offered are great but with more city folk moving up here there is a need for more recreation facilities (indoor gym, pool, squash courts, etc. for youth)
- The community would benefit from an arts and craft facility with instructors on painting, ceramics, gardening, woodworking and a games room.

### Swimming Pool

- I would like to have access to a swimming pool.
- We need an indoor pool and a recreation centre close to the mountains to accommodate the family's and seniors moving to the area.
- A swimming pool would be nice and an updated leisure centre. For the amount of taxes we pay (over \$15,000 pa) I don't feel we get much in return.
- The Town needs a Public Swimming Pool as there are more and more seniors moving into the Area.
- Would like to see an indoor swimming pool.
- Enhance the Beaver Valley community centre to include a swimming pool.
- It would be nice if the town had a public swimming pool. We use the Tomahawk golf and the Thornbury harbour as well as the tennis courts. Have not been to the community centre.
- We need a pool and a decent indoor walking track for winter.
- We could really use a pool to teach swimming lessons and a provide a place for all to swim.

### Harbour Facilities, Pier and Beach

- More water access
- Beautiful beach in Thornbury but full of geese droppings and dog poop and minimal parking ...but the water was heavenly on a hot day after shopping on the main street
- In the past there should be a boat launch at the pier for Fishing, Boating, Canoeing, Kayaking, Day Sailing, Stand-Up Paddle
- The Pier is one of our best areas and desperately needs an upgrade.
- The harbour is incredibly unsatisfying! The rest and great.
- The reopening of the pier with a long-term and sustainable solution to the surface should be a high priority

- The Pier should be fixed as soon as possible. It is a shame that you cannot swim off of it!!!!
- Would like to see more boat slips as population increases.
- The pier at the harbour needs attention to its surface and reopening.
- upgraded and more beaches, improved pier

#### Sport Fields and Facilities

- the baseball diamonds need public washrooms.
- Please consider building an indoor track and field facility and/or outdoor track and field facility.
- Sports fields (other than baseball diamonds) in or near Thornbury appear to be limited to Tomahawk. Soccer is not the only field sport. Thornbury should acquire or allocate additional field space for field sports.

#### Sport Specific Needs

- Pickleball is the one sport that really requires some outdoor facilities in the community.
- Same as my last comment; curling rink and a tennis club with winter bubble are big part of recreation in any town
- Need curling facility separate from hockey, improved sidewalks on Hwy 26, bicycle lanes on all roads in the area.
- did not appreciate ice time for seniors hockey getting bumped for curling and ice rentals not available after March.
- No real classes for fitness, general interest
- I think there needs to be on-line booking for the tennis courts.

#### Parks

- There should be a lot more multi-use parks for families to gather and enjoy the outdoors.
- An off leash dog park in the Heritage corner area where people can WALK to
- Little River Park needs updating and staff on weekends.
- A town commons with benches and tables where people could gather informally to socialize, play games, participate in free community fitness activities (Yoga, Tai Chi, etc.)

#### Wakeboard/Cable Park

- love a cable park
- It would be beneficial to add a wake park to the area, snowboarding blue mountains and wakeboarding a wake park in the summer keeps activities flowing all year around. Constant tourist attraction for any season.
- Would like to see a cable park as well
- Adding a wake park attraction would keep activities flowing in the area and with potential new revenue streams
- The Bayou Cable Park would help make the recreational portion of the Town of Blue Mountain exceptional
- A Wakepark is needed.
- I think the Town of The Blue Mountains would be better if it had a wakeboard park!



### Facilities for Children, Young Adults, Families

- It would be great to see more accessible activities for children with physical or mental disabilities as well as children under the age of 5.
- The recreational facilities mostly benefit older adults and seniors. The community centre should be providing a range of children's programs. The town should take responsibility for the maintenance and upkeep of the skate park and offer more youth programs. The town should also follow current accessibility rights and build an accessible playground and splash pad across from the community centre. There should also be accessible paths on the beaches so people with mobility issues can enjoy the waterfront.
- More consideration for facilities used by youth and young adults such as multipurpose indoor facilities (incl. pool) and allowing development of wakeboard cable park to proceed. If the town builds pickle ball courts there is no reason not to allow the wakeboard park. Although the younger generations are not always able to come to town meetings due to work and family commitments their voices should still be heard.
- The facilities for children are severely lacking. This town needs to invest in a splash pad for children - as well as invest in modernizing playground equipment that will engage children and encourage them to play outside. Currently my family drives to Meaford to use their splash pad and park at Memorial. TOBM could overhaul Bayview park and add a splash pad and model the equipment offered at Memorial park to make that space a truly enjoyable outdoor area families and children of all ages.
- What about kid's fishing? Sailing? What water sports are encouraged etc. Track & Filed?

### Improve/Upgrade Existing Facilities

- Last time that i was at the community centre it needed an update. That may have been done by now.
- The Tomahawk was very run down last time I went. Hopefully it is better now.
- Community centre needs to be updated, provide more services and activities. Tomahawk is good, but the large soccer fields are underutilized and space could be better used with an indoor sports complex to provide year round activities.
- Existing facilities are not used enough.
- The Community Centre is sadly in need of refurbishment not just paint. BUT! the Community Centre should be improved & enhanced. Really showing its age.

### Do Not Use/Unaware of Facilities

- As a recent resident I have not had the opportunity to use these facilities.
- We are only 6 months here and are not very familiar with the available options
- Again, not everyone skates. No idea what you mean about the harbour.
- I'd like to play golf . Where is Tomahawk
- I have not used these facilities. However, I have enjoyed the Thornbury Library, the staff and the programs offered. I hope you will consider enhancing these services and the opportunities the library provides.
- don't use any of them
- New to the area so not aware of the programs available just yet.
- How vigorously are these venues promoted/developed? to whom - all age groups?

### Facilities that are Affordable and Geographically Accessible

- The Town of the Blue Mountains is only focused on providing recreation for those who live Thornbury.
- Over time, there has been a decrease in the use of the community centre. The arena is excellent but there doesn't seem to be a recognition for reliable income generators such as annual ice hockey groups. Programs seem to be skewed towards small interest groups who have time to lobby instead of families who are required to make this community sustainable. My understanding is that Tomahawk was donated to promote accessible golfing for our community members. This is now cost prohibitive for local families and availability is open to all visitors.
- I've heard through people my age that Tomahawk is too expensive. Also I can't jump off the pier and I can't afford a boat..
- Everything is at Thornbury
- Tomahawk course is too expensive given course itself
- It is concerning that this survey does not list Ravenna and Craigleith Halls here. They are vital locations to meet the needs of our rural communities and the growing population in Craigleith. We cannot be Thornbury-centric in our thinking. I cannot find a question in this survey where I can affirm the importance of programs such as Yoga at Ravenna Hall. And with the population increase in Craigleith, it is only fair the tax revenue that comes from that side of Town help produce facilities to meet their needs.
- Again, same issue as above - everything is focused on Thornbury even though the largest tax base is near Blue Mountain and Craigleith.
- My dissatisfaction with existing programs is related to the 75% fee increase for the Tomahawk Golf course
- Tomahawk is a wonderful facility for golfers and families. But @ 17.50 a round is overpriced.
- Tomahawk prices should come down.

### Satisfaction with Current Facilities

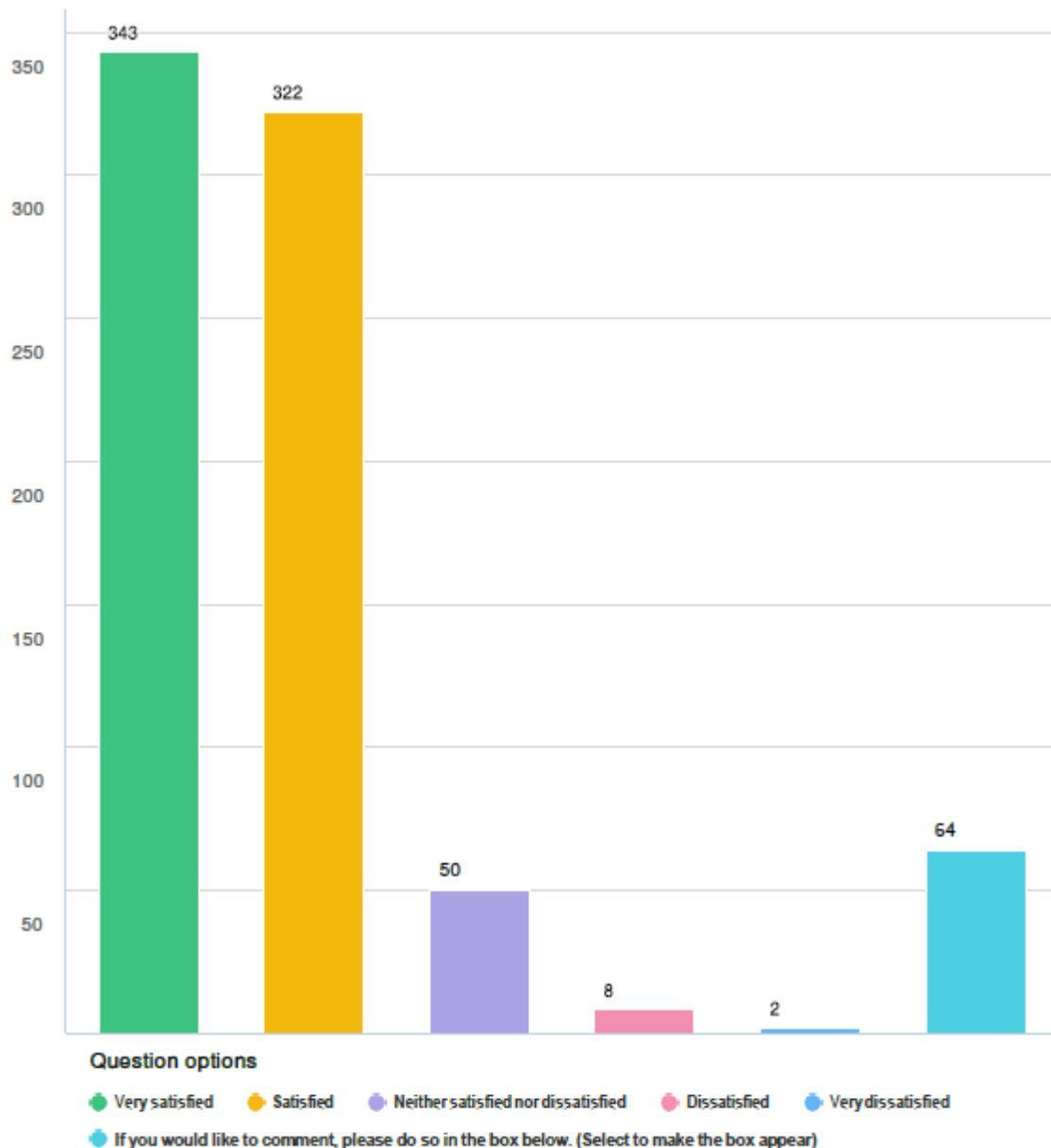
- Several years ago I golfed occasionally at Tomahawk and was satisfied with it. It was free then. A good way to practice and was fun.
- Good job with Tomahawk and BVCC"
- I'm satisfied with the state of the current facilities however I believe that we need more. A splash pad would be a great addition to Bayview Park and Timmons Park
- Satisfied, Harbour and Golf Course are great
- I do not feel that the town needs the expense (continuing) of a pool.
- The TOBM has to battle with high water levels, and are doing their best to combat the erosion. I like seeing the attention brought to key areas of repair. You can't do much to battle Mother Nature. I'd like to compliment the TOBM on maintenance of areas like the dog park, skate park and Tomahawk Sports Complex. The golf course is in excellent shape.
- Tomahawk GC is good.
- The area is amazing and would only improve with more like minded facilities.
- BVO offers community gardens which is nice

Other General Comments

- Please see Box above
- I am disappointed that the Town would continue to use Tomahawk for the Golf Course and Rec Area. This should be remained to something that is not offensive to indigenous people. Its embarrassing that in 2020 Council has not recognized how inappropriate this name is
- recommend that Bylaw Enforcement Officers ticket and monitor boaters without stickers who launch, park and do not pay and do not have seasonal stickers. Expand Dingy day sailor storage areas.
- I am dissatisfied in a way.....I do not play golf, hockey or sail.
- nothing for the seniors which do not have the strength left

## Level of Satisfaction with Trails (733 responses\*)

**Overall, How Satisfied Are You with the Trails in The Town of The Blue Mountains?**



*\*Respondents could indicate their satisfaction level and/or write a comment, so column numbers do not total 733.*

Almost 91% of respondents are satisfied or very satisfied with trails in the community! Just over 1% are dissatisfied, while about 7% are neutral. What is most significant here is the

overwhelming satisfaction with the trail system which is in sharp contrast to the programs and facilities responses.

The following comments give insight into what the Town should do to maintain the high satisfaction level, and improve the experience for everyone.

## **Open Ended Comments**

Some respondents (64) offered comments, most recognizing the trails as a real asset and making suggestions for developing and improving them to be even better. There was concern for reducing hazards on trails and enhancing them to make the experience better for all. An overview of the comments is provided, with all unedited comments following. In some cases, where respondents talked about more than one issue, their responses were divided according to the theme areas.

### **1. MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE THE TRAILS**

Respondents spoke about the need to keep on top of routine maintenance duties, such as garbage collection, fixing holes and maintaining surface, trimming back vegetation, and so on. Enhancements would be more area for parking in some spots, perhaps adding a few shelters along the way, making trails more accessible and barrier free, and bike facilities. Others suggest placing fitness or workout stations along trails.

### **2. PLAN FOR THE FUTURE**

Respondents believe that future growth and demand for trails needs to be planned, starting now. This could mean working with developers to ensure that trails are included in all new projects, that new roads include paved cycle shoulders and connection to trail systems, looking at user fees as a way to help resident taxpayers afford the maintenance and trail costs, and ensuring trails are planned for all abilities.

### **3. EXPAND AND CONNECT TRAILS**

Respondents would like to see existing trail systems expanded with new trails that connect to a larger system, for example, connecting the Town of The Blue Mountains to Collingwood. In the detailed comment section below, specific areas are suggested.

### **4. MAKE SURE TRAILS ARE SAFE AND ENJOYABLE FOR ALL USERS**

While there is a lot of satisfaction with the trails themselves, there are numerous concerns about trail safety. Many concerns stem from cyclists who do not use a warning bell to signal their approach to pedestrians. Others mentioned safety at trail crossings, lack of parking (e.g. Loree)



causing hazards with people, dogs, kids, bikes and cars along the road, and boulders at trail heads being an obstacle for riders on the adult trikes.

The second area of concern is safety when cycling on roads. Respondents described the need for such things as paved shoulders, mutual respect between drivers and cyclists, better signage and education. There may be a role for Municipalities to play in working together to “improve the offer for road bikers.”

## 5. IMPROVE WAYFINDING AND PROMOTION OF TRAILS

Integral to a good trail system are maps, good signage, trail guides and brochures.

## 6. CONSIDER NEW TYPES OF TRAIL USERS

A few people would like new types of trails or permitted trail use, such as equestrian, off-leash dog trails (or times/days), atv, mountain bike, pedestrian-only or cycle-only trails, and trails for winter walking

## COMPLETE, UNEDITED COMMENTS

### Maintenance and Improvement Suggestions

- The Georgian trail needs attention in a few areas (more screening gravel in spots and some trees need to be trimmed).
- TOBM does an excellent job of maintaining trails and doing their best to cope with an influx of people. Being a local, I appreciate more garbage bins and recycling depots. People, at the core, still need to be responsible for picking up after themselves. It's not at the fault of the municipality if people irresponsibly leave garbage behind. They are doing their best to just keep up.
- Georgian Trail has been extensively used this season. It needs better regular maintenance and upgrading of path surface, width and grass and bush encroachment. Better signage is important too. More info on other trails and system connections is important.
- Kolapore needs more maintenance
- The Loree forest trail is getting dirty and not very well maintained. Garbage and large mud
- holes in trail
- Upgrade garbage and other maintenance services to reflect increased use in post-COVID tourism.
- consider installing shelters at strategic areas and build underpass where Georgian Trail crosses 26 or traffic signal.
- Very satisfied with trail options but parking space available is not able to accommodate the overflow in our rural locations.
- Additional parking may be required at some of these sites

- I am currently very satisfied, but am concerned that with the increasing population density, the trails will become overused and abused (garbage etc).
- Need a bicycle rental facility.

#### Trail Planning and Thinking About the Future

- Forward thinking is required to plan to add trails to support the growth of the Town.
- always make new developments include connecting trails for all levels.
- all newly paved roads should have some sort of bike lane or plans for a trail nearby"
- Again, accessibility should be a priority. Any opportunity to make accessible pathways with appropriate materials needs to be considered.
- These trails have been an escape from the restrictions of a covid world. we are nicely equipped for ourselves but the amount of growth and visitors requires even more.
- Concerned about user fees for residents. If taxes and other revenues are not keeping up with trail maintenance requirements / expenses; perhaps a 2 or 3 tiered system with day and short term visitors paying higher fees?

#### Expansion and Connectivity Suggestions

- I would like to see the Beaver River Trail be further developed so that it connects from Arthur Taylor Lane down the ravine on the east side of the Beaver River. Currently the trail follows the Lane all the way to Clark Street and then along Clark Street to Clarksburg.
- A revision of the Beaver River Trail to take parts off the road between Clarksburg and Thornbury would be a great improvement!
- More connectivity between trails in the urban area is desireable.
- Better connectivity required in urban areas.
- Expand
- I love the trails we have, but we need more and we need them to be used in winter months
- The trails and how they are maintains are AMAZING. it would be great if there was more connectivity between TBM and Collingwood. There are gaps that require riding on the road.
- More trails! One of the greatest advantages this area has is the trail network. A priority should be linking TBM trails with collingwood trails. Connect it all.
- It would be great to have trail from Thornbury to Clarksburg along the Mill pond and follow the beaver river.
- Thornbury should replicate the trails that exist in Meaford along both sides of the Bighead River. There are no present trails to hike from downtown Thornbury along the Beaver River to Cledenan Conservation Area and well beyond
- you are including trails that are not the Town's doing. There is really only the Georgian Trail which is wonderful but now badly congested for us elders and there is no connection from it to any thing else in town. Residential areas do not incorporate trails. They should.
- Bruce Trail too narrow to distance up 2m. Trails need more connections! Town access from Georgian Trail across 36 @ Peel is TERRIBLE.
- We need more trails, like the Town of Collingwood. And, we need more linkages to connect the trails

### Biking/Pedestrian Safety

- Issues with bikes and pedestrians on the same trails.
- I find that the cyclists are ruining the enjoyment of the trails because of them not obeying simple rules as using their bell or announcing they are there plus their speed is ridiculous on these trails. One Collingwood cyclist was speeding and scared my 7 year old granddaughter. These trails are meant to be used by everyone, children, adults, seniors and considerate cyclists. You need to address this dangerous situation as an accident will happen.
- It is the law that cyclists have a bell on the bike. Very few do. It should be made mandatory.
- Wish bikers would use their bells to warn pedestrians
- The Georgian Trail can be dangerous to seniors to do fast moving cyclists, not all using warning bells. It might be Covid related but Georgian Trail & Loree Forest are crowded. Some trails are or have been closed.
- Cyclists on the Georgian Trail need more signage to teach courtesy and a mandatory method to warn pedestrians. Respect for those walking is paramount.
- The bike/ pedestrian trails are an issue for adult trikes that are not motorized. The use of big boulders and gates requires people with trikes to have to get off their bikes to get around which increases risks of falling for older people.
- The lineup of cars in Loree has become hazardous. There is space to create a parking lot.
- We should have a parking area there, similar to Kolapore, so that the children, kids on bikes and dogs aren't in danger from the vehicles passing by (usually too fast)."
- We need more trails. And ensure safe crossings on Hwy 26/and through town

### Cycling/Road Hazards

- Great off road trails but we need more paved shoulders for bicycles. (and let's educate the bicyclists who ride 3-4 abreast on the roads before someone gets killed)
- We need wider shoulders on our roads for safety for everyone - motorists and cyclists
- With respect to road cycling we need to link the identified prime cycling roads with pavement and paved shoulders. It's frightening out there. We also need signage to educate drivers and cyclists about road sharing. The share the road sign were a start but just serve to aggravate some drivers.
- There should be paved shoulders on highway 26 as well as the regional roads to allow for safe bike travel to tour and also connect to the off road trails.
- Although I am not a road biker, it seems that our area attracts road bikers and their races. This is a good thing, since they bring in revenue in the non-ski season. However I feel a number of our roads are very dangerous for road bikers. I believe the local municipalities should work together to improve the offer for road bikers. One very problematic road is Mountain Road. Let's NOT wait for an accident to address this issue.

### Consider New Types of Trails or New Trail Users

- Horse trails are required.
- Would like some paved trails for rollerblading.
- make the township ATV Freindly, the same the neighboring townships are now

- Many of the hiking trails are being ruined by bicycle riders. Especially Loree Forest. Make some trails exclusively for walkers only. Perhaps bicycle trails could be made in the proposed wakeboard park area.
- We enjoy the trails very much but would very much appreciate if on some days, these trails would allow for dogs off leash. Older dogs love to take walks but as they get older, they are not as sociable when on leash. When off leash, they walk fine and if another party with or without a dog comes by, dogs are able to sniff and greet correctly and each party can progress on their way. If the dogs are on leash, there is a lot of pulling to keep them away from each other. Persons who do not wish to have dogs off leash on the trail could come on the leashed dog walk days. Having a dog park is nice, but it gives no exercise for the owners. This is our first wish for the leisure activity plan. To be able to walk off leash with our dog on natural paths. I would advocate for a province wide poop identification program too. That way, if poop is found on the ground, it can be identified and the owner fined. I find it ridiculous that some dog owners are not being responsible. The Poop should be provided at time of licensing in each municipality.
- Many of the trails are unavailable for the use of horse back riding. I feel it would be useful to provide some horse riding trails in the area
- Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied, I would like to see the use of atvs on some trail systems
- More mountain biking trails or downhill mountain biking operations.
- It is a shame to lose the ability to walk certain trails in the winter which close to all but x-country skiers. why can we not walk them?

#### Wayfinding and Promotion

- I have received very little information on these trails
- Would like to see more trail markers.
- The trails don't seem to be well marked or well advertised.
- Brochures or websites with maps to all the trails would be helpful.
- a map of all trails specific to this area would be appreciated (for sale, on web or free). Otherwise, we have to search in various websites that are more or less accurate and useful. Some are difficult to find.
- I'd like summary of trails in a recreation guide - where to park as well.
- Would recommend clearer markings for the path of the trails, more comprehensive maps as to where the trails begin and the location of parking areas, which now needs more parking with the influx of visitors.
- there is not a proper trail map For example, The Clendenan Dam trails are not included.

#### Satisfaction with Trails Comments

- Amazing trails. Use them daily for walking, biking and hiking.
- These trails are great and well used. Keep pushing for more.
- Trails are well done. The blazes are good . Would not like to see much more signage, as it loses its nature feel
- We love hiking and it has been a wonderful outlet during COVID

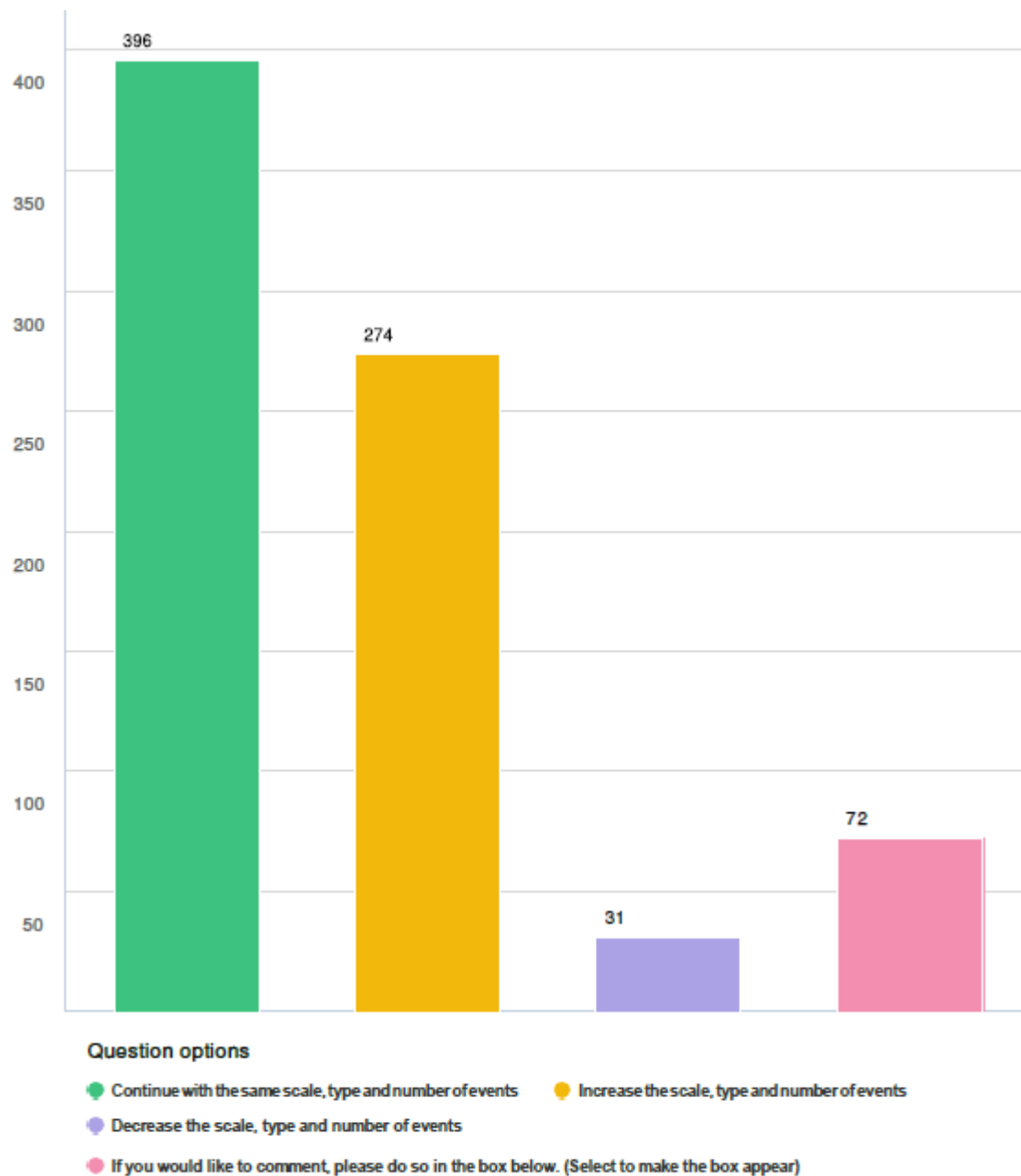
Other Suggestions and Comments

- While not owned by town Disappointed to see blue mountain charge for trail use in 2020. Poor corporate citizenship.
- Please consider building an indoor track and field facility and/or outdoor track and field facility.
- The Town should be encouraging more land use for conservation and limit hunting season. Sept-Dec is too long a period of time.
- Both Grey County and The Town of the Blue Mountain's have done a very poor job of supporting those who bike in our area.
- It's ridiculous to remove access from trails in a pandemic. If we were allowed to walk on the sidewalks why not trails!
- Beaver River needs to be developed and protected. kayaking & floating is very popular. Need to apply the rules BEFORE they enter the water - Not at the end of the experience.



## Special Events (733 responses\*)

To What Extent Would You Like To See Special Events Hosted in The Municipality?



\*Respondents could indicate their satisfaction level and/or write a comment, so column numbers do not total 733.

Just over half of respondents (54%) would like the Town to continue with the same scale, type and number of special events. About a third (37%) would like to see an increase in events, while 4% want a decrease. The comments give insight into which types of events people would be interested in and those that they're not.

## Open Ended Comments

Respondents (72) commented on what they would like to see more of, or less of, and some things to take into consideration when planning and hosting special events. An overview of the comments is provided, with all unedited comments following. In some cases, where respondents talked about more than one issue, their responses were divided according to the theme areas.

### 1. THERE IS INTEREST IN EVENTS FOR FAMILIES, CHILDREN AND COMMUNITY

Respondents seem to be interested in inclusive, accessible and affordable community events, especially for families and youth where the whole community can come together, such as Canada Day, parades, fairs, chili cook off, and so on. Some respondents also suggested music and entertainment, such as live performances, jazz festival, outdoor movies, and theatre.

### 2. THERE IS INTEREST IN SPORTS TOURISM EVENTS AND COMPETITIONS

There is also a group of respondents who favour competitive events, sports tournaments and regional and/or elite sports tourism events. Examples are curling bonspiels, pickleball tournaments, hockey tournaments, baseball tournaments, bike races, triathalons, wakeboard events, mountain biking, skateboard events, sailing competitions, fishing derbies, golf tournaments.

### 3. IT'S IMPORTANT TO FIND THE RIGHT BALANCE AND KNOW WHEN ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

A strong message from respondents who provided comments about special events was the inconvenience and congestion created by extra traffic, road closures, detours, and full parking lots. They are not in support of adding any more bike races and are concerned with road and pedestrian safety, as well as rural road hazards when road cyclists encounter farm machinery. Additionally, many of the more elite cycling events do not involve or provide recreation opportunity for local residents. Another concern is for preserving the small town charm and beauty of the area that also draws visitors to the Town.

### 4. DON'T LOSE SIGHT OF SOME IMPORTANT CRITERIA

A few respondents offered suggestions for planning and hosting special events. It may be best to do fewer events, but make them of top quality. It's also important not to stretch the volunteer base

too much. Events should always look for ways to be inclusive, accessible to all abilities, affordable, environmentally friendly, and maybe even carbon neutral! Others suggest events should be revenue neutral or turn a profit and fit well with the nature and “charm” of the community. Parking and traffic management need to be well coordinated and managed to minimize inconveniences to residents and visitors.

## **COMPLETE, UNEDITED COMMENTS**

### Youth and Family Events

- I feel everything is great, but with the passage of time, if we hope to get more young families we need to have more available for younger children
- Less competitive and more fun/social events would be encouraged. Boat parades, free golf days to promote interest and social opportunities. Little for the unmarried 20-30 year olds to do.
- children events and parades perhaps but not bicycle races etc - this encourages more cyclists coming and perhaps not going to be careful as they should by sharing the roads, trails, etc
- more fun events for families and children
- Include events for retired members of this community as well as the children.
- more children events would be nice
- The parades, children and family events are wonderful. The bike races and the riders are not.
- The special events are incredible, and my children look forward to them every year. We have missed them in 2020.
- More children's and family events, and larger scale for those so it doesn't feel too crowded.
- Primarily for kids
- More local community/family oriented events - children's parades,
- Trasure hunts for kids
- Fall fair, Turkey Trot, golf tournaments, curling bonspiels - something for every holiday weekend.
- love the fall fairs & the old chili cookoff - auction, magic, cars, kid stuff etc
- Community events are also welcome as they bring people together....make sure they are inclusive

### Music and Entertainment

- A yearly jazz or music festival in Thornbury would be great. The street gets blocked so it becomes a pedestrian street and all the shops and restaurants participate and musicians play on the street and in the restaurants.
- It would be great to have some outdoor music events at Tomahawk where a pavilion could be built to facilitate...
- I would like to see a variety of entertainment at Bayview Park, Outdoor movies, plays, music groups, BBQs trunk salesEtc.
- Concert, Jazz festival, Theatre events.

### Sport Tourism Events

- Outdoor recreation sports tourism events for youth and families: mountain bike, fat tire bike, skateboard, wakeboard, windsurf, SUP, BMX, triathlon, snow ski, cross country ski, snowboarding.
- Adding a wakepark could open up the possibility of training Ontario's best wakeboarders and/or hosting big events/competitions. Positive attention to the area for all skill levels.
- Adding a wake park to the area has potential for athlete training sessions and/or events/competitions. With most of our Canadian wake team within Ontario it could be a training hub.
- Could have contests at a wakepark.
- It would be great to see domestic and international track meets hosted in Blue Mountains.
- Competitions are great. Bicycling, water skiing, boating etc
- re: special events - Would like to see Triathlon Races

### Do Less Bike Races with Road Closures/Inconveniences

- Traffic and roads are already congested so not sure what is value in driving more visitors? Depends on the objectives -- economic impact? cultural enhancement?
- Reduce bicycle races
- Cycling is a major concern related to /lack of cycling lanes on the road. Very unsafe when cyclists bunch up so that you cannot pass. Dangerous on curves and hills.
- I dislike road closures for any events.
- not interested in any of the events listed in 9 above
- decrease the number of bike races or limit them to lower used roads.
- Less cycling events.
- No more bicycle races on town roads!!!
- There does not need to be large scale events that attract a large volume of people and cars. More tourism attraction to the area for its Natural beauty and well maintained resources on any given weekend or time would keep influx to a more consistent level
- I am not interested in seeing the charming town I grew up in turn into some sort of special events hosting machine. The rapid and piecemeal development I've been witnessing along with catering to "tourists" who infiltrate the town I grew up in and make a mess of it and leave each weekend ( the tourist dollar argument does not hold water as the Council in Barrie has realized already)- and more special events will only exacerbate the issue. But... having said that, I'm ok with LOCAL special events for LOCAL kids, etc.... but let's keep in small and local (not REDBULL or Cycling events catering to tourists/participants from somewhere else).
- Less bicycle races that impact traffic and people trying to work who rely on our roads system for the transportation of crops, equipment etc.
- the bike races can be a huge pain
- don't like these events. It's the cottagers that enjoy them but not the locals. Please stop the bike races
- It seems any event put now adays is leaned toward new residents, except for the fall fair. As for bike racers, it amazes me that no cyclist has not been run over when they continue to ride 3+4 abreast - what is

Do More of

- Canada Day, the library parking lot party all fantastic events! Would like to see the Town do more rather than relying on Blue Mountain Resort events to fill the gap (ie New Years)
- ONLY after COVID-19 State of Emergency lifted. This area can accommodate more events, attractions, and engaging activities only once COVID-19 restrictions have lifted. But can we accommodate more special events and attractions?? Yes, and can we do it well?? 100%! IMO, we are at a stage where we can welcome a bigger format to a lot of events if we do it right.
- Bike races
- Years ago there was quite an active sailing program, baseball tournaments in the summer as well as bonspiels and ski races hosted by the various ski resorts in the winter. There is the potential for such and new events to once again be held in the TBM.
- Invitational Pickleball Tournaments require at least 8-10 courts
- Collingwood area is a mecca for many outdoor activities already and would likely benefit from more.
- It would be nice to see more community events, like parades, baseball tournaments, hockey tournaments, concerts, dances, Fall Fair, children dances/parties. Events like the Centurian bicycle race are not community events, they are events where outsiders use our community. We see very little to no benefits from events like this, they do not engage our community.
- The community has shown it can handle large "Curling" events and tournaments. Would like to see this expanded in the future.

Continue With

- Continue with the same scale, type and number of events, Maybe a bike race. Will be COVID dependent for a while. July 1st parade is sufficient. Christmas special evening is also enjoyable.
- I would request that the Town not allow an additional bicycle races. We have enough. Don't need to take away just don't increase.
- Have no issues with the current scale however all future events should add to economic benefit.
- Support the return of the Fall Fair next year.
- I would support more but traffic flow on 26 in to Thornbury is significantly over capacity.

Important Things to Consider When Planning and Hosting

- I think that all of these events require a large volunteer base to be successful and volunteers...good volunteers...are hard to come by. If you offered more events I fear they would stretch the volunteer base and result in sub-standard events. Better to have fewer...yet better events.
- Any special event should be timed in such a manner that any normal daily activity parking is not compounded by the events parking.
- Special events need to be either revenue neutral or provide positive cash flow to the community.



- I think the municipality needs to promote and focus on 3-4 key events for community members. One per season. Do them well, don't solely rely on volunteers and stay committed to them over time.
- Make is financially and physically accessible to EVERYONE.
- Part of the reason my family and children chose to dwell near Clarksburg and not Collingwood was because of its quaint charm and quieter presence, as compared to Collingwood and Wasaga Beach
- Adult cycling in our area is causing grief. The rules as they are, need to be revised. Licensing is needed and any monies garnered should be used to offset the expense of our bike lanes( which cannot be designated as such as we are then liable for any accidents that might occur because of them)
- Events should be zero waste and carbon neutral with a focus on our environmental assets - skip the bouncy castles, bring in the wildlife shows etc.
- Wheelchair accessibility that is standard in the US is horrible in our trails and parks.
- Need Spectator Venues/Facilities

#### Unaware of Special Events

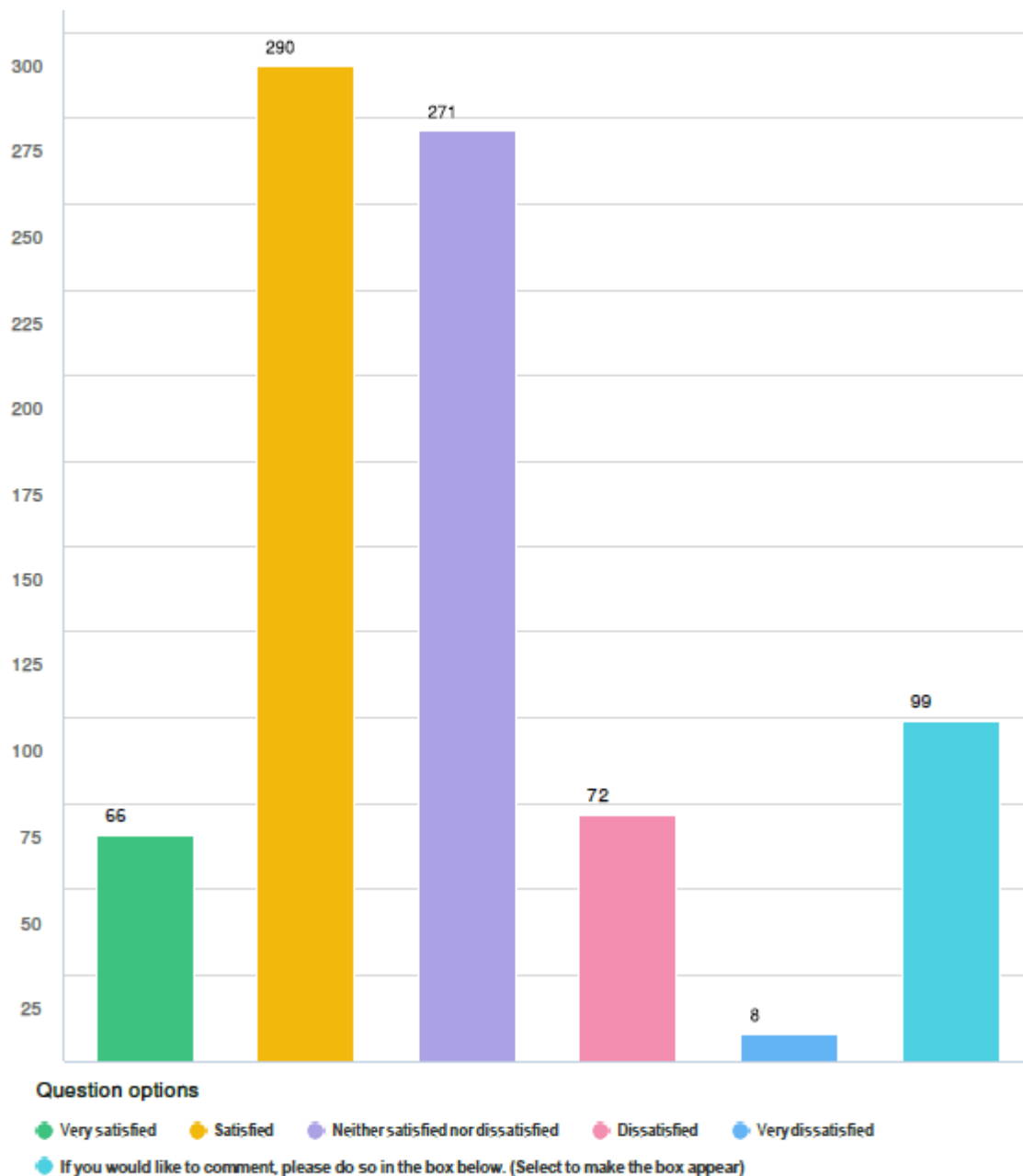
- I'm not aware of the scale or scope of events that have been hosted. Perhaps it's a marketing issue?
- New to the area so not aware of the special events available just yet.
- What are the special events currently hosted in the municipality?

#### Other Comments and Suggestions

- I don't participate but I the energy it brings to the area.
- Due to social distancing i would love to have access to bikes without paying \$64 per day ...i am only comparing toronto rentals . But it would be nice to see rack of bikes in front of the hotel with a map where change over is possible if timing is an issue or if kayaking or paddling ie in Heathcote i could just get there with the bike
- no opinion
- AN INDOOR SWIMMING POOL - 25 METRES MINIMUM 50 BETTER!
- we (husband + wife) missing senior classes like Aerobic, Gymnastic, Ping Pong for seniors
- none
- See other comments
- Don't know
- Difficult to answer given COVID-19.
- now may not be the time to increase visitation.
- Most events are for kids or the elderly. Some are very specialized (bike racing) and not for the average folk.

## Level of Satisfaction with Sports Fields and Courts (733 responses\*)

**Overall, How Satisfied Are You With the Athletic Fields and Courts Provided by The Town of The Blue Mountains?**



*\*Respondents could indicate their satisfaction level and/or write a comment, so column numbers do not total 733.*

Almost half (49%) are satisfied or very satisfied with athletic fields and courts in the Town. Just over 10% of respondents are dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with the fields and courts, which warrants more investigation. It is a red flag when dissatisfaction levels approach 10% and indicates that people would like to see improvements.

There is a high number (37%) of respondents who have chosen to be neutral on this question, being neither satisfied or dissatisfied. This introduces a degree of uncertainty. This may indicate that they don't have a strong opinion about the fields and courts, or they may feel they are "okay," but could be better. Without improvements or upgrades, some in this group might become dissatisfied. Also, a number of people commented that they don't use the fields and courts so don't feel able to rate them. Another factor at play may be that recreation is trending away from traditional sports like baseball and hockey, and toward individual recreation, like skateboarding, snowboarding, biking, running, and so on. The open ended comments give more insight.

## Open Ended Comments

A high number of respondents (99) commented on their level of satisfaction with the athletic fields and courts. Eighteen people indicated that they don't use these amenities and/or don't know where they are. A couple of people suggested a recreation guide of some sort would help or a map with GIS locations. Many comments were directed at improving tennis and pickleball courts, baseball diamond and skateboard/bmx parks. One respondent commented that Tomahawk is an outdated and offensive name, and should be changed. An overview of the comments is provided, with all unedited comments following. In some cases, where respondents talked about more than one issue, their responses were divided according to the theme areas.

### **1. THERE IS A LACK OF FIELD AND COURT FACILITIES TO SERVE THE GROWING COMMUNITY AND MORE PLANNING NEEDS TO BE DONE**

Respondents suggest that the community is growing, and along with it the number of seniors and teenagers. The Crestview/Blumont/Windfall developments all need to be included in recreation planning. One respondent said, "plan ahead not try to catch up after." As well as the need for new athletic fields and courts, older facilities need upgrades and enhancements, such as washrooms for soccer and baseball, lighting on tennis courts and baseball diamonds to extend hours of play.

### **2. MANY SUGGESTIONS WERE PROVIDED TO IMPROVE BASEBALL, TENNIS AND PICKLEBALL IN THE COMMUNITY**

Baseball diamonds are in need of repair, upgrades and regular maintenance. Athletes are leaving Town to join teams in other communities and respondents would like the Town to invest in existing fields and bring them up to standard. Washrooms and lighting would be important

additions. Comments also focused on pickleball and the need for more outdoor and indoor courts. Some feel the Town is lagging behind other centres in accommodating this rapidly growing sport. Tennis enthusiasts echo the need for more indoor and outdoor courts, saying the ability to play all winter, as well as extend current hours of play with lighting, are important enhancements. A few respondents mentioned some improvements for soccer and skating/hockey.

### **3. THERE MAY BE SHIFTING YOUTH NEEDS, AWAY FROM TRADITIONAL SPORT TO MORE INDIVIDUAL PURSUITS**

Some respondents think there is a growing number of youth who would rather participate in individual activities, such as skateboarding, bmx biking, skiing, snowboarding, paddling, running, etc. than more traditional team sports. They encourage enhancements to the skate board parks, pick-up basketball, wakeboard park, running tracks, and so on. Also mentioned was public transportation so youth can access facilities.

### **COMPLETE, UNEDITED COMMENTS**

#### Overall Lack of Sport Fields and Courts and Need for Planning

- There are not enough courts or pools indoor or outdoor to serve the community at this time. We need to look to the future as the population here is growing at a vast rate. Many more seniors and soon to be many teenagers will make up a large portion of our community and we need to be ready with many more facilities and programs to engage them.
- The town needs to promote curling, promote baseball and establish a swimming facility and related programs especially to support children's swimming and senior swim programs
- Crestview/Blumont/Windfall development. There are hundreds of new homes and families there. What are your plans for recreational area, and courts?
- There aren't enough parks and athletic facilities. Your planning should factor permanent and seasonal residents.
- Sports fields (other than baseball diamonds) in or near Thornbury appear to be limited to Tomahawk. Soccer is not the only field sport. Thornbury should acquire or allocate additional field space for field sports
- Given the growth of the town, more facilities will be required. Plan ahead not try to catch up after.
- why can we not use school facilities? basketball, wall to hit a tennis ball against etc are built but considered trespassing to use? i tried to find a tennis backboard during pandemic to hit a ball by myself or shoot hoops. no options.

#### Need Facility Improvements and Enhancements

- The baseball diamonds and the soccer fields should have public washrooms. I Have visited many other communities smaller than ours and their fields have public washrooms.

- Thornbury cannot handle any more volume at these sites - resident or tourist. These sites should be expanded, if needed, for residents only, who pay the taxes.
- We need a revitalized Community Centre
- More permanent washroom facilities at these locations
- Would like better lighting in the arena courts.
- Add pickle ball courts
- Concerned about user fees for residents. If taxes and other revenues are not keeping up with athletic facilities maintenance requirements / expenses; perhaps a 2 or 3 tiered system with day and short term visitors paying higher fees?

### Baseball

- The baseball diamonds receive very little attention when there is significant youth enrolment (and the Town let's horses and cattle roam on them for one event resulting in safety hazards). Could use proper lights at baseball park. Tomahawk needs to be rebuilt... soccer field space needs to be reallocated for multi-use recreation. I am mystified that there is no sidewalk for children going to the ball park, arena and skateboard park down Victoria from Napier. It's a serious accident waiting to happen and significant risk for the Town!
- Washroom facilities at the ball diamonds and lights on one of the diamonds would be an asset to our community
- The baseball diamonds need a great amount of work but the town does not want to put any money into it. They need to. Screenings are an inadequate playing surface. The diamond is hardly ever graded. The grass seems to hardly ever get cut. Much less than the soccer fields which does not make sense.
- I would like to see the town invest in these existing parks and fields. The baseball diamonds are in need up upgrades. Gravel infields are not user friendly, very hard on our children trying to make plays or slide. Almost all other fields in our leagues have grass or clay infields.
- I feel that the Baseball Diamonds have been ignored for years now. The gravel infields, they are still used to let dogs run in (dog park is right next door) Some players who have come up thru the BVAA system are starting to show the progress by venturing away for better competition + Scholarships.

### Pickleball

- outdoor pickleball courts.
- Would like to see outdoor pickleball courts.
- Need more courts Pickleball
- Need more indoor Pickleball courts and outdoor Pickleball courts
- As per above, the outdoor pickleball courts are badly needed.
- Satisfied but do not want to see pickle ball courts put in Bayview Park as pickle ball players can use the Centre for this. We need to keep as much green space as we can
- Because Pickleball is my passion, many outdoor courts in many locations would give me great satisfaction.
- We need more facilities for Pickleball including outdoor courts.



- Dedicated outdoor pickleball courts are needed as this is a growing sport.
- Need outdoor pickleball courts
- More pickleball courts are required. There is a large number of interested people and there does not appear to be enough courts for all to take advantage.
- I understand you have pickle ball on the agenda.
- We would like to see the outdoor pickle ball courts completed before the beginning of next year's season.
- Could do with more courts, they have been exceptionally busy this year and indoor options are very limited.
- Pickleball courts are coming which is great as it is the fastest-growing game and will be a benefit to all who wish to participate.
- We need more indoor and out door pickle ball courts. This is a very popular sport. I have been on a waitlist for 3 years to become a member.
- More pickleball courts please. Both indoor and outdoor. This is a rapidly growing activity. Blue Mountain seems to be lagging behind Wasaga Beach which is providing their residents ever increasing resources and opportunities to play this sport.
- More pickleball courts - perhaps at Tomahawk.
- Add outdoor pickle ball courts
- more public court for things like pickle ball would be nice
- add pickleball courts

#### Tennis

- I would like to see the tennis courts at Crossan CRT and Brooker Blvd completed faster
- see comments above regarding the use of Nipissing Ridge tennis courts by the NRTC which does not restrict membership to Town of Blue Mountain residents. (The courts in Thornbury are very busy in the summer months which leaves Nipissing Ridge. Due to Covid closing the private club at Nipissing Ridge it is obvious the Township should take back the courts from Nipissing Ridge Tennis Club OR impose strict measures on the NRTC Board requiring only full and part time residents of The Town of Blue Mountains qualify for membership. There are numerous residents of Collingwood who are members of the NRTC. They are not TBM taxpayers. Membership should be restricted to TBM full or part time residents. )
- It would be good to upgrade local tennis courts.
- The set up at Nipissing Ridge courts with accommodation for NRTC club time is excellent.
- We need more tennis courts in Thornbury. Bayview is always busy and perhaps an indoor facility
- There need to be more tennis and pickleball courts available especially for indoors in bad weather. There is nothing available for tennis in winter months.
- More tennis courts please!
- We need more tennis courts in Blue Mountain--close to the
- Need more courts for tennis
- There are insufficient tennis courts - often have to wait at courts on Bay St. And no indoor tennis in the area.

- I think a couple more tennis courts will be needed either at Bayview or elsewhere in the near future.
- I'm an avid tennis player in a growing community of tennis players in the area. We would all really like to see improved winter tennis facilities.
- light tennis and fields.
- Increase the amounts. Not enough tennis courts.
- Additional Tennis Courts in Bayview. The current courts have become very busy (specifically in the mornings) and should be resurfaced.
- More tennis courts please.
- More tennis courts would be helpful
- Indoor tennis courts would be a huge plus ...
- Difficult to get time on the courts in Thornbury.
- Only tennis court I know is Bayview Park. The other one off Peel, the town has allowed a small group of residents to take over, charge a high membership fee and also limit members?? And it's suppose to be a public course????
- There could be some more tennis courts at one of the schools and improve the track would be nice since we have provincial and national level running athletes in the area.
- Need for multi tennis court (4 courts in one spot), and multi pickle ball courts.
- More outdoor courts are needed (pickle Ball and tennis courts). Always line ups for tennis courts when weather allows.

#### Soccer

- The baseball diamond at Heritage Park is great but more soccer fields closer to the village would be nice. Thank you :)"

#### Skating/Hockey

- outdoor skating rink
- Upgrades in the arena, and allowing the heaters to be used would also benefit the community. If money is available it would be nice to see these improvements in our existing fields and arena.

#### Changing Youth Needs

- More relevant recreation for today's youth such as skatepark, wakeboard park, bmx park to compliment winter recreation skiing, snowboarding.
- Again due to SD I think I like the idea of roller blading, biking, hiking, swimming, walking, kayaking, paddling
- Would love a cable park
- We need public transit available for kids to get to the facilities.
- There should be a broader range of sports/activities. It would be amazing to have an accessible indoor track and indoor play area for the winter months for citizens and children to access.
- The skateboard park is really quite terrible. Also recommend development of a bike specific park including dirt jumps (see Whistler as a great example of these types of

facilities). Wild idea... but suggest that someone builds an indoor standing wave for introduction to surfing.

- Vastly underused. Consider how many kids use the skateboard park!
- Many of the fields and courts are poorly utilized.
- It seems there is a lack of resources for basketball and other sports.
- I think the Town of The Blue Mountains would be better if it had a wakeboard park! I'd love to get out and have fun wake boarding while getting in my daily exercise.
- A wakepark needed.
- It would be awesome if the Town could add a skate/BMX park.
- Larger skate park

#### Do Not Use/Unaware of the Fields and Courts

- not applicable - do not use athletic fields
- I don't use any of these fields/courts but from what I can see they look decent.
- Not used by me
- Know nothing of these fields, leagues or recreation programs going on. Where are they, what happens in them? Any volleyball? Basketball?
- I wasn't aware of pickleball courts and would take advantage of them.
- Because I am a senior and do not use any of these fields I really can't comment
- Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied, It would be good to have more visibility on what is operated by the Town - I was not aware that we had access to such facilities.
- Is there a GIS map with these locations? Would be easy to do with vector points.
- I don't use any of the facilities mentioned so I cannot comment
- where are the tennis courts and I would like to see some organized round robins for seniors
- where?
- I really did not know about them and would like more information.
- When are there baseball games?
- These are important but to a different age group.
- unable to participate in
- don't use any of them
- I don't use these venues, so I can't comment fairly
- I don't use these facilities so can't comment

#### Fair or Equal Distribution of Fields and Courts

- Those who live at Blue Mountain get no recreational services from The Town of the Blue Mountains. Our tax dollars take care of those in Thornbury. This is quite similar to The Town of the Blue Mountains tax dollars supporting Grey County and not getting very little back in return.
- Most of them are at Thornbury

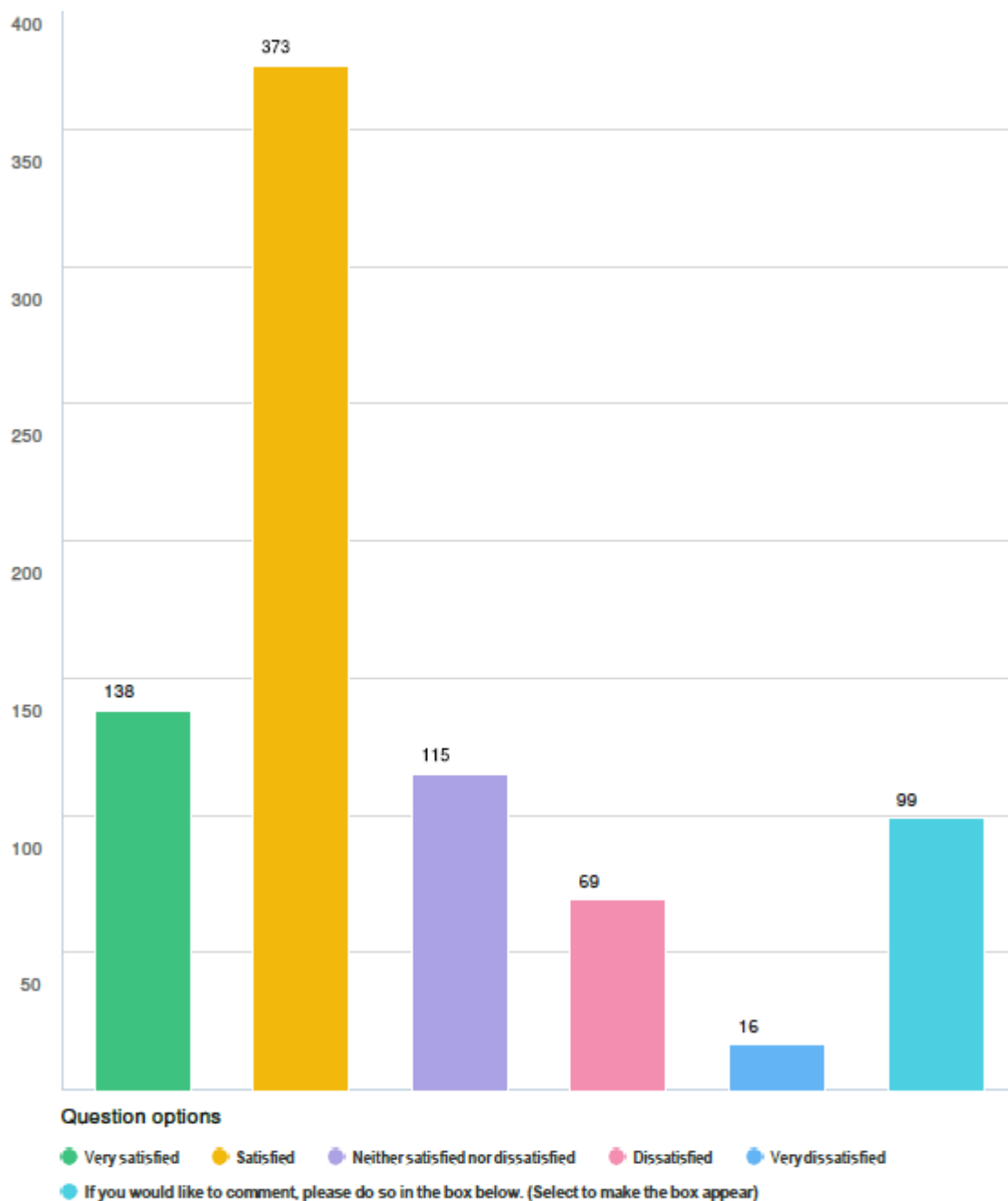
#### Other Comments and Suggestions

- Tomahawk Park needs to be renamed as something that is not offensive to our indigenous population. This is 2020.

- Also efforts are needed to improve the public access beaches in the Town and to reopen the pier in Thornbury"
- I am very close to the Blue Mountain Village. I have no access to a swimming pool which I could use summer and winter to do laps.
- like to comment, please do so in the box below. (Select to make the box appear),nothing for seniors
- Add an off leash dog park in Heritage Park as this park is being heavily used particularly now in Covid days
- Having recreational areas set up where you could workout would be helpful on the trails. They have these in the Villages in Florida. They use mostly body weight and are resistant to weather. (Like having a pull up bar). It is mostly seniors coming who want a healthy active lifestyle. So pickle ball courts and these types of centres could help.
- Same as previous comments
- Leisure includes much more than sports.
- Fall Fair - Any changes planned? (format)
- Expansion/inclusion - Feedback on food growing and production - Promote farming and environmental protection."
- Please consider building an indoor track and field facility and/or outdoor track and field facility.
- another parlours-type set of fitness equipment along the trail or waterfront.

## Level of Satisfaction with Parks, Green Space and Horticultural Features (733 responses\*)

**Overall, How Satisfied Are You With the Parks, Green Space and Horticultural Features in The Town of The Blue Mountains?**



*\*Respondents could indicate their satisfaction level and/or write a comment, so column numbers do not total 733.*



Almost 70% (69.7%) of respondents are satisfied or very satisfied with the parks and green space in Town. About 12% are dissatisfied or very dissatisfied, while approximately 16% are neither satisfied or dissatisfied. This may indicate that they don't have a strong opinion about the parks, or they may feel the parks and green spaces are "okay," but could be better.

Satisfaction with the parks and greens space is quite good, but when dissatisfaction levels approach 10%, this is significant and indicates that people would like to see improvements. If improvements are not made, then the level of dissatisfaction may rise. The open ended comments (99 respondents) provide some insight about the satisfaction levels, and it is possible that a few small initiatives, or enhancements would raise satisfaction levels among those who are neutral or dissatisfied.

## **Open Ended Comments**

A high number (99) of respondents made comments about parks, green space and horticultural features in the Town. A great number of these were directed at the issues surrounding local access to Georgian Bay this past summer and crowd management (parking, garbage, signage, respect of rules) at the beaches. Many talked about upgrades and enhancements to existing parks and playgrounds, and the need for splash pads. Some would like community gardens, an arboretum and attention to planting native species. Many commented on the need for good planning and foresight as the community grows to ensure that green space is preserved.

### **1. THERE NEEDS TO BE MORE WATERFRONT ACCESS FOR LOCALS AND BETTER CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT OF WATERFRONT AREAS**

Better access to Georgian Bay is the second priority (after indoor pool) of the overall survey results with 49% of respondents wanting improvements. The biggest concerns are parking and traffic, overcrowding, garbage left behind, lack of access for locals, disrespect for Town by-laws and rules, lack of signage, trespassing.

### **2. UPGRADES, ENHANCEMENTS AND BASIC MAINTENANCE ARE NEEDED AND WOULD BE WELL RECEIVED**

Respondents commented on the need for upgrading existing amenities, such as dated playground equipment, for example in Heritage Park, and in the Skate Park. There is an expressed need for more parks and playgrounds (with shade trees) in all neighbourhoods (e.g. Windfall) and one respondent said it would be nice not to have to drive to another community to use a splash pad. In general, people would like to see more accessible parks and green space close to their homes, like arboretums, dog parks, neighbourhood parks, community gardens, picnic areas and places for

seniors to sit. Colourful horticultural displays would be appreciated as well as more greenery and native species planted – even a natural playground might be considered.

### **3. WE NEED TO PRESERVE OUR GREEN SPACE WITH GOOD PLANNING AND FORESIGHT**

Respondents want greenspace to be preserved, protected and acquired. “We can do better,” commented one respondent. Many want parks and greenspace to be a mandatory part of all new development projects. Access to neighbourhood parks and greenspace, without use of a car, should be a goal. Respondents are afraid of losing what they have now to new development, without any additional greenspace being acquired, at a time when the community is growing and will need even more!

### **COMPLETE, UNEDITED COMMENTS**

#### Controlling Visitor Use/Better Management of Beaches

- We are very concerned about the increase in tourism in the area, especially to Bayview Park and Delphi Beach. It will be critical to establish a capped number of parking spots and paid parking for visitors to limit the damage caused and to recover some of the increased costs to maintain these waterfront, green spaces safe and clean. Paid parking also helps residents to continue to have access to these recreation spaces.
- The park on Bay Street is a disaster right now with an influx of tourists who basically have no respect for the property. Property owners on Bay St. are not happy with the lack of management and enforcement at the park on the weekends. Cars should be towed or severely fined and large groups should not be allowed to camp for the day. Large groups use multiple BBQ's and then throw hot coals into the beautiful plantings before they leave. Either get it under control or make it a private park, residents only. We pay the taxes and these people pay nothing (parking fees are insignificant in my opinion for the damage). Terrible. The mayor needs to show leadership and evolve with the changing circumstances in the town.
- The limited access to parking causes problems for homeowners as there are problems with Driving around the vehicles
- Parking is an issue
- Water front access is clearly an issue for both residents and visitors. It is probably 100 years too late, but a long careful look at how to improve the situation would be good. The new parking concept, by the way, COVID or no COVID, is plain silly.
- Very concerned about crowding in Little River Park and on the Thornbury pier, especially with day visitors.
- I would like to see clear signage delineating the boundaries of public green space areas and for people to clean up after themselves when using these spaces or fined.
- I think the Town should consider the use of day use “tags” to enjoy public spaces (and a revenue source for the Town, to take the burden off local tax payers). Increased signage that promotes the beauty of this area - “to leave the space the way it was found and to not encroach on private properties that are adjacent to public green spaces”. "

- Again, more parking availability such as at Sunset Point.
- More beach space is needed to avoid overcrowding and trespassing on private beaches.
- Also limit the number of vehicles and people in the water front parks and install no parking signs on residential streets near the parks, and develop more waterfront parks that have parking, washrooms and picnic tables. One area could be the waterfront in the Neighbourhoods of Delphi ( Villages of Peaks Bay)
- This summer with Covid the parks and green spaces were overrun and crowded. cars were parked where they should not have been parked. if this situation were to continue there is an urgent need for more outdoor leisure space. I am very concerned with the density of areas being constructed...The Village of Peaks Bay...being one. It is critical the waterfront area be developed for this area and others for leisure, waterfront access and a park.
- Living across from Lora Bay Park I see the challenges that present itself. Issued with Parking continue to be a problem and increased traffic.
- However, Lora Bay Park/ Beach has been overcrowded this summer

#### More or Better Access For Locals

- More beaches, obviously, especially for local use
- I would like to see more access to Georgian Bay.
- Need to formulate system to enable residents to access beach areas and use ten.
- lack of access to the shore for the public, more beaches needed.
- Would like to see more public beach areas
- For God's stake give us the Pier back!!!
- Very limited access to waterfront for swimming, with crowds too large for locals to enjoy.
- It disappoints me that with all the water front we have in Blue Mountains that so little of it is for public use .
- Waterfront parks were unusable for residents on weekends due to increase in domestic travel. Please consider a designating a resident beach on weekends.
- More public access to the bay and river would be great
- we need more access to Georgian Bay for locals only
- Need for greater beach access and parking for residents; more parkland of various types is required given all the housing development in the town.

#### Upgrades/Enhancements

- Lora Bay Park, my neighbourhood park, is scheduled for upgrades but these keep being postponed.
- We could use an arboretum featuring heritage apple trees as a tourism attraction and passive park.
- One thing I'd like to see is more edible landscapes; fruit trees in public spaces, perennials in the garden boxes everywhere so it comes back instead of being replaced Ted, etc. Generally I don't think our parks are super impressive compared to other places but we're doing alright with what we've got
- Additional community gardening space is needed given the number of Townhome developments

- Need more and in more remote areas with more trees and natural greenery. Also need to have a large dog park away from downtown with lots of trees and natural woodlands
- Would love to see good trucks or decent restaurant with patio etc down by the pier.
- The playground structures at the parks are in need of repair/updates. Also, we really need a playground for children that has shade! All of the parks are in full sun.
- Need outdoor splash pads and playyard equipment as well as picnic areas
- More outdoor summer recreation for youth such as skatepark, wakeboard park,
- box park to compliment winter recreation skiing, snowboarding."
- Thornbury needs additional pedestrian cross walks on Hwy 26 at Elma and Victoria Streets. Over the last decade traffic has increased substantially, and it is no longer safe to cross at these intersections. Walking is one of the most active recreation activities in town, and needs to be encouraged.
- Horticulturally lacking interest and beauty. Our neighbor Collingwood welcomes visitors with great displays of summer colour.
- Would be nice to see more historical features in the town as I am not aware of any currently.
- More green space is needed along the water front.
- The skatepark and play area are constantly busy and need to be updated. The park has lots of space to be expanded and should include a splash pad. "
- install a public park near Blue and enhance existing park behind Arrowhead,install pedestrian xwalk where trail from Snowbridge crosses Jozo Weider
- Let's transition the playgrounds to be natural playgrounds. Moreau park could be such a better used green space with zones for adults and children to use.
- It would be amazing to have a walking park like the arboretum in Collingwood. Work with natural features, more big trees, foster wildlife, etc.
- We do not have any playground around windfall area. The two that are closed to us are very small and old. All the families with small children uses those at Collingwood
- To access a park for my children we need to drive to a nearby park. Would like to see a park in the Windfall Neighbourhood for the many kids here to enjoy.
- Need better signage for the beach areas. Need additional beach areas. Need much better signage for parking locations for summer beach use.
- It would be nice to have splash pads and more children's parks.
- Collingwood waterfront has a better waterfront park/access than TBM. improve thornbury's waterfront.
- The playground at Heritage Park is dated and not suitable for toddler-aged children. That playground also is getting used more and more use as time goes by. Thank you :)"
- I encourage the Town's efforts to return to native species trees and plants. I support the memorial tree programs to populate our public spaces with more trees. The expansion of our memorial space by Jack Acres is excellent, not just for November 11 but also as a better tree lighting location than by Town Hall in December. More inclusive between Clarksburg & Thornbury main streets.
- See above. We need a splash pad for children in this town. Families should not have to drive to the next town to provide their children with a fun park experience.

- Would like the Town to develop additional parks in the Town owned property Zoned OS and add children play features in these parks as well as in current parks.
- I'd like to see more places for seniors to sit on Bruce St, More litter containers (can be attractive design) and an Arboretury.
- Lights, Trees & Flowers

#### Basic Maintenance

- Little River Beach park was repaired at the end of July 2020 but was not done well/properly - it washed out behind the newly placed rocks and created a walking hazard/trap within a week. Also unclear why it was seeded for grass but then opened immediately.
- Bayview park has a goose-goose pool problem. There are ways to keep the geese away by adding vegetation along the water front."
- Damage done to waterfront parks should be repaired as soon as weather permits, not 9 months later.
- Need to ensure the wildish look of Georgian Bay area. Please don't turn it into a Toronto suburb. Don't use our tax dollars to pay for excessive landscaping. Keep it wild and native so watering costs are nonexistent and mowing costs are low. Think tall grasses, native wildflowers and evergreens.
- Even the flower baskets in the bridge are sadly lacking, when compared to other small towns nearby... Clarksburg/ Meaford baskets are beautiful!!!
- The pier is an ongoing issue as well as the 2 buildings in disrepair.
- Very inappropriate the local businesses have to pay the town for watering flowers. The should be funding long lasting improvements NOT for doing the towns job.

#### Planning and Foresight

- We need to encourage new developments to have green spaces and park areas for residents, spreading them throughout the community
- Please preserve and protect our Greenspace, parks, community spaces.
- Please increase do not decrease green space esp with new developments
- As much greenspace as possible should be retained, unstructured is best.
- Too much of the land is being developed and the green space is disappearing making it look more and more like a suburb.
- Unless you own a car, to me it seems impossible to access anything
- Concerned about user fees for residents. If taxes and other revenues are not keeping up with park & green space maintenance requirements / expenses; perhaps a 2 or 3 tiered system with day and short term visitors paying higher fees?
- As we grow we should be harnessing more green space. Even more important is water access/beaches
- Parks need more plants and less grass. If we're worried about taxes paying for attainable housing, maybe we could look at other unnecessary expenses (and opportunities to be more green and add more carbon sinks in our community )
- More green space and shoreline should be developed, maintained, purchased



- More park space needs to be planned to satisfy the number of people who live here and those who vacation here..
- Please consider purchase of property to increase green space."
- I have lived here for 50 years and am concerned of the declining green space due to new home construction.
- TOBM has very very little green space and connecting corridors in its Official Plan. When Grey County last updated the County plan, it left almost the entirety of TOBM as developable land, other than the land that is an active flood risk or steep slope. We can do better!
- Green space mostly in older areas. None in new developments
- The Town has such spectacular nature, but it seems as though it is only available to people that own private property. Why not create some beautiful parks that allow for public access. I.e. hiking, mt biking, family-friendly etc
- I think TBM does a great job. Above all, not losing any further green space to sprawl and suburban development should be prioritized. Protect the natural eco-systems
- We moved up here due to the green space, however, as of late fear that all of the development going on will take away from the features and reasons why people have come to love the blue mountains.
- Could always use more
- And green space is far too limited for the amount of development that should be contributing to more parkland!! "
- Parks and Green spaces should be part of all development projects within TBM
- need more park space. new developments must have more designated area for green space. in many cases new developments border older ones and the plans rely on those older areas which puts too much stress on them. case in point is Peaks Bay development where the newest areas are too large to be supported by current park space.
- The Planning Department is proposing to grant an easement to a development to use 2 road allowances in the Lansdowne/Lakeshore/Huron area involving the cutting of most trees and vegetation. The road allowance lands should be used instead to increase the trail network from the harbour while preserving the tree canopy.
- The town makes little effort to plan and manage green space and public walkways along Hwy 26 which as a tourist town is the first impression for many visitors and \$ coming into Thornbury.
- Could always use more with the growing population
- The town should initiate a tree plan as part of every development or construction application. Hold firm to set asides for ACCESSIBLE green space for every new construction projects.
- Our area is prime for outdoor activities. I'd always encourage more of these opportunities. I am concerned development over the next 10-20 years will impact on our natural gifts.
- Green space seems very fragmented and farming lands seems to be moving primarily towards large commercial entities. Not much welcoming to these horticultural farms, just making money.
- With the population of the town growing green spaces have to grow too.
- More parks and green spaces should be provided to accommodate the growing population.

### General Comments of Dissatisfaction

- Parks are small, beaches are crowded, municipal green spaces are few and escarpment for which the area is known is not in municipal control. Are there any horseback riding trails, municipal cross country maintained trails (GT gets used twice and tracks are irregular). what horticultural features???
- I feel the whole area is for the whole community to enjoy, including the water, the views. I loved when we were able to enjoy the beauty of the area along Highway #26, but the builders have been allowed to block the views with monstrous type buildings and berms along the highways blocking those views. What a shame!
- I am very disgusted with the requirement to pay for parking at the marina. This discriminates against those who are mobility impaired, as anyone else (who doesn't live in the area) simply parks close by and walks in. The marina is a beautiful spot to relax and paying to park is simply not ethical.

### General Comments of Satisfaction

- Great parks and love the dog park in Thornbury
- The Little River Beach Park has benefited from some shoreline restoration this is a very picturesque area which needs watching.
- The flowers are fantastic!
- very satisfied but would not like to see the pickle ball courts put in at Bayview Park taking away the green space. Parks are well maintained and this is what this is all about
- I'm satisfied with the towns features with the exception of lack of off leash dog park in our area
- Glad to see some bylaw officers hired for parks.
- Very pleasant and & welcoming! Expand the budget "

### Unaware of Parks

- need a brochure outlining details of the above places and activities provided
- I really did not know about them and would like more information.

### Fair or Equal Distribution of Parks, Green Space and Horticultural Features

- Part of Thornbury have nothing at all. Other parts have tons. Why are they not equally distributed and available for all to walk to instead of taking the car and contributing to traffic on Bruce and 26?
- The same issue as in previous questions - everything seems to be focused in Thornbury (what is done in Thornbury is very nice though). Unfortunately past councils have approved many developments in the area near Craighleith and the Blue Mountains with little or no requirements for maintaining some existing green space or providing new parks. It seems as if all development can be dumped into this area with no consideration for maintaining some of the open space and environment that were a draw to this area in the first place.

Other Comments

- Same comment as above.
- I really want to see a wakeboard park in the Town of The Blue Mountains!
- A wakepark needed.
- I would like to know more (and perhaps contribute my expertise) to this part of the overall plan.

## Summary of Level of Satisfaction with Recreation

When the “very satisfied” and “satisfied” responses are added, respondents are most satisfied with Trails (91%), followed by Parks, Green Space and Horticultural Features (70%); Athletic Fields and Courts (49%); Facilities (45%); and Programs (36%)

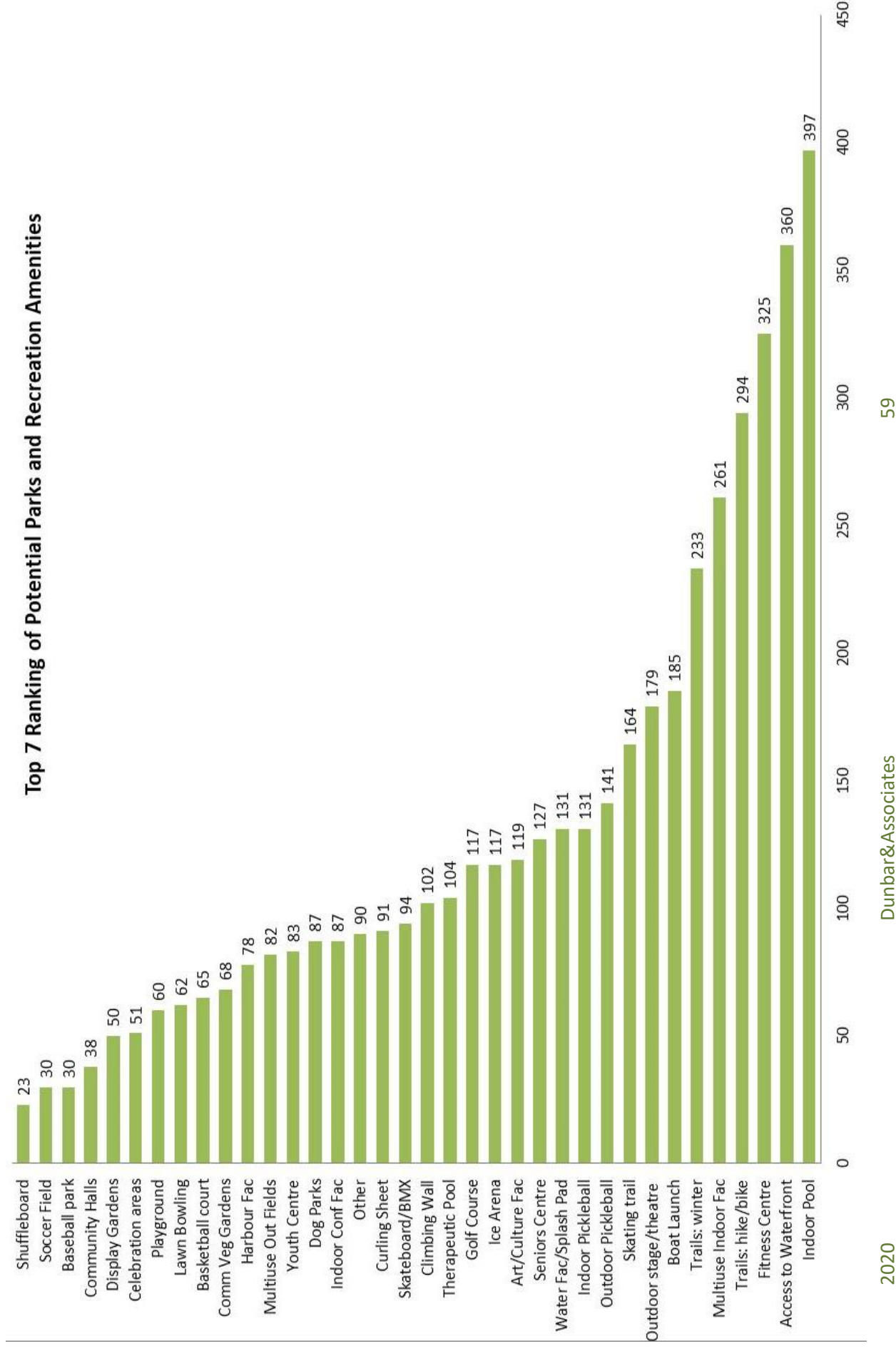
In terms of “very dissatisfied” and “dissatisfied,” respondents dissatisfaction levels are: Facilities (19%); Programs (12%); Parks, Green Space and Horticultural Features (11%); Athletic Fields and Courts (10%); and Trails (1.3%). It is a red flag when dissatisfaction levels approach 10% of the population as it represents a significant number of discontent people in a population. This threshold indicates that people would like to see improvements and if no action is taken, more people are likely to become dissatisfied. This presents itself as an opportunity for the Town to make positive change which will immediately translate to higher levels of satisfaction in the community.

Programs, Athletic Fields and Courts, and Facilities have high neutral (“neither satisfied or dissatisfied”) rankings of 39%, 37% and 33% respectively. This may indicate that they don’t have a strong opinion, or they may feel the programs are “okay,” but could be better. In some cases, the respondents may not use or be aware of the Town’s amenities and therefore do not feel that they are informed enough to rate them. For others, the fact that their name is registered with the Town and connected to the survey responses, it may cause them to be more guarded with their honest evaluation and soften it a bit. At any rate, this group of respondents is not prepared to give a “satisfied” rating at this time. With positive action and enhancement of Town amenities, this is a group that may be nudged toward greater satisfaction.

	<b>Very Satisfied</b>	<b>Satisfied</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Dissatisfied</b>	<b>Very Dissatisfied</b>
<b>Recreation Programs</b>	6%	30%	39%	18%	4%
<b>Recreation Facilities</b>	8%	37%	33%	17%	2%
<b>Trails</b>	47%	44%	7%	1%	0.3%
<b>Athletic Fields and Courts</b>	9%	40%	37%	9%	1%
<b>Parks, Green Space, Horticultural Features</b>	19%	51%	16%	9%	2%

Percents are rounded and may not total to 100% due to some respondents not ranking, but choosing to comment instead.

## Potential Parks and Recreation Priorities (733 responses)





Respondents were asked to choose their seven priorities from a list of 36 potential parks and recreation amenities. The graph above shows the priorities in hierarchical order, according to the number of respondents choosing each priority. Over half (54%) of all respondents to this question listed Indoor Pool as one of their top seven priorities\*for future development, followed by Access to Georgian Bay (49%), Fitness Centre (44%), Trails for hiking and biking (40%), Multiuse Indoor Facility (36%) and Trails for cross country skiing and snowshoeing (32%).

If respondents had a priority that was not listed as one of the 36, they could select it as one of their seven priorities and name it in the Open Ended Comments section.

*\*Note, for example, 397 respondents chose “indoor pool” as one of their top 7 priorities; for some of these people, the pool would be their first priority, while for others it might be their 7<sup>th</sup> priority. The next graph looks at 1<sup>st</sup> priorities only.*

## Open Ended Comments

The number in brackets indicates how many respondents listed the priority. Many used the comment section to repeat their priorities or elaborate on them, rather than identify new amenities. Wakeboard Park was a new identified priority that received a large degree of support.

### Wakeboard Park (29)

- Wakeboarding parks. Very popular now and very easy to start learning for beginners as the cable pulls you up but behind a boat it's much harder to learn as it only pulls you forward.
- A cable wakeboard park as proposed ... a private funder will build it ... very frustrating that we don't just agree and let it come to the area. A petition has over 800 signatures in support and we hear there are about 4 people that oppose.

### Tennis Courts --indoor and outdoor (18)

- lit for night play/motion sensor
- Soft tennis courts. If we had this surface we would have people from as far away as Barrie coming to play. Currently the only soft courts are at Craigleith and it is only a summer facility. With the mean age of this area being what it is, the addition of soft courts with a bubble for winter play would be absolutely fantastic and used to 100% capacity.
- A indoor tennis Bubble including 4 courts at least

### Indoor walking / jogging track (5)

- Indoor walking/running track/trail It could be included in or added to new or old facilities ie Beaver Valley Community Center. Great for winter months.

### Waterfront Access (4)

- Access to waterfront is a big one! Was hard to not be able to access the Thornbury beach while neighboring people on the water have that privilege.
- I find it hard to get access to the beaches. Always full of out-of-towners!

- ACCESS TO GEORGIAN BAY WATERFRONT, PLEASE!!!! some parts of Thornbury (new subdivisions) have no access whatsoever, even though they are a two minute walk from shore. How crazy is that?
- Please develop plan to acquire more public access to waterfront.

#### Expanded Library Facilities (3)

- Expanded library facilities in Craighleith.
- Ensure sufficient library(ies) in the community for all.
- Expanded library and museum facilities throughout the Town

#### Bike pump track (2)

- We are passionate about building a bicycle pump track in Thornbury. They are relatively inexpensive to build and maintain and are growing in popularity. My family is preparing a presentation for the Town.

#### Bike Lanes – as many roads as possible (2)

#### Multi-use/Intergenerational Centre (2)

- We need an multi use and intergenerational community centre, where programs for young and old coexist with the arts, sports and recreational needs of the whole community. I have been to one of these in Victoria BC and it was brilliant. Adult day programs in the same building as day care centre, coffee shop, arts facilities, a gym, ice surface, gold outside.....it was a truly inspirational facility.
- Owen sound YMCA type facility for start. Then perhaps re size areas for activities. e.g. reduce swimming area increase court area.
- A community centre like that in Niagara on the Lake - Serves many constituencies.
- Indoor Pool, Arts and Culture Facility,

#### Equestrian (2)

- trails
- riding arena

#### Outdoor Skating (2)

- Outdoor skating rink that would be illuminated at night and music playing. Could use for free public skating all day.
- trail

#### Mentioned (1)

- Squash Courts – singles and double court
- NONE....spend less of our money
- Indoor Golf
- Curling sheet
- Facilities that highlighting our agricultural heritage and roots.

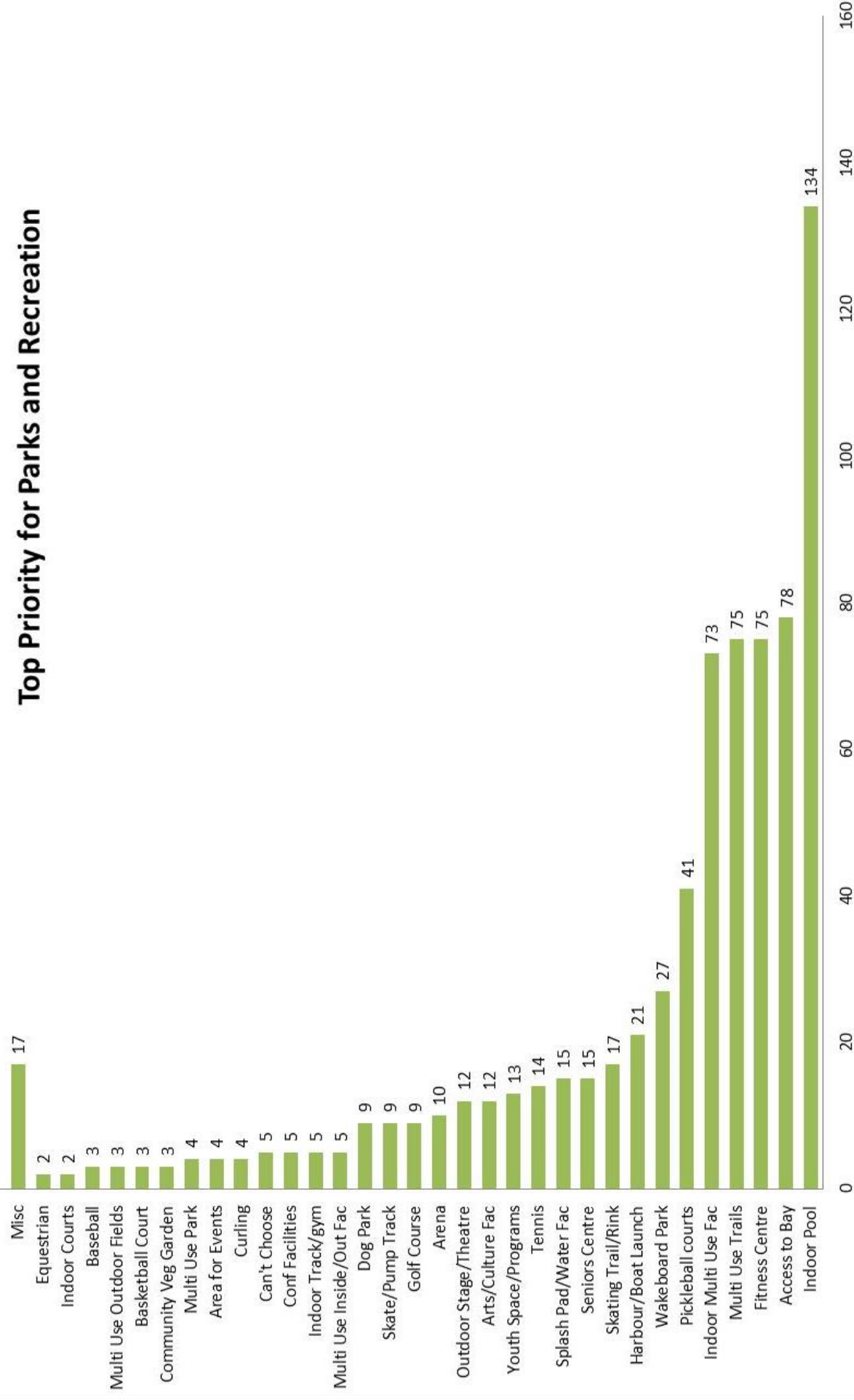
- A theatre like the Kings Wharf in Penetanguishene would provide cultural programs for locals and bring many outsiders to our area.
- Bike lanes and loops!
- Reopen Shale Beach, remove parking restrictions on Ward Road beach road parking
- Atv Friendly.
- designated waterfront space for kiteboarding
- Outdoor gym
- ACCESSIBLE playground. Access to adapted equipment like sledges for adapted skating.
- Mountain Biking
- Playground with sliding hill
- Development of a native Arboretum and overall tree planting and stewardship of street trees throughout the town.
- Beaver Valley Trail, redesign the loop so that there is not so much road walking. More by the river. Great short hike for many to enjoy
- Please consider building an indoor track and field facility and/or outdoor track and field facility. The indoor facility could serve the residents well during the cold winter months, and enable the town to host athletic track and field events for various levels of athletics (high school, collegiate, professional).
- Ping Pong facility would be nice
- Low cost group fitness classes would be nice
- Sports fields for field sports generally. The choice Soccer Field above is too limiting. There are other field sports (ultimate, field hockey, lacrosse, etc.). Ultimate in particular is becoming increasingly popular with young adults, including leagues in most metropolitan areas including Collingwood.

#### Other Comments

- I have not chosen any facilities that we already have. This question is a bit confusing, it is not clear if we are supposed to choose the ones we use/like that we already have or just ones for future. We already have a dog park and an arena and ball diamonds and soccer fie
- Asking about waterfront access after closing the pier this year is not appropriate for this survey. Any other year and I am certain our community would be satisfied.
- I have checked indoor pool but I am very aware they pools operate at a loss. I would like to consider a collaboration with Meaford for an indoor pool. The blue dolphin pool in Meaford is always in need of repair and is only available for a few months. It is not far for Meaford people to come here or us to go to Meaford and It would help with costs. I swim in the winter at Collingwood pool and am surprised that I don't have to pay an out of town fee. ( Don't tell them.)

## Top Parks and Recreation Priority (731 responses)

### Top Priority for Parks and Recreation



Respondents listed their number one priority from their top seven choices. The graph above shows, in hierarchical order, the number of respondents choosing each priority. Because this was on open-ended list, the list of amenities and facilities is similar, but not identical to the top seven graph. For example, many respondents listed “trails” as their first priority, but did not specify the type of trail. Their responses are counted under “Multi Use Trails” rather than the original headings of “Winter Trails” and “Trails for hiking and biking”. In another example, respondents often talked about both harbour and boat launch together, so these heading were combined.

The top priority for the most respondents (134) is an Indoor Pool, followed by Access to Georgian Bay (78), Fitness Centre (75), Multi Use Trails (75), and Indoor Multi Use Facility (73). There also was strong interest in Pickleball (41), Harbour and Boat Launch Improvements (21) and a Wakeboard Park (27) that was identified as an additional choice in the open ended comments.

Also important to note is that respondents who chose Fitness Centre or Multi Use Facility, felt that this was a way to include a number of important amenities, such as therapeutic pool, courts for sports such as tennis, pickleball, badminton, volleyball, basketball and other gym sports, space for youth and senior programs, maybe conference rooms and a stage, and in some cases integrated with outdoor multi use fields. Respondents who chose “Multi Use Facility” as their first priority considered it a way to include a lot of other priorities. For example, “Tennis” was a priority for 14 respondents according to the graph. However, it is an inherent part of the “Multi Use Facility” for some respondents, making the interest in tennis much greater than 14 people.

The “Misc” category with 17 responses is as follows, and included comments or priorities mentioned a single time.

- None – stop spending money
- Downhill biking
- YMCA
- Bike facilities
- Door Fitness Facility
- Indoor Climbing Wall and Ropes
- Lawn Bowling
- Track and Field
- Accessible Playground
- ATV friendly
- Proper mountain bike and dirt bike trails. No need to look any further than Simcoe County. SCORRA and SCMBC
- Love it as is
- Tree planting
- Library museum expansion
- Better use of BVCC by lowering rental costs
- Regional Community Hub like Owen Sound
- Social sustainability includes all leisure, not just sports

## Allocating Parks and Recreation Funds (707 respondents)

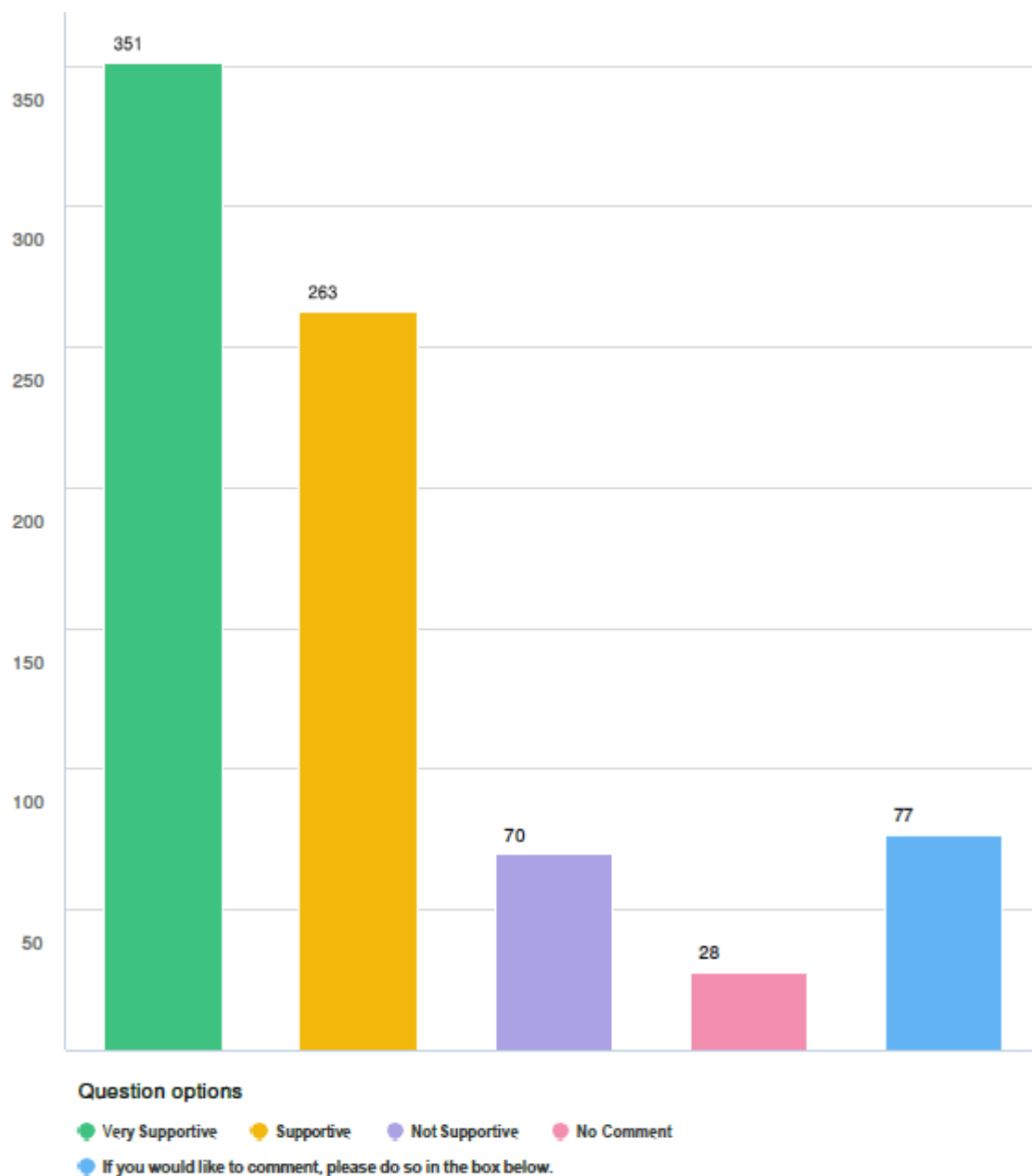
On a scale of 1 (being the highest priority for funding) to 5 (the lowest priority), the following chart shows how respondents would like to see municipal funding allocated to the various age groups in the community. Respondents would like to see municipal funds evenly distributed among all ages groups. Children, youth and 65+ ranked fairly high, while ages 30-64 were allocated the least funds.

OPTIONS	AVG. RANK
Select "6" for this option if you would distribute the funds equally (leave all other options blank)	1.85
0-14 years of age	2.31
15-29 years of age	2.78
65+ years of age	2.81
46-64 years of age	3.08
30-45 years of age	3.72



## Support for A Multi-Purpose Recreation Facility and Community Hub (733 responses\*)

**How Supportive Would You Be In Exploring the Possibility of a Recreation Multi-purpose Facility That Could Be a Regional Hub?**



*\*Respondents could indicate their support and/or write a comment, so column numbers do not total 733.*

Almost 84% of respondents are supportive or very supportive of exploring the opportunity of a multi-use recreation facility that is a regional hub in partnership with neighbouring municipalities. Approximately 10% are not in favour of the idea, with 4% not responding. This is support to “explore” the idea because many of those in support have conditions that they would like met if the facility is to proceed, a big one being the inclusion of a pool, and another being the financial implications for taxpayers. The Open Ended Comments give a sense of some of the concerns and ideas.

## **Open Ended Comments**

Respondents (77) made comments about their support or lack of support for the idea to explore a multi-use recreation facility/hub.

### **1. THERE ARE CONDITIONS THAT SHOULD BE MET TO GAIN SUPPORT FOR THE MULTI-USE FACILITY/HUB**

Many residents are willing to explore the idea of a multi-use facility and regional hub, seeing that the right partners could gain efficiencies by pooling resources. However, they feel in order to support a facility, there would need to be some general conditions met. Some of the conditions that residents want met in order to be able to support the facility are (and this is not an exhaustive list):

- it includes a pool and fitness facilities;
- it provides recreational opportunities for the whole community, not a select group or age;
- it is situated in an accessible/central location in the Town of The Blue Mountains;
- other necessary improvements and upgrades (e.g. diamonds, parks, courts, natural areas, etc.) in the Town are not abandoned;
- and it gets started “sooner rather than later and should not be held up with a lot of red tape.”

### **2. THERE ARE DISADVANTAGES TO HAVING A MULTI-USE FACILITY/HUB THAT IS SHARED WITH THE REGION**

Respondents who are not in favour of a regional hub may be in support of a multi-use facility, but they prefer to have it in the Town of The Blue Mountains for residents only. There is concern that as the population increases and expands, it will outgrow the facility, especially if it is shared region-wide. They also note that having to drive to a regional facility adds more traffic, use of cars, and related issues, and the preference would be to have facilities close to homes and communities. There are concerns about another big development in Town and the loss of green space.

Some would support a facility, but feel that a pool is all that is needed and they wouldn't support a "multi-use" facility. Some suggestion that there may be more creative solutions, and less expensive ones, that can be found to address recreational needs. Some comment that more organized programs and activities are needed, not more facilities and we need to use what we have better, such as the arena. They also make the point that involving a lot of partners will only complicate and delay progress and Town facilities are needed as soon as possible.

## COMPLETE, UNEDITED COMMENTS

### Support in Principle of Exploring The Possibility of a Multi-use Recreation Facility/Hub

#### *Pool*

- Provided it also includes an indoor pool and fitness centre, I would be very supportive
- ONLY support a multi-purpose facility if it INCLUDES and indoor pool AND a fitness centre. You made no mention above that a pool+fitness centre would be included in such a facility. Be specific. IF it wont include a pool, I would NOT support it.
- if indoor pool can be part of this
- strong support conditional on the hub including a swimming pool
- As long as it had a pool
- I would be supportive if instead of another arena the facility included that salt water pool.
- Only if an indoor pool is included would I be supportive
- My support would be for fitness facilities and swimming pool only.
- Don't know what a twin pad arena is. Would like a lap pool and therapy pool.

#### *Transportation and Location*

- as long as it was in our area, not a neighbouring town
- Very supportive, provided the location is within The Town of Blue Mountains.
- So long as the right location was found; ample parking was provided; and we built/developed this within a Master Town development plan.
- 100% if within 10 miles of Thornbury
- Your question does not give enough information in order to evaluate. Who does regional community refer to? Are we talking about TBM and Collingwood? If so, that is ok. Very Supportive as long as the facility is somewhere in the middle so there is no more than half hour drive from anywhere in the region. Even half hour is a long time especially with new developments going in, traffic time increases. Really, I think TBM should have its own hub.
- As long as it's not at the village
- Ability to effectively coordinate likely to delay timing and balloon costs. If you want to spend energy on regional hub activities -- look at public transit as first priority.
- If by regional community hub you mean principally servicing the residence of Thornbury I am not supportive.

- But it must have easy access FREQUENT public transportation option for getting there otherwise of no use to many young people and also those without cars. And right now public transport is a big issue!!!!!!
- "regional" means more cars on the road ?
- I would suggest two such hubs as this area is rapidly growing in population.
- As long as it's not all going to Thornbury or further. There is NOTHING in the Craigleith and vicinity.
- Transportation and access issues would be less if each town had access to their own centre.
- It seems we all have less time in our day + driving back + Forth to an event only adds to it. Where they are now, everyone can bike, walk or get a ride (Tomahawk + Soccer are a little different) If Moreau Park were to move other than Bayview Park, what greenspace is there.

*Serves Everyone*

- I believe that this would be an amazing attribute to this town. It could serve all residents in our community and create a good revenue stream for the town from the multitude of seasonal residents and tourists.
- I would be supportive as long as it becomes a place where all community members would want to go. Not just seniors.
- Thornbury is growing and needs to have facilities to accommodate it. The YMCA of Owen Sound is a perfect example of what we need.
- In another town, a suburb of a large city, my local rec centre contained pools, fitness facilities, a raised walking track, large rooms, and an acclaimed arts facility, including a large pottery studio. I would support something similar for our Town. Arts should be part of the equation.
- Indoor pool and multi-use. A multi-use facility should offer a diverse range of activities to help all people stay active, not just the hockey group.
- round multi use facility is a priority for this area.
- Need to include senior center and fitness center in this
- If it is too multi-purpose, it might not meet the needs of specific sports such as tennis.
- I would like to see better library service in Craigleith as well as an indoor tennis facility.
- Again, including more than sports. Combine arts & culture with sports & a variety of community room rental space options. in one efficient facility. This includes the library.
- Having a multi use facility would be a great opportunity for the town, but many of the other towns in our area have their own facilities like this. Including a riding arena would be a great addition because no other towns in the area have this amenity
- Include indoor winter sports like pickle ball and tennis

*Comments About Partnerships*

- With meaford
- make sense to pool resources

- I would love to see us work with Meaford. Collingwood does not need help but Meaford does. If it could be combined with other services such as the library, meeting rooms, indoor theatre space, etc. and in partnership with an organizations such as the Y, or other skilled recreation provider, then I would be supportive. I don't think the Town should necessarily be in the business of running a Recreation Centre on its own.
- This needs to be put in place sooner than later as our community is growing rapidly. Community and there partners need to figure this out. This is a good start and should not be held up with a lot of "red tape".
- Key is 'exploring'. We expect all surrounding communities to grow in need, but not to disadvantage access by our community. We don't want to outgrow the facility in 10 years.
- It would depend on location but might be a good idea to get better facility if shared.
- including neighbourhood communities in this venture would not leave enough time or space for this community as it continues to grow.

*Not at the Expense of Other Facilities in Local Neighbourhoods*

- Supportive, but not at the cost of losing improvements to parks and facilities in local neighbourhoods outside of Thornbury.
- Only support if our existing facilities remained. We need facilities that are easily accessible to the youth of our community. Our arena and ball diamonds are currently in a location where kids can walk to them after school, or bike to them from town. I feel this is a very important aspect of these facilities
- As long as no natural spaces were lost to it.

Financial Concerns and Impact for Taxpayers

- Really hard to say without understanding the demographics and trends in community. Also will be important to know the impact for taxpayers.
- costs of constructing this type of facility is in the tens of millions. Unless there is significant funding from the province and feds to offset the costs, it will likely be challenging to finance from the existing tax base. Consideration should also be given to location. Understanding that the majority of the town's assets are located in Thornbury do you two at central location, it's Lise residence on the east side of the municipality with an inequitable distance to travel to access those facilities.
- don't know what you mean by other government agencies. Have to look closely at current needs and try to anticipate future needs. for example the arena was very busy when it was first built as was the community centre. Now I think they are both empty much of the time. Cost is always a factor.
- In my experience that could cause financial difficulties and service disruptions or disservice
- Ice rinks are very expensive. We could get a lot more variety if we stay away from rinks and pools. I like to skate and curl & I swim in the Bay, but I'd rather see other multi-use courts, trails, etc., for all age groups.
- Let's look after our own taxpayers first. Not interested in competing for space with nonresidents.
- I'm not sure we have the population/budget to support this

- see Meadow Park public facility in Whistler
- As long as it remains a community asset and doesn't get taken over by private industry. I believe tbn money was used for the aquatic facility at the village which has not benefited the community

#### Comments Not In Favour Of Multi-Use Recreation Facility/Hub with Regional Partners

##### *Keep it Local and Not With Regional Partners*

- Sharing funding for a facility that is an hours drive away; is not fair and equitable "
- We need a pool for locals. Combining would delay everything.
- No way! We need a facility for our own community. I am tired of Blue Mountains funding the whole county. Keep our money in our community for our residents.
- Too much driving to older people to other regional communities. Need to be able to walk or drive in a closer area. Winter driving up here is not always available
- People choose to live and visit TBM for its connection to nature. There is already too much development in our small community. We cannot support big events financially or infrastructurally. I personally wish to enjoy what we have and remain a small off-the-radar community. The traffic alone anymore is more than we can handle.
- Too big for a village like Thornbury. One indoor arena is great. We need one
- Should be explored but I am not ready to support this. It would depend where and could detract from the small town atmosphere, increase traffic etc.
- While I understand the concept of economic growth, the large increase in population over the past 2 years has left me feeling 'run over' so would prefer not to have this type of facility at this time.

##### *Use What We Have Better, Including Our Biggest Asset – Our Natural Environment*

- Personally feel this isn't necessary and more creative solutions could be found. We have most of what would be included in such a facility it's just scattered, which is fine because our area isn't big and people would have to drive to get to such a facility anyway. For example it makes more sense to invest in the marsh street centre and support programming there, as well as at the library, than have the town build its own arts facility.
- just sounds like a lot of money and a trophy for the town counsel; whereas you can do MANY things with less money
- not interested in spending a lot of money. Based on the above, we have plenty of facilities already. What we need is some organized activities
- Again, my above comment about lowering rental costs for the BVCC
- I believe the twin pad arena is a poor example as we already have an excellent but under utilized arena.
- We already have the Y in Owen Sound...what we need is public transportation
- We have permanent natural facilities here including the escarpment, the beaver valley the harbor the Georgian Trail
- I am not supportive of this expense. I think that the town should focus on making the best use of its outdoor resources. We are lucky to have them and they make the community



unique from other places. Recreational hubs look exactly the same wherever you go and there are already enough in the area.

*More Arenas Are Not Necessary*

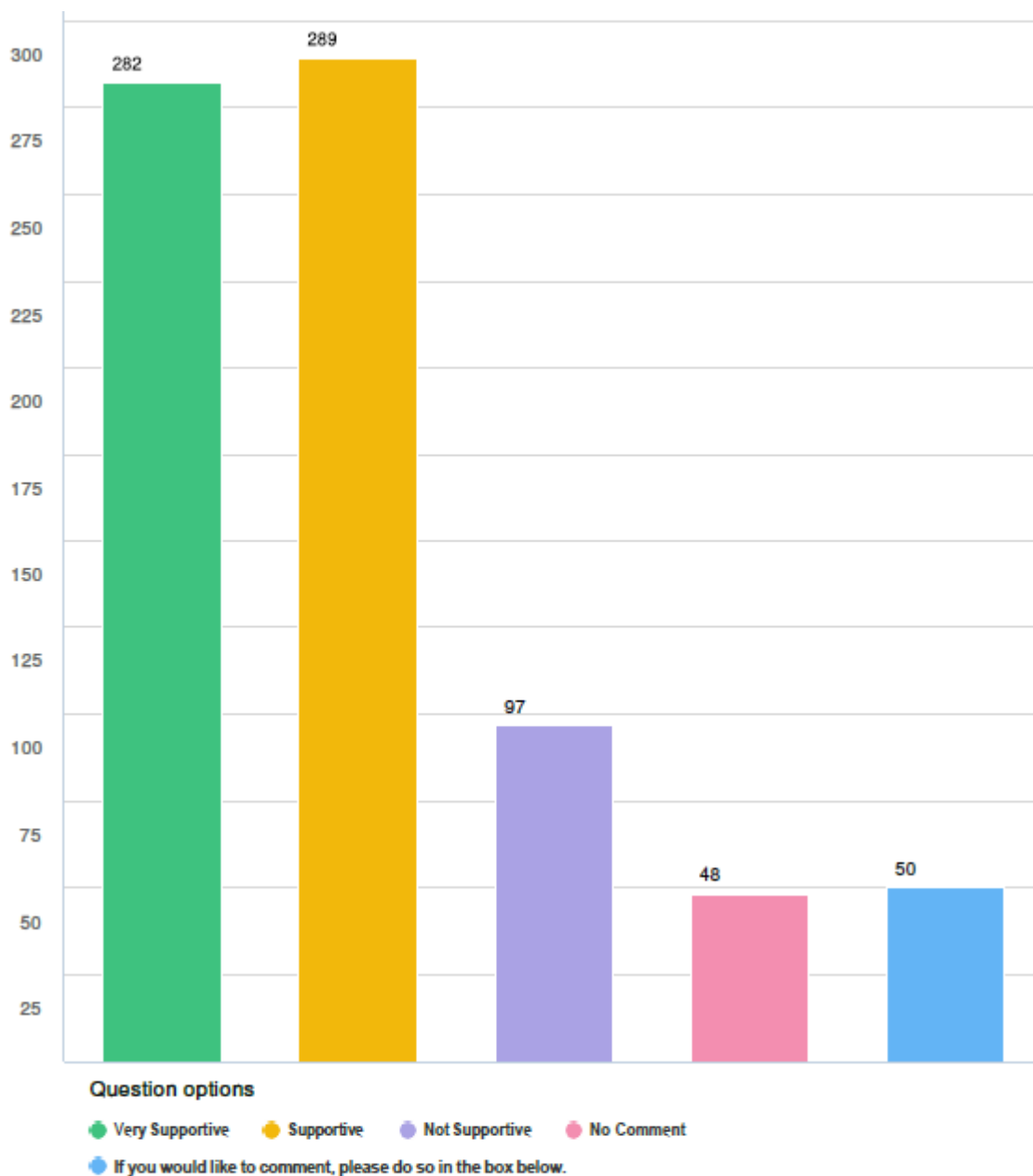
- Do we really need a twin pad arena?
- Hockey players make up a smaller % of the population and we already have an arena and other arenas in the region (Meaford, Ravenna, Collingwood, etc)."
- I would support another public downhill ski hill instead of the arena. On weekends, Blue Mountain is passed capacity and for those that don't want to shell out 40 thousand or more to join a private club the options are limited.
- I don't support more hockey arenas. The sport has become almost elitist and parents who can't afford to pay all the fees and equipment are putting themselves in debt or missing more important priorities like saving for education.

Other Comments

- Not enough info to make an informed choice
- I think a wakeboard park could be a good option to be a regional community hub!
- for business.
- This question is too focused on sports

## Support for A Multi-Purpose Recreation Facility and Community Hub with Private Health and Wellness (733 responses\*)

**How Supportive Would You Be In Exploring the Possibility of a Recreation Multi-purpose Facility...Regional Hub...with Private Health and Wellness?**



*\*Respondents could indicate their support and/or write a comment, so column numbers do not total 733.*

About 78% of respondents are in favour of exploring the possibility of a multi-use recreation centre and community hub that includes private health and wellness partners and neighbouring communities. Another 13% are not supportive of the idea and 6.5% have no response. There may be slightly less support for pursuing this option, which includes the private health services, than the facility that does not have private health partnerships. However, over three quarters of the respondents support further investigating this idea.

In general, there may have been some confusion around the intent of the question (which was asking for support to further explore the idea, not to make a decision with limited information). Without a specific model, outlining how such a facility would operate and what it would include, it made it difficult for respondents to comment.

## **Open Ended Comments**

Respondents (50) made comments about their support or lack of support for the idea to explore a multi-use recreation facility/hub in partnership with private health and wellness partners.

### **1. OF THE 50 RESPONDENTS WHO CHOSE TO COMMENT, ABOUT HALF WOULD SUPPORT EXPLORING THE IDEA OF PRIVATE HEALTH AND WELLNESS PARTNERSHIPS, AND THE OTHER HALF WOULD NOT**

Respondents in favour suggest that it may generate income and be a “win-win” scenario and public/private partnerships can work. However, it would depend on who the partners were and where the centre was located. Public transportation and accessibility for all are concerns, and the centre should first and foremost serve the needs of the Town’s residents.

Those not in support of the idea, comment that “private health and wellness does not belong in this equation” as it may result in elite services (e.g. preferential treatment, or monopolization of time of use) rather than ensuring affordable accessibility to all residents. They prefer municipal-owned facilities over private sector/for profit ones. Others suggest that the focus needs to be 100% on providing multi-use recreational facilities and activities for residents. Incorporating other types of amenities and partners may complicate things, take longer to achieve, and stray from the true need of providing recreation. Some believe there are enough private-sector services in Town.

### **2. MORE INFORMATION IS REQUIRED BEFORE OFFERING SUPPORT TO THIS IDEA**

Some respondents may lend support to exploring the idea of a multi-use recreation facility/regional hub that includes private sector health and wellness partners, but they require more information before doing so.

## COMPLETE, UNEDITED COMMENTS

### Supportive for The Idea, with Conditions

- I'm supportive if it includes "dedicated" pickleball courts.
- Support would be dependent on the type of P3 partnership establish to implement this type of solution
- A partnership with Meaford would be ideal.
- Private sector services may generate some income. Good idea.
- If public monies are not tied in
- Supportive if the private sector entity is not receiving any tax or rental subsidiarity. There would need to be a transparent process for application for use and revenue generation
- But must have public transport as per my comment in #15 above.
- would be supportive if the private businesses did not take away from the public rec facilities
- Again supportive but not at the cost of local facilities which are already insufficient for the increased growth from on-going development.
- The City of Welland has a phenomenal Wellness Centre that with some additions could be a great model for TBM.
- „This also is a win/win scenario...it could be a solution to the many obstacles people face trying to get access to services like mental health and alleviate the need to leave town to meet basic needs...if an indoor pool is part of this
- Supportive if there is indoor tennis and fitness centre.
- Also facilities for arts and ceramics."
- I like the idea of the focus on wellness. Again I would want it to be accessible for all members the community.
- Note that there are consultants who specialize in securing corporate funding for naming rights. We need to take advantage of sponsorships while at the same time being selective.
- Would like to see a community hub with Grey Sauble/Meaford to benefit both regional areas
- Give them a separate out side entrance. Inside man doors to physiotherapist, massage and other walkin services to those doing activities.
- It would depend on location and impact on traffic to the area. If it's regional do we have the infrastructure to support. As it is, we have one main road, highway 26 and it can't handle the traffic. You should be thinking about alternative highway and not ruin the waterfront.
- Private-public partnerships can work. The sponsorship relationships that fueled the Hanover P & G centre is a good example too, not just private-run services operating within.
- Again, facilities need to be close to those in the community that will be using them.
- Regarding health and wellness, the hub would have to be easily accessed by remote residents who don't have affordable means of transportation.
- Only support if indoor pool included

### Not in Favour of Involving the Private Sector

- I would be more supportive of an association with the YMCA.
- I don't think the private sector should be involved ever.
- No private sector health and wellness. Take care of ALL of your residents.
- I support the idea of a regional community hub with our neighbouring communities, but not with private partnership at this point. As the needs/desires are determined with associated costs, I may change my opinion. I would prefer to see it start as a municipal projects (mulit municipal) as opposed to PPP.
- We have enough private services in this area. We need to create a community and prioritizing those who can afford it is not helping service workers (which in turn doesn't help the people who pay them or use their services)
- "Private sector health and wellness services", so for profit. Absoulutely not.
- Would prefer a municipality owned gym facilities.
- Would not support private health and wellness partnership as they may monopolize the times of use of the facility or given preferential access.,
- There are plenty of physios, trainers, aesthetic wellness businesses in TBM. We don't need to go to the expense of creating a hub.
- I would be supportive of partnering with a large non-profit like the YMCA rather than private sector services.
- Same comment as above. Sounds expensive, takes years to accomplish, raises taxes and basically becomes just a trophy for the town counsel. Do 10 smaller things with less money and a broader impact.
- I would find services in another municipality before going to this type of box.
- We need to find significant corporate sponsorship in return for naming the facility. Let's keep health & wellness services out of the facility, and focus 100% on multi-use indoor/outdoor sports facilities and community activity rooms. This could include facilities for the activities mentioned earlier in the survey, along with those not presently adequately available, eg. a curling rink, climbing wall.
- Transportation and access issues would be less if each town had access to their own centre.
- Not supportive of private health care generally and cautious of public private partnerships.
- Not supportive of private sector, but supportive of a not-for-profit such as the Y.
- We already have the Beaver Valley Community Centre
- Private sector health and wellness does not belong in this equation. The elites win every time and leave out the less fortunate.
- You are driving further for more things now. Think green.

### Don't Have Enough Information to Support This Idea at This Time

- Again hard to say, but with anecdotal evidence only would suggest that there is a shortage of health and wellness services for the span of populations in TBM.
- I am not sure that I understand this question. This seems to be drifting into non-recreational facilities. I don't think that recreation money should be spent on the provision of health related services. These are separate.
- Would need more information regarding this idea to provide my opinion

- Not enough info to make an informed opinion
- you are not giving enough information to evaluate. What percentage of the activities would be private sector health and wellness? Are we talking pilates and yoga? Massage? Would we charge them fair market rent and they would charge fair market services? How far are these neighboring communities and what government agencies are you speaking of? All very murky. Give more detail even if you have to provide several scenarios. Provide budgets for each one. Provide what the current budget is and what we are getting from that. Provide costs to use these services by a resident of the town, actual and projected under the scenarios.
- needs more explanation.

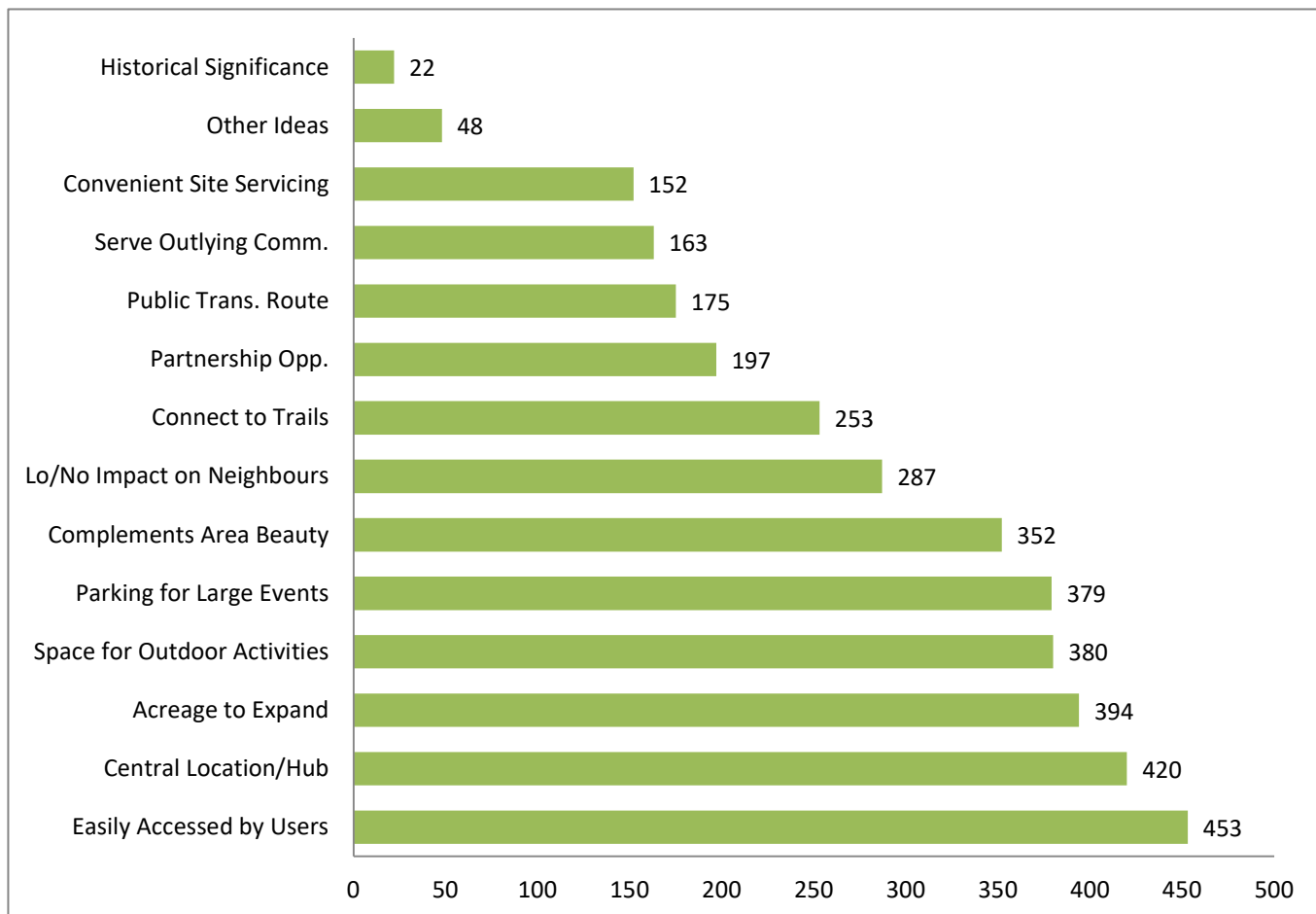
Other Comments

- Same comment as above
- We need a theatre with an adequate stage and backstage facilities. There is a large population that would support such a facility.
- The fact that you can't even create a survey without repeating the same question twice in a row makes me think taking on such a big project is not a good idea
- Same comment as for last question
- No Comment



## Criteria for Recreation Facility Site Selection (733 responses)

### Choose the Six Most Important Criteria For the Selection of a Site For New Multi-Purpose Recreation Facility in The Town of The Blue Mountains



Respondents want a facility that is in a central location for a community hub so it can be easily accessed by all who wish to use it. They want it to be on a sizeable property that would allow for future expansion as well as provide space for outdoor activities and parking for large events and celebrations that would occur at the centre. It should complement or enhance the aesthetics of the area and be considerate of neighbouring properties.

A few respondents (48) wrote comments and of those, 1.5% (of the total survey population of 733) were not supportive of a multi-use facility. Those who do support a multi-use facility gave specific suggestions for its location (e.g. Tomahawk, or walking distance from schools) and more general suggestions, such as near transportation routes and public transportation, accessible to all

communities, close to where potential partners are, and connected to the trail system. Examples of other criteria mentioned were: environmentally sound/green construction and operation practices, respectful of the natural environment, subsidized user fees for those who need, adequate space for parking and growth, and safe, accessible spaces for all users.

## **Open Ended Comments**

### Not Supportive (1.5%)

- Not required
- Not supportive
- As I have said twice now, don't do it
- not interested at all. lets use what we have already
- not needed
- I am against the facility
- Am not keen on this hub idea. Too many people in cars as it is.
- NOT NEEDED...enough facilities exist now paid by us tax payers!
- In THORNBURY. Didn't the town already contribute to paying for Plunge? This is not for the village.
- Not interested
- Soun Don't Think this large investment would be as beneficial to all residents as more directed investments in multiple sites

### Location Suggestions

- Walking distance for school students would be ideal. This allows affordable access for both school field trips and before and after school activities.
- SHARE COSTS with Meaford. Location to serve both municipalities.
- If it is a multi functional building with an array of offerings for all ages then it will become a community destination. While I like the idea of a the building being on a transportation route - do we even have consistent public transport?
- Please put it right on highway 26
- ON a public transportation route would be great, but those are limited in TBM at the moment. The location should include the forethought of public transport. Also, I feel the location should not be 'close' to Blue Mountain resorts.
- @ Tomahawk ?
- use exiting site
- Not centralized. Just draws more car traffic to area since recreational facilities mean equipment and few will bring needed equipment by anything other than a car.
- Can be connected to existing trail system, Complements and/or enhances the beauty of the existing area, Sufficient space to provide a number of outdoor activities, On a public transportation route, nothing that would destroy another field to replace with a huge parking lot. We have enough of that.
- The only reason I did not pick the options about expanding outdoor activities adn/or connection to trail system was because we have not yet defined its purpose. If its purpose is to support/enhance the use of trails, then that would be one of my 6.

- to service the needs of outlying communities, Complements and/or enhances the beauty of the existing area, Please don't locate it near Blue Mountain resort as it is already busy enough around that location.
- I don't think that we should build a multi-use recreational facility in Thornbury. Please see related comments above.
- Huge growth is happening in Thornbury. Hwy 13 and 40 intersection would serve the Town of Blue Mountains and attract others with ease of access.
- Anywhere Outside of Thornbury
- I would support the expansion of sports activities at the current Tomahawk site , which would have low impact on the neighborhood ,
- On a public transportation route, Does not affect our current facilities. Ball diamonds, arena, soccer fields, parks, remain where they currently are for convenience to our families and to maintain greenspace in town.
- Replace the existing community centre and baseball diamonds with such a facility.

#### Other Criteria

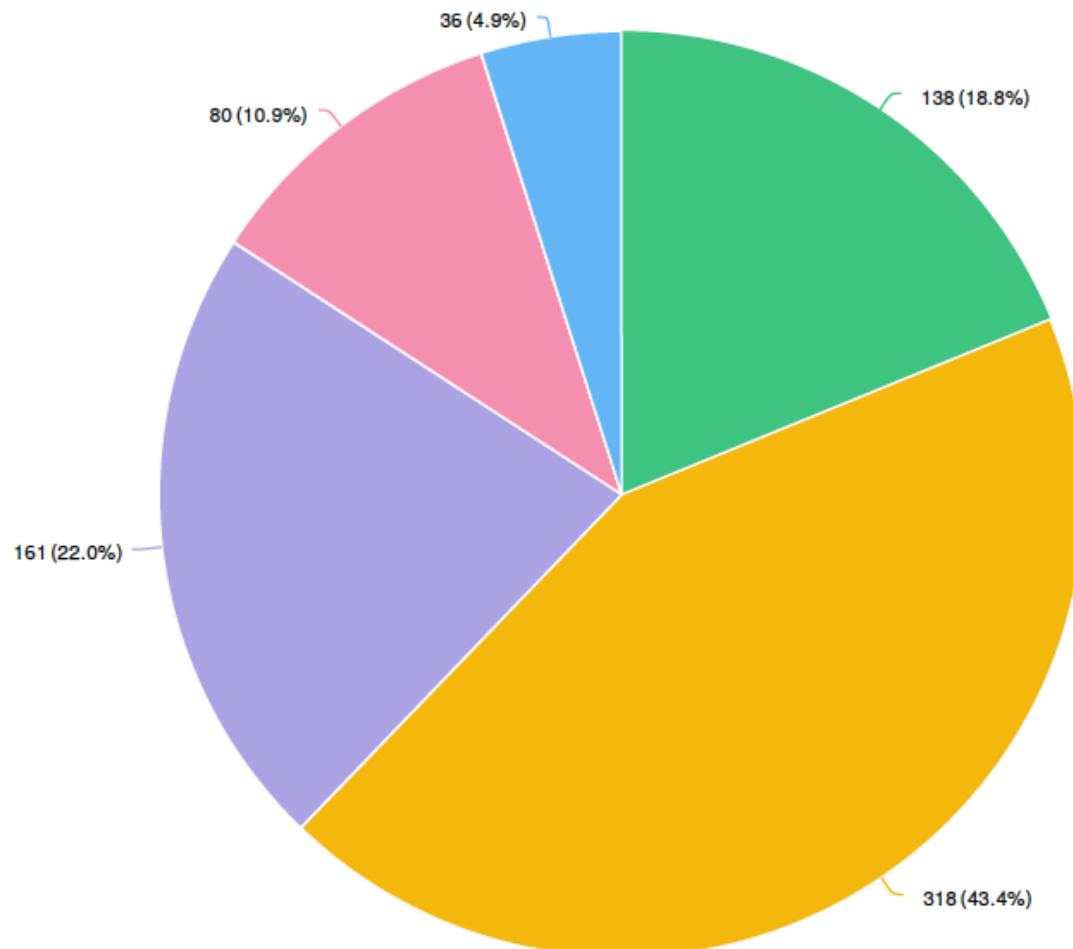
- Environmentally sound
- Avoid building more large scale congregation style venues. Focus on small access.
- Encourages accessible and SAFE spaces. Also a spaces that discourages exclusion
- Needs to be a regional issue
- Public transportation would be needed
- Net zero carbon building and facility
- Surrounded by parkland and native plant arboretum and connected to trails
- Obviously it would have adequate parking for larger tournament events or provincial/national events and possibly connect to existing trails...It could be a showcase to the world
- If there are user fees, they should be subsidized for those on low income.
- Easily accessed by facility users, Large acreage with opportunity to grow and expand over time, Adequate parking for large events or activities, Sufficient space to provide a number of outdoor activities, Don't get rid of an existing facility, especially the baseball diamonds
- Adequate parking for large events or activities, Convenient location for site servicing, Location conducive to good partnership opportunities, A multi-purpose recreational facility should be more of an indoor facility and not require lands for outdoor field sports and therefore be more centrally located and fit more within the community.
- don't try and create something that can be all things to all people. if you do something, focus the activities but do them well.

#### Other Comments

- Incorporates a pool
- assuming that this facility would include an indoor pool
- Swimming pool
- Has historical significance, Adds a performance Theatre or Stage
- Cable park
- None
- To have a wakeboard park

## Future Municipal Role (733 responses)

**What Role Would You Like to See the Town of The Blue Mountains Play in the Future?**



### Question options

- **Facilitator:** Help existing organized groups meet their goals by acting as a resource to locate activity space, find instructors, get expertise, secure grants, etc. so groups can operate their own programs.
- **Partner:** Take a lead role in working with other service providers, such as the private sector, government agencies, and others, to service community needs.
- **Direct Programmer:** Hire staff to organize and run recreation programs and centres for the community.
- **If you have another suggestion for the Town's role, please describe it in the box below.**
- **No Comment**

A little less than half of the respondents (43%) would like the Municipality to be a partner and take the lead role in working with other service providers; and the other half of respondents would like the Municipality to play a different type of role (Direct Programmer:22% or Facilitator:19%).

A few respondents provided comments explaining their choice or gave ideas to consider. Some point out that it may be best for the Town to play a combination of roles, such as Partner and Programmer; or Facilitate community groups, while being a direct programmer where there are gaps in service.

Ideas to consider include examples in Paris Ontario, Rene Caisse in Bracebridge, Whistler's hotel tax system, Markdale South east Grey Community Health Centre, and a program in Columbia which framed all initiatives around older adults, which enabled many programs and services to be achieved for the entire community, with little resistance (e.g. 8-80 cities – if you build all facilities with 8 and 80 year olds in mind, they will be accessible to the entire community).

## Open Ended Comments

### Partnership

- PARTNERSHIP: What have other municipalities been able to accomplish?
- Innisfil, Bradford, RecPlex in Wasaga Beach, and Angus.
- Check out the one in Paris, Ontario!!"
- Solicit, attract, facilitate and support private sports tourism facility development opportunities. Create / update sports tourism plan. Blue Mountains should be Ontario's leading family outdoor recreation destination for winter and summer!
- Work with existing service providers in town in the not-for profit sector and otherwise to see what ideas can be brainstormed ie; BVO for childcare and other services...
- Both town and partnership working together. For example, private sport bar in the sport and recreation centre
- Collaborator - explore best practices and opportunities in the region to offer most-needed services.
- Find private sector partners and let them run it. No need for more government "workers".

### Facilitator/Support Community Groups

- Provide the infrastructure and facilities to allow groups to organize their own programs.
- I am not sure at the moment. I think supporting organized groups works for this community (even with all the problems that have been experienced). I haven't experienced th Facilitator sounds like the most cost effective way to go. We do have facilities, - Marsh Street Centre, church halls, community centre and the other municipality owned halls.
- I love Meaford's approach, where they fill gaps not filled by other programs, and publicize programs offered by local organizations.
- Active residents have their own priorities/ interests that they will advance & promote with appropriate municipal assistance, best. The Most popular/aggressive will prevail. "

### Programmer

- I'm leaning toward Direct Programmer; create jobs and have direct control of a number of programs. partner and facilitator should also be include. but in a lessor role; or perhaps at the municipal office level

- My answer to your question is : Direct Programmer: Hire staff to organize and run
- Difficult to say what is better. Depends on so many things including budget. Probably direct programmer if possible.

#### Combination

- Perhaps some of all three. Partner where possible and provide direct programming where gaps exist
- Why are the three possibilities mutually exclusive? Couldn't the town be a facilitator, partner and/or direct programmer depending on the scale and type of proposal?
- Combination of direct programmer and partner.
- The Partnership between Owen Sound and the YMCA is a great idea on what is possible. I would be in favour of Direct Programmer & Lead Partner with an organization like the YMCA
- Perhaps a combination of direct programming and partnering depending on the activities.

#### Ideas To Consider

- Anything being proposed must go through due process with the public so that the TBM does not have carte blanche.
- I believe the Town's role should be to secure the land, secure funding (federal, provincial) and make up the difference with a loan. Should be able to secure a loan for 0.25% The facility to be built big enough to support the growing population for next 15-20yrs, The actual managing and running a recreational facility should be leased to a team who manages something like the YMCA in Collingwood.
- If the facility is to be in our town, then the town should've full control providing it does not raise the taxes for its residents.
- Facilitate planning of parks and public uses at developer planning stages. Town is letting too much development go unchecked without a vision of what makes town interesting and appealing. People visit Bruce St and harbour areas as it is quaint and interesting. New developments look more like city suburbs. Wide streets and grass with unwalkable distances.
- Research Whistler's hotel tax system, how they attained it and how the money must be designated.
- Perhaps get a YMCA "franchise" with activities re invented / adjusted for seniors.
- I think the town should have developers in the area fund some new community recreation facilities. There are so many new areas being built and this is a one time chance to build in some of the features to support all these new residents.
- See Bracebridge Rene Caisse recreational complex, Wasaga Beach, Orillia.
- Any of these would be good. It would be nice for our community to play a leading role since it would service our community mostly.
- I would like to add You should consider integrating a senior program to your plan. It will resonate with voters and make your plan more attractive. It would frame and help support initiatives in urban and park planning, public transportation, traffic abatement, and send the right message. Note : In Columbia in the early 2000, a few urban centres adopted a city-wide senior plan to help restore order in the street, without starting a war on car, or on gang violence, and it worked.



- I believe the future of our community and others in Canada like ours is to be more involved in building and running recreational facilities. I can see the Town of Blue Mountains taking steps to to do this.

Other Comments

- Less , spend less of our tax money
- not interested in increasing our overheads. We probably have staff that we can utilize now for some of these programs
- Build a pool in Thornbury.
- recreation programs and centres for the community
- I do not care so much for the role. Just do things that will benefit the residents that live outside Thornbury.
- Stick to the the basics Roads Water Sewers Fire & Police"
- Help bring a wakeboard park to the Town of The Blue Mountains
- Govt should be smaller; not bigger. Provide more opportunities and less red tape for the private sector

## Accessibility Within the Community (156 responses)

### **Do You Have Any Special Needs or Individuals Within Your Household That May Benefit from or Require a Greater Level of Accessibility Within the Community?**

Of those who chose to respond to this last question on the survey, 24 indicated that they would benefit from or require a greater level of accessibility within the community. Many of the others who chose to comment, who don't have accessibility challenges, recommend that recreation opportunities should be available for all abilities and accessibility should be first and foremost in any facility. As well, with the aging population, more and more people will require barrier-free, accessible services. One respondent commented that it's important, along with recreation programs, to consider leisure activities that one wants to pursue with advanced age, for example, genealogy research, expert quilting bees, music appreciation.

### **Open Ended Comments**

Respondents pointed out that making recreation programs and facilities accessible, goes far beyond providing wheel chair ramps and automatic door openers. Respondents who identify with having special needs want recreation opportunities that are accessible and available for a wide range of abilities, such as: persons with mental health disabilities, persons with intellectual disabilities, persons with learning disabilities, persons recovering from stroke, injury or accident, persons who have physical disabilities and who face mobility challenges, persons with substance abuse disorders.

Specific suggestions include:

- Providing more benches and shade for resting
- Better attention to winter snow and ice removal on sidewalks, entranceways, etc.
- Providing more washrooms along trails, in parks and other public recreation facilities that everyone can easily access, specifically pregnant women, young children, persons with physical disabilities and limited mobility, persons with incontinence, and those who find it difficult to walk long distances. Also, more family washrooms (rather than male/female) and washrooms with adult change tables
- Form a partnership with Events for Life
- Provide more adaptive programs; multi-sensory programs
- Pursue the "hub" idea because interaction among all user groups is invaluable
- Make sure the facility is multi-generational (8-80 cities – if you build all facilities with 8 and 80 year olds in mind, they will be accessible to the entire community).
- Provide access to Georgian Bay, such as a ramp for wheelchairs
- Build an accessible playground

- Incorporate this project with accessible housing to dispel negative connotations with subsidized housing

As this was the last question on the survey, some took the opportunity to use the comment space for concluding remarks or to raise issue not yet covered by the survey. A few had noted technical difficulties with the on-line survey and others recommended better maintenance, cleaning and general upkeep at the Community Centre.

## COMPLETE, UNEDITED COMMENTS

### Yes, Have Special Needs

- Yes, our son is a special olympian and skis at Blue with the SO Blue Mountain Ski Team. He has been to the Special Olympics world games and won gold for Canada in slalom in 2017. He is overall athletic and also golfs. The more that is accessible to him the better. He is employable and would make a great employee for a new recreational facility/programming facility.
- We have a child with ADHD who loves outdoor sports. More Programs like this would cause us to permanently move here sooner
- Yes, please ensure there is access to adequate restrooms, and provide rest room access from outside to GEORGIAN TRAIL USERS. Washrooms should not be a long walk indoors due to a) accessibility issues (pregnant moms/elderly), mobility walking long distances, and b) provide family change rooms (Moms with boys, Dads with daughters). Our community has NO WASHROOMS. People have to go into a business to urinate. Not cool.
- Yes, a senior who will need accessible services. Everything that the Town does should have maximum accessibility. nothing should be stand alone - no stand alone senior or youth center. Integrate with other multi generational facilities. Ensure that all services are accessible (financially and well as locationally to ALL residents regardless of income. Discounts for families, seniors off set by increased fees to those outside of the area wanting to use the facility.
- Yes. A Child with mobility issues. making facilities accessible is important.
- Seniors with arthritis and limited mobility.
- I love this town, but I have to travel to Collingwood for the use of a pool 3 times a week for pool therapy. So for me an indoor pool in Thornbury would be great.
- I have severe arthritis and back injury ...have been travelling to collingwood Centennial pool to use therapeutic pool...can only exercise in warm water need one closer to me ..not always have transportation
- Yes. A 31 year old son with special needs. I am also community coordinator and coach with Special Olympics Ontario, a volunteer organization that provides sport and community activities to individuals with special needs. Our son is also part of our local day program for adults with disabilities, Events for Life. We currently use the school gym for basketball, Tomohawk for our golf program, Meaford curling and Georgian Peaks for skiing. Having access to small reasonably priced activity spaces would allow us to expand

what we can offer. Having a community hub would be invaluable to this population as they could then interact with a greater part of the whole community. More importantly, the community would have the opportunity to interact with this population. They could benefit so much from a swimming opportunity, an open gym time for pick up sports, indoor facilities make it easier to plan for ongoing activities. Individuals with physical restrictions can't access Georgain Bay, a ramp for wheel chairs would be wonderful. Even a multi sensory room for parents of significantly disabled children and adults would be a godsend. The practices with respect to sports and recreation for individuals with special needs and physical disabilities don't often look like the practices of the rest of the population.

- yes, special needs child. Easy access by trails/easy terrain to any new facilities would be appreciated
- Yes— in wheelchair and needs accessibility
- Yes. A young adult daughter.
- Yes, adult who is not able to drive and so difficult to get appointments, etc.
- Senior with back issues Therapeutic pool would be good
- Yes. Dementia
- we are 78 + 79 and trying to stay active despite age related illnesses e.g. new hips, muscle and power loss, bladder problems and more
- Yes. Our daughter is wheelchair bound which limits our walking routes to in town on sidewalks or the georgian trail. There is also no adult change table available in town which she will require in approximately one year.
- Autistic son
- My husband has mobility issues & has a permanent handicap sticker so accessibility is of great importance to us
- Yes. ...(confidential...) we struggle to find suitable programs for his age group (he is 3.5) that are local and available. It has been encouraged by our doctors to take swimming lessons but there isn't an indoor pool facility in Thornbury and driving more than 15 minutes is not an option for us at this stage.
- My parents are aging and I want them to be able to afford recreation activities and access them physically.
- Yes! My son is 6 years old, uses a wheelchair, and is very athletic. But there are no opportunities for him to participate meaningfully in our community. We make extensive trips to outside communities to offer him a decent quality of life and opportunity for adapted recreation programs. The quality of accessible trails and outdoor facilities in our community is very poor. This needs to be remedied immediately according to the AODA. There are many other children with mobility challenges in our community and an accessible playground is a must for starters. I would like to participate on the Accessibility Committee for the Town.
- Paraplegic and wheelchair user for 25 years. Our community is awful for people with disabilities. Over half of businesses in town aren't accessible. No outdoor facilities have good access. We are like a 3rd world country compared to the US.
- Age- more trees for shade in outdoor space - comfortable seating.

### General Comments about Accessibility

- Most Important, we must encourage And promote a higher level of fitness and activity for our community. Keep people healthy and out of the hospitals. An active community is a healthy community. The more varied our town activities are more people will participate. An exercise trail For example would fit well on our waterfront. It should be more accessible to everyone, and not at a user cost and not just for neighbourhood use.
- Seniors all have special needs
- I find in the town of Thornbury the after school activities are very limited especially with COVID. We need to provide more culture focused programs for our youth as well as winter activities if you cannot afford the obvious winter leisure's in the area. A pool would be great as well for the area to ensure children in the area are strong and confident swimmers. Limiting travels for these activities would be a definite perk.
- Everyone should be able to get to the beach and free water or to some trails and free trees and air
- Paved bike paths on all roads will facilitate all ages and abilities access to areas for recreation and for personal needs.
- In terms of accessibility, I refer to the financial scope of it. The lack of activities for youth in this area has encouraged excessive drinking and drug habits. Its also created a sense of exclusion that it hard to overcome. It would be amazing to see how this project could be incorporated with accessible housing (however that will look) to enhance a sense of community and discourage negative connotations about subsidized housing, if the resident are more involved.
- I would like to see more recreational experiences for the younger generation in this community. It seems many of the older, retired population are in direct opposition of anything that caters to younger families.
- community centre with pool and gyms should be accessible by all
- In general, there is a continued increase in the number of folks who experience loneliness, so anything to facilitate individuals coming together without stigma of being alone.
- The more ramps and door openers, the better.
- Events for Life - charity for special needs individuals
- The centre should offer people with disabilities or seniors accessibility to the facilities and offer programs for this group.
- Alcohol should NOT be sold on any site or at any of the events. Too much of society's ills are caused by the decades of slow destruction of this addictive substance. Too many brains and bodies age decades earlier than they should. Without alcohol, people can converse intelligibly and draw upon community rather than an alcoholic crutch for support. Same goes for other addictions...ensure your facility/events does not open itself to a continuance of an addictive behavior. Would like a facility where people can go to create and enjoy community and form better health. Offer Seedlip mixed drinks (non-alcoholic) and encourage private vendors who create their own non- alcoholic concoctions. Even spa water is wonderful!
- We are seniors and expect that as a growing population in the areas we will all require barrier free designs and transportation options.
- The Events for Life organization could take advantage of an accessible facility.

- Would be nice to see some facilities available for special needs children, especially those on the autism spectra, who would benefit from quiet areas with hands on activities.
- An indoor pool like the public pool in Collingwood is badly needed for exercise enjoyment and water therapeutics
- Old dogs enjoy dog parks. :)
- I think that accessible facilities are now mandated. whatever governance model is used, it should involve those with special needs.
- Seniors in general have different needs & priorities than the younger and middle demographics. The main reason I am filling out this survey is to remind the Town that from November to April even walking on the sidewalk can be hazardous due to "slip & Fall". We really need safe indoor facilities to remain fit and healthy. I do admire the Collingwood Leisure centre for all the activities hat are available. Expansion of the trail system and increased connectivity is also very important.

#### No Special Needs at This Time General Comments

- No, but appreciate that you included this question in the survey.
- Not personally but special needs access should of course always be addressed.
- No but it would be a shame for you NOT to include them. In fact asking the question seems less inclusive of them all ready.
- No! Appreciate being able to participate
- Not specifically, but in an ageing population, this process needs to include accessibility including transportation.
- No but agree we need to help people with access issues
- No but thank you for asking this question. I hope you keep accessibility front of mind.
- none but should be considered
- No although accessibility is very important to me.
- No. However, I would like to add that recreation is for all ages, not only children. Older adults must be considered in any plan. Thank you.
- I don't, but I do think this is an important aspect of planning for any community complex
- none at the moment
- Not yet but of 76, this is going to be any time soon. As a senior, I found this survey heavily skewed towards sports & things, that appeal to a younger demographic. We need these things for the younger generations moving here BUT. Please do not forget those of use who need safe places to keep fit - walking - year round. Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

#### Other Comments

- Question 14 is not working - I would select 6 for a multi use building that would cater to all age groups. It wouldn't accept 6
- Question 14 would not let me submit if I left the top line (6) blank. I would like to see the fund distributed as listed below the 6, not evenly.
- Question 14 does not work well (technically) - tried to use the 6 option and had a challenge
- Please consider adding Racquetball and Squash Courts.



- Would suggest that the Town not consider the roles of Partner & Direct Programmer as defined in Question 18 as mutually exclusive.
- Golf
- I am using this space to add comment that you did not probe. While outdoor is important, there are other leisure activities that one wants to pursue with advanced age: genealogy research, expert quilting bees, music appreciation ..... and so please consider where these fit in. Thank you, Marg
- You left no room to comment in a question above about funding for age brackets 10-14 year olds should not be grouped with 1-5 year olds. Funding should go to the older end of this bracket.
- I would love a pool in our community centre. I like where the community centre is now. IS THERE ROOM FOR MORE DEVELOPMENT ON THAT SITE?
- I am 94 years old and live alone and give major credit to remaining very "active" during my retired years on the Bruce Trail and Georgian Peaks Ski Club.
- Our present Community Centre is a disgrace to our community as the caretaking staff are not diligent in keeping it very clean, painted when needed and repaired when needed. Better daily cleaning is of utmost importance!
- Washrooms and activity rooms have not been cleaned well yet the staff are present to do the job. Repairs have been left undone for months or years before taken care of. Compare it to the facility at Feversham and notice how clean they keep all of the community centre. It can be done if staff were trained properly and given the proper tools to do the job.
- We are retired and of low income so high quality 'attainable' programs (free) like those provided in the Markdale area by the South east Grey Community Health Centre would be ideal. They have a small converted school with health practitioners and fitness programs , community gardens, free gym, yoga, pilates, tai chi, dance, and many others too numerous to mention.! The centre is located at 70 Victoria st in Markdale if you want to check it out.
- In Heathcote, there are, virtually, no services readily available - except 911. At 80+ years of age - I can live with that. T.





Town of The Blue Mountains

# Focus Groups Summary Report

## Leisure Activities Plan

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**Dunbar &  
Associates**

December 2020



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## **Introduction**

The final stage of the Leisure Activities Plan public consultation process was to host the focus groups. There were three groups that participated in the process during three separate sessions (on December 3 and 4, 2020) of about two hours each. There were 12 citizens and six Committee members engaged in discussion during the three sessions.

With the help of the Leisure Activities Plan Steering Committee, participants were selected to represent a variety of parks, recreation, and leisure viewpoints and interests within the Town of The Blue Mountains, including the goal to have representation of varying ages, genders, geographic locations, and seasonal/full-time residents.

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, meetings could not be held in person so the Microsoft Teams video conference platform was used. Discussion within the groups was recorded and a complete set of notes taken during each session is provided at the end of this summary.

The main purpose of focus group research is to draw upon respondents' attitudes, feelings, beliefs, experiences and reactions in a way which would not be feasible using other methods (e.g. observation, one-on-one interviews, or questionnaire surveys) thus adding to and complementing our other community engagement strategies (i.e. on-line survey and key stakeholder interviews). Participants delve deeper into issues identified through other forms of research, such as trends research, which gives an increased understanding and clarity of the identified issues. This allows for the expansion of ideas and concerns, and the probing of issues, more easily than a written questionnaire. Focus groups use group dynamics to gather qualitative information. They make it possible for participants to compare experiences, encourage each other to share concerns, and a certain synergy is created as participants build on each other's perspectives.

Specifically, the purpose of the Town of The Blue Mountains focus groups was to:

1. **Review key findings with participants for validation** (e.g. key trends; key interview themes; key findings on survey). Is this a fairly accurate description of the state of recreation in the Town of The Blue Mountains? Is there anything missing that you would like to add? Is there anything that you feel is inaccurate and would like to change?
2. **Probe and explore in detail some of the more pressing issues** in order to:
  - a) Get a deeper understanding of the issue from a variety of perspectives
  - b) Identify key challenges and opportunities



- c) Collect ideas and options that participants have for resolving the issue or moving forward
3. **Provide an opportunity for participants to give personal input** that they think is important and that they have not had a chance to voice.

## Key Messages

### Recreation Programs and Services Have Not Kept Pace with Residents' Needs

Focus group participants concurred with survey and interview findings that recreation programs and services have not kept pace with residents' needs. Demographics are changing and needs will continue to increase, particularly for retirees, youth and families. The middle-aged group was also mentioned as lacking recreation opportunities in the Municipality. Comments made suggest that facilities and spaces are busier, there doesn't seem to be capacities for everyone, and it's starting to feel uncomfortable and overcrowded.

Long-time residents noted that they are used to the rural lifestyle with less programs and infrastructure and are now noticing that there is more available than ever before. This has meant less travel to find recreation opportunities.

Some of the gaps in service that were identified are:

- There is lack of open space and parkland, streetscapes, interpretive areas, heritage features, and overall maintenance and attention required to protect the natural beauty of the region. Activities such as cycling, hiking, walking, cross country skiing, snowshoeing and water activities are nature based and perfect for this environment, but more needs to be done and offered. One specific example was enabling year round use, snowshoeing and skiing trails and clearing sidewalks in the winter for walking.
- There are not enough opportunities for youth, including the under-20 age group having input into planning exercises. Before and after school programs, girls hockey, youth services and pool (currently use the Y in Collingwood), and accessible transportation were some examples given. Several initiatives and resources were mentioned that could be consulted regarding what is best for youth (e.g. youth surveys available through Ledge Leadership; TBM has a Youth-Friendly designation, Play in Grey Bruce Program)
- Accessible, regional, public transportation would provide better access to all, especially for youth.

- New housing developments need to be integrated and connected with parks, trails and open space (e.g. sidewalks, parks, playgrounds). This is especially true in the east end of Town which is growing quickly and requires more recreation services and infrastructure planned and established within the developments.
- A community recreation hub (or two) is lacking that would service a larger group of the community, including those groups (retirees, middle agers, youth, families) that are underserved now. (Niagara-on-the-Lake was given as an example where the recreation facility included their library and was in keeping with the character of the Town.) Timmins was another example cited, where the city repurposed some of their ice surfaces (that were becoming financially difficult to maintain) for alternative recreational purposes. They partnered with other groups to make one central facility with a pool, which became a good focal area for the community with programs that serviced the entire area.
- Lack of support services, such as program staff, marketing and promotion of what is available, by-law enforcement, safety education and features, maintenance and keeping on top of litter.

### **A Transition Strategy is Required**

How does TBM move from its current state, to meeting the needs of a growing and changing demographic? Some focus group participants suggest that the Town must consider how to enhance current facilities for short-term improvements while working towards larger or additional facilities for the long term. Ideas also included hosting an in-person brainstorming session (with big picture map) to identify what could go where, or focussing first on biggest priorities that come from survey results, stakeholder interviews, and focus group sessions.

Addressing the deficiencies will not be easy. Focus group participants identified four major questions about how best to respond to changing and growing needs that are outpacing current municipal recreation.

1. How do we address the 3 major geographical areas and farmland/rural residents in TBM, all of which may be looking for different amenities?
2. Does TBM have the population base to support a multi-use facility?
3. How do you balance the needs of seasonal versus full-time residents and the fluctuating patterns of use as the seasons change?
4. How do we make better use of existing buildings and outdoor spaces (e.g. community sponsored fitness programs; staff hired by Town to provide programs; partnering with schools, etc.) in the short term, while planning for a multi-use facility for the long term?

## **Regardless of Whether There is A Multi-Use Facility or Not, Enhancements to Existing Facilities, Programs, and Services Are Needed**

Focus group participants see merit in looking at alternative ways of enhancing municipal recreation. Participants say it is important to make use of and refresh current facilities. Look at what we can do better, with what we have now – year round programming in some of these large recreation facilities. Some participants suggested doing an analysis of how many people are using spaces, when, and what they are doing in them. For example, where are people pulling picnic tables together? That may indicate a good spot for a picnic area. How are anglers using the harbour area? Where are people socializing? What times are facilities in use? Are there some that aren't being used in certain seasons or at certain times? Artificial ice surfaces could enable year-round use, like curling or hockey. What are adjacent communities doing so we don't duplicate, but complement, their offerings?

Focus group participants acknowledge that even small enhancements or additions will increase the need for more Municipal resources. More programs and amenities will likely mean the need for more staffing and finances. Enhanced services and programs will attract more users, triggering the need for more and different types of management systems and/or staff to address the various issues arising when servicing larger numbers of recreationists, be it on trails, at the waterfront, on courts, or in facilities.

More Staff – would mean being able to add programs to engage various age groups, or coordinate opportunities for user groups (e.g. youth coordinator), or provide better monitoring of trail, park and waterfront use. The need for affordable housing, to attract potential employees, was discussed.

More Partners – recognizing the additional finances and fundraising that would be necessary to make needed enhancements, focus groups talked about the need for more partners, who may be able to contribute funds, and other things that could enhance services, such as affordable space or program expertise. They mentioned, Evergreen, Tree Canada, partners for day care, looking to those that have experience in programming and maybe space to share, like schools, private ski clubs or churches. The Probus Club might help with senior programs and Ravenna Hall is a local, affordable space.

## **Trails and Active Transportation Are a Critical and Ongoing Investment in the Community**

One focus group participant said “the more the merrier” when it comes to trails. The area is rich in trails, but still there is more to do and with each new subdivision or development, the expectation will be to connect it to walking paths (which includes sidewalks) parks, and

trail systems for year round use. Active transportation initiatives and collaboration with Grey and Simcoe County plans are critical to the future of trails in The Blue Mountains.

The trails have experienced greater pressure during the Covid Pandemic as people move outdoors. Increased use has highlighted the need for improved education and safety about trail use, safer places to cycle on roads, but also safe trail networks for children to cycle that don't involve riding on roads, more areas for dog walking, and year round activity and accessibility on trails and sidewalks. One suggestion was to work/partner with the private ski clubs to develop cross-country ski trails and provide affordable winter recreation for residents. The agreement with Blue Mountain Resorts for free trail use should be re-examined too. Snowshoe trails could be developed at Tomahawk.

Some focus group participants commented that they have noticed a gradual increase in trail use over the years, and a big spike in use this past year, bringing a mix of people who are familiar with trail etiquette, and others who are not. This spells out the need for more trail monitoring and management, including signage, by-law enforcement, access and parking management, garbage and litter control, and education about the trails and trail use. One suggestion is to employ a trail patroller(s) through the Canada Summer Jobs grant program. Kolapore has active trail guide volunteers/trail ambassadors who provide customer service, first aid, and reminders to be responsible.

Parks and trails go together and their connections are important, especially for families and youth. Parks are a destination and the experience is enhanced if you can ride or walk there without using your vehicle. Focus group participants named several initiatives to improve the park/trail offering in the Municipality.

- Connect more parks/parkettes with trails and have more parks for kids (at Windfall, BMV, Craigleith)
- Develop valley lands (adjacent to drainage courses) with interpretive areas
- Add a Park/trail around Little Beaver River
- Expand Heathcote Park – this park is underused
- More parks with activities for all age groups, accessible, inclusive (e.g. bocce ball, playgrounds, picnic areas) Labyrinth is a good example of unused space
- More portable washroom facilities on trails and more washrooms at parks
- Boat launches/drop offs at beaches – consider launching areas for paddle boards

## **Short and Long Term Planning That Balances Protection of Waterfront with Management of Visitor Use, is Vital to the Well-Being of This Community Resource.**

The waterfront was over-stressed this past year because of an increased number of visitors looking for safe, outdoor activities to do during the Covid-19 Pandemic coupled with high water levels that decreased the amount of available beach area. Visitors tend to stay for the day, making it difficult for local residents who come for a brief time period, to have access. There was also confusion and difficulty distinguishing between public and private water access point at Slabtown Dam and Cameron Streets. Overcrowding was most noticed at Bayview Park, Peasemarth, Harbour area (slips, access, launch, and parking), Northwinds, and the Beaver River. Although the Pier was closed it would have been busy too.

Going forward, focus group participants advise that waterfront property should be enhanced and managed, not sold. The Grotto at Tobermory may be a good example of how to control access points and limit time of stay. Plans for dealing with parking, access, garbage control, trespassing, and so on need to be in place for next summer.

## **Creative Thinking is Necessary to Address Recreation Needs of All Residents, Living in All Areas of the Town of The Blue Mountains.**

As with survey and interview findings, focus group participants see a huge opportunity to have a centralized, community hub type, multi-use recreation facility with a public pool, that might include such features as a gym and fitness equipment, arboretum, coffee shop and places to socialize, cultural features, ice rink(s), ball diamonds, and other indoor/outdoor sport amenities. They think it would be a great community (or regional) asset, especially with the growing population in the area, and the fact that they have outgrown the existing community centre. This would be a longer term goal based on population numbers in TBM and the region.

Alternatively, there were also participants who wondered if the population could support a large facility. As well, there was discussion about potential recreation facility satellites or hubs (in Craigeleith and Thornbury) as stand alone, or as outreach sites from a larger, central facility. Some said creative thinking will be necessary to address the needs of all residents, in all areas of the municipality.

Discussion in the focus groups raised some key questions to answer:

- What are the costs associated with repurposing existing facilities like the BVCC?
- Where will people be living in TBM in the next 15-20 years?
- Will there be accessible public transportation?

**A Regional Hub Is Not Without Big Challenges, and Implies Solid Partnerships and Connection Of Services to a Focal Point That Make the Best Sense for Residents.**

A regional hub idea makes sense to some of the focus group participants. They say it has worked well in other communities and with Collingwood and Meaford as neighbouring municipalities, already sharing waterfront, trails, and highway corridor, it makes geographic sense. Furthermore, active transportation initiatives, such as accessible public transportation to a recreation facility, become more doable with a regional focus. Several participants named the YMCA as being a good model for incorporating a number of programs and services and operating satellites.

A regional hub implies partnerships and connecting services that make the most sense for residents. Some suggested joining the facility to a school and/or library to make it easier for working families to access a number of services they require at one place (e.g. child care, youth activities, adult fitness programs, library programs and internet, etc.)

Other focal points could involve a new Entrepreneur Centre, collaboration with the Marsh Street Centre or Beaver Valley Outreach . It was suggested that the Town work with small business, including health care, to explore opportunities.

Alternatively, not all focus group members believe that a regional hub is the way to go. Relationships with neighbouring municipalities are important but TBM needs to consider both the benefits and potential conflicts of entering into regional partnerships. It was mentioned that the hub idea should not diminish efforts to improve current programs, services and facilities. Also important is to manage the scope of the hub – anything beyond recreation activities may be too much.

**Recreation in the Town of The Blue Mountains Must be Affordable and Financially Accessible to All, With Preferential Rates for Residents**

Clearly, focus group participants want recreation to be affordable and financially accessible to all residents, families, youth and those on fixed incomes. There should be available subsidies for those who need, and maybe even some free-use times.

Many focus group participants talked about some balance or combination of user fees and/or taxes, with preferential rates being given to residents of the Town of The Blue Mountains. Most importantly, the Town should be transparent and communicate payment and taxation plans clearly to the public. It would be useful to look to other facilities and



municipalities to benchmark and compare what taxpayers elsewhere are paying for their recreation facilities.

As for setting fees, more recreation facilities means more fees. Some participants suggest that the cost of building the facility and the cost of running it should be considered separately: for lower maintenance amenities, there should be lower fees and vice versa -- higher maintenance amenities have higher fees.

### **Focus Group Participants' Recreation Interests**

People participating in the Leisure Activities Plan Focus Groups represented a diverse number of recreation and leisure interests. Their wide and varied perspectives were an asset to the study process, and included:

- Park use (Ravenna, Lora Bay, Clendenan Dam, Peasemarth, dog park, Loree, Bayview, Heathcote Park, Fireman's Park )
- Trail use for walking, hiking, running (Georgian, waterfront trails, Tomahawk, Bruce, BMR) and walking on streets
- Winter trail use, both private club and public trails, skiing, snowshoeing
- Cycling, trails, road and gravel
- Golf (Tomahawk, Owen Sound)
- Water-based activities, canoeing, kayaking (Meaford, Georgian Bay, Beaver River, Craighleith)
- Library
- School
- Nursing home volunteering
- After school care
- Early years program
- Arts and culture, local theatre, music, arts and crafts businesses, art programs
- Soccer
- Fitness, YMCA in Collingwood, Tai Chi
- Swimming and aquafit – Plunge and Collingwood Y
- Karate
- Skating (BVCC), figure skating
- Basketball nets – indoor and outdoor
- Skateboard park
- Fishing, harbour facilities, boat launch
- BVCC

### *Leisure Activities Plan*

- Community garden
- Marsh Street Centre
- Ravenna Hall

It's desirable for a greater number of younger people (under 30 years of age) to give input into planning future recreation in Town.

## Focus Group Session Notes

### Focus Group #1: December 3, 2020 at 2:00 pm

#### Question/Issue #1:

*Preamble: Stakeholder interviews have indicated that the provision of recreation facilities, amenities and services hasn't kept pace with Municipal growth. Also lacking is a balance of recreation opportunities for all age groups in all geographic areas of the municipality. High numbers of survey respondents indicate low satisfaction rates with recreation programs, facilities athletic fields and courts.*

#### Group Work:

a) Do you agree that recreation programs and services have not kept pace with residents' needs?

- Yes, absolutely, the town has grown and recreation services have not kept pace
- Lack of open space and parkland
- Demographics is changing; need to address retirees and youth for recreation needs

b) Where, in your opinion, are the major gaps in service? Think of types of programs, geographic area of programs, age groups not well served, etc.

- Different geographical areas (3 major), and farmland – areas may be looking for different amenities. This is a challenge.
- Gaps in middle age group not as well served as older, younger
- Open spaces, parks and street-scapes need attention; interpretive areas as part of parkland development
- Escarpment, Bay
- Sidewalks, parklands, playgrounds with new developments
- Desire for community hub (recreational services) that would service a larger group of the community
- Ensure protect natural beauty of all regions
- Aware of safety concerns as we develop
- Enhance considering natural features and heritage features of TBM
- Niagara on the Lake has a good example of a community hub around their library (modern, keeping with the town)
- Consideration of 14k homeowners; 7k that reside permanently and seasonal (need balance for both)
- Cycling, hiking and skiing are natural amenities

c) What are some key opportunities to improve recreation programs? Name two or three initiatives that would really advance recreation opportunities in Town.

- Arboretum (part of community hub?)
- Gym with community sponsored fitness programs; sponsored by Town, or staff hired by Town
- Central recreation facility should include a public pool
- Recreational facility for fitness programs (location?), included with community hub (also include a coffee shop/social place)

d) What is your best advice for moving forward?

- Brainstorming session in person (with big picture map)
- Focus on biggest priorities that come from survey results, stakeholder interviews, and focus group sessions
- Consider how to enhance current facilities for short-term improvements while working towards larger facilities (transition strategy)
- Under 20, under 30 age groups be involved in the discussions
- Financial considerations should be part of planning

#### Question/Issue #2:

*Preamble: While many needs could be served with a multi-use facility, stakeholders and survey respondents indicated that the Town could do more to improve recreation program opportunities irrespective of a new multi-use facility. In fact, many do not want to see duplication of existing programs and services and recommend looking for ways to re-purpose older buildings, enhance existing club and team amenities, or building additional courts, fields, etc. to enable programming across the entire community.*

#### Group Work:

a) Do you agree that there is merit in looking at ways to enhance municipal recreation programs irrespective of a multi-use facility? Why or why not?

- Make use of current facilities and refresh them
- Observe how people are currently using the facilities (i.e. picnic tables are being pulled to create a picnic area)
- Areas to clean fish and hang out (outside of harbour); may not be appropriate
- Evergreen.ca (one in Toronto), interactive for families. Do now!

b) Are there any partners that the municipality could work with to enhance program opportunities?

- Evergreen.ca

- Tree Canada (grants and programs for tree planting)
- New school, partner with school board? – intergraded into community hub
- Untapped resource in private ski clubs; expertise in board of directors for running recreation programs/facilities (draw from club expertise)
- Schools involve the children in brainstorming sessions to engage currently and in the future
- Church communities for some of the programs (i.e. space for fitness)

Question/Issue #3:

*Preamble: Satisfaction with municipal trails ranked very high on the community survey. Trends show that park and trail use will continue to grow in the future and this is even more exaggerated with public response to Covid-19. Even with high satisfaction levels with community trails, survey respondents said that their 4th highest priority was more biking and walking trails, and 6th priority was more skiing and snowshoeing trails. Satisfaction rates with existing parks were lower than satisfaction with trails.*

Group Work:

- a) Do you see the need for more parks and/or trails in the community?
- More the merrier for trails
  - Cross country skiing trails (work with clubs)
  - More parks with trails connecting
  - Develop valley lands (drainage course) with interpretive areas
  - Snowshoeing trails (additional trails at Tomahawk)
  - Park/trail around Little Beaver River
  - Expand Heathcote Park (this park underused)
  - New parks and trails in new developments

Question/Issue #4:

*Preamble: Waterfront access or lack of waterfront access for residents was identified as a big issue and ranked 2nd in the top recreation priorities. This issue came to the forefront this year as the beaches felt increasing pressure from visitors and property owners that typically do not make TBM their primary residence, looking to escape the city during Covid restrictions.*

Group Work:

- a) Which parks/areas, in your opinion, are the most stressed by this trend?
- Northwinds Park

- Bayview Park – local residents would use for a few hours; visitors would spend many hours
- Peasemars
- Pier better developed
- Little Beaver River Park– many people this year, affecting environment (protect)

Question/Issue #5:

*Preamble: The #1 expressed need on the survey is a multi-use facility. We've also heard from interview participants that a multi-use, accessible facility is long overdue in the municipality. What isn't clear, and where there are diverging opinions, is where such a facility should go? And should there be just one major facility, or two smaller facilities, or a larger facility with satellites?*

Group Work:

a) Do you agree that a multi-use facility is needed in the community? If not, what options or ideas can you suggest for meeting needs in the community?

- Yes, it would be a great asset; join with some existing facilities (schools, library, especially with TBM growth)
- Use existing Town properties with satellite facilities
- Think big/outside box – location (water tower near arena)
- Consider costs of repurposing; could tear down BVCC/To new
- Discussions with Planning to determine where people will be living in the next 15/20 years
- Multiple hubs – i.e. Craighleith and Thornbury; school board property – Craighleith
- Thornbury due to the current amenities and shopping is a “hub” now
- Need sidewalks along Victoria Street for safety

Question/Issue #6:

*Preamble: Trends show that there is an increasing tendency for recreation facilities to expand beyond traditional recreation services and programs and become community hubs. In a growing number of communities, they are becoming fitness, health and wellness hubs. They may provide after school programs, food and nutritional assistance, health care, private sector businesses, and so on. Or incorporate theatre and arts, library programs, etc. On the community survey, there was a high degree of support for a regional community hub multi-use facility which would involve working with regional and/or private partners.*



Group Work:

a) Do you agree that a community hub/multiuse centre is a good approach for the community? Why or why not?

- Absolutely, but big undertaking
- A similar facility to a YMCA – consider 2 locations
- Marsh Street partnership

b) Do you think regional partnerships with other municipalities are worth pursuing? Which ones?

- Absolutely, yes
- Location is important; try to not make too wide spread of partnerships
- No, keep internal (TBM)
- Relations with neighbouring municipalities are important but need to consider benefits/conflicts

c) Do you think partnerships with private partners are worth pursuing? Which ones?

- Similar to YMCA to manage
- Work with developers to provide amenities
- Keeps things vibrant if businesses are involved
- Community hub expanded purposes beyond main recreational would be too much
- Corporate involvement like health business partners
- Community wealth – draw on to partner

Question/Issue #7:

*Preamble: The provision of additional recreation facilities, amenities, and services will come with a cost to residents & other users. To establish, operate, and maintain additional recreation infrastructure, there will be a need to consider a possible increase in taxation, as well as related user fees.*

Group Work:

a) How much would taxpayers be willing to pay for increased recreation opportunities? For discussion, what would be an acceptable monthly or annual user fee or increase in taxation should a Multi-Use recreation facility be considered?

- Those on fixed incomes and others that come from outside the community; some pay through taxes, others with user fees
- User fees for everyone; higher user fees for outside municipalities compared to residents
- Cost of building and cost of running should be considered separately

- One-time tax levy; lower user fees for taxpayers (i.e. \$1000 for one year for pool)
- Partners with private section could benefit

Question/Issue #8:

*Preamble: When planning for recreation services it is good to understand what Town residents have actually used in the past.*

Group Work:

a) What recreation amenities have you used over the last two years?

- Cycling through TBM into Meaford
- Tomahawk Golf Course; Owen Sound golf courses
- Watercourse in Meaford and the Bay
- Waterfront trails in TBM; Clendenan Dam; Peasemarth; dog park
- Library
- YMCA in Collingwood – fitness classes, swimming (aquafit)
- Beaver River
- Skiing
- Tomahawk for walking; trails
- Tai Chi
- Art programs

Follow Up Suggestions:

- Provide questions to participants prior to session – in normal format (not covid), would not typically send the questions ahead of time; covid has made it difficult to work in a group session; share preamble with participants?
- Questions were too lengthy – needed to eliminate some questions along the way
- Successful in getting young demographics? – try to get representation for the teenage to 30 age group; possibly look at doing something after the focus group sessions, stakeholder interviews(?) at high school; BVO has a coordinator working in the school and may be able to assist in arranging sessions with younger age group (consider offering community hours for high school students)
- Agenda item on next LAP steering committee meeting – younger age group sessions/discussions

## Focus Group #2: December 3, 2020 at 6:30 pm

### Question/Issue #1:

*Preamble: Stakeholder interviews have indicated that the provision of recreation facilities, amenities and services hasn't kept pace with Municipal growth. Also lacking is a balance of recreation opportunities for all age groups in all geographic areas of the municipality. High numbers of survey respondents indicate low satisfaction rates with recreation programs, facilities athletic fields and courts.*

### Group Work:

a) Do you agree that recreation programs and services have not kept pace with residents' needs?

- Yes, needs continue to increase
- Growing population - facilities are busier
- Needs for families and needs for youth
- Communication – need to advise what is available
- TBM is a youth friendly organization – report may provide information
- Transportation challenges for youth and others– more locations for recreation facilities (traffic/travelling more of an issue)
- Youth surveys are available through Ledge Leadership

b) Where, in your opinion, are the major gaps in service? Think of types of programs, geographic area of programs, age groups not well served, etc.

- Geographic issues – TBM is a large geographic area; east is growing
- Gaps in service include transportation, particularly in the east end
- Pool and youth services at YMCA in Collingwood are used by TBM residents – TBM could look at for the residents
- Multi-use facility and swimming pool; possibly more than 1 facility
- Regional public transportation would be beneficial –access for all
- Parking capacities for trail use under a lot of pressure
- Options and opportunities for where Thornbury is not in walking distance; consider rural residents when looking at facilities
- Does TBM have population to support a multi-use facility?

### Question/Issue #2:

*Preamble: While many needs could be served with a multi-use facility, stakeholders and survey respondents indicated that the Town could do more to improve recreation program opportunities irrespective of a new multi-use facility. In fact, many do not want to see*

*duplication of existing programs and services and recommend looking for ways to re-purpose older buildings, enhance existing club and team amenities, or building additional courts, fields, etc. to enable programming across the entire community.*

Group Work:

a) Do you agree that there is merit in looking at ways to enhance municipal recreation programs irrespective of a multi-use facility? Why or why not?

- Look at ways of enhancing recreation programs; youth appreciate the wide variety of programs, encourage to look at more services within the municipality
- Look at what we can do with what we have; we have multiple large recreational facilities that could be used for programs year-round
- Comparing Timmins, large geographic area – had many ice surfaces that became difficult to financially maintain; repurposed some of the surfaces for other recreational activities (partnered with community groups i.e. YMCA, gymnastics, day care) – pool was one central facility, which became a good focal area for the community with programs that serviced the entire area
- Add facilities in new developments/planning
- Partner with community groups ie day care
- Partner with private clubs that are used mainly in winter

b) Do you have any ideas for enhancing existing programs or re-purposing aging facilities?

- Knowing what adjacent communities are doing so not to duplicate services
- Similar to Burlington – artificial ice surface that can be used year-round; artificial curling ice surface
- Check the “glice” products

Question/Issue #3:

*Preamble: Satisfaction with municipal trails ranked very high on the community survey. Trends show that park and trail use will continue to grow in the future and this is even more exaggerated with public response to Covid-19. Even with high satisfaction levels with community trails, survey respondents said that their 4th highest priority was more biking and walking trails, and 6th priority was more skiing and snowshoeing trails. Satisfaction rates with existing parks were lower than satisfaction with trails.*

Group Work:

a) Do you see the need for more parks and/or trails in the community?

- Currently a good diversity of trails; pressure has been increased since COVID (more use of trails, less parking available); people have now discovered the trails for recreation use
- Parks are great
- Creative thinking around bike lanes (for safety) on trails
- Snowshoeing and cross-country skiing opportunities on the trails
- Gradual increase over the years; huge increase over the last year – mix of people who are familiar with trail etiquette and others that are not
- Easy access trails are very busy, using it differently (i.e. cycling, running, walking)
- Not enough parks for children to play (i.e. Windfall, BMV, Craighleith)
- More parking for trails is required (i.e. Loree)
- More cycling safety awareness needed with more diverse traffic on trails; need for more signage along the trails; same thing could happen during the winter – year-round signage/communication would be beneficial
- More entrances to the trails

b) In your opinion, where are the gaps in parks, trails, and cycling amenities? Including dog parks

- Parking at various access points
- Cycling very important, Cycling lanes, etc. needed
- Parks/parkettes in other areas of TBM
- More portable washroom facilities on trails
- Bocce court
- Safety of trails for users – using Canada Summer Jobs grant money for trail patrollers? (customer service, first aid and remind to be responsible) – Kolapore has active trail guide volunteers
- Snowshoeing amenities
- Boat launches/drop offs at beaches – consider launching areas (for paddle boards, etc.)
- Clearing of sidewalks in winter for walking (will be using during the winter for exercise, if trails not available)
- BMR now charging for use of trails which is a recent change and deterrent especially for residents whom have used the trails; review partnerships with BMR! (Also should review the Plunge use agreement)

#### Question/Issue #4:

*Preamble: Waterfront access or lack of waterfront access for residents was identified as a big issue and ranked 2nd in the top recreation priorities. This issue came to the forefront this year*

*as the beaches felt increasing pressure from visitors and property owners that typically do not make TBM their primary residence, looking to escape the city during Covid restrictions.*

Group Work:

a) Which parks/areas, in your opinion, are the most stressed by this trend?

- Less beach area than a year ago due to water levels and all beaches busier
- Users should be notified of etiquette when using the waterfront properties
- Challenges in Craighleith this year with overload of visitors (Northwinds)
- Bayview Park
- Harbour – as well as trailer traffic at launch
- Pier was closed but may have been busy as well
- DON'T SELL ANY PROPERTIES

Question/Issue #5:

*Preamble: The #1 expressed need on the survey is a multi-use facility. We've also heard from interview participants that a multi-use, accessible facility is long overdue in the municipality. What isn't clear, and where there are diverging opinions, is where such a facility should go? And should there be just one major facility, or two smaller facilities, or a larger facility with satellites?*

Group Work:

a) Do you agree that a multi-use facility is needed in the community? If not, what options or ideas can you suggest for meeting needs in the community?

- Community centre has served well but time to move forward; need to develop a new facility
- Ice rink and swimming pool in the same facility
- Acceleration in growth, will need to look at larger facility with satellites, based on geography of TBM
- Population to support a large facility?
- A large ice surface with smaller ice surfaces together would be better for cost of maintenance
- One facility would be better for cost; but consider the areas outside of where the large facility is located
- Think creatively to have facilities/amenities available for all areas
- Consider including cultural
- Cost factor important and transportation/access



Question/Issue #6:

*Preamble: Trends show that there is an increasing tendency for recreation facilities to expand beyond traditional recreation services and programs and become community hubs. In a growing number of communities, they are becoming fitness, health and wellness hubs. They may provide after school programs, food and nutritional assistance, health care, private sector businesses, and so on. Or incorporate theatre and arts, library programs, etc. On the community survey, there was a high degree of support for a regional community hub multi-use facility which would involve working with regional and/or private partners.*

Group Work:

a) Do you agree that a community hub/multiuse centre is a good approach for the community? Why or why not?

- Yes, they have worked in other communities
- Entrepreneurship centre would be beneficial (collaborate with other community services, i.e. Marsh St, Library so not to duplicate)
- Could help the needs of a variety of age groups; families can participate in various programs offered at the same time
- Library is a good focal point to be built upon
- Potential for community hub to provide multiple services
- School board as partner

b) Do you think regional partnerships with other municipalities and/or private are worth pursuing? Which ones?

- Partnerships with other municipalities would make sense for easier access/transportation
- Collingwood and Meaford collaboration – makes sense geographically, as well as for the youth
- YMCA can be a good model

Question/Issue #7:

*Preamble: The provision of additional recreation facilities, amenities, and services will come with a cost to residents & other users. To establish, operate, and maintain additional recreation infrastructure, there will be a need to consider a possible increase in taxation, as well as related user fees.*

Group Work:

a) How much would taxpayers be willing to pay for increased recreation opportunities? For discussion, what would be an acceptable monthly or annual user fee or increase in taxation should a Multi-Use recreation facility be considered?

- User fees could be part of how to pay for availability of facilities/programs
- Reduced fees for youth and their families (free at times)
- Transparency and communication to public very important as it advances
- Benchmarking/compare to other municipalities or what taxpayers elsewhere are paying
- Ensure all services are available to all people and affordable to all
- YMCA is a good model for user fees (i.e. subsidies)
- For lower maintenance items, lower fees; higher maintenance items have higher fees
- No person should be denied access to services because of cost

Question/Issue #8:

*Preamble: When planning for recreation services it is good to understand what Town residents have actually used in the past.*

Group Work:

a) What recreation amenities have you used over the last two years?

- Georgian Trail
- Parks
- Harbour facilities
- Tomahawk soccer
- BVCC
- Community garden
- Marsh Street Centre
- Library
- Schools
- Loree, Clendenan
- Beaver River
- Bayview Park
- Ravenna Hall
- All trails in area (Georgian Trail, Bruce, etc.) for walking, running, snowshoeing, biking
- Craigleith beach for kayaking
- Private facilities for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing (BMR requires purchasing of pass to access trails)
- Heathcote Park

- Fireman's Park
- BMR trails for hiking and run

Follow Up Suggestions:

- Went well with giving the opportunity to see questions prior to session
- Asking individually to comment also worked well

**Focus Group #3: December 4, 2020 at 10:00 am**

Question/Issue #1:

*Preamble: Stakeholder interviews have indicated that the provision of recreation facilities, amenities and services hasn't kept pace with Municipal growth. Also lacking is a balance of recreation opportunities for all age groups in all geographic areas of the municipality. High numbers of survey respondents indicate low satisfaction rates with recreation programs, facilities athletic fields and courts.*

Group Work:

a) Do you agree that recreation programs and services have not kept pace with residents' needs?

- People who grew up here are used to the rural lifestyle; people moving here, need to keep up with their needs/desires
- Growing up here, it seems there is more than in previous years, less travelling now for services/programs
- New people in area, less comfortable since it doesn't seem like there's enough room for everyone
- Pool is missed in area by new residents
- Demand for multipurpose centre in community – huge opportunity for centre
- Better use of empty buildings; use empty spaces, not just buildings
- Need to consider regionally; partner with Meaford and Collingwood (not affordable for seniors and young families)
- Good example-Play in Grey Bruce program

b) Where, in your opinion, are the major gaps in service? Think of types of programs, geographic area of programs, age groups not well served, etc.

- Pool
- After/before school programs (i.e. golf – Julie Atkinson)
- Need people to run programs, may be beneficial to partner with other communities
- Girls hockey programs

- Accessible transportation to services/programs - YMCA model is great but need to get people there
- Partnering with schools to use their facilities (check what new school has to offer)
- Soccer fields are good
- Harbour slips; access for TBM residents!
- More access to waterfront – concerns for capacity and parking
- Prepare for people in new developments
- Outdoor activities (hiking, parking issues, capacity issues, more in winter)
- Outdoor pickleball; example of conflicts—location
- Waste on trails

Question/Issue #2:

*Preamble: While many needs could be served with a multi-use facility, stakeholders and survey respondents indicated that the Town could do more to improve recreation program opportunities irrespective of a new multi-use facility. In fact, many do not want to see duplication of existing programs and services and recommend looking for ways to re-purpose older buildings, enhance existing club and team amenities, or building additional courts, fields, etc. to enable programming across the entire community.*

Group Work:

a) Do you agree that there is merit in looking at ways to enhance municipal recreation programs irrespective of a multi-use facility? Why or why not?

- Review what is available or in place; determine how to best meet the needs to current and future residents
- Look at buildings and times when not being used to help meet the program needs of residents; first review and consider enhancements
- New facility is needed; a lot of new development coming that would use facility
- Need to consider staffing of a big facility and where they would live
- Partnering with BMR to use facilities or expand facilities
- Consider how managing facilities/amenities with extra people visiting (trespassing on private properties)
- Many programs can be enhanced or added to engage various age groups
- Many tennis courts in area; can we partner for lessons
- Partner with Probus Club for senior programs
- Staffing needs to be considered (dedicated staff to coordinate program opportunities)
- Plan/include in new developments
- Address parking at Kolopore
- Have a youth co-ordinator

b) Do you have any ideas for enhancing existing programs or re-purposing aging facilities?

- Discuss the money residents have to pay for the facilities – consultants will review with Town finance staff to discuss costs for proposals and what money is available; considering fundraising opportunities
- Ravenna Hall – would be beneficial to be available for locals (affordable)
- Affordable housing needs for staffing of programs
- Do not want to exclude anyone; need to be fair when considering users of the facilities/programs
- Have sailing/cycling/kayaking programs

Question/Issue #3:

*Preamble: Satisfaction with municipal trails ranked very high on the community survey. Trends show that park and trail use will continue to grow in the future and this is even more exaggerated with public response to Covid-19. Even with high satisfaction levels with community trails, survey respondents said that their 4th highest priority was more biking and walking trails, and 6th priority was more skiing and snowshoeing trails. Satisfaction rates with existing parks were lower than satisfaction with trails.*

Group Work:

a) Do you see the need for more parks and/or trails in the community?

- More parks for all age groups of youth; activities at parks that all children, and others, can use
- Cross-country trail use at private clubs?
- Always a need for more parks and trails to encourage outdoor activities
- Accessibility/inclusive amenities
- Labyrinth is a good example and use of unused space, including picnic area – accessible and inclusive (review master plan to see what is available and needs upgrading)
- The area does offer many parks and trails i.e. Clarksburg
- Many dog walkers; sidewalks are filled
- Trail system for kids to get around safely so not on road
- More biking, walking, active transportation trails needed – need education and signage for safe use and deterring waste; collaborate with County
- More parking for trail use and pedestrian crossing concerns

b) In your opinion, where are the gaps in parks, trails, and cycling amenities? Including dog parks

- Need for dog parks
- Gaps where there are no sidewalks to keep people off road (safety)
- Parking, waste, more by-law presence
- Education on crossing roads for all users; Ted Talk, online

Question/Issue #4:

*Preamble: Waterfront access or lack of waterfront access for residents was identified as a big issue and ranked 2nd in the top recreation priorities. This issue came to the forefront this year as the beaches felt increasing pressure from visitors and property owners that typically do not make TBM their primary residence, looking to escape the city during Covid restrictions.*

Group Work:

a) Which parks/areas, in your opinion, are the most stressed by this trend?

- Pier/Little River
- Parking at Harbour
- Entire Town is being bombarded with visitors
- Peasemars
- Harbour slips/access
- Visitors staying for hours on beach areas; difficult for locals to use for shorter periods; manage and control use
- Difficult to distinguish between public and private water access points (i.e. Slabtown Dam and Cameron St)
- Heathcote – canoes, kayaks, paddleboards
- Consider how Grotto in Tobermory is managed to mirror access controls/time limits
- Slabtown public access?
- Mill pond, have one small access (consider lessons for kayaking)
- Castle Glen (plan ahead for onsite recreation)
- Need washrooms at parks
- Do not sell any –enhance and manage

Question/Issue #5:

*Preamble: The #1 expressed need on the survey is a multi-use facility. We've also heard from interview participants that a multi-use, accessible facility is long overdue in the municipality. What isn't clear, and where there are diverging opinions, is where such a facility should go?*



*And should there be just one major facility, or two smaller facilities, or a larger facility with satellites?*

Group Work:

a) Do you agree that a multi-use facility is needed in the community? If not, what options or ideas can you suggest for meeting needs in the community?

- In Thornbury, between Collingwood and Meaford (considered a centre for this area, central for new developments) – Meaford could benefit since 10 minutes away; connect with trails
- Needs to be accessible by public transportation, cycling, walking
- Consider relocating ball diamonds (other Town properties) near existing buildings to expand
- Meeting needs of all age groups in existing space, considering transportation; community involvement for resources to expand
- Think regionally and long term, then look at numbers

Question/Issue #6:

*Preamble: Trends show that there is an increasing tendency for recreation facilities to expand beyond traditional recreation services and programs and become community hubs. In a growing number of communities, they are becoming fitness, health and wellness hubs. They may provide after school programs, food and nutritional assistance, health care, private sector businesses, and so on. Or incorporate theatre and arts, library programs, etc. On the community survey, there was a high degree of support for a regional community hub multi-use facility which would involve working with regional and/or private partners.*

Group Work:

a) Do you agree that a community hub/multiuse centre is a good approach for the community? Why or why not?

- Great idea; how is the Town partnering with BVO (support for seniors and youth), Marsh St, Clarksburg – think about music, art, theatre in one hub (Grants and Donations Committee, property maintenance, open dialogue with BVO)
- Internet (rural) – being reviewed by council
- Agree - location and transportation needs to be considered
- Current centres partnership (i.e. Marsh St)
- Satellites may be good
- Hub should not take away from current programs/services/facilities
- Keep up with technology – stay modern but keep with local charm

b) Do you think regional partnerships with other municipalities and/or private are worth pursuing? Which ones?

- Small businesses within TBM, do not take away from them – partner with them, make use of what is available
- Activities for families need to be accessible (i.e. to get to after school programs for working families)
- Virtual office spaces for private businesses
- Working with small businesses that offer other services outside of recreational
- Partner –Collingwood to east/Meaford to west
- Could include theatre and other cultural

Question/Issue #7:

*Preamble: The provision of additional recreation facilities, amenities, and services will come with a cost to residents & other users. To establish, operate, and maintain additional recreation infrastructure, there will be a need to consider a possible increase in taxation, as well as related user fees.*

Group Work:

a) Do you think that residents/users would be willing to pay for increased recreational activities?

- User fee based on tax bill or square footage of house; needs to be affordable
- Need to be careful for people on fixed income and new families; want them to be able to participate; do not burden
- Pool users travelling to Collingwood (costs to travel offset user fees here)
- Access to school gym?
- User fees would be acceptable
- More rec facilities = more user fees
- Consider balance of taxes and fees

Question/Issue #8:

*Preamble: When planning for recreation services it is good to understand what Town residents have actually used in the past.*

Group Work:

a) What recreation amenities have you used over the last two years?

- Skiing
- Swimming – Plunge and Collingwood Y

- Karate
- Parks (Ravenna, Lora Bay)
- Trails
- Library (including after school care)
- Nursing home/schools/library for music
- Skating (BVCC)
- Early Years Program
- Tomahawk (soccer and golf)
- Schools – use facilities when children are not using? (\*include above)
- Boat launch
- Figure skating
- Basketball nets – indoor and outdoor
- Skateboard park
- Local theatre, music, arts & crafts businesses
- Cycling (road & gravel)
- Kayaking, canoeing
- Walking
- Park amenities
- Fishing







# TOWN PARKS AND AMENITIES

The Town of The Blue Mountains parks and amenities inventory was updated in 2020. The total managed park area in The Blue Mountains is 267 acres. Clendenan Conservation Area is owned and managed by the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority and is 119.30 acres. This inventory does not include properties owned or managed by the Crown.

## WESTERN PARKS OF THE MUNICIPALITY:

### BAYVIEW PARK - 60 & 106 Bay St E

#### AMENITIES:

- Washrooms (M/F)
- Volleyball court
- Tennis courts
- Pavilion
- Shuffleboard
- Playground
- Parking
- Great Lakes Waterfront Trail
- Poop & Scoop bags/dispensers
- 16 stationary park benches
- History plaques
- Improved walkway paths
- Swimming area
- A great view
- Bike racks
- Picnic tables
- Green Space
- Garbage receptacles



### CEDAR GROVE - 75 Bay St E

#### AMENITIES:

- Parking
- Washroom (M/F)
- Interpretive signage
- Bird watching
- Labyrinth
- Bike Racks
- Beaver River Trail
- Georgian Trail
- 3 stationary park
- benches
- 7x7 pavilion
- Relaxed Environment
- Poop & Scoop bags/dispensers
- Washroom
- Picnic Tables
- Garbage receptacles



### HESTER STREET PARKETTE - 17 BRUCE ST S

#### AMENITIES:

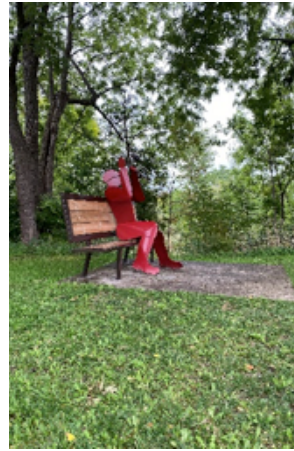
- Parking
- Washrooms (Privy)
- Bicycle parking
- Seating
- Benches
- Hand washing station (Coivd-19)



## BRUCE STREET PARKETTE - 27 Bruce St N

### AMENITIES:

- 2 park benches
- History sign/plaque
- 2 bicycle posts
- Bicycle repair kit
- Great Lakes Waterfront Trail & Map
- Georgian Trail & Map
- Poop & Scoop bags/dispensers
- Interpretive signage
- Picnic Tables
- Garbage receptacles



## HARBOUR HILL PARKETTE - 7 Harbour St

### AMENITIES:

- Stairs to the harbour and harbour washrooms
- Good views of the Thornbury Harbour
- A bench
- Green space to sit beside RHR



## LITTLE RIVER PARK - 4 Harbour St

### AMENITIES:

- Parking
- Swimming
- Playground
- Bike Rack
- Benches
- Garbage receptacles
- Easy accessibility to water
- Washrooms(M/F)
- Picnic Tables
- Safety Ring
- Poop & Scoop bags/dispensers



## PEACE PARK - 93 King St

### AMENITIES:

- 2 benches
- Georgian Trail
- Poop & Scoop bags/dispensers
- Green space
- Garbage receptacles





## MOREAU PARK - 76 Victoria St S

### AMENITIES:

- Parking
- Washroom (Privy)
- Baseball fields (3)
- Playground
- Swings
- Skateboard park
- Picnic Tables
- Garbage receptacles
- Off leash dog park
- Soft shelled pavilion
- 4 stationary benches
- 5 bleachers
- Poop & Scoop bags/dispensers
- Green Space



## LORA BAY PARK - 373 Sunset Blvd

### AMENITIES:

- Soft trail
- 3 stationary benches
- Bike rack
- Water access for SUP/ kayaks
- Swimming
- Washrooms(M/F)
- Green Space
- Picnic tables
- Poop & Scoop bags/ dispensers
- Paid Parking
- Picnic Tables
- Garbage receptacles



## JACK ACRES PARK - 229 Bruce St

### AMENITIES:

- Cenotaph
- Benches
- Open tree lot



## LIONS PARK - 118 Lion's Park Lane

### AMENITIES:

- Beaver River Trail
- Bike rack
- Parking
- Fishing
- Poop & Scoop bags/dispensers
- Information
- Pavilion
- Washroom(privy)
- Green space
- Improved walkway from Marsh St.
- Interpretive signs
- 2 stationary chess tables
- Garbage bin
- Picnic tables





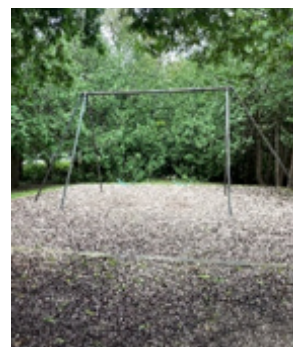




## **FIREMAN'S PARK - 134 Clark St – Owned by GSCA**

### **AMENITIES:**

- Conservation area
- Swing Set
- Washroom (Privy)
- Fishing
- Stationary bench
- Parking
- Picnic tables
- Water access
- Garbage bin



## **HILLCREST PARK - 107 Hillcrest Drive**

### **AMENITIES:**

- Playground
- Swing set
- Green space
- Stationary bench
- Bike rack
- Picnic Tables



## **SMITH MEMORIAL PARK/THORNBURY FARMERS MARKET - 25 Mill St**

### **AMENITIES:**

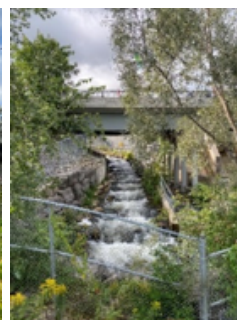
- Soft trail, Mill St – King St E
- Green Space
- Parking for park & Cedar Grove
- Lights in parking lot
- Pathway to Cedar Grove
- Location for Farmers Market
- Picnic Tables



## **TOWN HALL PARK**

### **AMENITIES:**

- Picnic Tables
- Green Space
- Parking
- Interpretive signs
- Soft trail
- Fishing
- Stairs from Hwy 26
- Garbage Container
- Accessibility from Georgian Trail
- History plaques
- Benches
- View of fish ladder and Dam



## HEATHCOTE PARK - 236668 Grey Road 18

### AMENITIES:

- Parking
- Washroom (Privy)
- Great view
- Fishing
- Conservation area
- Information
- Bird watching
- Poop & Scoop bags/dispensers
- Access to Beaver River
- Soft trail
- Green space
- Picnic Tables
- Garbage receptacles



## RAVENNA COMMUNITY MEMORIAL PARK - 628299 Grey Road 119

### AMENITIES:

- Washroom (Privy)
- 4 stationary benches
- Pavilion
- Parking
- Cenotaph
- Green space
- Swings
- Picnic Tables
- Garbage receptacles
- Playground



## TOMAHAWK GOLF COURSE & SOCCER FIELDS - 417230 10th line

### AMENITIES:

- 3 regulation size soccer fields
- 18-hole par 3 golf course
- Parking
- Bleachers
- 3 soft shelled pavilions
- Green Space
- Picnic Tables
- Garbage receptacles
- Washrooms(privy)
- Pickleball courts (in development)



## CHAMBER OF COMMERCE - 3 Grey St N

### AMENITIES:

- Parking
- Stationary bench
- Picnic Tables
- Garbage receptacles
- Green space
- Poop & Scoopbags/dispensers



## WESTERN TBM PARKS

PARK NAME	ADDRESS	ACRES OF PROPERTY
Bayview Park	60 & 106 Bay Street E	6.34
Bruce Street Parkette	27 Bruce Street North	0.20
Cedar Grove	75 Bay Street East	4.96
Chamber of Commerce	3 Grey Street North	0.32
Clendenan Dam*	10th line at old bridge	119.28
Fireman's Park	134 Clark Street	1.18
Harbour Hill Parkette	7 Harbour Street	0.31
Heathcote Park	236668 Grey Road 18	7.81
Hester Street Parkette	17 Bruce Street South	0.25
Hillcrest Park	107 Hillcrest Drive	1.04
Jack Acres Park/239 Bruce	229 Marsh St	0.73
Lions Park	118 Lion's Park Lane	1.82
Little River Beach	4 Harbour Street	1
Lora Bay Park	373 Sunset Blvd	2.88
Moreau Park	76 Victoria Street South	9.64
Peace Park	93 King Street West	1.25
Smith Memorial Park	25 Mill Street	0.61
Tomahawk	417230 10th Line	50.63
Town Hall Park	32 Mill St	1.86

\* Clendenan Dam area is owned and managed by GSCA

- Property area is from Town GIS Data

Total Park area in the Western region – 212.11 acres

TBM Manages 92.83 acres







## CENTRAL AND EASTERN PARKS OF THE MUNICIPALITY:

### PEASEMARSH - 208525 Highway 26 – Owned by GSCA

#### AMENITIES:

- Washroom (Privy)
- Interpretive signs
- Garbage Receptacles
- Poop and Scoop bags
- Swimming
- Beach front
- Fishing
- Birdwatching
- Great view
- Conservation area
- Paid parking
- Peasemarth trail (soft)



### COUNCIL BEACH - 105 Lakewood Dr

#### AMENITIES:

- Washroom (Privy)
- Great View
- Picnic Tables
- Garbage receptacles
- Swings
- Swimming
- Beach front
- Shaded
- Parking



### DELPHI POINT PARK - 209233 Highway 26

#### AMENITIES:

- Green Space
- Interpretive signs
- Bike rack
- Washroom (Privy)
- Pavilion
- Great view
- Picnic tables
- Safety rings
- Poop & scoop bags/dispensers
- Soft trails
- Water access
- Garbage Containers
- Parking
- Stationary benches



### NORTHWINDS BEACH - 209605 Highway 26

#### AMENITIES:

- Washroom (M/F)
- Paid parking
- Swimming
- Beach
- Great view
- Swings
- Garbage receptacles
- Paved ramp access from Hwy 26 & Grey road 19
- Safety rings
- Recycling containers
- Picnic tables
- Playground



## **NIPISSING RIDGE - 205 Blueski George Crescent**

### **AMENITIES:**

- Picnic tables
- Pergola
- Bike rack
- Garbage receptacles
- Nipissing Ridge Trail (soft trail)
- Parking
- Green space
- Tennis courts
- Washroom(M/F)
- Information



## **WYANDOT PARK - 141 Wyandot Court**

### **AMENITIES:**

- Green Space
- 2 stationary benches
- Parking



## **CRAIGLEITH MEADOWS PARK - 157 Alexandra way**

### **AMENITIES:**

- Green Space
- Craigleith Meadows Trail (Paved)
- Grey Road #19 Trail (Paved)
- Open Space



## **HERITAGE PARK - 118 Kandahar Lane**

### **AMENITIES:**

- ½ Basketball court
- Kickball/Baseball area
- Swings
- Picnic tables
- Parking
- Bike rack
- Foot access off Settler's way
- Washroom (Privy)
- One stationary bench
- Green/open Space
- Garbage receptacles
- Poop & Scoop bags
- Playground



## **BOYER PARK - 101 Crossan Court**

### **AMENITIES:**

- Tennis courts
- Green space
- Garbage receptacles



## WEIDER PARK - 332 Jozo Weider Blvd

### AMENITIES:

- Green space



## TIMMONS PARKETTE - 205 Timmons St

### AMENITIES:

- Poop & Scoop Bags
- ½ Basketball court
- Playground
- Stationary bench
- Green Space



## CENTRAL AND EASTERN PARKS

PARK NAME	ADDRESS	ACRES OF PROPERTY
Boyer Park	101 Crossan Court	1.02
Council Beach	105 Lakewood Drive	1.52
Craigleith Meadows park	157 Alexandra Way	1.99
Delphi Point	209233 Highway 26	9.13
Heritage Park	118 Kandahar Lane	3.71
Jozo Weider Park	332 Jozo Weider BLVD	1.53
Nipissing Ridge Park	205 Blueski George Cr	11.11
Northwinds Beach	209605 Highway 26	3.19
Peasemars	208525 Highway 26	5.6
Peasemars CA	208525 Highway 26	13.59
Ravenna Community Memorial Park	628299 Grey Road 119	1.69
Timmons Parkette	205 Timmons Street	0.81
Wyandot Park	141 Wyandot Court	0.46

- Property area is from Town GIS Data
- Total property – 54.89 acres

Peasemars properties are owned by the GSCA by managed by TBM through an agreement







# TOWN TRAILS AND AMENITIES

The Town of The Blue Mountains trail and amenities inventory was updated in 2020. The total distance of trails in The Blue Mountains including Crown, agency, developer and unassumed trail is 313.50 km. The Total distance of Town owned, and managed trail is 44.17 km.

Trail addresses identified are the closest civic address or are the actual civic address near the trail crossing or head of the trail.

Distance was calculated in two ways: walking the trail with a pedometer to track the distance travelled and driving the "road" sections, while tracking KM. The road sections don't have approximate steps taken.

## WEST REGION TRAILS

**BEAVER RIVER TRAIL** (9 parts) - Grey St. S – Arthur Taylor Ln  
(Access from Alice St. E)

**0.6 Km & approximately 825 steps**

### AMENITIES:

- Stationary table
- 2 Interpretive signs
- Poop & Scoop Bags
- Bird boxes
- Limestone Pathway
- Wheelchair Accessible
- Bird watching



Arthur Taylor - Clark St – Walker St

**0.9 Km**

Trail follows road, trail signs are posted along the way.



Walker St – Euclid E / 110 Jubilee St 22 EUCLID ST W

**0.54Km & approximately 739 steps**

### AMENITIES:

- Limestone Pathway
- 40 step staircase from Jubilee – Euclid St. W  
(inaccessible for wheelchairs)



122 Euclid St W – 213 Marsh St - (access from Mary St.)

**0.67Km & approximately 926 steps**

AMENITIES:

- Stationary bench
- Interpretive sign
- Table
- Poop & Scoop bags
- Gravel & Woodchip pathway
- Water access
- Fishing
- Great views

This trail also has a bridge (inaccessible to wheelchairs) and a cross culvert.



212 Marsh St – 118 Lions Lane

**0.33Km & approximately 462 steps**

AMENITIES:

- 5 interpretive signs
- Stairs from Marsh St
- 2 tables
- Poop & Scoop bags
- Washroom(privy)
- Parking
- Ramp from Marsh St
- Limestone pathway



118 Lions Lane - 416898 10th line

**0.7 Km**

Trail follows road, trail signs are posted along the way.



416898 10th line – 416870 10th line

**0.32Km & approximately 428 steps**

AMENITIES:

- Interpretive sign
- Table
- Poop & Scoop Bag
- Great views
- Water access
- Limestone pathway
- Fishing
- Conservation Area



1 Grey St S – 76 Arthur St E

**0.1Km & approximately 134 steps**

AMENITIES:

- Limestone pathway





76 Arthur St. E – Wellington St – Elgin St. S – Mcauley St. S

**0.7Km**

Trail follows road, signs posted along the way.



**MCAULEY ST. S - 26 BRIDGE ST TOWN HALL PARK PARKING LOT**

**0.30Km**

**AMENITIES:**

- Shopping
- Restaurants
- Access to downtown



**THORNBURY HARBOUR HARBOUR TRAIL - 18 Bay St E**

0.11Km & approximately 144 steps of sidewalk

0.30Km & approximately 414 steps of limestone

0.12Km & approximately 159 steps of paving stones

**0.53Km & approximately 717 steps in total**

**AMENITIES:**

- Fishing
- Water access
- Great views
- 12 stationary benches
- Lookout Deck
- Picnic table
- Stairs/bridge crossing Beaver River (inaccessible for wheelchairs)
- Garbage bins
- 2 Washrooms(M/F)
- Poop & Scoop Bags/ dispensers
- 2 Interpretive signs

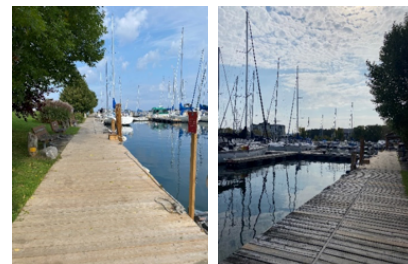


**THORNBURY HARBOUR – Pier Parking lot Dockside Trail**

**0.24Km & approximately 271 steps**

**AMENITIES:**

- Access to docks
- Great views
- 12 stationary benches
- Waste Receptacles
- Stairs to Harbour St.
- Pathway from Little River Park – Harbour



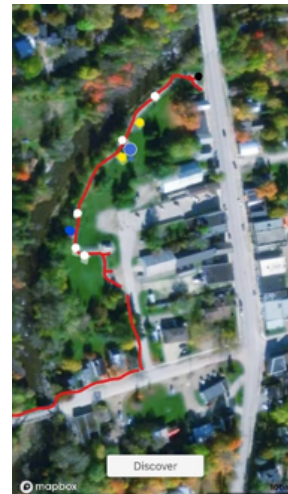
## TOWN HALL TRAIL

0.14Km & approximately 196 steps of paved trail and stairs  
0.05Km and approximately 65 steps of limestone pathway

### 6.12Km Total

#### AMENITIES:

- Access to Beaver River
- Fishing
- 8 Interpretive signs
- 3 history plaques
- 5 stationary benches
- Stairs Down to river from Bridge St (inaccessible for wheelchairs)



## TOWN HALL PARK PARKING LOT - Mcauley St. S – 26 Bridge St

### 0.30Km

#### AMENITIES:

- Shopping
- Restaurants
- Access to downtown



## BAYVIEW PARK TRAIL - (including Cedar Grove)

**0.62Km & approximately 837 steps**

### AMENITIES:

- Great Views
- 17 Memorial Benches
- 31 Memorial Trees (Entire Park)
- Poop & Scoop Bags/Dispensers
- Access to playground & swings
- 2 Washrooms(M/F)
- Parking
- Access to tennis court
- Access to pavilion
- Water access
- Limestone Pathway
- Waste Receptacles
- Greenspace
- Cycling
- Snowshoeing
- Historical plaque
- 3 Interpretive Signs
- Birdwatching



## LORA BAY TRAIL - 373 Sunset – 380 Sunset

0.38Km & approximately 532 steps of Sidewalk (not maintained in winter)

0.14km & approximately 178 steps of Paved trail

1.85km & approximately 2,512 steps of Limestone and gravel trail

**2.37Km & approximately 3,222 steps**

### AMENITIES:

- Great Views
- 1 stationary bench
- Access to Lora Bay Park
- Snowshoeing
- Cross-Country Skiing
- Access to numerous parts of Lora Bay
- Paid parking at park

Lora Bay Trail has 4 cross culverts and one road crossing.

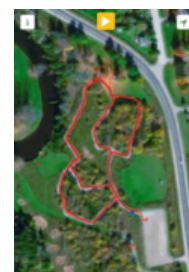


## HEATHCOTE PARK TRAIL - 236668 Grey Road 13

**0.61Km & approximately 825 steps**

### AMENITIES:

- Access to Beaver River
- Birdwatching
- Snowshoeing
- Limestone Pathways
- Conservation Area
- Washroom (Privy)
- Parking
- Poop & Scoop Dispensers
- Great Views
- Identified tree



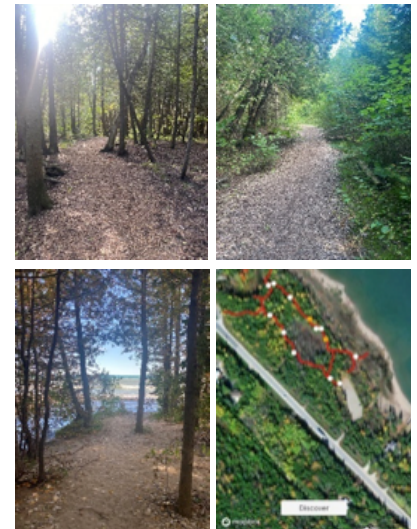
## CENTRAL TRAILS

**PEASEMARSH TRAIL** - 208514 Hwy26  
(Grey Sauble Conservation Authority)

**0.6 Km & approximately 825 steps**

### AMENITIES:

- Parking
- Washroom(privy)
- Conservation area
- Water access
- Great views
- Woodchip pathway
- Fishing
- 11 interpretive signs
- Snowshoeing
- Bird watching



## CAMPERDOWN ROAD TRAIL

0.36Km on trail & approximately 504 steps. 0.6Km on trail Boulevard  
**0.96Km in total**

### AMENITIES:

- Great views
- Access to Georgian Trail
- Stairs to Camperdown Rd
- Limestone & Grass pathway



**DELPHI POINT PARK TRAIL** - 209233 Hwy 26

**0.46Km & approximately 621 steps**

### AMENITIES:

- Parking
- Washroom(privy)
- Great views
- Birdwatching
- 2 Interpretive signs
- 2 Stationary benches
- Bike rack
- Picnic table
- Pavilion
- Waste Receptacles
- Water access
- Learning opportunities
- Limestone pathway



## LOREE FOREST TRAIL - 729150 21st sideroad (Not maintained)

**11.93 Km** (Trailforks.com)

### AMENITIES:

- Multi terrain trails
- Great views
- Parking
- Biking
- Hiking
- Cross country skiing
- Snowshoeing
- Birdwatching
- Conservation area

Figure 1 trailforks.com



## BRUCE TRAIL - Bruce Trail Conservancy (access points vary in the municipality)

**57Km** - Inaccessible for wheelchairs

### AMENITIES:

- Hiking
- Great views
- Mountain biking
- Birdwatching
- Snowshoeing
- Cross country skiing
- Multi terrain trails



## GEORGIAN TRAIL - Christie Beach Rd – Lora Bay Dr (22 Parts)

**1.88Km**

### AMENITIES:

- 2 stationary benches
- Parking
- Limestone trail
- Access to Meaford's portion of Georgian Trail
- Cycling
- Snowshoeing
- Cross-country skiing.
- 3 cross culverts

Lora Bay Dr – Rankins Cr

**0.46Km**

### AMENITIES:

- 1 stationary bench
- Limestone trail
- Connection from Hoggard Cr



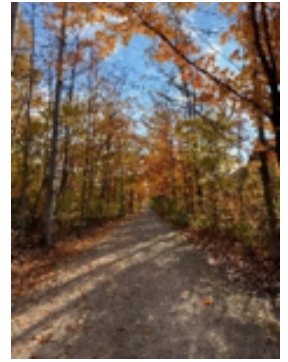


## Rankins Cr – E Ridge Dr

**0.46Km**

### AMENITIES:

- 1 stationary bench
- Limestone trail
- Connection from Hurlbert Crt
- Connection from Holdship Crt



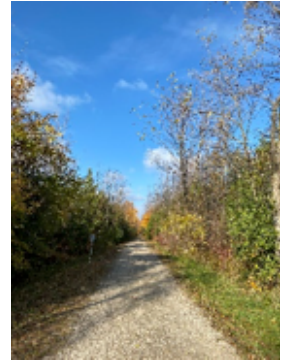
## E Ridge Dr – 10th Line

**0.72Km**

### AMENITIES:

- 2 stationary benches
- Limestone trail
- Green garbage bin

1 cross culvert



## 10th Line – Peel St

**0.97Km**

### AMENITIES:

- 1 stationary bench
- Limestone trail

1 cross culvert



## Peel St – Lansdown St

**0.61Km**

### AMENITIES:

- 1 stationary bench
- Limestone trail
- 1 bridge
- Parking

1 cross culvert



## Lansdown – King St

**0.22Km**

### AMENITIES:

- Limestone trail
- Access to Peace Parks amenities



## King St – Elma St

**0.25Km**

### AMENITIES:

- Limestone trail

## Elma St – Bruce St

**0.21Km**

### AMENITIES:

- Limestone trail
- 1 stationary bench

## Bruce St – Mill St

**0.28Km**

### AMENITIES:

- Limestone trail
- Access to Bruce St Parkette Amenities
- Street parking
- Trestle bridge



## Mill St – Elgin St

**0.48Km**

### AMENITIES:

- Access to Cedar Grove Park Amenities
- Limestone Trail
- 1 stationary bench
- 1 green garbage bin

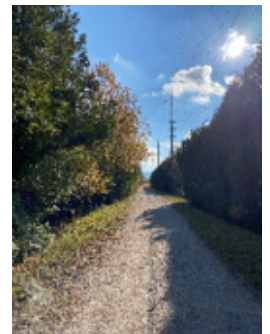


## Elgin St – Grey St

**0.48Km**

### AMENITIES:

- Limestone trail



## Grey St – Hwy 26

### 1.52Km

- Access to Chamber Park's Amenities
- Limestone trail
- Green garbage bin
- Parking

3 cross culverts



## Hwy 26 – Grey Rd 40

### 2.02Km

#### AMENITIES:

- 1 Bridge
- Limestone trail
- 3 stationary benches

2 cross culverts



## Grey Rd 40 – Camperdown Rd

### 1Km

#### AMENITIES:

- 2 stationary benches
- Green garbage bin
- Parking
- Limestone Trail

1 cross culvert



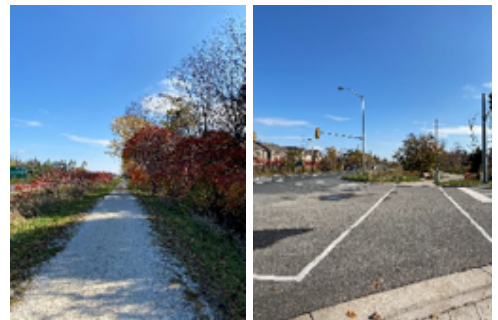
## Camperdown Rd – Peaks Rd

### 1.67Km

#### AMENITIES:

- 1 stationary bench
- Limestone trail
- Stoplight crossing at Peaks Rd

3 cross culverts



## Peaks Rd – Wards Rd

### 1.33Km

#### AMENITIES:

- Limestone trail
- 1 stationary bench
- Stoplight crossing at Peaks Rd

2 cross culverts

## Wards Rd – Hidden Lake Rd

**0.75Km**

### AMENITIES:

- Limestone trail
- 1 parking spot
- 1 stationary bench



## Hidden Lake Rd – Arrowhead Rd

**0.69Km**

### AMENITIES:

- 3 stationary benches
- Limestone trail
- Green garbage bin

3 cross culverts



## Arrowhead Rd – Grey Rd 19

**1.97Km**

### AMENITIES:

- Limestone trail
- 4 stationary benches
- Access to Nipissing Ridge Trail
- Stoplight crossing at Grey Rd 19

14 cross culverts



## Grey Rd 19 – Lakeshore Rd

**1.26Km**

### AMENITIES:

- Stoplight crossing at Grey Rd 19
- 3 stationary benches
- Bike repair station
- Interpretive sign
- Poop & Scoop Dispenser
- Limestone trail
- Parking at Depot
- Access to Craigeleith Heritage Depot
- Crossing to Northwinds Beach

6 cross culverts





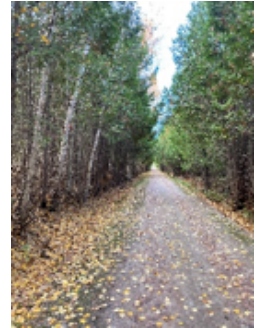
Lakeshore Rd – Osler Bluff Rd

**1.91Km**

**AMENITIES:**

- Limestone trail
- 4 stationary benches
- Access to Collingwood's portion of Georgian Trail
- Parking

6 cross culverts



**21.22Km in total**

**21 Road Crossings on The Blue Mountains  
Portion of trail**

**34 Stationary Benches**





## EAST TRAILS

**DRAKES PATH** - 796338 Grey Road 19 –  
100 Wintergreen Pl. (Access from 130 Drakes Path)

**0.28Km & approximately 387 steps**

### AMENITIES:

- Limestone path
- Shortcut from the village – residential area
- Great view
- There is one cross culvert on the trail.



**COURT TRAIL** - 151 Wyandot – Craigleith Walk Wyandot

**0.12Km & approximately 156 steps**

### AMENITIES:

- Connects to Sleepy Hollow Road Trail, Alexandra Rd, & Craigleith Walk
- Crushed rock pathway



**ALPINE TRAIL** - Alpine Springs Crt – 209 Arrowhead Rd

**0.15Km & approximately 208 steps**

### AMENITIES:

- Limestone Trail
- Snowshoeing



**ALTA TRAIL** - 188 Arrowhead Rd (access from Margaret Dr)  
– 125&122 Alta Rd – Alpine Springs Crt

**0.85Km & approximately 1,146 steps**

### AMENITIES:

- Limestone & Paved pathway
- Snowshoeing
- Great views
- There are 2 cross culverts and 2 road crossings





## **ALTA TRAIL LOOP** (3 parts) - 147 Alta Rd – 161 Alta Rd

**0.78Km & approximately 1,064 steps**

### AMENITIES:

- Great Views
- Rugged hiking terrain
- Bird Watching

This trail also includes a bridge, stairs and a culvert.

This trail is not accessible for wheelchairs



## **161 Alta Rd – 116 Hemlock Crt**

**0.36Km & approximately 290 steps**

### AMENITIES:

- Sidewalk
- Great views



## **116 Hemlock Crt – 148 Alta Rd**

**0.16Km & approximately 220 steps**

### AMENITIES:

- Paved trail
- Great View
- Connecting link to Alta Rd

This trail also has a cross culvert.



## **ALTA TRAIL LOOP HAS 3 ROAD CROSSINGS**

**IN TOTAL THIS TRAIL IS 1.3KM**

## **SUMMIT GREEN** - 189 Brooker Blvd

– 139 Brooker Blvd – Grey Rd 19

0.18Km & approximately 245 steps

### AMENITIES:

- Crushed Stone Pathway
- Great Views
- Pathway to travel to Grey Rd 19/Brooker Blvd

This trail crosses 1 road and has 2 culverts.



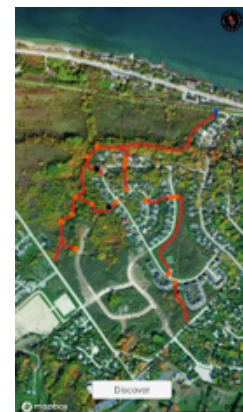
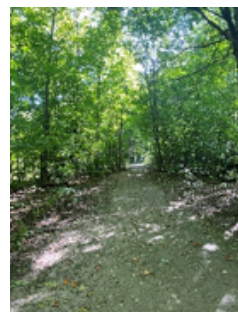
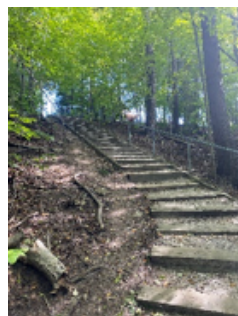
## NIPISSING RIDGE (10 entrances)

Connects with Fleming trail (# 8 and 9)

**2.91Km & approximately 3,970 steps**

### AMENITIES:

- Woodchip & limestone trail
- Great Views
- Washrooms(M/F)
- Parking
- Trails through the woodlands



### Entrances & road crosses

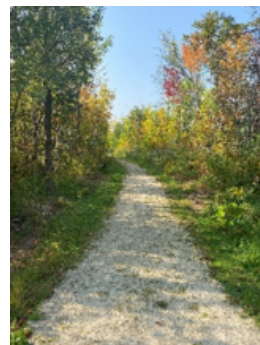
- Lakeshore Rd W (Dead end, Parking on side of road)
  - 138 Blueski George Cres
  - 129 – 117 Cortina Cres
  - 128 Davos Dr – 126 Davos Dr
  - 205 Blueski George Cres (washroom, Parking) – 210 Blueski George Cres
  - 200 Sleepy Hollow Rd
  - 168 Blueski George Cres (Stairs, inaccessible for wheelchairs)
  - Interlaken Crt
  - Arrowhead Rd (Across from Alpine Springs Crt)
  - 146 Blueski George Cres (Stairs, inaccessible for wheelchair)
- Nipissing Ridge Trail has: 7 metal culverts, 4 smooth plastic culverts, 2 box culverts with railings, 2 set of stairs, Poop & Scoop bags.

## WINDFALL TRAIL – Some sections owned by TBM, some by home owners association and some are unassumed

**2.52KM AND APPROXIMATELY 3,442 STEPS**

### AMENITIES:

- Birdwatching
- Limestone pathways
- Snowshoeing
- 2 stationary benches
- Cross-country Skiing
- Poop & Scoop bags/dispensers



### There are 7 entrances to Windfall Trail:

- 100,114,130, 140, Snow Apple Cres.
- 134 Grey Road 21
- Crosswinds Blvd

Windfall Trail also includes 8 cross culverts, 2 box culverts, and a walking bridge.



## CRAIGLEITH MEADOWS TRAIL

**2KM**

### AMENITIES:

- Hard surface trail
- Green space



115 Kinsey – 114 Plater trail

**0.05KM AND APPROXIMATELY 70 STEPS**

### AMENITIES:

- Pathway from Kinsey Pl – Plater St
- Limestone Pathway

There is one cross culvert.



116 Campbell – 132 Carmichael trail

**0.14KM & APPROXIMATELY 180 STEPS**

### AMENITIES:

- Limestone pathway
- Pathway from Campbell Cres – Carmichael Cres
- Views

There is one cross culvert



108 Pioneer Ln – Grey Road 19 Pioneer Trail

**0.06KM & APPROXIMATELY 76 STEPS**

### AMENITIES:

- Crushed stone pathway

There are 2 cross culverts on this trail



**HERITAGE TRAIL - 162 Settlers Way**

v – 796363 Grey Road 19 (access from Farm Gate)

0.17Km & approximately 180 steps of limestone pathway

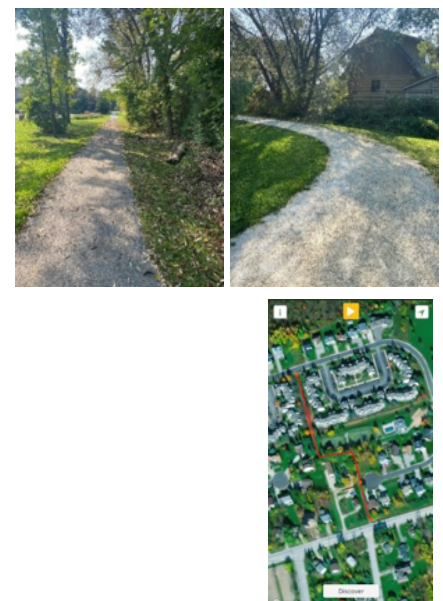
0.08 & approximately 120 steps of paved pathway

0.25Km & approximately 300 steps of trail

### AMENITIES:

- Pathway to private condo tennis courts
- Pathway from Settlers Way – Grey Road 19
- Limestone & Paved Pathway

There are 4 cross culverts



## SOUTH TRAILS

**3 STAGE TRAILS** - 569574 & 569432 6th sideroad- Ontario Parks  
Inaccessible for wheelchairs

**APPROXIMATELY 82 TRAILS & 69KM** (Trailforks)

### AMENITIES:

- Access to Pretty River Valley conservation area
- Hiking
- Mountain biking
- Hunting (Restrictions)
- Parking
- Mixed terrain trails
- Great Views
- Snowshoeing
- Birdwatching

Figure 2 trailforks.com

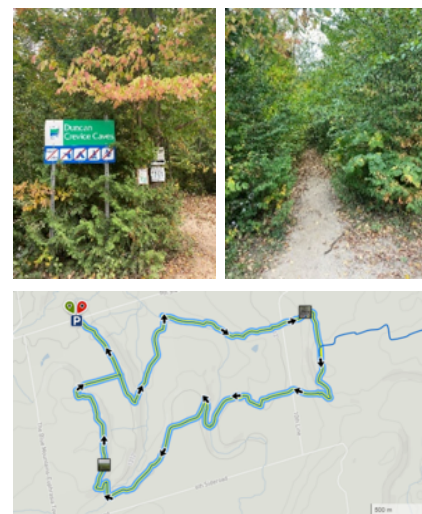


**DUNCAN CREVICE CAVES** - 587327 9th Sideroad - Ontario Parks  
**10KM** Inaccessible for wheelchairs

### AMENITIES:

- Great views
- Hiking
- Snowshoeing
- Cross Country skiing
- Mixed terrain trails
- Parking
- Caves

Figure 3 hikingproject.com



**METCALFE ESCARPMENT NATURE RESERVE TRAILS MNRF** - 415477 10th line  
**60KM** Inaccessible for wheelchairs

### AMENITIES:

- Great Views
- Hiking
- Mountain Biking
- Parking
- Washroom (privy)
- 4 Interpretive signs
- Rock Climbing
- Cave Exploring
- Birdwatching
- Connects to Duncan Crevice Trails
- Information
- Mixed terrain trails
- Nature reserve
- Cross country skiing
- Snowshoeing (except for Kolapore trails)
- Connects to Kolapore trails

Trails on the property are part of the Bruce Trail Conservancy system and Kolapore Uplands system



## **KOLAPORE UPLANDS** - Kolapore Wilderness Trails Association

- 495445 Grey Road 2 Kolapore

**50KM** Inaccessible for wheelchairs

### AMENITIES:

- Cross country skiing (maintained)
- Mountain biking
- Parking
- Hiking
- Great views
- Mixed terrain trails



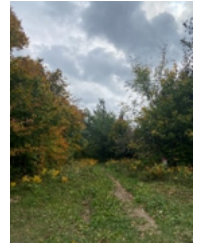
## **PRETTY RIVER FOREST TRAILS** - (pretty river loop) - 635397 Pretty River Rd Ontario Parks

**11.4KM** (alltrails.com) Inaccessible for wheelchairs

### AMENITIES:

- |                   |                        |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| • Hiking          | • Cross country skiing |
| • Mountain Biking | • Mixed terrain trails |
| • Birdwatching    | • Great Views          |
| • Snowshoeing     | • Parking              |

Figure 4 alltrails.com



South Trails are not maintained by the Town of The Blue Mountains, the trails are maintained by volunteer groups, clubs, and agencies such as MNRF, GSCA, and Ontario Parks.

Central Trail: Loree, Bruce Trail are not maintained by the Town of The Blue Mountains, the trails are maintained by volunteer groups, clubs, and agencies such as MNRF, GSCA, and Ontario Parks.



## WEST

### CHRISTIE BEACH ROAD TBM/MEAFORD TOWNLINEROAD ALLOWANCE

Legal Description: RDAL BTN TWP OF ST. VINCENT AND TWP OF COLLINGWOOD; PT LT 9-11 CON 1 ST. VINCENT PT 2 16R5837 & AS IN R178831 LYING N OF R152582; THE BLUE MOUNTAINS







# TOWN FACILITIES

**BEAVER VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE / ARENA -** 58 Alfred St W, Thornbury, ON N0H 2P0  
81 Victoria St S, Thornbury N0H 2P0 by GSCA

## AMENITIES:

- Licensable Venue
- Small Hall (30' wide x 30' long)
- Large Hall (60' wide x 80' long)
- Bar service area
- Certified kitchen
- Stage
- Projector system and sound system
- Wi-Fi
- Ice Surface (195' long x 90' wide)
- Arena capacity of 600
- 6 Dressing rooms, with full washrooms and heated floors
- Washrooms(M/F)
- Standing capacity of 430 (366 for licensed events) in Halls

## CURRENTLY HOSTS:

- Minor Hockey (Georgian Shores Minor Hockey & Collingwood Lightning Girls Hockey)
- Rec League
- BVAA Figure-Skating
- Can-skate
- Public Skating
- Adult Skate
- Ball Hockey
- Pickleball
- Community meetings
- Summer Daycare
- Banquets
- Dinners
- Curling
- Lacrosse
- Pick-up hockey
- Power Skating
- Taosit Tai Chi
- Walking
- Senior card games



## BEAVER VALLEY COMMUNITY SCHOOL -

(Bluewater District School Board) 189 Bruce St S, Thornbury, ON N0H 2P0

## AMENITIES:

- Playground
- Swings
- Soccer field
- Green Gym
- 400m Oval Limestone Track
- Gymnasium

## CURRENTLY HOSTS:

- Special Olympics – Basketball
- Sparks/Brownies/Guides-Thornbury/Clarksburg
- Tai Chi
- Adult Indoor Soccer



## **BLUE MOUNTAINS TOWN HALL - 32 Mill St, Thornbury, ON N0H 2P0**

### **AMENITIES:**

- 8 service departments
- Administration
- Community Services
- Council
- Finance & IT Services
- Fire Services
- Legal Services
- Operations Department
- Planning & Development Services
- Washrooms(M/F)
- Wi-Fi
- Town Clerk can perform civil marriages



### **CURRENTLY HOSTS:**

- Council Meetings
- Public Engagement meetings

## **LE SHORE MEMORIAL LIBRARY (BMPL) - 173 Bruce St S, Thornbury ON N0H 2P0**

### **AMENITIES:**

- Interactive space
- Learning zones
- Parenting Spaces
- Study spaces
- Printing
- Washrooms
- Electronic access
- Programming (over 70 programs)
- Over 20 events hosted yearly



## **CRAIGLEITH COMMUNITY CENTRE - 132 Lakeshore Rd E, The Blue Mountains, ON L9Y 0N2**

### **AMENITIES:**

- 20' wide x 31' long Hall
- Washroom (M/F) Inaccessible for wheelchairs
- Wheelchair accessible
- Kitchen
- Capacity of 30 patrons

### **CURRENTLY HOSTS:**

- Alcohol Anonymous (AA) Meetings
- Art Programs organized by The Bay School of Art.
- Music Programs organized by Brenda Beattie Music.



## **RAVENNA HALL - 628299 Grey County Rd 119, Ravenna, ON N0H 2E0**

### **AMENITIES:**

- Unlicensed events
- Maximum capacity of seated patrons 29
- Maximum standing room capacity of 43
- Wheelchair accessible
- Washroom (M/F)
- Kitchen
- 24' wide x 36' long Hall



### **CURRENTLY HOSTS:**

- Yoga organized by Blue Yoga Collective

## **CRAIGLEITH HERITAGE DEPOT (BMPL) - 113 Lakeshore Rd E, The Blue Mountains, ON L9Y 0N1**

### **AMENITIES:**

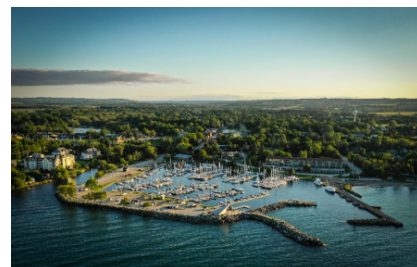
- Tourism information centre
- Wi-fi access
- Exhibits
- Programs
- Events
- Collections
- Archives
- Research



## **THORNBURY MUNICIPAL HARBOUR - 141 Bruce St N, Thornbury, ON N0H 2P0**

### **AMENITIES:**

- Land Storage & Haul out
- Cradle Storage
- Mooring
- Harbour Lounge
- Washrooms(M/F)
- Showers
- Harbour products
- Harbour Pavilion
- Parking
- Boat fuel
- Transient slips



### **CURRENTLY HOSTS:**

- Thornbury Yacht Club

## **TOMAHAWK GOLF COURSE - 417230 10th Line, Thornbury, ON, N0H 2P0**

### **AMENITIES:**

- 18 Holes
- 2 Pickleball Courts
- Par 3
- Washroom (Privy)
- Parking
- Winter Trails and Cross-Country Ski Trail









# TOWN WATERFRONT PROPERTY, WITH 'CLASSIFICATION' INFORMATION

## PROPOSED CLASSIFICATIONS

### CLASS 1 WATERFRONT PROPERTY:

Parking lot of 50 vehicles or more, paid parking and will incorporate the establishment of no on street or time limit parking by-laws and required signage and enforcement; permanent washroom facilities or portable toilets; waste receptacles. Commercial Operations permitted.

- Intended Use: Beach or park activities specific to the amenities for prolonged visits including commercial activity.

### CLASS 1(A) WATERFRONT PROPERTY:

Parking lot of 50 vehicles or more, docking facilities, paid parking, required signage and enforcement; permanent washroom facilities or portable toilets; waste receptacles.

- Intended Use: Harbour activities including motorized watercraft use, limited commercial activity.

### CLASS 2 WATERFRONT PROPERTY:

Parking lot of 49 vehicles or less, paid parking and may incorporate the establishment of no on-street or time limit parking by-laws, required signage and enforcement; permanent washrooms or portable toilets; waste receptacles. Non-motorized watercraft use only, only food truck commercial operations permitted.

- Intended Use: Beach or park activities specific to the amenities for prolonged visits but will be restricted due to space and parking availability.

### CLASS 2(A) WATERFRONT PROPERTY:

Property is adjacent to a class 2 waterfront property and acts as an extension of that property.

- Intended Use: Beach or park activities specific to the amenities for prolonged visits but will be restricted due to space and parking availability.

### CLASS 2(B) WATERFRONT PROPERTY:

Property is adjacent to a class 2 waterfront property and acts as an extension of that property.

- Intended Use: Heritage Cemetery

### CLASS 3 WATERFRONT PROPERTY:

On-street parking only and may incorporate the establishment of time limit parking by-laws, required signage and enforcement; no washroom facilities; no waste receptacles.

- Intended Use: Water access for brief duration swimming, viewing the water, launching non-motorized watercraft and fishing. Signs to include "Pack it in, pack it out, Leave no Trace".

#### **CLASS 4 WATERFRONT PROPERTY:**

No parking available and may incorporate the establishment of no on-street or time limit parking by-laws, required signage and enforcement; no washroom facilities; no waste receptacles.

- Intended Use: Water access for brief duration swimming, viewing the water, launching non-motorized watercraft and fishing. These properties are intended for local area residents or active transportation participants but are not exclusive to residents. Signs to include "Pack it in, pack it out, Leave no Trace".

#### **CLASS 5 WATERFRONT PROPERTY:**

Property is limited to specific residents through deeded access, Master Development Agreements, or other legal obligations. May incorporate the establishment of no on-street or time limit parking by -laws, required signage and enforcement.

- Intended Use: Resident use only, specific to the agreement, plan or easement.

#### **CLASS 5(A) WATERFRONT PROPERTY:**

Water access for brief duration swimming, viewing the water, launching non-motorized watercraft and fishing. These properties are intended for local area residents or active transportation participants but are not exclusive to residents. Signs to include "Pack it in, pack it out, Leave no Trace".

- Intended Use: Resident use and only for watercraft launch and water viewing and short term stays to a local resident only waterfront area specific to the agreement or plan.

#### **CLASS 5(B) WATERFRONT PROPERTY:**

Property is Environmentally sensitive, ANSI (Area of Natural and Scientific Interest). Contains Tree Preservation Zones and is limited to specific residents through deeded access, Master Development Agreements, or other legal obligations. May incorporate the establishment of no on-street or time limit parking by -laws, required signage, delineation, and enforcement.

- Intended Use: Only to allow for, stewardship, minimal disturbance, and protection of the majority of ANSI and specific to the agreement or plan.

#### **CLASS 6 WATERFRONT PROPERTY:**

No parking available and may incorporate the establishment of no on-street or time limit parking by -laws, required signage and enforcement; no washroom facilities; no waste receptacles.

- Intended Use: Drainage ditch or other municipal use (i.e. Fire Department water supply), not intended for public recreational use.

#### **ALL PROPERTIES:**

Shall include a sign indicating the classification of the property and intended use unless they are identified for private use through an easement or other legal means.

## WEST

CHRISTIE BEACH ROAD TBM/MEAFORD TOWNLINEROAD ALLOWANCE	
<b>Name / Description</b>	Christie Beach Road TBM/Meaford Townline Road Allowance
<b>Plan#</b>	477
<b>Current Use</b>	Road allowance/right of way
<b>Current Formalized Access to Waterfront</b>	No
<b>Parcel Size (acres)</b>	Roadway - 0.37
<b>Water Frontage (m)</b>	20
<b>Parking Available</b>	On-street
<b>Washroom Facilities</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No
<b>Other Town Infrastructure</b>	None
<b>Historical Significance</b>	Roadway
<b>Proposed Access</b>	Yes – Limited to parking availability
<b>Proposed Classification</b>	3
<b>Other Considerations</b>	Adjacent to Christie Beach Conservation Area

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:	
<b>Signs identifying permitted access</b>	Yes, for all
<b>Fencing / Gate, Property Delineation</b>	Not required – adjacent to christie beach conservation area
<b>Amenities – Washroom (permanent, portable), pavilion, other</b>	Not required – adjacent to christie beach conservation area
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	Not required – adjacent to christie beach conservation area

**147/149 SUNSET BLVD TOWN LANE**

Legal Description: LANE PL 515 COLLINGWOOD BTN LT 12 &amp; LT 13 PL 515; THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

<b>Name / Description</b>	Lane between 147 and 149 Sunset Blvd.
<b>Plan#</b>	515
<b>Current Use</b>	Town Lane / Drainage
<b>Current Formalized Access to Waterfront</b>	Unmaintained
<b>Parcel Size (acres)</b>	0.13
<b>Water Frontage (m)</b>	6.1
<b>Parking Available</b>	On street – 2 hr limit between 7am and 6pm
<b>Washroom Facilities</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No
<b>Other Town Infrastructure</b>	None
<b>Historical Significance</b>	Backlot owner access (Rodney G. Reynolds Survey)
<b>Proposed Access</b>	Yes - limited to short duration visits and watercraft launching
<b>Proposed Classification</b>	3
<b>Other Considerations</b>	If access is for public use, clearing and maintaining will be required. May be considered for drainage.

## RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

<b>Signs identifying permitted access</b>	Yes
<b>Fencing / Gate, Property Delineation</b>	Yes – delineation
<b>Amenities – Washroom (permanent, portable), pavilion, other</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No – include language on sign “pack it in pack it out”



**159/161 SUNSET BLVD TOWN LANE**

Legal Description: LANE PL 515 COLLINGWOOD LYING BTN LT 18 & LT 19 PL 515;  
THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

<b>Name / Description</b>	Lane between 159 and 161 Sunset Blvd
<b>Plan#</b>	515
<b>Current Use</b>	Town Lane / Drainage
<b>Current Formalized Access to Waterfront</b>	No
<b>Parcel Size (acres)</b>	0.17
<b>Water Frontage (m)</b>	6.1
<b>Parking Available</b>	On street – 2 hr limit between 7am and 6pm
<b>Washroom Facilities</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No
<b>Other Town Infrastructure</b>	None
<b>Historical Significance</b>	Fire access to water and Water access to backlot owners
<b>Proposed Access</b>	Yes - limited to short duration visits and watercraft launching
<b>Proposed Classification</b>	3
<b>Other Considerations</b>	If access is for public use, clearing and maintaining will be required. May be considered for drainage.

## RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

<b>Signs identifying permitted access</b>	Yes
<b>Fencing / Gate, Property Delineation</b>	Yes – delineation
<b>Amenities – Washroom (permanent, portable), pavilion, other</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No – include language on sign “pack it in pack it out”

Legal Description: PL 40 CON 12 COLLINGWOOD AS IN R308296, S/T DEBTS IN R308296; THE BLUE MOUNTAINS	
<b>Name / Description</b>	Lane between 175 and 181 Sunset Blvd
<b>Plan#</b>	515
<b>Current Use</b>	Town Lane / Drainage
<b>Current Formalized Access to Waterfront</b>	Unmaintained
<b>Parcel Size (acres)</b>	0.12
<b>7.0</b>	6.1
<b>Parking Available</b>	On street – 2 hr limit between 7am and 6pm
<b>Washroom Facilities</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No
<b>Other Town Infrastructure</b>	No
<b>Historical Significance</b>	Fire Lane and/or water access to backlot owners; subject to debts
<b>Proposed Access</b>	Yes - limited to short duration visits and watercraft launching
<b>Proposed Classification</b>	3
<b>Other Considerations</b>	If access is for public use, clearing and maintaining will be required. May be considered for drainage.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:	
<b>Signs identifying permitted access</b>	Yes
<b>Fencing / Gate, Property Delineation</b>	Yes – delineation
<b>Amenities – Washroom (permanent, portable), pavilion, other</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No – include language on sign “pack it in pack it out”

### 39TH SIDEROAD ROAD ALLOWANCE

Legal Description: RDAL BTN TWP OF ST. VINCENT AND TWP OF COLLINGWOOD; PT LT 9-11 CON 1 ST. VINCENT PT 2 16R5837 & AS IN R178831 LYING N OF R152582 & R273816; THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

<b>Name / Description</b>	39th Sideroad Road Allowance
<b>Plan#</b>	442
<b>Current Use</b>	Road
<b>Current Formalized Access to Waterfront</b>	No
<b>Parcel Size (acres)</b>	Roadway
<b>Water Frontage (m)</b>	50
<b>Parking Available</b>	On street
<b>Washroom Facilities</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No
<b>Other Town Infrastructure</b>	Roadway
<b>Historical Significance</b>	Roadway
<b>Proposed Access</b>	Yes - limited to short duration visits and watercraft launching
<b>Proposed Classification</b>	3
<b>Other Considerations</b>	Registered by-law

#### RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

<b>Signs identifying permitted access</b>	Yes
<b>Fencing / Gate, Property Delineation</b>	Yes – delineation
<b>Amenities – Washroom (permanent, portable), pavilion, other</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No – include language on sign “pack it in pack it out”

**SUNSET BLVD OPEN SPACE TOWN PARCEL**

Legal Description: LAKESHORE DR PL 442 COLLINGWOOD AKA SUNSET BLVD; PT LT 38 CON 11 COLLINGWOOD PT 3 16R6786; S/T R350370; THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

<b>Name / Description</b>	Sunset Blvd Open Space
<b>Plan#</b>	442
<b>Current Use</b>	Unmaintained open space
<b>Current Formalized Access to Waterfront</b>	No
<b>Parcel Size (acres)</b>	0.7
<b>Water Frontage (m)</b>	124
<b>Parking Available</b>	On street – 2 hr limit between 7am and 6pm
<b>Washroom Facilities</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No
<b>Other Town Infrastructure</b>	Drainage – 450mm stormwater and ditch
<b>Historical Significance</b>	Some consideration has taken place for developing as a park
<b>Proposed Access</b>	Town Staff only at this time unless property is developed. Further investigation required to determine if property can be developed into natural open space
<b>Proposed Classification</b>	3
<b>Other Considerations</b>	Adjacent to the private Keepers cove beach; Union Gas easement

**RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:**

<b>Signs identifying permitted access</b>	
<b>Fencing / Gate, Property Delineation</b>	
<b>Amenities – Washroom (permanent, portable), pavilion, other</b>	
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	

### LORA BAY PARK PARKLAND

Legal Description: PCL 19-1 SEC 16MB; BLK 19 PL 16MB T/W EASEMENT OVER THE COMMON ELEMENTS IN GREY COMMON ELEMENTS CONDOMINIUM PLAN NO. 63 AS IN LT234; T/W AN EASEMENT OVER PT OF LT 36 & 37, CON 11, AND PT OF KENWOOD RD ON PL442 DESIGNATED AS PT 5 TO 11, 21 TO 24, 16R8704 AS IN R512173 & R514047; T/W EASEMENT OVER PT LT 34, PL 931 BEING PT 25, 16R8681 AS IN R490976; S/T R350371; THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

<b>Name / Description</b>	Lora Bay Park
<b>Plan#</b>	442
<b>Current Use</b>	Developed park
<b>Current Formalized Access to Waterfront</b>	Yes
<b>Parcel Size (acres)</b>	2.88
<b>Water Frontage (m)</b>	215
<b>Parking Available</b>	Yes – Paid Parking for visitors
<b>Washroom Facilities</b>	Yes
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	Yes
<b>Other Town Infrastructure</b>	Wastewater Pumping station
<b>Historical Significance</b>	MNRF water lot, Ken Huggard Cottages storing watercraft
<b>Proposed Access</b>	Full public access
<b>Proposed Classification</b>	2
<b>Other Considerations</b>	Capital project for watercraft storage building; t/w easement as in R512173, R514047, R490976 s/t R350371

### RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

<b>Signs identifying permitted access</b>	Yes
<b>Fencing / Gate, Property Delineation</b>	No
<b>Amenities – Washroom (permanent, portable), pavilion, other</b>	Consider enhancing non-motorized watercraft launching facilities
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	Yes



**10TH LINE ROAD ALLOWANCE (BESIDE 103 CAMERON ST)**

Legal Description: RDAL BTN CON 10 AND CON 11 COLLINGWOOD BTN R155371 & GEORGIAN BAY; THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

<b>Name / Description</b>	Right-of-way beside 103 Cameron St
<b>Plan#</b>	723
<b>Current Use</b>	Driveway
<b>Current Formalized Access to Waterfront</b>	No
<b>Parcel Size (acres)</b>	0.3
<b>Water Frontage (m)</b>	34
<b>Parking Available</b>	No
<b>Washroom Facilities</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No
<b>Other Town Infrastructure</b>	Roadway
<b>Historical Significance</b>	None
<b>Proposed Access</b>	Limited to area residents
<b>Proposed Classification</b>	5 with an easement for a laneway
<b>Other Considerations</b>	Review for status of easement for driveway

**RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:**

<b>Signs identifying permitted access</b>	Yes
<b>Fencing / Gate, Property Delineation</b>	Yes – delineation
<b>Amenities – Washroom (permanent, portable), pavilion, other</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No – include language on sign “pack it in pack it out”

**111 & 115 CAMERON ST (CEDAR ST) RIGHT OF WAY**

Legal Description: CEDAR ST PL 723 COLLINGWOOD; THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

<b>Name / Description</b>	Between 111 & 115 Cameron St/Cedar St
<b>Plan#</b>	723
<b>Current Use</b>	Driveway with limited access
<b>Current Formalized Access to Waterfront</b>	Yes
<b>Parcel Size (acres)</b>	0.9
<b>Water Frontage (m)</b>	6.1
<b>Parking Available</b>	No
<b>Washroom Facilities</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No
<b>Other Town Infrastructure</b>	None
<b>Historical Significance</b>	In 2011 Council passed a motion not to proceed with development of any of the 5 Cameron St, Town owned waterfront properties until a plan was developed including community consultation
<b>Proposed Access</b>	Limited to area residents
<b>Proposed Classification</b>	5 with an easement for a laneway
<b>Other Considerations</b>	Local area residents use the property

## RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

<b>Signs identifying permitted access</b>	No
<b>Fencing / Gate, Property Delineation</b>	No
<b>Amenities – Washroom (permanent, portable), pavilion, other</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No

**127 & 129 CAMERON ST (SPRUCE ST) RIGHT OF WAY**

Legal Description: SPRUCE ST PL 723 COLLINGWOOD; THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

<b>Name / Description</b>	Between 127 & 129 Cameron St/ Spruce St
<b>Plan#</b>	723
<b>Current Use</b>	Driveway with limited access
<b>Current Formalized Access to Waterfront</b>	Yes
<b>Parcel Size (acres)</b>	0.14
<b>Water Frontage (m)</b>	6.1
<b>Parking Available</b>	No
<b>Washroom Facilities</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No
<b>Other Town Infrastructure</b>	
<b>Historical Significance</b>	In 2011 Council passed a motion not to proceed with development of any of the 5 Cameron St, Town owned waterfront properties until a plan was developed including community consultation
<b>Proposed Access</b>	Limited to area residents
<b>Proposed Classification</b>	5 with an easement for a laneway
<b>Other Considerations</b>	Local area residents use the property

## RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

<b>Signs identifying permitted access</b>	No
<b>Fencing / Gate, Property Delineation</b>	No
<b>Amenities – Washroom (permanent, portable), pavilion, other</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No

**145 & 147 CAMERON ST (MAPLE ST) RIGHT OF WAY**

Legal Description: MAPLE ST PL 723 COLLINGWOOD; THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

<b>Name / Description</b>	Between 145 & 147 Cameron St/ Maple St
<b>Plan#</b>	723
<b>Current Use</b>	Driveway with limited access
<b>Current Formalized Access to Waterfront</b>	Yes
<b>Parcel Size (acres)</b>	0.1
<b>Water Frontage (m)</b>	6.1
<b>Parking Available</b>	No
<b>Washroom Facilities</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No
<b>Other Town Infrastructure</b>	Stairway – Operations / Roads and Drainage
<b>Historical Significance</b>	In 2011 Council passed a motion not to proceed with development of any of the 5 Cameron St, Town owned waterfront properties until a plan was developed including community consultation
<b>Proposed Access</b>	Limited to area residents
<b>Proposed Classification</b>	5 with an easement for a laneway
<b>Other Considerations</b>	Local area residents use the property

## RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

<b>Signs identifying permitted access</b>	No
<b>Fencing / Gate, Property Delineation</b>	No
<b>Amenities – Washroom (permanent, portable), pavilion, other</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No

**159/161 CAMERON ST (BEECH ST) RIGHT OF WAY**

Legal Description: BEECH ST PL 723 COLLINGWOOD; THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

<b>Name / Description</b>	Between 159 & 161 Cameron St/ Beech St
<b>Plan#</b>	723
<b>Current Use</b>	Driveway with limited access
<b>Current Formalized Access to Waterfront</b>	Yes
<b>Parcel Size (acres)</b>	0.11
<b>Water Frontage (m)</b>	6.1
<b>Parking Available</b>	No
<b>Washroom Facilities</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No
<b>Other Town Infrastructure</b>	None
<b>Historical Significance</b>	In 2011 Council passed a motion not to proceed with development of any of the 5 Cameron St, Town owned waterfront properties until a plan was developed including community consultation
<b>Proposed Access</b>	Limited to area residents
<b>Proposed Classification</b>	5 with an easement for a laneway
<b>Other Considerations</b>	Local area residents use the property

## RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

<b>Signs identifying permitted access</b>	No
<b>Fencing / Gate, Property Delineation</b>	No
<b>Amenities – Washroom (permanent, portable), pavilion, other</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No



**171 & 175 CAMERON ST (BIRCH ST) RIGHT OF WAY**

Legal Description: BIRCH ST PL 723 COLLINGWOOD; THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

<b>Name / Description</b>	Between 171 & 175 Cameron St/ Birch St
<b>Plan#</b>	723
<b>Current Use</b>	Driveway with limited access
<b>Current Formalized Access to Waterfront</b>	No
<b>Parcel Size (acres)</b>	0.12
<b>Water Frontage (m)</b>	6.1
<b>Parking Available</b>	No
<b>Washroom Facilities</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No
<b>Other Town Infrastructure</b>	None
<b>Historical Significance</b>	In 2011 Council passed a motion not to proceed with development of any of the 5 Cameron St, Town owned waterfront properties until a plan was developed including community consultation
<b>Proposed Access</b>	Limited to area residents
<b>Proposed Classification</b>	5 with an easement for a laneway
<b>Other Considerations</b>	Local area residents use the property

## RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

<b>Signs identifying permitted access</b>	No
<b>Fencing / Gate, Property Delineation</b>	No
<b>Amenities – Washroom (permanent, portable), pavilion, other</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No

**PEEL ST ROAD ALLOWANCE**

Legal Description: PEEL ST PL THORNBURY EXCEPT PL 463 &amp; R155371; THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

<b>Name / Description</b>	Peel St Road Allowance
<b>Plan#</b>	389/1121
<b>Current Use</b>	Road allowance with open space
<b>Current Formalized Access to Waterfront</b>	Yes
<b>Parcel Size (acres)</b>	0.17
<b>Water Frontage (m)</b>	20.1
<b>Parking Available</b>	No
<b>Washroom Facilities</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No
<b>Other Town Infrastructure</b>	Municipal Roadway
<b>Historical Significance</b>	None
<b>Proposed Access</b>	Yes – Limited to parking availability
<b>Proposed Classification</b>	4
<b>Other Considerations</b>	Adjacent to Water Treatment Plant

## RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

<b>Signs identifying permitted access</b>	Yes
<b>Fencing / Gate, Property Delineation</b>	Yes - delineation
<b>Amenities – Washroom (permanent, portable), pavilion, other</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No – include language on sign “pack it in pack it out”

## LANDSDOWNE ST ROAD ALLOWANCE

Legal Description: LANDSDOWN ST PL THORNBURY LYING BTN BEAVER ST PL THORNBURY & ALICE ST PL THORNBURY; THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

<b>Name / Description</b>	Lansdowne St Road Allowance
<b>Plan#</b>	533/1121
<b>Current Use</b>	UNOPENED ROAD ALLOWANCE
<b>Current Formalized Access to Waterfront</b>	Yes
<b>Parcel Size (acres)</b>	0.15
<b>Water Frontage (m)</b>	20.1
<b>Parking Available</b>	On street – 2 hr limit between 7am and 6pm No Parking on Lakeshore
<b>Washroom Facilities</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No
<b>Other Town Infrastructure</b>	Drainage Ditch
<b>Historical Significance</b>	None
<b>Proposed Access</b>	Yes – Limited to parking availability
<b>Proposed Classification</b>	4
<b>Other Considerations</b>	

### RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

<b>Signs identifying permitted access</b>	Yes
<b>Fencing / Gate, Property Delineation</b>	Yes - delineation
<b>Amenities – Washroom (permanent, portable), pavilion, other</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No – include language on sign “pack it in pack it out”

**VICTORIA ST ROAD ALLOWANCE**

Legal Description: VICTORIA ST PL THORNBURY NE OF LAKESHORE DR PL 533 THORNBURY  
EXCEPT PT 1 & 2 16R7146; THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

<b>Name / Description</b>	Victoria St Road Allowance
<b>Plan#</b>	533
<b>Current Use</b>	Road allowance
<b>Current Formalized Access to Waterfront</b>	Yes
<b>Parcel Size (acres)</b>	0.12
<b>Water Frontage (m)</b>	20.1
<b>Parking Available</b>	No
<b>Washroom Facilities</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No
<b>Other Town Infrastructure</b>	None
<b>Historical Significance</b>	
<b>Proposed Access</b>	Yes – Limited to parking availability
<b>Proposed Classification</b>	4
<b>Other Considerations</b>	Possible landscaping encroachment on Town Land

**RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:**

<b>Signs identifying permitted access</b>	Yes
<b>Fencing / Gate, Property Delineation</b>	Yes - delineation
<b>Amenities – Washroom (permanent, portable), pavilion, other</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No – include language on sign “pack it in pack it out”

**LITTLE RIVER PARK PARKLAND**

Legal Description: BLK B PL 533 THORNBURY; THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

<b>Name / Description</b>	Little River Park
<b>Plan#</b>	533
<b>Current Use</b>	Developed park
<b>Current Formalized Access to Waterfront</b>	Yes
<b>Parcel Size (acres)</b>	1
<b>Water Frontage (m)</b>	165
<b>Parking Available</b>	Yes
<b>Washroom Facilities</b>	Yes
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	Yes
<b>Other Town Infrastructure</b>	Adjacent to Thornbury Pier
<b>Historical Significance</b>	
<b>Proposed Access</b>	Yes, full public access
<b>Proposed Classification</b>	2
<b>Other Considerations</b>	Adjacent to the Thornbury Pier and Harbour. Washroom is scheduled for replacement in 2021

**RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:**

<b>Signs identifying permitted access</b>	Yes
<b>Fencing / Gate, Property Delineation</b>	Yes - delineation
<b>Amenities – Washroom (permanent, portable), pavilion, other</b>	Yes – permanent washrooms (scheduled for replacement in 2021)
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	Yes



**THORNBURY MUNICIPAL HARBOUR**

Legal Description: PLAN 465 LOT 1 LOT 2 LOT 7 & RP 16R1632 PARTS 1 & 2 & RP;16R3490 PARTS 1 & 2

<b>Name / Description</b>	Thornbury Municipal Harbour
<b>Plan#</b>	465
<b>Current Use</b>	Marina
<b>Current Formalized Access to Waterfront</b>	Yes, vessels not pedestrian
<b>Parcel Size (acres)</b>	17.13
<b>Water Frontage (m)</b>	300
<b>Parking Available</b>	Yes
<b>Washroom Facilities</b>	Yes
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	Yes
<b>Other Town Infrastructure</b>	Water, sewer, roadway, drainage, marina docks and buildings
<b>Historical Significance</b>	Harbour
<b>Proposed Access</b>	Yes, full public access
<b>Proposed Classification</b>	1 (A)
<b>Other Considerations</b>	No swimming within marina due to safety for boat traffic and possible stray electric current

**RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:**

<b>Signs identifying permitted access</b>	Yes
<b>Fencing / Gate, Property Delineation</b>	No
<b>Amenities – Washroom (permanent, portable), pavilion, other</b>	Yes
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	Yes

**THORNBURY MUNICIPAL HARBOUR**

Legal Description: PLAN 465 LOT 1 LOT 2 LOT 7 & RP 16R1632 PARTS 1 & 2 & RP;16R3490 PARTS 1 & 2

<b>Name / Description</b>	Thornbury Municipal Harbour
<b>Plan#</b>	465
<b>Current Use</b>	Marina
<b>Current Formalized Access to Waterfront</b>	Yes, vessels not pedestrian
<b>Parcel Size (acres)</b>	17.13
<b>Water Frontage (m)</b>	300
<b>Parking Available</b>	Yes
<b>Washroom Facilities</b>	Yes
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	Yes
<b>Other Town Infrastructure</b>	Water, sewer, roadway, drainage, marina docks and buildings
<b>Historical Significance</b>	Harbour
<b>Proposed Access</b>	Yes, full public access
<b>Proposed Classification</b>	1 (A)
<b>Other Considerations</b>	No swimming within marina due to safety for boat traffic and possible stray electric current

## RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

<b>Signs identifying permitted access</b>	Yes
<b>Fencing / Gate, Property Delineation</b>	No
<b>Amenities – Washroom (permanent, portable), pavilion, other</b>	Yes
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	Yes

**BAYSHORE WALK RIGHT OF WAY**

Legal Description: BAY SHORE WALK PL 395 THORNBURY; THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

<b>Name / Description</b>	Along Beaver River Bayshore Walk
<b>Plan#</b>	395
<b>Current Use</b>	Unmaintained Right of Way, Walkway
<b>Current Formalized Access to Waterfront</b>	No
<b>Parcel Size (acres)</b>	2.6
<b>Water Frontage (m)</b>	380
<b>Parking Available</b>	No
<b>Washroom Facilities</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No
<b>Other Town Infrastructure</b>	None
<b>Historical Significance</b>	Identified on Plan 395 as being dedicated as public highways
<b>Proposed Access</b>	Yes – when water levels permit
<b>Proposed Classification</b>	4
<b>Other Considerations</b>	Adjacent to Bayview Park

## RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

<b>Signs identifying permitted access</b>	Yes
<b>Fencing / Gate, Property Delineation</b>	Yes – delineation
<b>Amenities – Washroom (permanent, portable), pavilion, other</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No – include language on sign “pack it in pack it out”

**MILL ST ROAD ALLOWANCE**

Legal Description: MILL ST PL THORNBURY ABUTTING LT 5 PL 395; THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

<b>Name / Description</b>	Mill St Road Allowance
<b>Plan#</b>	395
<b>Current Use</b>	Driveway
<b>Current Formalized Access to Waterfront</b>	No
<b>Parcel Size (acres)</b>	0.17
<b>Water Frontage (m)</b>	20.1
<b>Parking Available</b>	No
<b>Washroom Facilities</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No
<b>Other Town Infrastructure</b>	None
<b>Historical Significance</b>	
<b>Proposed Access</b>	Yes – Limited to parking availability
<b>Proposed Classification</b>	4
<b>Other Considerations</b>	Driveway, close proximity to Bayview Park

**RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:**

<b>Signs identifying permitted access</b>	Yes
<b>Fencing / Gate, Property Delineation</b>	Yes – delineation
<b>Amenities – Washroom (permanent, portable), pavilion, other</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No – include language on sign “pack it in pack it out”

**BAYVIEW PARK PARKLAND**

Legal Description: BLK G PL THORNBURY EXCEPT PL 395 AND R53251; THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

<b>Name / Description</b>	Bayview Park
<b>Plan#</b>	395
<b>Current Use</b>	Developed parkland
<b>Current Formalized Access to Waterfront</b>	Yes
<b>Parcel Size (acres)</b>	6.34
<b>Water Frontage (m)</b>	270
<b>Parking Available</b>	Primarily Roadside / some internal
<b>Washroom Facilities</b>	Yes
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	Yes
<b>Other Town Infrastructure</b>	Pavilion, Playground Equipment, tennis court, volleyball court, shuffleboard, wastewater pumping station
<b>Historical Significance</b>	
<b>Proposed Access</b>	Yes, full public access
<b>Proposed Classification</b>	2
<b>Other Considerations</b>	Order - Ontario Clean Water Agency

## RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

<b>Signs identifying permitted access</b>	Yes
<b>Fencing / Gate, Property Delineation</b>	Yes – delineation
<b>Amenities – Washroom (permanent, portable), pavilion, other</b>	Yes - permanent
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	Yes



**ELGIN ST ROAD ALLOWANCE**

Legal Description: ELGIN ST PL THORNBURY BTN S LIMIT LT 139 RCP 1023 AND GEORGIAN BAY;  
THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

<b>Name / Description</b>	Elgin St Road Allowance
<b>Plan#</b>	395/410
<b>Current Use</b>	Part of Bayview Park/ Pumping station facility
<b>Current Formalized Access to Waterfront</b>	Yes
<b>Parcel Size (acres)</b>	0.07
<b>Water Frontage (m)</b>	60.1
<b>Parking Available</b>	Yes
<b>Washroom Facilities</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No
<b>Other Town Infrastructure</b>	Wastewater Pumping station
<b>Historical Significance</b>	
<b>Proposed Access</b>	Yes, limited to parking availability
<b>Proposed Classification</b>	2(A)
<b>Other Considerations</b>	Adjacent to Bayview Park

**RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:**

<b>Signs identifying permitted access</b>	Yes
<b>Fencing / Gate, Property Delineation</b>	Not required – adjacent to Bayview park
<b>Amenities – Washroom (permanent, portable), pavilion, other</b>	Not required – adjacent to Bayview park
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	Not required – adjacent to Bayview park

**WELLINGTON ST ROAD ALLOWANCE**

Legal Description: PT WELLINGTON ST PL THORNBURY NE OF BAY ST; THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

<b>Name / Description</b>	Wellington St Road Allowance
<b>Plan#</b>	395/410
<b>Current Use</b>	Unopened Road Allowance
<b>Current Formalized Access to Waterfront</b>	Yes
<b>Parcel Size (acres)</b>	0.22
<b>Water Frontage (m)</b>	20.1
<b>Parking Available</b>	On street
<b>Washroom Facilities</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No
<b>Other Town Infrastructure</b>	None
<b>Historical Significance</b>	Used by neighbouring waterfront property owners to access shoreline for stabilization works
<b>Proposed Access</b>	Yes, limited to parking availability
<b>Proposed Classification</b>	3
<b>Other Considerations</b>	

## RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

<b>Signs identifying permitted access</b>	Yes
<b>Fencing / Gate, Property Delineation</b>	Yes – delineation
<b>Amenities – Washroom (permanent, portable), pavilion, other</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No – include language on sign “pack it in pack it out”

**GREY ST ROAD ALLOWANCE**

Legal Description: GREY ST PL THORNBURY NW OF LT 75 PL 410 THORNBURY & NE OF BAY ST PL 395 THORNBURY; THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

<b>Name / Description</b>	Grey St Road Allowance
<b>Plan#</b>	395
<b>Current Use</b>	Unmaintained open space
<b>Current Formalized Access to Waterfront</b>	Yes
<b>Parcel Size (acres)</b>	0.03
<b>Water Frontage (m)</b>	10.06
<b>Parking Available</b>	Time limited – 2 hours from 7am to 6pm
<b>Washroom Facilities</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No
<b>Other Town Infrastructure</b>	None
<b>Historical Significance</b>	
<b>Proposed Access</b>	Yes, limited to parking availability
<b>Proposed Classification</b>	3
<b>Other Considerations</b>	

**RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:**

<b>Signs identifying permitted access</b>	Yes
<b>Fencing / Gate, Property Delineation</b>	Yes – delineation
<b>Amenities – Washroom (permanent, portable), pavilion, other</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No – include language on sign “pack it in pack it out”

**PEASEMARSH BEACH**

Legal Description: FIRSTLY: RDAL BTN LT 30 AND LT 31 COLLINGWOOD E OF R273816 EXCEPT R139113 & PT 1, 16R9194; ORCHARD RD PL 440 COLLINGWOOD EXCEPT R139113; PT LT 30-31 CON 8 COLLINGWOOD PT 5 & PT OF PT 3, R151167 LYING W OF THE SLY PRODUCTION OF THE E LIMIT OF PT 5, RD148; SECONDLY: PT LT 31 CON 8 COLLINGWOOD BEING TRAVELLED RD LYING S OF ORCHARD RD PL 440 & W OF 16R1395; THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

<b>Name / Description</b>	Peasemars Nature Reserve
<b>Plan#</b>	
<b>Current Use</b>	Developed park
<b>Current Formalized Access to Waterfront</b>	Yes
<b>Parcel Size (acres)</b>	19.19
<b>Water Frontage (m)</b>	925
<b>Parking Available</b>	Yes
<b>Washroom Facilities</b>	Portable Toilets - Seasonal
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	Yes
<b>Other Town Infrastructure</b>	None
<b>Historical Significance</b>	None
<b>Proposed Access</b>	Public Access
<b>Proposed Classification</b>	2
<b>Other Considerations</b>	Owned by GSCA, maintained by the Town

**RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:**

<b>Signs identifying permitted access</b>	Yes
<b>Fencing / Gate, Property Delineation</b>	No
<b>Amenities – Washroom (permanent, portable), pavilion, other</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	Yes

## CENTRAL

<b>COUNCIL BEACH PARKLAND</b>	
Legal Description: BLK A PL 925 EXCEPT PT 3 16R9797; TOWN OF THE BLUE MOUNTAINS	
<b>Name / Description</b>	Council Beach
<b>Plan#</b>	925
<b>Current Use</b>	Developed park
<b>Current Formalized Access to Waterfront</b>	Yes
<b>Parcel Size (acres)</b>	1.52
<b>Water Frontage (m)</b>	80
<b>Parking Available</b>	Yes – 6 spaces
<b>Washroom Facilities</b>	Seasonal Portable Toilet
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	Yes
<b>Other Town Infrastructure</b>	None
<b>Historical Significance</b>	None
<b>Proposed Access</b>	Yes, full public access
<b>Proposed Classification</b>	2
<b>Other Considerations</b>	None

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:	
<b>Signs identifying permitted access</b>	Yes
<b>Fencing / Gate, Property Delineation</b>	Yes – delineation
<b>Amenities – Washroom (permanent, portable), pavilion, other</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	Yes



**CAMPERDOWN ROAD - ROAD ALLOWANCE**

Legal Description: FIRSTLY: RDAL BTN CON 6 AND CON 7 COLLINGWOOD BTN NOTTAWASAGA BAY & R273816; PT LT 1 PL 778 COLLINGWOOD; PT BLK A, C PL 778 COLLINGWOOD PT 1 R151167;

SECONDLY: PT LT 27 CON 7 COLLINGWOOD PT 4 16R8415; S/T R491727; S/T R485311, R495496; THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

<b>Name / Description</b>	Camperdown Road Allowance
<b>Plan#</b>	778
<b>Current Use</b>	Road Allowance
<b>Current Formalized Access to Waterfront</b>	Yes
<b>Parcel Size (acres)</b>	0.18
<b>Water Frontage (m)</b>	20.1
<b>Parking Available</b>	No
<b>Washroom Facilities</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No
<b>Other Town Infrastructure</b>	Roadway
<b>Historical Significance</b>	None
<b>Proposed Access</b>	Yes, limited to parking availability
<b>Proposed Classification</b>	4
<b>Other Considerations</b>	Order in Council, subject to interest, Agreement (SPA), Amending (SPA), Agreement (Sev. For road surface), Transfer (temp. easement/row), Rogers Easement, Union Gas Easement

**RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:**

<b>Signs identifying permitted access</b>	Yes
<b>Fencing / Gate, Property Delineation</b>	Yes - delineation
<b>Amenities – Washroom (permanent, portable), pavilion, other</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No – include language on sign “pack it in pack it out”

**WARDS ROAD OPEN ROAD**

Legal Description: RDAL BTN CON 4 AND CON 5 COLLINGWOOD S OF PT 1 R273816; THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

<b>Name / Description</b>	Wards Road
<b>Plan#</b>	425
<b>Current Use</b>	Open road allowance
<b>Current Formalized Access to Waterfront</b>	Yes
<b>Parcel Size (acres)</b>	0.08
<b>Water Frontage (m)</b>	20.1
<b>Parking Available</b>	No
<b>Washroom Facilities</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No
<b>Other Town Infrastructure</b>	Roadway
<b>Historical Significance</b>	None
<b>Proposed Access</b>	Yes, limited to parking availability
<b>Proposed Classification</b>	4
<b>Other Considerations</b>	None

**RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:**

<b>Signs identifying permitted access</b>	Yes
<b>Fencing / Gate, Property Delineation</b>	Yes - delineation
<b>Amenities – Washroom (permanent, portable), pavilion, other</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No – include language on sign “pack it in pack it out”

**THE VILLAGE AT PEAKS BAY**

Legal Description: PT LT 26 CON 5 COLLINGWOOD PT 1, 2 16R8024; S/T R199169; S/T R558971; S/T R560629; THE BLUE MOUNTAINS; S/T EASEMENT OVER PT 1 & 2 16R9439 IN FAVOUR OF PT LT 26 CON 5 AS IN R479001 N OF PT 9 16R9473, PTS 1 TO 8 16R9473 AS IN GY20191

<b>Name / Description</b>	The Village at Peaks Bay
<b>Plan#</b>	16M-37
<b>Current Use</b>	Owned; unassumed
<b>Current Formalized Access to Waterfront</b>	No
<b>Parcel Size (acres)</b>	12.5
<b>Water Frontage (m)</b>	480
<b>Parking Available</b>	No
<b>Washroom Facilities</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No
<b>Other Town Infrastructure</b>	None
<b>Historical Significance</b>	GSCA Environmental Hazard Lands
<b>Proposed Access</b>	Municipal Staff, consultants or Provincial / Agency staff to review opportunities with GSCA staff
<b>Proposed Classification</b>	5(B)
<b>Other Considerations</b>	Development Agreement, Postponement, Transfer Agreement, Easement, Agreement, Agreement, Covenants, Easement, Certificate, Easement

**RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:**

<b>Signs identifying permitted access</b>	Yes
<b>Fencing / Gate, Property Delineation</b>	Yes - delineation
<b>Amenities – Washroom (permanent, portable), pavilion, other</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No

**PEAKS BAY WEST**

Legal Description: BLOCK 17, PLAN 16M62; TOWN OF THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

<b>Name / Description</b>	Peaks Bay West Town Block – No public access from land
<b>Plan#</b>	16M-62
<b>Current Use</b>	Owned; unassumed
<b>Current Formalized Access to Waterfront</b>	No
<b>Parcel Size (acres)</b>	0.37
<b>Water Frontage (m)</b>	65
<b>Parking Available</b>	No
<b>Washroom Facilities</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No
<b>Other Town Infrastructure</b>	None
<b>Historical Significance</b>	Area of Natural and Scientific Interest – Invertebrate fossils estimated to be 455 Million years old
<b>Proposed Access</b>	By water only
<b>Proposed Classification</b>	5(B)
<b>Other Considerations</b>	Part of ANSI – No public access from land

## RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

<b>Signs identifying permitted access</b>	Yes
<b>Fencing / Gate, Property Delineation</b>	Yes - delineation
<b>Amenities – Washroom (permanent, portable), pavilion, other</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No

**PEAKS BAY EAST MAINTENANCE ACCESS PATH**

Legal Description: Block 29, Plan 16M23, The Blue Mountains

<b>Name / Description</b>	Ellis Drive
<b>Plan#</b>	16M - 23
<b>Current Use</b>	Assumed – Service road for drainage ditch and stormwater drainage pipe. Limestone path to waterfront
<b>Current Formalized Access to Waterfront</b>	Limited due to high water
<b>Parcel Size (acres)</b>	1
<b>Water Frontage (m)</b>	270
<b>Parking Available</b>	No
<b>Washroom Facilities</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No
<b>Other Town Infrastructure</b>	Drainage Ditch and storm-water drainpipe
<b>Historical Significance</b>	Area of Natural and Scientific Interest – Invertebrate fossils estimated to be 455 Million years old
<b>Proposed Access</b>	Limited to parking availability and water levels
<b>Proposed Classification</b>	4 – Note this path is adjacent to an environmentally sensitive ANSI and Tree Preservation Zones
<b>Other Considerations</b>	During times of high water there will be limited access by land. Significant repairs required due to wave action damage and erosion.

## RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

<b>Signs identifying permitted access</b>	Yes
<b>Fencing / Gate, Property Delineation</b>	Yes, delineation – Identify ANSI and Tree Preservation Zones
<b>Amenities – Washroom (permanent, portable), pavilion, other</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No



## PEAKS BAY EAST ANSI AND TREE PRESERVATION ZONES

Legal Description: BLOCK 29, PLAN 16M23, THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

<b>Name / Description</b>	Ellis Drive
<b>Plan#</b>	16M - 23
<b>Current Use</b>	Tree Preservation zones and Area of Natural and Scientific Interest
<b>Current Formalized Access to Waterfront</b>	Limited due to high water
<b>Parcel Size (acres)</b>	1
<b>Water Frontage (m)</b>	270
<b>Parking Available</b>	No
<b>Washroom Facilities</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No
<b>Other Town Infrastructure</b>	Drainage Ditch and storm-water drainpipe
<b>Historical Significance</b>	Area of Natural and Scientific Interest – Invertebrate fossils estimated to be 455 Million years old
<b>Proposed Access</b>	Limited due to ANSI, Tree Preservation Zones and water levels
<b>Proposed Classification</b>	5(B)
<b>Other Considerations</b>	This area has been identified through the Delphi Waterfront Management Plan for protection and Stewardship of Tree Preservations Zones and Fossiliferous rock specimens

### RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

<b>Signs identifying permitted access</b>	Yes
<b>Fencing / Gate, Property Delineation</b>	Yes, delineation
<b>Amenities – Washroom (permanent, portable), pavilion, other</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No

**DELPHI POINT PARK PARKLAND**

Legal Description: CON 5 PT Lot 26 RP 16R8024 Parts 1 2

<b>Name / Description</b>	Delphi Point Park
<b>Plan#</b>	16R - 8024
<b>Current Use</b>	Active Parkland
<b>Current Formalized Access to Waterfront</b>	Yes
<b>Parcel Size (acres)</b>	9.13
<b>Water Frontage (m)</b>	210
<b>Parking Available</b>	Yes
<b>Washroom Facilities</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	Yes
<b>Other Town Infrastructure</b>	Pavilion
<b>Historical Significance</b>	Access to significant fossil collection 455 Million Years old - ANSI. 2009 Tornado destroyed trees in current park area
<b>Proposed Access</b>	Full public access
<b>Proposed Classification</b>	2
<b>Other Considerations</b>	Easement for Georgian Peaks Snow Making pumping station

## RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

<b>Signs identifying permitted access</b>	Yes
<b>Fencing / Gate, Property Delineation</b>	Yes, delineation
<b>Amenities – Washroom (permanent, portable), pavilion, other</b>	Yes – permanent washrooms
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	Yes

## EAST

### NORTHWINDS BEACH PARKLAND

Legal Description: PT LT 22 CON 3 COLLINGWOOD AS IN R303508 & R237287; THE BLUE MOUNTAINS CON 2&3 ROAD ALLOWANCE AT; SHORE & PLAN 529 LOTS 1 TO 9; WITH EASEMENT ROW

<b>Name / Description</b>	Northwinds Beach
<b>Plan#</b>	529
<b>Current Use</b>	Developed park
<b>Current Formalized Access to Waterfront</b>	Yes
<b>Parcel Size (acres)</b>	3.19
<b>Water Frontage (m)</b>	400
<b>Parking Available</b>	Yes, 80 spaces
<b>Washroom Facilities</b>	Yes
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	Yes
<b>Other Town Infrastructure</b>	Playground equipment, boat launching area
<b>Historical Significance</b>	
<b>Proposed Access</b>	Yes, full public access
<b>Proposed Classification</b>	1
<b>Other Considerations</b>	Adjacent to Highway 26; Blue Mountain and Craigleith ski hill snow making pumping stations on site

#### RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

<b>Signs identifying permitted access</b>	Yes
<b>Fencing / Gate, Property Delineation</b>	Yes – West side of property
<b>Amenities – Washroom (permanent, portable), pavilion, other</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No

**BLUE MOUNTAIN DRIVE BLOCK E (JUDGES PLAN)**

Legal Description: LANE PL 529 COLLINGWOOD ABUTTING N LIMIT OF LT 119, 120 129 TO 132 PL 529 & E LIMIT OF LT 116 TO 119 PL 529; PT LT 119 PL 529 COLLINGWOOD PT 1 16R4985; THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

<b>Name / Description</b>	Blue Mountain Drive
<b>Plan#</b>	529
<b>Current Use</b>	Drainage ditch/ Unmaintained open space
<b>Current Formalized Access to Waterfront</b>	Yes
<b>Parcel Size (acres)</b>	0.29
<b>Water Frontage (m)</b>	20
<b>Parking Available</b>	No
<b>Washroom Facilities</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No
<b>Other Town Infrastructure</b>	None
<b>Historical Significance</b>	None
<b>Proposed Access</b>	Limited to residents of plan 529, area of user common
<b>Proposed Classification</b>	5
<b>Other Considerations</b>	Adjacent to Aquavil Development

**RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:**

<b>Signs identifying permitted access</b>	Yes
<b>Fencing / Gate, Property Delineation</b>	No
<b>Amenities – Washroom (permanent, portable), pavilion, other</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No

**BETWEEN 239 & 243 BROPHY'S LANE LOT 63 (JUDGES PLAN)**

Legal Description: LT 63 PL 529 COLLINGWOOD EXCEPT PT 1 16R8270; THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

<b>Name / Description</b>	Between 239 & 243 Brophy's Lane Lot 63 (Judges plan)
<b>Plan#</b>	529
<b>Current Use</b>	Unmaintained open space
<b>Current Formalized Access to Waterfront</b>	Yes
<b>Parcel Size (acres)</b>	0.4
<b>Water Frontage (m)</b>	40
<b>Parking Available</b>	No
<b>Washroom Facilities</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No
<b>Other Town Infrastructure</b>	No
<b>Historical Significance</b>	None
<b>Proposed Access</b>	Limited to residents of plan 529, area of user common
<b>Proposed Classification</b>	5
<b>Other Considerations</b>	None

## RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

<b>Signs identifying permitted access</b>	Yes
<b>Fencing / Gate, Property Delineation</b>	No
<b>Amenities – Washroom (permanent, portable), pavilion, other</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No



**BETWEEN 201 & 203 BROPHY'S LANE BLOCK C (JUDGES PLAN)**

Legal Description: BLK C PL 529 COLLINGWOOD; THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

<b>Name / Description</b>	Between 201 & 203 Brophy's Lane Block C (Judges plan)
<b>Plan#</b>	529
<b>Current Use</b>	Unmaintained open space
<b>Current Formalized Access to Waterfront</b>	No
<b>Parcel Size (acres)</b>	0.13
<b>Water Frontage (m)</b>	19
<b>Parking Available</b>	No
<b>Washroom Facilities</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No
<b>Other Town Infrastructure</b>	Drainage Ditch
<b>Historical Significance</b>	None
<b>Proposed Access</b>	Limited to residents of plan 529, area of user common
<b>Proposed Classification</b>	5
<b>Other Considerations</b>	None

## RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

<b>Signs identifying permitted access</b>	Yes
<b>Fencing / Gate, Property Delineation</b>	No
<b>Amenities – Washroom (permanent, portable), pavilion, other</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No

## LONG POINT ROAD - ROAD ALLOWANCE

Legal Description: RDAL BTN TWP OF NOTTAWASAGA AND TWP OF COLLINGWOOD W OF THE CENTER LINE N OF R273815; THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

<b>Name / Description</b>	Long Point Road – Road Allowance
<b>Plan#</b>	529
<b>Current Use</b>	Open roadway
<b>Current Formalized Access to Waterfront</b>	Yes
<b>Parcel Size (acres)</b>	0.6
<b>Water Frontage (m)</b>	20
<b>Parking Available</b>	No
<b>Washroom Facilities</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No
<b>Other Town Infrastructure</b>	Roadway
<b>Historical Significance</b>	None
<b>Proposed Access</b>	Yes
<b>Proposed Classification</b>	4
<b>Other Considerations</b>	None

### RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

<b>Signs identifying permitted access</b>	Yes
<b>Fencing / Gate, Property Delineation</b>	No
<b>Amenities – Washroom (permanent, portable), pavilion, other</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No

## BEAVER RIVER TOWN-OWNED PROPERTIES

<b>236698 GREY ROAD 13 PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LOT 22</b> Legal Description: LT 22 PL 355 COLLINGWOOD EXCEPT EXPROP PL888; THE BLUE MOUNTAINS	
<b>Name / Description</b>	236698 Grey Road 13 Presbyterian Church Lot 22
<b>Plan#</b>	355
<b>Current Use</b>	Heritage Cemetery
<b>Current Formalized Access to Waterfront</b>	No
<b>Parcel Size (acres)</b>	0.82
<b>Water Frontage (m)</b>	80
<b>Parking Available</b>	No
<b>Washroom Facilities</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No
<b>Other Town Infrastructure</b>	No
<b>Historical Significance</b>	Heritage cemetery
<b>Proposed Access</b>	Yes, full public access
<b>Proposed Classification</b>	2(B)
<b>Other Considerations</b>	Adjacent to Heathcote Park

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:	
<b>Signs identifying permitted access</b>	Yes
<b>Fencing / Gate, Property Delineation</b>	No
<b>Amenities – Washroom (permanent, portable), pavilion, other</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No

**236668 GREY ROAD 13 HEATHCOTE PARK LOT 23**

Legal Description: PT LT 23 CON 12 COLLINGWOOD PT 1 16R4008; THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

<b>Name / Description</b>	236668 Grey Road 13 Heathcote Park Lot 23
<b>Plan#</b>	16R-4008 Part 1
<b>Current Use</b>	Developed Parkland
<b>Current Formalized Access to Waterfront</b>	Yes
<b>Parcel Size (acres)</b>	7.81
<b>Water Frontage (m)</b>	221
<b>Parking Available</b>	Yes
<b>Washroom Facilities</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	Yes
<b>Other Town Infrastructure</b>	No
<b>Historical Significance</b>	None
<b>Proposed Access</b>	Yes, full public access
<b>Proposed Classification</b>	2
<b>Other Considerations</b>	Jointly owned by Escarpment Biosphere

## RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

<b>Signs identifying permitted access</b>	Yes
<b>Fencing / Gate, Property Delineation</b>	No
<b>Amenities – Washroom (permanent, portable), pavilion, other</b>	Portable Toilets, consider paid parking
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No

**MAIN ST HEATHCOTE LOT 1**

Legal Description: LT 1 PL 355 COLLINGWOOD; THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

<b>Name / Description</b>	Main St Heathcote Lot 1
<b>Plan#</b>	355
<b>Current Use</b>	Open space
<b>Current Formalized Access to Waterfront</b>	No
<b>Parcel Size (acres)</b>	0.08
<b>Water Frontage (m)</b>	34
<b>Parking Available</b>	No
<b>Washroom Facilities</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No
<b>Other Town Infrastructure</b>	No
<b>Historical Significance</b>	None
<b>Proposed Access</b>	Yes, limited to parking availability
<b>Proposed Classification</b>	4
<b>Other Considerations</b>	Private Well

## RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

<b>Signs identifying permitted access</b>	Yes
<b>Fencing / Gate, Property Delineation</b>	No
<b>Amenities – Washroom (permanent, portable), pavilion, other</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No



**236733 GREY ROAD 13 LOT 23**

Legal Description: PT LT 23 CON 12 COLLINGWOOD PT 1, 2 16R1353 S/T R187834;  
THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

<b>Name / Description</b>	236733 Grey Road 13 Lot 23
<b>Plan#</b>	355
<b>Current Use</b>	Parking
<b>Current Formalized Access to Waterfront</b>	No
<b>Parcel Size (acres)</b>	0.45
<b>Water Frontage (m)</b>	84
<b>Parking Available</b>	Yes
<b>Washroom Facilities</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No
<b>Other Town Infrastructure</b>	No
<b>Historical Significance</b>	Former Heathcote Hall Property
<b>Proposed Access</b>	No
<b>Proposed Classification</b>	N/A Property to revert to original owner
<b>Other Considerations</b>	Restrictive Covenants; Easement

## RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

<b>Signs identifying permitted access</b>	N/A
<b>Fencing / Gate, Property Delineation</b>	N/A
<b>Amenities – Washroom (permanent, portable), pavilion, other</b>	N/A
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	N/A

**ACROSS FROM LIONS PARK**

Legal Description: PT LT 20 PL 562 COLLINGWOOD AS IN R386037; THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

<b>Name / Description</b>	Across from Lions Park
<b>Plan#</b>	562
<b>Current Use</b>	Unmaintained open space
<b>Current Formalized Access to Waterfront</b>	No
<b>Parcel Size (acres)</b>	0.80
<b>Water Frontage (m)</b>	117
<b>Parking Available</b>	On Street
<b>Washroom Facilities</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No
<b>Other Town Infrastructure</b>	No
<b>Historical Significance</b>	None
<b>Proposed Access</b>	Limited to parking availability
<b>Proposed Classification</b>	3
<b>Other Considerations</b>	None

## RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

<b>Signs identifying permitted access</b>	No – no formal access to property
<b>Fencing / Gate, Property Delineation</b>	No
<b>Amenities – Washroom (permanent, portable), pavilion, other</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No

**LIONS PARK LOT 21 & 43**

Legal Description: PT LT 21, 43 PL 562 COLLINGWOOD PT 4 16R8082; T/W R475899;  
THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

<b>Name / Description</b>	Lions Park Lot 21 & 43
<b>Plan#</b>	562
<b>Current Use</b>	Developed parkland
<b>Current Formalized Access to Waterfront</b>	Yes
<b>Parcel Size (acres)</b>	1.12
<b>Water Frontage (m)</b>	211
<b>Parking Available</b>	Yes
<b>Washroom Facilities</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	Yes
<b>Other Town Infrastructure</b>	Road allowance, Trail and Pavilion
<b>Historical Significance</b>	None
<b>Proposed Access</b>	Yes, full public access
<b>Proposed Classification</b>	2
<b>Other Considerations</b>	T/w Easement; Agreement

**RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:**

<b>Signs identifying permitted access</b>	Yes
<b>Fencing / Gate, Property Delineation</b>	No
<b>Amenities – Washroom (permanent, portable), pavilion, other</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No

**LIONS PARK LOT 22 & 30**

Legal Description: PT LT 22-23, 30 PL 562 COLLINGWOOD PT 1 16R4816 & PT 1 16R1413 EXCEPT PT 2 16R4816; S/T R286714; THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

<b>Name / Description</b>	Lions Park Lot 22 & 30
<b>Plan#</b>	562
<b>Current Use</b>	Developed parkland
<b>Current Formalized Access to Waterfront</b>	Yes
<b>Parcel Size (acres)</b>	0.7
<b>Water Frontage (m)</b>	211
<b>Parking Available</b>	Yes
<b>Washroom Facilities</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	Yes
<b>Other Town Infrastructure</b>	Road allowance and Trail
<b>Historical Significance</b>	None
<b>Proposed Access</b>	Yes, full public access
<b>Proposed Classification</b>	2(A)
<b>Other Considerations</b>	Agreement for drainage; Tax Arrears Certificate (x2)

**RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:**

<b>Signs identifying permitted access</b>	Yes
<b>Fencing / Gate, Property Delineation</b>	No
<b>Amenities – Washroom (permanent, portable), pavilion, other</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No

**MARY ST LOT 67**

Legal Description: LT 67 PL 562 COLLINGWOOD EXCEPT PT 2 EXPROP PL 847;  
THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

<b>Name / Description</b>	Mary St Lot 67
<b>Plan#</b>	562
<b>Current Use</b>	Developed trail
<b>Current Formalized Access to Waterfront</b>	Yes
<b>Parcel Size (acres)</b>	0.96
<b>Water Frontage (m)</b>	75.5
<b>Parking Available</b>	Yes
<b>Washroom Facilities</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No
<b>Other Town Infrastructure</b>	Platform for frazil ice removal
<b>Historical Significance</b>	None
<b>Proposed Access</b>	Yes, limited to parking availability
<b>Proposed Classification</b>	3
<b>Other Considerations</b>	Adjacent to GSCA property and Beaver River Trail

**RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:**

<b>Signs identifying permitted access</b>	Yes
<b>Fencing / Gate, Property Delineation</b>	No
<b>Amenities – Washroom (permanent, portable), pavilion, other</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No



**MARY STREET RIVER VIEW**

Legal Description: MARY ST PL 108 COLLINGWOOD LYING S OF BEAVER RIVER EXCEPT R483829;  
THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

<b>Name / Description</b>	Mary Street River View
<b>Plan#</b>	108
<b>Current Use</b>	Road allowance/laneway
<b>Current Formalized Access to Waterfront</b>	Yes
<b>Parcel Size (acres)</b>	0.53
<b>Water Frontage (m)</b>	20
<b>Parking Available</b>	Yes
<b>Washroom Facilities</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No
<b>Other Town Infrastructure</b>	Road allowance
<b>Historical Significance</b>	None
<b>Proposed Access</b>	Yes
<b>Proposed Classification</b>	3
<b>Other Considerations</b>	Access to platform for frazil ice removal

**RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:**

<b>Signs identifying permitted access</b>	Yes
<b>Fencing / Gate, Property Delineation</b>	No
<b>Amenities – Washroom (permanent, portable), pavilion, other</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No

**BRIDGE ST LOT 89**

Legal Description: LT 87, 89 RCP 1023; THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

<b>Name / Description</b>	Bridge St Lot 89
<b>Plan#</b>	1023
<b>Current Use</b>	Cenotaph/ Unmaintained open space
<b>Current Formalized Access to Waterfront</b>	No
<b>Parcel Size (acres)</b>	0.81
<b>Water Frontage (m)</b>	110
<b>Parking Available</b>	No
<b>Washroom Facilities</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No
<b>Other Town Infrastructure</b>	None
<b>Historical Significance</b>	Cenotaph
<b>Proposed Access</b>	Yes, limited to parking availability
<b>Proposed Classification</b>	3
<b>Other Considerations</b>	Adjacent to Thornbury Highway 26 Bridge

## RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

<b>Signs identifying permitted access</b>	Yes
<b>Fencing / Gate, Property Delineation</b>	No
<b>Amenities – Washroom (permanent, portable), pavilion, other</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No

**BRIDGE ST LOT 88**

Legal Description: LT 88 RCP 1023; THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

<b>Name / Description</b>	Bridge St Lot 88
<b>Plan#</b>	RCP 1023
<b>Current Use</b>	Unmaintained open space
<b>Current Formalized Access to Waterfront</b>	Yes
<b>Parcel Size (acres)</b>	0.13
<b>Water Frontage (m)</b>	20
<b>Parking Available</b>	No
<b>Washroom Facilities</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No
<b>Other Town Infrastructure</b>	None
<b>Historical Significance</b>	None
<b>Proposed Access</b>	Yes, limited to parking availability
<b>Proposed Classification</b>	3
<b>Other Considerations</b>	Notice - Participation Agreement

## RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

<b>Signs identifying permitted access</b>	Yes
<b>Fencing / Gate, Property Delineation</b>	No
<b>Amenities – Washroom (permanent, portable), pavilion, other</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No

**BRUCE ST PARKETTE LOT 90**

Legal Description: LT 90 RCP 1023 SRO; THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

<b>Name / Description</b>	Bruce St Parkette Lot 90
<b>Plan#</b>	1023
<b>Current Use</b>	Developed parkland/trail
<b>Current Formalized Access to Waterfront</b>	No
<b>Parcel Size (acres)</b>	0.21
<b>Water Frontage (m)</b>	30
<b>Parking Available</b>	Yes
<b>Washroom Facilities</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	Yes
<b>Other Town Infrastructure</b>	Drainage pipe, Trestle Bridge and Georgian Trail
<b>Historical Significance</b>	CN Rail Line
<b>Proposed Access</b>	Yes, limited to parking availability
<b>Proposed Classification</b>	3
<b>Other Considerations</b>	Quit Claim - CNR

## RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

<b>Signs identifying permitted access</b>	Yes
<b>Fencing / Gate, Property Delineation</b>	No
<b>Amenities – Washroom (permanent, portable), pavilion, other</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No

**TOWN HALL PARK LOT 110**

Legal Description: LT 110 RCP 1023 EXCEPT PTS 3, 4 & 5 16R9989; S/T R152107; S/T INTEREST IN R152107; SUBJECT TO AN EASEMENT OVER PT 2 16R9989 IN FAVOUR OF PT LT 110 RCP 1023 PTS 3, 4 & 5 16R9989 AS IN GY44889; TOGETHER WITH AN EASEMENT OVER PT LT 110 RCP 1023 PTS 3, 4 & 5 16R9989 AS IN GY44888; TOWN OF THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

<b>Name / Description</b>	Town Hall Park Lot 110
<b>Plan#</b>	1023
<b>Current Use</b>	Developed parkland
<b>Current Formalized Access to Waterfront</b>	Yes
<b>Parcel Size (acres)</b>	1.86
<b>Water Frontage (m)</b>	119
<b>Parking Available</b>	Yes
<b>Washroom Facilities</b>	Limited to when Town Hall is open
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	Yes
<b>Other Town Infrastructure</b>	Drainage pipe
<b>Historical Significance</b>	Former Town Hall Property
<b>Proposed Access</b>	Yes, full public access
<b>Proposed Classification</b>	2
<b>Other Considerations</b>	S/T and T/W Easement; Notice and Transfer Easement; fishing

**RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:**

<b>Signs identifying permitted access</b>	Yes
<b>Fencing / Gate, Property Delineation</b>	No
<b>Amenities – Washroom (permanent, portable), pavilion, other</b>	Further consideration for band shell
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No



**HURON ST (HARBOUR RD) LOT 93**

Legal Description: LT 92-93 RCP 1023; LT 1-2 PL 465 THORNBURY; WATER LT LOCATION DT123 PL THORNBURY; PT WATER LT IN FRONT OF BLK A PL THORNBURY; PT WATER LT IN FRONT OF MILL RESERVE PL THORNBURY PT 1 & 2 16R1632 & PT 1 & 2 16R3490; S/T R167350, R65814; THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

<b>Name / Description</b>	Huron St (Harbour Rd) Lot 93
<b>Plan#</b>	1023
<b>Current Use</b>	Roadway/trail
<b>Current Formalized Access to Waterfront</b>	Yes
<b>Parcel Size (acres)</b>	3.34
<b>Water Frontage (m)</b>	290
<b>Parking Available</b>	Yes
<b>Washroom Facilities</b>	Yes
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	Yes
<b>Other Town Infrastructure</b>	Water line, wastewater line
<b>Historical Significance</b>	None
<b>Proposed Access</b>	Yes, full public access
<b>Proposed Classification</b>	1(A)
<b>Other Considerations</b>	Fishing and Harbour Lands

**RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:**

<b>Signs identifying permitted access</b>	Yes
<b>Fencing / Gate, Property Delineation</b>	No
<b>Amenities – Washroom (permanent, portable), pavilion, other</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No

**BAY ST E LOT 97**

Legal Description: LT 97 RCP 1023; THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

<b>Name / Description</b>	Bay St E Lot 97
<b>Plan#</b>	1023
<b>Current Use</b>	Open space
<b>Current Formalized Access to Waterfront</b>	Yes
<b>Parcel Size (acres)</b>	0.12
<b>Water Frontage (m)</b>	32
<b>Parking Available</b>	On Street
<b>Washroom Facilities</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No
<b>Other Town Infrastructure</b>	Wastewater line
<b>Historical Significance</b>	None
<b>Proposed Access</b>	Yes
<b>Proposed Classification</b>	3
<b>Other Considerations</b>	Notice; fishing

## RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

<b>Signs identifying permitted access</b>	Yes
<b>Fencing / Gate, Property Delineation</b>	No
<b>Amenities – Washroom (permanent, portable), pavilion, other</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No

**BAY ST E LOT 96**

Legal Description: LT 96 RCP 1023; THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

<b>Name / Description</b>	Bay St E Lot 96
<b>Plan#</b>	1023
<b>Current Use</b>	Open space/trail
<b>Current Formalized Access to Waterfront</b>	Yes
<b>Parcel Size (acres)</b>	0.14
<b>Water Frontage (m)</b>	50
<b>Parking Available</b>	On Street
<b>Washroom Facilities</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No
<b>Other Town Infrastructure</b>	No
<b>Historical Significance</b>	None
<b>Proposed Access</b>	Yes
<b>Proposed Classification</b>	3
<b>Other Considerations</b>	Fishing

## RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

<b>Signs identifying permitted access</b>	Yes – to be included with other signs in this area
<b>Fencing / Gate, Property Delineation</b>	No
<b>Amenities – Washroom (permanent, portable), pavilion, other</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No

**MCAULEY ST S ACCESS**

Legal Description: MCAULY ST PL THORNBURY BTN MILL SITE BLK PL THORNBURY AND KING ST PL THORNBURY; THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

<b>Name / Description</b>	McAuley St S access to the Mill Pond
<b>Plan#</b>	1023
<b>Current Use</b>	Open Green Space
<b>Current Formalized Access to Waterfront</b>	No
<b>Parcel Size (acres)</b>	0.14
<b>Water Frontage (m)</b>	30
<b>Parking Available</b>	Yes, on street only
<b>Washroom Facilities</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No
<b>Other Town Infrastructure</b>	Unopened Road Allowance
<b>Historical Significance</b>	None
<b>Proposed Access</b>	Kayak or Canoe
<b>Proposed Classification</b>	3
<b>Other Considerations</b>	None

**RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:**

<b>Signs identifying permitted access</b>	Yes
<b>Fencing / Gate, Property Delineation</b>	Yes
<b>Amenities – Washroom (permanent, portable), pavilion, other</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No

**FIREMAN'S PARK – OWNED BY GSCA**

Legal Description: PLAN 562 PT LOT 45 CLARKS ST PLAN 109 LOTS 1 TO 7 PT8 PT9

<b>Name / Description</b>	Fireman's Park and Playground
<b>Plan#</b>	562/109
<b>Current Use</b>	Park and Watershed
<b>Current Formalized Access to Waterfront</b>	Yes
<b>Parcel Size (acres)</b>	20 (1.18 Managed)
<b>Water Frontage (m)</b>	940
<b>Parking Available</b>	Yes
<b>Washroom Facilities</b>	Portable Toilets
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	Yes
<b>Other Town Infrastructure</b>	None
<b>Historical Significance</b>	None
<b>Proposed Access</b>	Yes
<b>Proposed Classification</b>	2
<b>Other Considerations</b>	Owned by GSCA

## RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

<b>Signs identifying permitted access</b>	Yes
<b>Fencing / Gate, Property Delineation</b>	No
<b>Amenities – Washroom (permanent, portable), pavilion, other</b>	No
<b>Waste Receptacles</b>	No







# CEMETERIES IN THE TOWN OF THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

Historical records for these cemeteries are incomplete

## PRIMITIVE METHODIST CEMETERY 1862

416249 10th Line, Lot 20

Adopted by Brad and Theresa Oakley who maintain the grounds on behalf of the Town

- 6 Burials Recorded



## WHITES METHODIST CEMETERY 1850

416181 10th Line, Lot 18

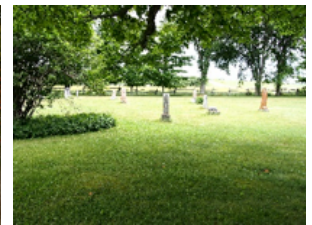
- 140 Burials Recorded



## GIBRALTAR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CEMETERY 1880

595190 4th Line, Lot 4

- 113 Burials Recorded



## CARMEL METHODIST GIBRALTAR CEMETERY 1870

595251 4th Line

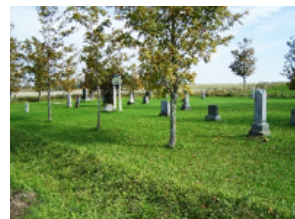
- 174 Burials Recorded



## BANKS UNITED CHURCH CEMETERY 1865

596065 4th Line

- 118 Burials Recorded



## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CEMETERY 1872

236698 Grey Road 13, Lot 22

- 7 Burials Recorded



## ANGLICAN CHURCH CEMETERY 1860

496434 Grey Road 2, Lot 23

Adopted by John Wensley who maintains the grounds on behalf of the Town.

- 11 Recorded Burials





Town of The Blue Mountains

# Leisure Activities Plan Update 2020

## FINAL REPORT

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**Dunbar &  
Associates**

April 2021





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The Leisure Activities Plan Update 2020 was prepared by Dunbar & Associates for the Town of The Blue Mountains. The report reflects the professional judgment of Dunbar & Associates, based on the scope of the study and methodologies agreed upon by Dunbar & Associates and the Town (Town Report #CSOPS.20.042), to complete the project. No part of this publication may be altered or changed (except for Appendices 5-9 which were prepared exclusively by the Town) without prior permission of Dunbar & Associates. As the author of the report, Dunbar & Associates reserves the right to alter, change or modify the document at our sole discretion.

## Acknowledgements

Dunbar & Associates would like to recognize and thank all the individuals who completed a survey, participated in an interview, or joined in a focus group. Your interest and involvement will help shape the future of recreation in the Town of The Blue Mountains. We also want to express our gratitude to the LAP Steering Committee for their dedication to the project, giving input and advice, discussing issues with us, and acting as a sounding board at various stages of the project.

### LAP Steering Committee Members

Councillor Bordignon  
Bill Abbotts  
Scott Bamford  
Cathy Innes  
Michael P. Thompson  
Marc Anthony Venere  
Barb Weeden

Thank you to the Municipal Staff, especially Ryan Gibbons, Tanya Patterson, and Tim Hendry, who provided resources and expertise to ensure that the best result could be achieved. They assisted in preparing and implementing a communications plan and liaising with the media, facilitating the survey administration, organizing and hosting meetings, taking minutes, sharing documents and reports, and providing input and feedback throughout the study process. We greatly valued their assistance and direction.

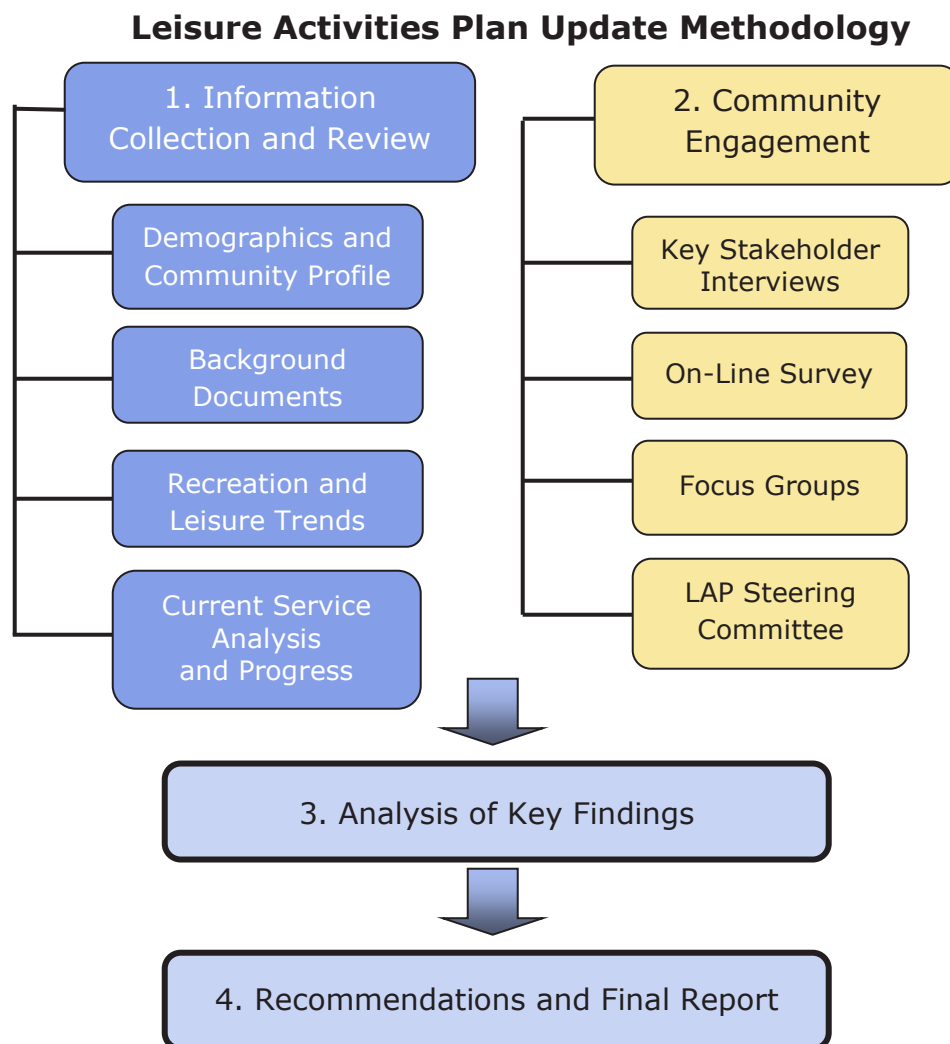
We also acknowledge the leadership of the Town Council and CAO Shawn Everitt, and their participation in the process. Their commitment to planning for the future of recreation in the Town of The Blue Mountains will facilitate improvements of facilities, programs and services that respond to the growing and changing needs of the community.

### Council Members

Alar Soever, Mayor  
Rob Potter, Deputy Mayor  
Peter Bordignon, Councillor  
Paula Hope, Councillor  
Andrea Matrosovs, Councillor  
Rob Sampson, Councillor  
Jim Uram, Councillor

## Executive Summary

The Town of The Blue Mountains contracted Dunbar & Associates to complete an update to the Town's Leisure Activities Plan (initially prepared in 2006 and last updated in 2015). The LAP Update identifies growing and changing recreational needs within the community (including parks, trails and green space; and recreation programs, facilities and services) to enable informed decision making about planning and prioritizing opportunities for recreation, making necessary upgrades, and determining the potential need for a multi-use recreation facility. The LAP makes recommendations for short and long term initiatives to provide the level of service required for current and future recreational needs. The study commenced in July 2020, and finished with final reporting in April 2021.



## 1. INFORMATION COLLECTION AND REVIEW

### Demographics, Community Profile and Background Documents

A thorough review of existing documents, census data, growth forecasts and projections, strategic and planning documents, and other relevant information was done.

These are unprecedented times and it is difficult to predict with any certainty, how fast or how much the population of The Blue Mountains will grow. Current demographics were taken from the most recent Statistics Canada 2016 Census. The 2021 Census is coming out this year, and Grey County is anticipated to be undertaking growth analysis for its member municipalities, so further insight may be gained.

What is clear from available data is that The Blue Mountains is growing faster than the rate predicted in 2015, and growth is anticipated to continue, based on observed trends. This trend has been accelerated and intensified by the Covid-19 Pandemic that was an impetus for people to move out of large cities to communities, such as The Blue Mountains, where there is more fresh air, space and smaller populations.

### Recreation and Leisure Trends Research

A review of trends in recreation and leisure was completed. Some trends identified in the *2015 Leisure Activity Plan* are still significant and will continue, such as the growing appeal of “drop in” and drop off” forms of recreation; the increasing population of active older adults; and the rising number of non-permanent residents and visitors who want more recreational opportunities and amenities. Some other significant and emerging trends are:

- The growing expectation that recreation programs, parks, and facilities are environmentally conscious in the programs and services they provide, in how they manage and operate their facilities, and in the choices they make.
- The rapidly increasing and changing use of technology, mostly driven by the Millennial age group, which poses both remarkable opportunities as well as some management dilemmas!
- The need to adapt and modify programs and facilities so that they are accessible to and inclusive of everyone (e.g., barrier free, multigenerational, intergenerational, family-oriented).
- The expanding role of recreation centres and facilities, beyond traditional recreation services and programs, in response to social needs (e.g., health and wellness hubs, after school programs, cooling and warming shelters, supports for at-risk individuals).

The Town of The Blue Mountains can expect the call for environmental sustainability and reduction of the carbon footprint of parks and recreation; an increasing interest in cycling routes, walking and hiking trails, and outdoor spaces with amenities such as wi-fi, washrooms, dog parks, splash pads; programs that advance gender and racial equality and respond to societal needs; and



multi-use facilities that combine a variety of indoor/outdoor activities and that accommodate and appeal to a large variety of user groups.

### **Current Service Analysis and Town Recreation Inventories**

The existing inventory of recreational facilities, parks and trails was reviewed. In conjunction with existing facility and park inventories, other documentation provided by the Town, and the public consultation process, the consultants made recommendations taking into account assessment of physical condition and readiness to serve the public within a 10-year horizon.

## **2. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

A Steering Committee was formed to review, discuss and give input into the process. Summary reports for each of the Community Engagement initiatives (i.e., Key Stakeholder Interviews, On-line Survey, and Focus Groups) were prepared and are included in the Appendices. A brief synopsis of findings follows.

### **Key Stakeholders Interview Summary**

Dunbar and Associates conducted interviews with approximately fifty key stakeholders and community advocates, such as local and regional Town officials, community associations and clubs, private and corporate entities, and other recreation stakeholders in the community. Key messages and common themes were:

- The Town of The Blue Mountains is quickly growing and changing which is stressing and pressuring the community in its transition. The Covid-19 Pandemic has further intensified these pressures and stresses.
- Provision of recreation facilities, amenities and services hasn't kept pace with municipal growth. Short term or interim program and facility solutions are needed now.
- An accessible, inclusive, multi-purpose facility is overdue.
- A regional approach with strong and committed partners is the way forward.
- A well-planned, executed and phased approach with room to grow is needed.
- This is a critical investment in our future and we have to get it right. We need to complement and enhance what exists now, and learn from best practices.
- User fees and funding must be inclusive and affordable while covering costs.
- A community hub, incorporating health services, would be a catalyst for the municipality and promote an active healthy community.
- The Town is in a good location to tap into the regional sport/tourism market.

## Survey Report

A total of 733 respondents participated in the Leisure Activities Plan on-line survey between August 5, 2020 and October 16, 2020. Paper copies were also made available. A complete survey report is in the Appendices and a brief synopsis is presented here.

- Three quarters of respondents say The Blue Mountains is their primary residence. One quarter (24.7%) do not make The Blue Mountains their primary residence and of these, half (50.6% or 180 respondents) are planning on doing so in 1 to 5 years. A quarter (21.2%) will follow in 6 to 10 years. Another quarter (28.3%) have no plans at this time to make The Blue Mountains their primary residence.
- When the “very satisfied” and “satisfied” responses are added, respondents are most satisfied with Trails (91%), followed by Parks, Green Space and Horticultural Features (70%); Athletic Fields and Courts (49%); Facilities (45%); and Programs (36%).
- In terms of “very dissatisfied” and “dissatisfied,” respondents dissatisfaction levels are: Facilities (19%); Programs (22%); Parks, Green Space and Horticultural Features (11%); Athletic Fields and Courts (10%); and Trails (1.3%).

	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
<b>Recreation Programs</b>	6%	30%	39%	18%	4%
<b>Recreation Facilities</b>	8%	37%	33%	17%	2%
<b>Trails</b>	47%	44%	7%	1%	0.3%
<b>Athletic Fields and Courts</b>	9%	40%	37%	9%	1%
<b>Parks, Green Space, Horticultural Features</b>	19%	51%	16%	9%	2%

Percents are rounded and may not total to 100% due to some respondents not ranking, but choosing to comment instead. It is a red flag when dissatisfaction levels approach 10% of the population, as it represents a significant number of discontent people in a population, and is an opportunity for the Town to make positive change which will translate to higher levels of satisfaction in the community.

- Just over half of respondents (54%) would like the Town to continue with the same scale, type and number of special events. About a third (37%) would like to see an increase in events, while 4% want a decrease. There is an interest in events for families, children, and community, as well as an interest in sports tourism events and competitions. It’s important to find the right balance and know when “enough is enough.”
- The top priority for the most respondents (134) is an Indoor Pool, followed by Access to Georgian Bay (78), Fitness Centre (75), Multi Use Trails (75), and Indoor Multi Use Facility (73). There also was strong interest in Pickleball (41), Harbour and Boat Launch Improvements (21) and a Wakeboard Park (27) that was identified as an additional choice in the open ended comments.
- Almost 84% of respondents are supportive or very supportive of exploring the opportunity of a multi-use recreation facility that is a regional hub in partnership with neighbouring

municipalities. However, there are conditions that should be met and there may be disadvantages of sharing a multi-use centre with the region.

- About 78% of respondents are in favour of exploring the possibility of a multi-use recreation centre and community hub that includes private health and wellness partners and neighbouring communities. There was some confusion around this question, and respondents would like more information before supporting the idea.
- Recreation opportunities should be available for all abilities, and accessibility should be first and foremost in any facility.

### **Focus Groups Summary Report**

Three focus groups were convened during three separate sessions (on December 3 and 4, 2020) of about two hours each. There were 12 citizens and six Committee members engaged in discussion during the three sessions. Key messages coming from the discussions were:

- Recreation programs and services have not kept pace with residents' needs.
- A transition strategy is required how to enhance current facilities for short-term improvements while working towards larger or additional facilities for the long term.
- Regardless of whether there is a multi-use facility or not, enhancements to existing facilities, programs, and services are needed.
- Trails, cycling routes, and active transportation are a critical and ongoing investment in the community.
- Short and long term planning that balances protection of waterfront with management of visitor use, is vital to the well-being of this community resource.
- Creative thinking is necessary to address recreation needs of all residents, living in all areas of the Town of the Blue Mountains.
- A regional hub is not without big challenges, and implies solid partnerships and connection of services to a focal point that make the best sense for residents.
- Recreation in the Town of The Blue Mountains must be affordable and financially accessible to all, with preferential rates for residents.

## **3. ANALYSIS OF KEY FINDINGS**

Community consultation and information collection and review culminated in six major concepts and four guiding principles for the provision of leisure activities in The Blue Mountains.

### **A Community in Transition**

The Town of The Blue Mountains has been experiencing accelerated population growth since the mid 1980's. In the last few years, unprecedented growth continues, which has been intensified by the Covid-19 Pandemic.

The Blue Mountains is a community in transition, which is a natural maturing that all growing municipalities inevitably face. Many of the new residents seek a more active, healthy lifestyle, and want to keep fit as they age in a wide variety of pursuits that may be quite different than the traditional offerings for older adults, while others are looking for a vibrant, spacious, and community-minded environment to raise their family. The Town is now tasked with providing leadership in developing recreation programs and facilities for this emerging population who have much different needs and expectations than its former population base. The growth must be accommodated not only by addressing the recreation needs of the residents in developing neighbourhoods, but also in mature neighbourhoods.

### Setting Direction With Six Major Concepts

<p><b>Major Concept #1: Parks, Waterfront, Greenspaces and Horticultural Features</b></p> <p>The natural environment is one of the Town of The Blue Mountains greatest assets to be maintained, protected, and enhanced for residents, visitors and future generations.</p>
<p><b>Major Concept #2: Recreation Programs</b></p> <p>The Town of The Blue Mountains is a growing community whose residents are interested in more year round, indoor and outdoor recreation programs and activities, as diverse in nature as the residents themselves.</p>
<p><b>Major Concept #3: Recreation Facilities</b></p> <p>The Town of The Blue Mountains has reached a point where existing recreation facilities cannot keep up with the growing demand. The way forward is a two-pronged approach: upgrade and enhance existing facilities in the short term, and consider and plan for additional needed facilities, including laying the foundation to build a new multi-use facility, in the longer term.</p>
<p><b>Major Concept #4: Trails, Cycling Routes, and Active Transportation</b></p> <p>Trails, cycling routes, and active transportation have become increasingly essential aspects of a prosperous and healthy community. The Town of The Blue Mountains is ideally situated to plan and secure multiple opportunities for unstructured, unscheduled recreation that is accessible, affordable and inclusive of all ages and abilities.</p>
<p><b>Major Concept #5: Athletic Fields and Courts</b></p> <p>Athletic fields and courts require revamping and expansion to better serve growing and changing needs, including flexibility and adaptation of courts and fields for various uses, within the community as new trends influence sport, the older adult population grows, and new families move into the area.</p>
<p><b>Major Concept #6: Special Events</b></p> <p>The Town of The Blue Mountains is in an enviable setting to host special community-focused events for its residents and high quality regional, provincial, or North American events in partnership with stakeholder groups.</p>

## **Guiding Principles**

These principles are intended to be an inherent part of the major concepts and the recommendations. They are a touchstone for measuring all decisions or actions. Is this program or facility accessible and inclusive? Is it environmentally sustainable? Have potential partners been considered that would improve the participant experience? Does it take into account the influence of, or incorporate, the latest technology?

- Accessibility and Inclusivity
- Environmental Sustainability
- Partner Involvement
- Technological Advancement

## **4. RECOMMENDATIONS AND FINAL REPORT**

The Final LAP Report makes 123 recommendations for enhancement and improvement of municipal recreation and leisure in the six major concept areas.

In order to keep momentum going for positive change, and commence implementation immediately in 2021, eight recommendations were flagged as being key. They are strategic in nature because they lay the groundwork for achieving success in implementing the rest of the LAP recommendations.

**Strategy #1:** Review the current **Town resources available** to move ahead effectively with all recommendations, including staff time and commitment required; level and expertise of staff required; financial planning to move ahead effectively; and department structure.

**Strategy #2:** Update the **Town's Official Plan** Sections that deal with public parkland and open space; general policies applying to all public parkland; parkland development policies; and any other recreation components. Include Section 37 and Section 45 of the Planning Act (and develop protocol for negotiating section 37 community benefits) including policy provisions.

**Strategy #3:** Appoint a **Parks Committee** to pro-actively engage in needed strategic and policy planning, help prioritize relevant initiatives and projects, and recommend and promote implementation for enhancements to Park's programs, services, and facilities.

**Strategy #4:** Appoint an **Active Transportation Committee** to pro-actively engage in needed strategic and policy planning; prioritize relevant projects and initiatives; recommend and promote implementation for enhancements to trails, cycling routes, and other active transportation programs, services, and facilities; and facilitate the Town's involvement with the related County project.



**Strategy #5:** Explore a **Regional Approach**, of recreation facilities, services, and programs, led by the Town, and in collaboration with identified and potential partners (i.e., area municipalities, School Boards, private sector, etc.) which could review municipal assets and life cycles for potential regional facilities, and consider and explore joint-use agreements.

**Strategy #6:** Begin the ground work for building a **Multi-Use Recreation Facility (or facilities)** such as forming an Advisory Committee; tendering a Feasibility Study, which would determine whether or not a multi-use recreation facility is feasible and with what specific components and amenities (including culture, arts and wellness components); investigating regional partnership opportunities; applying for government funding opportunities; and researching best practices and processes as used by other municipalities that have completed successful like projects.

**Strategy #7:** Consider developing a **Partnership Framework**, which could include components such as partner planning principles, opportunities audit process, methods of locating partners, definition of the elements of a successful partnership, and evaluation/assessment criteria.

**Strategy #8:** Devise and implement an **ongoing process for engaging residents** and receiving their feedback regularly regarding the planning and provision of leisure services.

## **1. Introduction**

The Town of The Blue Mountains contracted Dunbar & Associates to complete an update to the Town's Leisure Activities Plan (initially prepared in 2006 and last updated in 2015). The work to update the Leisure Activities Plan was approved in the Town's 2020 budget.

The population of the Town of The Blue Mountains has been steadily growing since the mid 1980's, however, there has been unprecedented growth in the last few years, which has been accelerated by the Covid-19 Pandemic.

The Blue Mountains is a community in transition, with a quickly growing population that has expectations for recreation programs and facilities comparable to those in other communities, and that is responsive to the changing trends in society. Many of the new residents seek a more active, healthy lifestyle and want to keep fit as they age in a wide variety of pursuits that may be quite different than the traditional offerings for older adults, while others are looking for a vibrant, spacious, and community-minded environment to raise their family. The Town is now tasked with providing leadership in developing recreation programs and facilities for this emerging population, who have much different needs and expectations than its former population base.

### **1.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE UPDATE**

The purpose of LAP is to identify the growing and changing recreational needs within the community to enable informed decision making about planning and prioritizing opportunities for recreation, making necessary upgrades, and determining the potential need for a multi-use recreation facility. LAP makes recommendations for short and long-term initiatives, to provide the level of service required for current and future recreational needs.

The scope of the Leisure Activities Plan (LAP) Update includes parks, trails and green space; recreation programs, facilities and services that are provided by the Town of The Blue Mountains, and other such recreation opportunities that exist for residents which are provided through other sectors, such as private recreation facilities, regional trail systems, and the like.

The study of cultural aspects was beyond the scope of this study, however the importance of arts and culture in the community was definitely voiced by residents, leading to several recommendations in the report to inventory culture and arts programs; invest in an outdoor stage/theatre; and consider incorporating cultural, arts, and wellness into a potential multi-use facility.

## 1.2 STUDY PROCESS

The LAP Update commenced in July 2020, and finished with the final reporting in April 2021. It was comprised of four major components:

**Phase 1:** Information Collection and Review (which included community demographics, significant recreation and leisure trends, review of background reports, studies and relevant information, current facility inventories, and progress made since 2015 LAP Update).

**Phase 2:** Community Engagement (which involved the formation of a steering committee, communications plan, on-line and paper survey, key stakeholder interviews, and three focus groups).

**Phase 3:** Analysis of Key Findings (which looked at the key messages coming from all components of Phase 1 and 2, identifying the main challenges and opportunities, and preparing major concepts and guiding principles).

**Phase 4:** Recommendations and Final Reporting (based on Phase 3, recommendations were written, including level of priority, general timeline, and financial implications, with review, discussion, and input from the Steering Committee. The Final Report was prepared.

## 1.3 METHODOLOGY

The consulting team used a number of methods and resources to collect and analyze relevant information on which to base their recommendations.

### Phase 1: Information Collection and Review

#### Demographics, Community Profile, and Background Documents

A thorough review of existing documents that have relevance to this project was done, including, 2006 and 2015 Leisure Activities Plans; Corporate Strategic Plan 2015-2020; 2009 Multi-Use Facility Study; Development Charges Studies; Official Plan; The Blue Mountains Sustainable Path 2010-2060; as well as the related Tangible Capital Assets Policy; current census data and demographic profiles; growth forecasts; County school board projections; real estate sales and forecasts; location-site mapping; funding options, and other relevant documents.

#### Recreation and Leisure Trends Research

A review of trends in recreation and leisure was completed. Some trends, such as the growing appeal of “drop in” and drop off” forms of recreation; the increasing population of active older adults; and the rising number of non-permanent residents and visitors who want more recreational opportunities and amenities that were identified in the *2015 Leisure Activity Plan* for The Blue Mountains. These trends are still significant today, and will continue into the foreseeable future.

As well, new and emerging trends are surfacing, posing new opportunities and challenges. The Town of The Blue Mountains has already been experiencing some of these newer trends. Some will continue to intensify, such as the call for environmental sustainability, reduction of the carbon footprint of parks and recreation, increasing interest in cycling, programs that advance gender and racial equality, and the expanding role for parks and recreation to respond to societal needs.

The complete *Parks and Recreation Trends Research* paper is in Appendix 1.

### **Current Service Analysis and Town Recreation Inventories**

The existing inventory of recreational facilities, parks and trails and progress made since the 2015 LAP Update were reviewed and analyzed. In conjunction with existing facility and park inventories and other documentation provided by the Town, the survey, interviews and focus groups, the consultants made recommendations taking into account assessment of physical condition and readiness to serve the public within a 10-year horizon.

Note: Concurrent with this Leisure Activities project, the Town has recently and independently updated the following recreation Inventories (as well as the Cemeteries information), which are appended to provide related background and detailed information: Appendix 5: *Town Parks and Amenities*; Appendix 6: *Town Trails and Amenities*; Appendix 7: *Town Facilities*; Appendix 8: *Town Waterfront Property, with 'Classification' Information*; and Appendix 9: *Town Cemeteries*.

## **Phase 2: Community Engagement**

A broad range of residents and community stakeholders had the opportunity to express how they feel about current parks and recreation services and facilities, and were invited to identify ways in which their lives can be enriched through recreation, culture and sport participation in the future. This was achieved by a comprehensive strategy to engage the public.

### **Communication Plan**

The Town kicked off the study process with a strong communications campaign consisting of the following components:

- **Town Website, Social Media and E-Blast**
  - Press release posted on Town website announcing the launch of the survey and public engagement campaign
  - Press release distributed to website subscribers and posted to Town social media accounts
  - Project notification sent to registered users on <http://yourview.thebluemountains.ca>
- **Survey Distribution**
  - Both online and hardcopy surveys made available to the public
  - Hardcopies available at Town Hall and other Municipal facilities if open to public access

- **Media List and Community Partnerships**
  - Press release and details regarding the public engagement opportunity distributed to the Town media list
  - Staff promoted the community engagement opportunity to local organizations and service clubs with the goal of fostering word-of-mouth communication
- **Post Card Mailer**
  - 5" x 7" post cards mailed to all registered addresses in TBM
- **Radio Advertising**
  - Local radio campaign on 95.1 The Peak FM (Collingwood) and Jewel FM (Meaford) featuring advertisements targeted to key commuting and listening times
- **Newspaper Advertising**
  - ½ page ad in August Blue Mountain Review
  - Two ¼ page ads in Collingwood Connection
- **Signage**
  - Chamber of Commerce Sign Rental
  - Road Signs

### **Key Stakeholder Interviews**

Dunbar and Associates conducted interviews with approximately fifty key stakeholders and community advocates, such as local and regional Town officials, community associations and clubs, private and corporate entities, and other recreation stakeholders in the community. The intent of the interviews was to get a well-rounded and full perspective on the issues and challenges for the Town of The Blue Mountains, and the best ideas and advice for advancing parks and recreation in the future.

The *Key Stakeholders Interview Summary* (with key messages from the interviews, identifying the common themes, as well as points of divergence in opinion) is in Appendix 2.

### **Community Survey**

The Town of The Blue Mountains Leisure Activities Plan on-line survey gave residents an opportunity to give their input into the planning process. The survey was posted on the Town website and opened to the public on August 5, 2020 and closed October 16, 2020.

A total of 733 respondents participated in the survey. This is an excellent and very high rate of response, and it is indicative of strong public interest in this planning process. Many of the respondents provided numerous detailed comments and suggestions, further indicating their interest in the process. Paper copies of the survey were made available to those people who could not access a computer or who preferred to complete a written survey.

A complete *Survey Report* can be found in Appendix 3.



### **Focus Groups**

Three focus groups were convened, during three separate sessions of about two hours each, using Microsoft Teams video conferencing, on December 3, at 2:00 pm, and at 6:30 pm, and December 4, at 10:00 am. There were 12 citizens and six Committee members engaged in discussion during the three sessions.

With the help of the Leisure Activities Plan Steering Committee, participants were selected to represent a variety of parks, recreation, and leisure viewpoints and interests within the Town of The Blue Mountains, including the goal to have representation of varying ages, genders, geographic locations, and seasonal/full-time residents.

The purpose of the Town of The Blue Mountains focus groups was to:

1. Review key findings with participants for validation (e.g., key trends; key interview themes; key findings on survey).
2. Probe and explore in detail some of the more pressing issues in order to:
  - a) Get a deeper understanding of the issue from a variety of perspectives.
  - b) Identify key challenges and opportunities.
  - c) Collect ideas and options that participants have for resolving the issue or moving forward.
3. Provide an opportunity for participants to give personal input that they think is important and that they have not had a chance to voice.

Note: The Steering Committee and Consultants had hoped that the focus groups process would have had more participants, but had restricted numbers due to public meeting restrictions because of the Covid-19 Pandemic. Notwithstanding, the participants offered numerous and high quality input! The *Focus Groups Summary Report* is in Appendix 4.

### **Steering Committee**

A Steering Committee was formed to review, discuss, and give input into the study process. Members of the Committee were an invaluable resource of information and advice, as well as a sounding board for key findings and recommendations.

### **Phase 3: Analysis of Key Findings**

This Phase is the precursor to making recommendations and it consolidated all the information collected to date. Significant opportunities, challenges and major concepts were summarized.

### **Phase 4: Recommendations and Final Reporting**

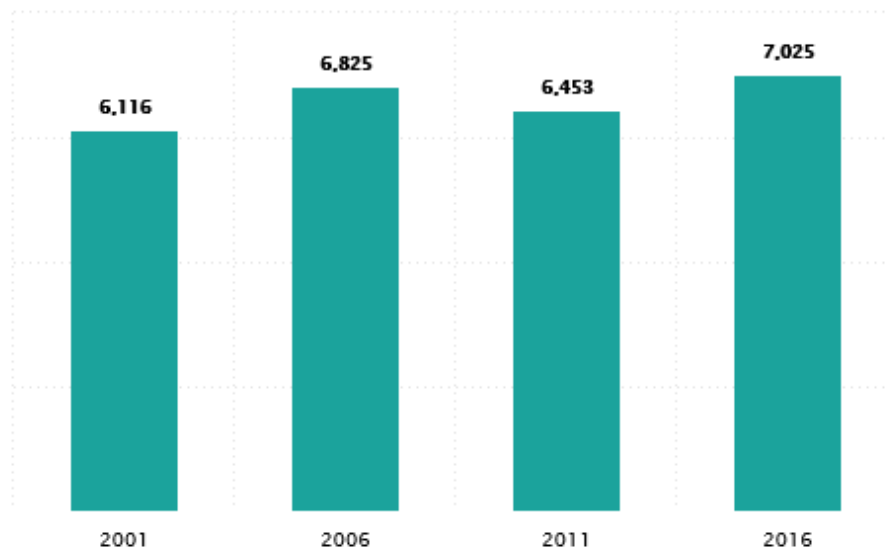
The study process culminated with 123 recommendations and submission of the Final Report. It also identified eight strategic recommendations that can be implemented in 2021 and which lay the groundwork for successfully implementing the other LAP recommendations.

## 2. Community Demographics

The Town of The Blue Mountains website provides a Community Profile, including demographics, on the Business and Development page. The demographics are taken from the most recent 2016 Census, Statistics Canada and last updated in 2017. Some pertinent data from the webpage is shown below and the complete Community Profile can be found at [www.thebluemountains.ca](http://www.thebluemountains.ca).

### 2.1 POPULATION

Source: Statistics Canada. 2016 Census.  
Last Updated: February 2017



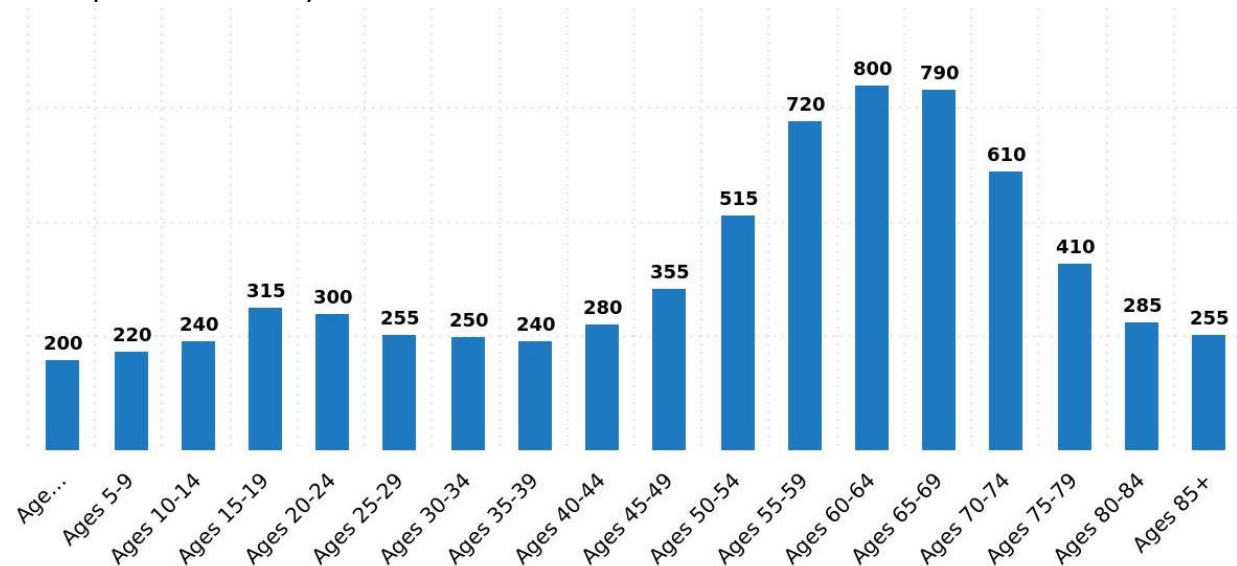
In 2016, the overall population of The Blue Mountains was 7,025 and was growing at a rate of 0.99% per year over the past 15 years from 2001 to 2016.

Overall, there are slightly more women (140) than men in the total population.

## 2.2 AGES

Source: Statistics Canada. 2016 Census.

Last Updated: February 2017

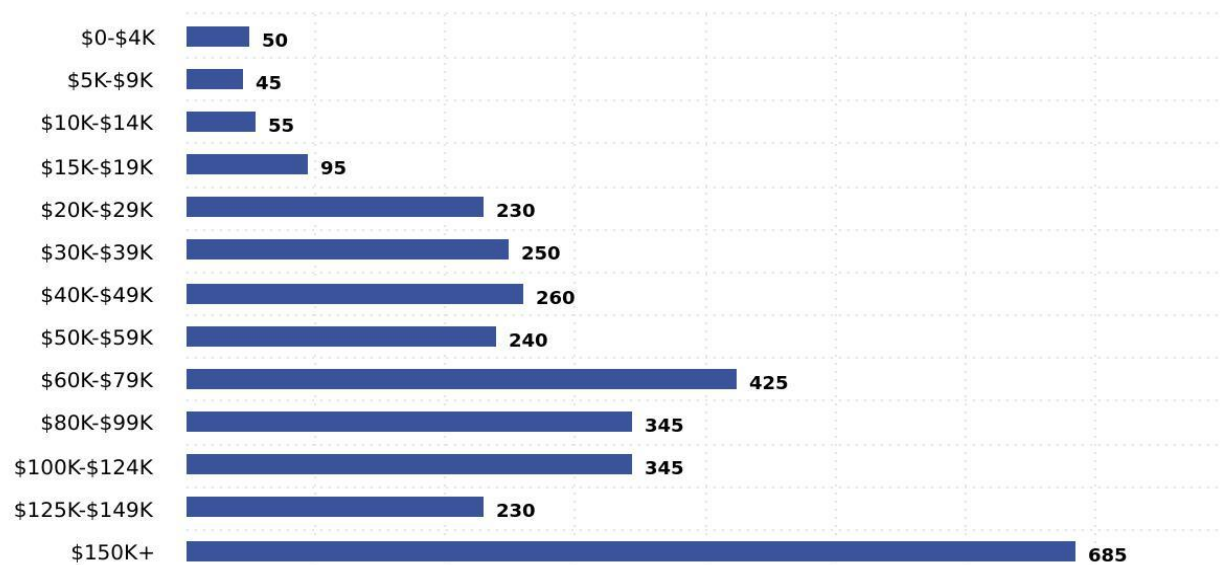


The population of The Blue Mountains is aging, with the highest numbers of people between the ages of 55 and 70 (roughly 33%, or a third of the total population). The median age of the total population is 57 years old.

## 2.3 HOUSEHOLD INCOME

Source: Statistics Canada. 2016 Census.

Last Updated: September 2017



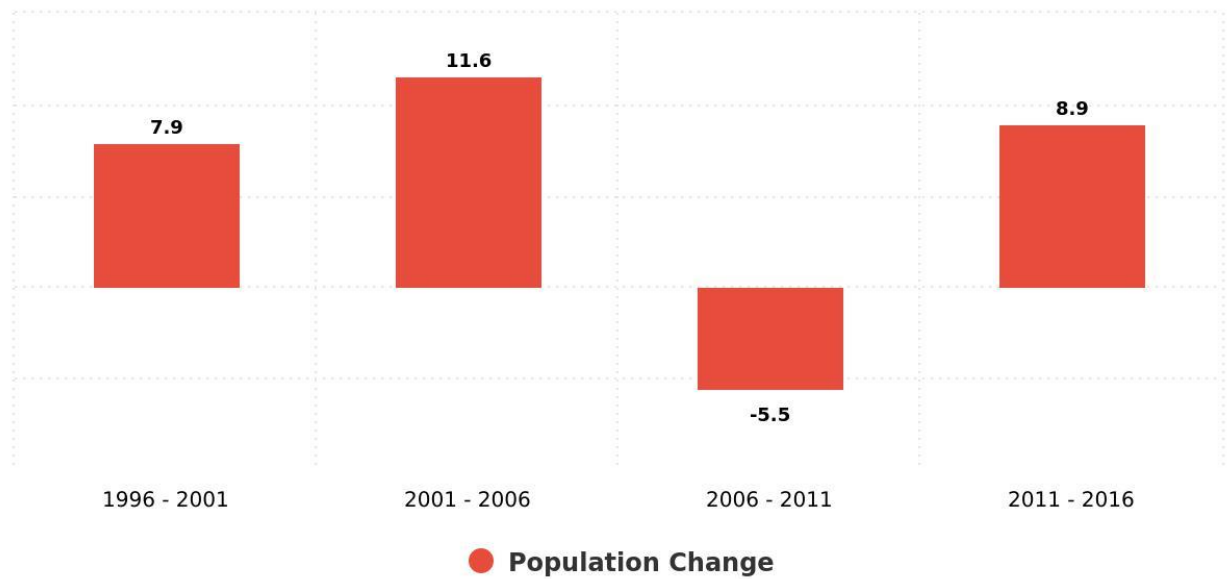
The Canadian national median of total household income, according to the 2016 Census, was \$70,336 per year, while in The Blue Mountains, the median of total household income was higher, at \$78,490\* per year. About 30% of households have an income between \$20,000 and \$59,000 and roughly 60% have a household income of greater than \$60,000.

The average total income of households in The Blue Mountains is \$122,199, compared to the national average of \$92,764.

\*The median means that there are as many households below the \$78,490 median, as above it.

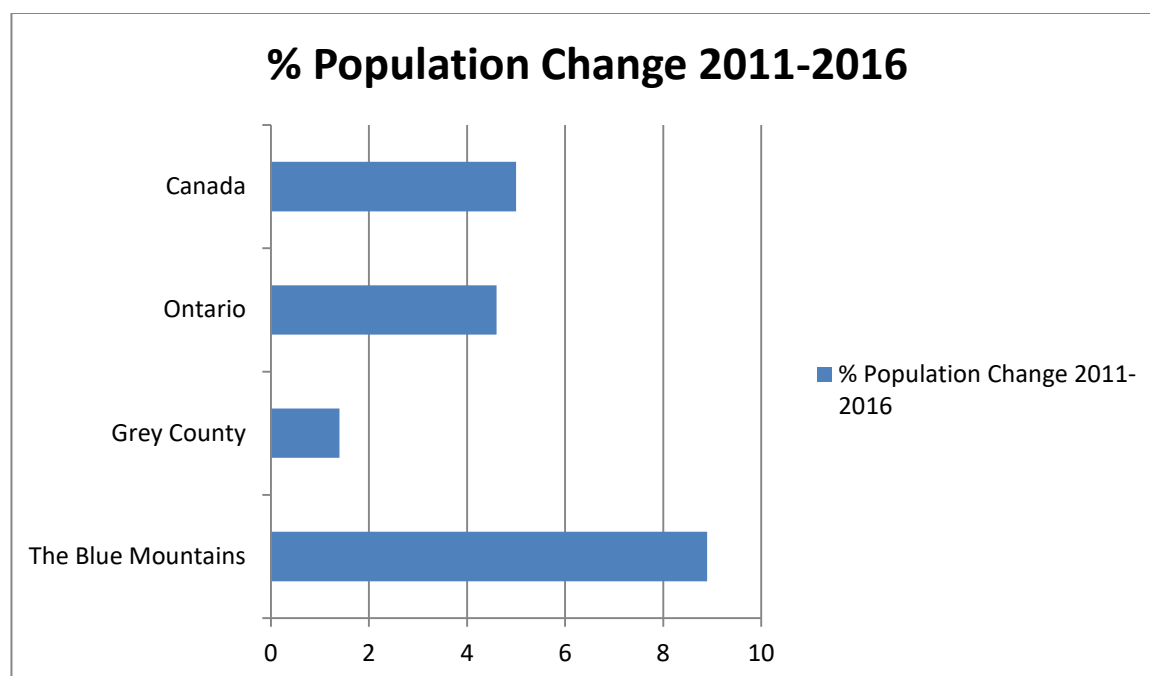
2.4 POPULATION CHANGE (%)

Source: Statistics Canada. 2016 Census.  
Last Updated: February 2017



The Town of The Blue Mountains has seen 8.9% population change from 2011 to 2016. To put this in context, for the same period, population change in Ontario was 4.6% and in Canada 5%, as the following graph shows.

In 2016, there were 3,271 private dwellings occupied in The Blue Mountains, which is a 14.9% change from 2011. (Focus on Geography Series, 2016 Census at: <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/as-sa/fogs-spg/Facts-csd-eng.cfm?LANG=Eng&GK=CSD&GC=3542045&TOPIC=1>).



Source: [https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/as-sa/fogs-spg/desc/Facts-desc.cfm?LANG=Eng&GK=CSD&GC=3542045&TOPIC=1&#fd1\\_2](https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/as-sa/fogs-spg/desc/Facts-desc.cfm?LANG=Eng&GK=CSD&GC=3542045&TOPIC=1&#fd1_2)

The *Grey County Growth Management Strategy – Forecast and Land Supply Review and Update* addressed the 2016 Census and recent development activity, “to confirm the results of the 2015 forecasts and to extend the forecasts to a 2038 horizon which now represents a twenty-year planning period for updating the Grey County Official Plan” (Hemson Consulting Ltd., 2018).

The total population growth in The Blue Mountains, between 2016 and 2038, is forecasted to be 1,840 people (or 1.1% growth rate).

	Total Population 2018	Total Population 2038	Net Change 2016-2038	Compound Annual Growth Rate
The Blue Mountains	7260	9100	1840	1.1%

#### Local Municipal Shares of County-wide Forecast Housing Growth, 2016-2036 County of Grey by Local Municipality

Municipality	2015 GMS	2017 Update
Blue Mountains	16%	16%
Chatsworth	5%	3%
Georgian Bluffs	12%	10%
Grey Highlands	12%	14%
Hanover	7%	5%



Municipality	2015 GMS	2017 Update
Meaford	13%	10%
Owen Sound	17%	18%
Southgate	8%	13%
West Grey	11%	10%

The Town of the Blue Mountains, at 16% growth, has a high share (second to Owen Sound at 18%) of forecast housing growth, consistent with observed and anticipated trends. Overall, updated forecasts show more residents and more households County-wide than anticipated under the 2015 forecasts.

Currently, The Blue Mountains has 3,850 occupied households, 230 vacant units, 4,300 seasonal recreational units, for a total of 8380 private dwellings, second to Owen Sound with 11,120 total dwellings.

In terms of seasonal recreational units, it is forecasted that The Blue Mountains will see a net change of 1,050 units by 2036.

#### Growth Outlook for Seasonal Recreational Units Grey County by Local Municipality, 2016 – 2036

Municipality	Estimated Seasonal Recreational Units		
	2011	2036	Net Change
The Blue Mountains	3250	4300	<b>1050</b>
Chatsworth	390	440	<b>50</b>
Georgian Bluffs	770	900	<b>130</b>
Grey Highlands	1500	1770	<b>270</b>
Hanover	0	0	<b>0</b>
Meaford	670	760	<b>90</b>
Owen Sound	0	0	<b>0</b>
Southgate	270	310	<b>40</b>
West Grey	580	670	<b>90</b>
<b>Grey County</b>	<b>7430</b>	<b>9150</b>	<b>1720</b>

“The Town of the Blue Mountains is anticipated to experience the greatest level of seasonal recreational unit growth, consistent with its historically significant share of these types of units and an expectation of continued demand for the municipalities natural recreational amenities.” (Hemson Consulting Ltd., 2015).

## 2.5 NEW AND CHANGING PROJECTIONS ON THE HORIZON

These are unprecedented times, and it is difficult to predict with any certainty, how fast or how much the population of The Blue Mountains will grow. The 2021 Census comes out this year. It will provide an update to the 2016 data that was used in the preparation of this report. It is recommended that the population growth outlook be updated, as necessary, once the 2021 Census has been released. Furthermore, the Municipal Planning Department provides the following update:

*The [2019 Development Charges Background Study](#) provides the most up to date growth projections produced for the Town. Growth projections are provided for residential and non-residential growth and are broken down by service area (Lora Bay, Thornbury, Camperdown, Craighleith, etc.) and also Town Wide. It is noted that the COVID 19 pandemic has led to what may be emerging as a surge in new residents moving to the community and a shift of part time residents now becoming full time residents. These growth trends and the impacts on future growth as it continues have not been calculated in the projections provided. It should also be noted that Grey County is anticipated to be undertaking growth analysis for its member municipalities and further detailed growth projections may become available through that initiative.*

What is clear from available data (see 2.5.1 below) is that The Blue Mountains is growing faster than the rate predicted in 2015, and growth is anticipated to continue, based on observed trends. There has been an historic demand for housing in the municipality due to the appeal of and proximity to natural recreational amenities. This trend has been accelerated and intensified by the Covid-19 Pandemic that was an impetus for people to move out of large cities to communities, such as The Blue Mountains, where there is more fresh air, space and smaller populations. The Southern Georgian Bay Association of Realtors reports unprecedented growth with volume of sales up 55% more than 2019's record-breaking base.

### 2.5.1 Population Forecast

In an attempt to have some demographic information for reference, we have compiled the following Population Forecasting graph. The graph has been created using Town data as included in the Town's Development Charges Background Study dated June 12, 2019, developed by Hemson Consulting Ltd. The graph includes data from Appendix A – Table 6 (see below) which details the following:

- Forecasted growth for the period 2019-2028
- Census and seasonal population numbers
- Household annual growth projections – occupied and not occupied

We note that Hemson had compiled the forecasting details for the 10-year study period in consultation with Town staff. It includes known and anticipated development proposals, and accounts for historical households, seasonal developments and recent construction history. We are including the Hemson Development Forecast summary (see p. 27), which further describes how the forecasting process was undertaken.

#### **Population Forecast Graph Notes**

- Growth period – 10 years (2018-2028)
- 2018 population = 15,982
- Hemson forecast to 2028 = 21,901 (+5,919)
- Hemson +5% to 2028 = 22,996 (+7,014)
- Hemson +10% to 2028 = 24,091 (+8,109)
- A +5% and +10% has been included to consider an increased development scenario

#### **Other**

- We acknowledge that the population forecasting is only one piece of important Town and area demographics (i.e., age, gender, etc.), but this may be something to build on.
- Actual household growth and related population could be added to the graph to analyse forecasting accuracy.
- The LAP Survey data confirms that 51% of seasonal respondents are planning on permanent residency in 1-5 years; 21% will follow in 6-10 years.
- Reliable tourism/visiting population data would be important to compile as well, especially as it may relate to recreation participation.
- The Town should research and establish a process for evolving up to date demographic data collection and reporting.



APPENDIX A - TABLE 6  
TOWN OF THE BLUE MOUNTAINS  
FORECAST POPULATION & HOUSEHOLD GROWTH SUMMARY

Mid-Year	Census Population	Annual Growth	Seasonal Population	Annual Growth	Adjusted Population	Annual Growth	Total Occupied Dwellings	Annual Growth	Average Household Size (PPU)	Dwellings Not Occupied by Usual Residents	Annual Growth	Average Household Size (PPU)	Total Private Dwellings	Annual Growth	Average Household Size (PPU)
2011	6,450		8,388		14,838		2,845		2.27	3,355		2.50	6,200		2.39
2012	6,561	111	8,318	-70	14,879	41	2,927	82	2.24	3,327	-28	2.50	6,254	54	2.38
2013	6,674	113	8,245	-73	14,919	41	3,011	84	2.22	3,298	-29	2.50	6,309	55	2.36
2014	6,789	115	8,165	-80	14,954	35	3,098	87	2.19	3,266	-32	2.50	6,364	55	2.35
2015	6,906	117	8,083	-83	14,989	35	3,187	89	2.17	3,233	-33	2.50	6,420	56	2.33
2016	7,025	119	7,993	-90	15,018	29	3,280	93	2.14	3,197	-36	2.50	6,477	57	2.32
2017	7,257	232	8,243	250	15,500	482	3,390	110	2.14	3,297	100	2.50	6,687	210	2.32
2018	7,489	232	8,493	250	15,982	482	3,500	110	2.14	3,397	100	2.50	6,897	210	2.32
2019	7,828	339	8,868	375	16,695	714	3,660	160	2.14	3,547	150	2.50	7,207	310	2.32
2020	8,166	338	9,243	375	17,409	713	3,820	160	2.14	3,697	150	2.50	7,517	310	2.32
2021	8,493	317	9,593	350	18,075	667	3,970	150	2.14	3,837	140	2.50	7,807	290	2.32
2022	8,778	285	9,918	325	18,696	620	4,110	140	2.14	3,967	130	2.50	8,077	270	2.31
2023	9,051	273	10,218	300	19,269	573	4,240	130	2.13	4,087	120	2.50	8,327	250	2.31
2024	9,325	273	10,518	300	19,842	573	4,370	130	2.13	4,207	120	2.50	8,577	250	2.31
2025	9,576	252	10,793	275	20,369	527	4,490	120	2.13	4,317	110	2.50	8,807	230	2.31
2026	9,827	251	11,068	275	20,895	526	4,610	120	2.13	4,427	110	2.50	9,037	230	2.31
2027	10,079	251	11,343	275	21,421	526	4,730	120	2.13	4,537	110	2.50	9,267	230	2.31
2028	10,308	230	11,593	250	21,901	480	4,840	110	2.13	4,637	100	2.50	9,477	210	2.31
Growth 2019-2028		2,819		3,100		5,919		1,340			1,240			2,580	

Source: The Town of The Blue Mountains, Hemson Consulting 2019  
Note: Estimates in this table will not match the Grey County GMS update prepared in May 2018

**HEMSON**



### **III Development Forecast, HEMSON, p.14**

The DCA requires the Town to estimate “the anticipated amount, type and location of development” for which development charges may be imposed. The development forecast must cover both residential and non-residential development and be specific enough with regards to quantum, type, location and timing of development to allow the Town to prepare a reasonable development-related capital program. Appendix A contains additional materials related to the development forecast and the Town’s demographics.

Key demographic features of the Town of The Blue Mountains are the seasonal fluctuations of its population and the corresponding recreational nature of its residential development. For this reason, the Town’s development charges are based on a residential forecast which includes seasonal population and dwellings not occupied by usual residents. This rationale is based upon the need for the Town to build infrastructure to accommodate peak demand levels associated with the development portion of the Town, regardless of whether the use is permanent or seasonal.

The residential forecast incorporates 2016 Census and historical residential permit data and accounts for seasonal housing development. The forecast shows that the number of dwelling units (occupied dwellings, non-permanent and hotel/motel units) will increase by 2,880 between 2019 and 2028. From 2019 to build-out, approximately 8,550 additional units are anticipated.

More than 70 per cent of the development occurring over the 2019-2028 period is projected to occur in the Craigleith service area. Camperdown is the next significant development area with approximately 13 per cent of the anticipated new units. Other service areas forecast to experience significant development include Lora Bay (9 per cent), Thornbury East (2 per cent) and Thornbury West (2 per cent).

The non-residential portion of the forecast is largely based upon development applications received, known developer plans, and the availability of servicing. The forecast is for approximately 16,760 square metres of new non-residential gross floor area (GFA) to be added to the Town between 2019 and 2028. During the period 2019 to build-out, GFA is projected to increase by approximately 98,290 square metres.

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### 3. A Community in Transition

Over the years, the Town of The Blue Mountains has benefitted from its proximity to a natural environment with a wealth of four-season tourist and recreation opportunities, both unstructured (e.g., Georgian Trail, Bruce Trail, Georgian Bay, Beaver River, County Forests, Conservation Authority Properties, Crown Lands, and provincial parks), as well as structured and privately developed (e.g., private ski clubs, golf clubs, Blue Mountain Resorts, Blue Mountains Village, to name a few). There has also been traditional structured municipal recreational programs and activities (such as hockey, figure skating, power skating, recreational skating, baseball, soccer, etc.) offered by the BVAA and the Town for many decades at the BVCC and municipal fields and courts. A number of parks (28) have been established throughout the Town. Some have been operating for many years, while others have been recently added within newer developments.

Residents also seek recreation opportunities in surrounding municipalities. They often travel to the Town of Collingwood to access pool and spa, exercise and wellness services, arena programs, soccer, and baseball facilities. An added benefit of visiting a community-hub is that it also offers the convenience of health care, banking, food, and retail shops. A number of TBM residents, especially residents occupying the easterly areas of the Town, use the YMCA facilities. This was not an issue for residents because there were no non-resident fees for participation in Collingwood and other jurisdictions.

As populations started to change and grow in the region, due to the proximity to the GTA and other urban areas, the demand on all Municipal facilities (in Wasaga Beach, Collingwood, The Blue Mountains) rose, and communities that once welcomed residents from the Town of The Blue Mountains, now may restrict their access (e.g., increase non-resident fees, implement waiting lists for non-residents, resident-first registration, etc.) in order to accommodate their own tax-paying residents.

Accelerated growth in the Town of The Blue Mountains has been occurring since the mid 1980's (especially as a result of the expansion of sewer and water services). In the last few years, further unprecedented growth continues, which has been accelerated by the Covid Pandemic. The Town is quickly growing and changing, and local real estate agents report all-time record volume and unit sales. With the growing population coupled with changing trends in society, come expectations for recreation programs and facilities comparable to those in other more developed communities.

The Blue Mountains is a community in transition, which is a natural maturing that all growing municipalities inevitably face. Many of the new residents seek a more active, healthy lifestyle and want to keep fit as they age in a wide variety of pursuits that may be quite different than the

traditional offerings for older adults, while others are looking for a vibrant, spacious, and community-minded environment to raise their family. The Town is now tasked with providing leadership in developing recreation programs and facilities for this emerging population, who have much different needs and expectations than its former population base.

It is time to move ahead with strategic recreation planning and implementation of identified priorities, including the budgeting of required financial and other resources, to ensure that recreational facilities, amenities, and the delivery of programs and services address the unique needs and growing diverse population. The growth must be accommodated not only by addressing the recreation needs of the residents in developing neighbourhoods, but also in mature neighbourhoods.

### **3.1 SETTING NEW DIRECTION WITH SIX MAJOR CONCEPTS**

Based on all the information collected during the study process, several key concepts emerged that describe the aspirational goals that residents have for future recreation in The Blue Mountains.

#### **Major Concept #1: Parks, Waterfront, Greenspaces and Horticultural Features**

The natural environment is one of the Town of The Blue Mountains greatest assets to be maintained, protected, and enhanced for residents, visitors, and future generations.

#### **Major Concept #2: Recreation Programs**

The Town of The Blue Mountains is a growing community whose residents are interested in more year round, indoor and outdoor recreation programs and activities as diverse in nature as the residents themselves.

#### **Major Concept #3: Recreation Facilities**

The Town of The Blue Mountains has reached a point where existing recreation facilities cannot keep up with the growing demand. The way forward is a two-pronged approach: upgrade and enhance existing facilities in the short term, and consider and plan for additional needed facilities, including laying the foundation to build a new multi-use facility, in the longer term.

#### **Major Concept #4: Trails, Cycling Routes, and Active Transportation\***

Trails, cycling routes, and active transportation have become increasingly essential aspects of a prosperous and healthy community. The Town of The Blue Mountains is ideally situated to plan and secure multiple opportunities for unstructured, unscheduled recreation that is accessible, affordable, and inclusive of all ages and abilities.

\*Active Transportation means any form of human-powered transportation and includes walking, cycling, in-line skating, skateboarding, cross-country skiing, canoeing, kayaking, and use of assisted mobility devices.

### **Major Concept #5: Athletic Fields and Courts**

Athletic fields and courts require revamping and expansion to better serve growing and changing needs, including flexibility and adaptation of courts and fields for various uses, within the community as new trends influence sport, the older adult population grows, and new families move into the area.

### **Major Concept #6: Special Events**

The Town of The Blue Mountains is in an enviable setting to host special community-focused events for its residents and high quality regional, provincial, or North American events in partnership with stakeholder groups.

## **3.2 GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

These principles are intended to be an integral part of planning for parks, trails, programs, special events, facilities, and all aspects of provision of recreation services. As such, they are an inherent part of the major concepts above, the recommendations that follow, and a touchstone for measuring all decisions or actions.

### **Accessibility and Inclusivity**

Programs and facilities that are multi-generational, inter-generational, and family-oriented are growing in demand, and this necessitates modifications and adaptations to ensure program and facility accessibility for everyone. Accessibility for all abilities should be first and foremost in any facility. With an aging population, more and more people will require barrier-free, accessible services.

This means greater customization of programs because one size no longer fits all, but all sizes must be available. It also points to the need of enabling a variety of abilities to participate, maybe at the same time, in the same place, and recognizing that not all participants may want age-segregated classes.

The Blue Mountains should be increasingly committed to achieving social equity (for all persons regardless of gender, race, income, age or ability) in parks and recreation policies, programs, services and facilities. It also means striving for availability of recreation in all geographic areas of the municipality.

### **Environmental Sustainability**

Increasingly, recreation participants want to know that they are doing something beneficial for the environment, or at the very least, not harming it. There is a growing expectation that recreation programs, parks, and facilities are environmentally conscious in the programs and services they provide, in how they manage and operate their facilities, and in the choices they make. This can mean anything like reducing the carbon footprint, promoting active transportation, being

conscientious about waste and waste treatment, using water wisely, running energy efficient facilities, creating community gardens, or mobilizing community volunteers to undertake environmental projects.

Right now, recreation departments are starting to respond to climate change by providing shade canopies or gazebos, splash pads and water features; working toward carbon neutralization; using recreation facilities for emergency indoor cooling centres; planting more trees for shade; and naturalizing areas to reduce grass cutting, to name a few.

### **Partner Involvement**

The 2006 LAP report (p. 29) mentions the importance of the Town working in partnership “to ensure the provision of a diverse range of leisure services for permanent and seasonal residents alike.” This remains an important principle and will be essential for meeting the leisure needs of the Town’s rapidly growing and changing community, and best managing limited resources.

It implies being creative and looking beyond traditional partnerships to find a good match to improve access, diversity, and affordability in programs, special events, and facilities, while reducing duplication of resources and competition among service providers. Partners may be the private sector, other municipalities, existing agencies, other levels of government, or volunteer groups, as a few examples.

### **Technological Advancement**

By 2025, Millennials will account for 75% of the U.S. and global workforce and will replace the Boomers. In Canada, 35% of the workforce was Millennial in 2018, and numbers will continue to grow. They are pushing technology advancement, and its implications for parks and recreation may pose some remarkable opportunities as well as some management dilemmas! With smart phone technology, people are using apps for fitness, training, hiking and biking maps, geocaching, finding site locations, or the closest public washroom. Technology is the way of the future and a constantly moving target that the recreation department needs to keep their eye on and adapt accordingly. Things like wi-fi access, interactive information kiosks, camera surveillance, or on-line program registration and payment at one time were quite innovative. Now, they are an expected part of good recreation service.

How can technology be used to save money? Or provide more enjoyable or safer services? Or what management issue is it going to create? On the horizon for The Blue Mountains are things like smart park benches with solar powered docking stations, use of drones for parks and trails management, or recreational use of drones in public spaces, the increased use of e-scooters and e-bikes for recreation and general transportation purposes, or e-sport special events and tournaments. The influence of technology, both good and bad, should be a key consideration in recreation decision making moving forward.



## 4. Recommendations

Facility and service provision planning is dependent on determining future needs based on current participation/use levels and the gaps that exist that limit future expansion. Of particular importance will be the challenges and opportunities facing the Town in relationship to the availability of municipal resources to address them.

The following recommendations address recreation needs in The Blue Mountains in the short and long term and are based on the synthesis and careful consideration of all information collected, both the challenges and opportunities, identified through the extensive public engagement process and analysis by the Consulting Team.

### 4.1 PARKS, WATERFRONT, GREENSPACES, AND HORTICULTURAL FEATURES

**Major Concept:** The natural environment is one of the Town of The Blue Mountains greatest assets to be maintained, protected, and enhanced for residents, visitors and future generations.

#### 4.1.1 Parkland Planning And Acquisition

Opportunity	Challenge
<p>The Blue Mountains is a beautiful, scenic, natural resource to be protected for future generations.</p> <p>There is an opportunity now to plan for the future to ensure parks, waterfront, greenspaces, and horticultural features are preserved.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Respondents are afraid of losing what they have now to new development, without any additional greenspace being acquired, at a time when the community is growing and will need even more!</li> <li>• Due to COVID-19, even more people are relocating to the Blue Mountain area, seeing it as an attractive alternative to city life (safe, less crowded and ability to perform job remotely).</li> <li>• Visitors, tourists, and an increased local population base have created new pressures, especially on natural environment features which are intended to be protected and enhanced. Huge increases in use, along with limited staff and resources and a large acreage to maintain, has created a stressful situation.</li> </ul>

## Recommendations

1. As part of the 5-Year Review of the Official Plan in 2021, amend or update the Municipal Official Plan to reflect the parks and trails Master Plan recommendations and other service recommendations when appropriate.
2. Implement existing parkland developments and improvements as identified in Ten-Year Capital Plan.
3. Collaborate with regional, local, and municipal organizations to enhance park services. For example: Create a regional vision for major parkland acquisition over the next 10-15 years with neighbouring communities to provide for the growing population in an efficient and cost effective manner.
4. Develop a strategic land use assembly and future landholding strategy in conjunction with the Official Plan to be triggered by formal municipal planning processes.
5. Optimize opportunities for parkland securement, including amenities, by applying density bonusing and alternate provision standards permitted under the Planning Act and enabled by the Official Plan and Zoning By-laws (i.e., Section 37 and 45 of the Planning Act).
6. Accept cash-in-lieu of parkland only in the following circumstances:
  - i) Existing parkland allocation meets the standard conveyance rates of 2% for commercial or industrial purposes and 5% for all other cases, and a larger park area is not desirable;
  - ii) The projected growth will have adequate provision and distribution of parks and recreational facilities;
  - iii) A proposed development or redevelopment has achieved long term capital support and provides alternative leisure opportunities to a broad base of the Municipal population;
  - iv) Future developments can provide necessary parklands for future growth;
  - v) Land does not provide an active transportation link to other parks, facilities, or trail heads.

Upon a cursory review of this “cash-in-lieu” versus actual land dedication for parks development within new developments, the Town has been accepting the cash option on a regular basis, which is not progressive recreation planning!

7. Continue to ensure that benchmarking, best practices and continuous improvement initiatives are specifically contained in each budget submission and work plan to Council each year.
8. Continually look for ways to protect and enhance parkland for future generations. Reduce the carbon footprint of parks operation and maintenance, such as naturalizing areas for reduced grass cutting, planting more trees, choosing heritage or native species, and so on.

#### 4.1.2 Park Standards, Upgrades and Enhancements for Enjoyment By All

Opportunity	Challenge
<p>Residents are looking for more ways to enjoy outdoor, active living in the community while being respectful of the natural environment.</p> <p>There is a significant and growing trend in many aspects of our lives to live more sustainably, to protect the earth and our communities, and to improve personal health. We equate healthy environments to healthy people.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks and greenspace have not kept pace with new subdivision developments and are unevenly spread across the Town.</li> <li>• Parks in older areas of the community are outdated and playground equipment needs replacement or other enhancements.</li> <li>• Regular and consistent maintenance and upkeep is lacking.</li> <li>• There is no splash pad in Town and families travel elsewhere to use one.</li> <li>• Specific features are missing that would greatly enhance the enjoyment of the outdoors, as well as protect it (e.g., shade trees, shade structures, benches, trail connections, picnic areas, etc.).</li> <li>• Off-leash dog runs are in demand and options are limited for outings in an appealing setting (e.g., shade features, sitting areas).</li> </ul>

#### Recommendations

1. Appoint a community-based Parks Committee to support the Recreation Department in developing and managing parks. Build a strong partnership with community residents early in the park planning or re-development process. Such a group would play an invaluable role in:
  - i) acting as a sounding board for ideas,
  - ii) generating solutions for management, safety, or maintenance issues,
  - iii) identifying emerging needs (e.g., fitness stations, signage, off-leash dog areas, trail connections, shaded sitting areas, playground equipment, etc.),
  - iv) ensuring parks are designed for all abilities and are barrier-free,
  - v) suggesting suitable programming in parks, such as yoga, tai chi, arts fair, mom and tot, pick-up basketball, special events, etc.
2. Create a process for new park design and development.
3. Establish a municipal parkland classification system for existing and new parks. Within each park classification (Neighbourhood, Community, Parkette, Open Space), there should be guidelines for standard design features (e.g., form, location, and amenities) for all new or redeveloped parkland. Where possible, parks should be at least 2 hectares, so care and maintenance is more efficient. See Guidelines for Standard Park Design Chart.

Guidelines for Standard Park Design	
CPTED* (effective use of built environment to reduce crime, e.g., clear sight lines)	All Parks
Access to active transportation routes and trails	All Parks
Wayfinding for park	All Parks
Benches, tables, seating areas, shade*	All Parks
Pedestrian lighting	Neighbourhood and Community Parks
Garbage receptacles	All Parks
Parking, including for people with disabilities	All Parks
Low maintenance native plantings	All Parks
Park maintenance	All Parks
Washroom facilities	Seasonal washrooms in Neighbourhood; Full service, Year round in Community Parks
Bike racks	All Parks
Accessibility into park and amenities (AODA)	All Parks
Multiuse capacity of space	All Parks
Access to public transit	All Parks
Fencing to identify border of park and private property	All Parks
Hydro supply	At frontage of all parks
Water supply	At frontage of all parks
Suitability for parkland development (e.g., good drainage, size, etc.)	All Parks
Potential for green space connectivity (to natural areas, corridors, open space.)	All Parks

\* Community planning should include natural and built shade features at outdoor public venues (e.g., children's play structures, benches and sitting areas) to protect citizens from the sun and help prevent skin cancer.

4. Establish parks in new and re-developed areas by using a community-based assessment (demographics, socio-economic factors, population projections, proximity to existing parkland, desired urban type) to determine how much (4.0 ha/1000 gross and minimum 1.2 ha/1000 net) and where parkland is needed.
5. As a condition of development of land, the municipality will ensure that lands will be conveyed to the municipality for park and recreational purposes using the standard rate of 2% (proposed development or redevelopment for commercial or industrial purposes) and 5% (in all other cases) or cash in lieu in accordance with Recommendation 6 in Section 4.1.1. Review parks and trails assembly, linear parkland, and parkland/trail acceptance policies in the context of an assured level of service (i.e., minor parks or playgrounds within 800 metres of each residence).

Update standards to include timing of provision of parkland amenities so that such facilities are available to residents when 25% occupancy, or sooner, of a subdivision is reached. In the future, the municipality may consider undertaking the requisite consultation and study to provide for alternative parkland dedication rates for cash-in-lieu, as provided in the Planning Act.

6. Upgrade existing parks. Develop policy and accompanying procedures and maintenance practices consistent with provincial best practices. For example, commit to a long-term policy in regards to replacing existing or installing new park play structures that ensures all landing areas are replaced with CSA approved composite/rubberized (or equivalent), and in addition maximizing physical accessibility should be a priority in the design. Maintain inspection reports on structures on a monthly basis.
7. Keep current and respond to new or changed provincial policy with municipal by-laws, such as the municipal by-law ensuring that all Municipal lands and public use areas are designated as tobacco free, including parks, play areas, and trails.
8. Adhere to guidelines and principles of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) and Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) legislation for park design. As well, use design features to avoid conflict between active and passive park uses.
9. Maintain in new subdivisions a Urban Forestry Canopy Cover (UFORE) for new development of 40% for the Municipal settlement areas.
10. Develop an overall goal, specific criteria, and performance measurements for park maintenance, and consider creating and maintaining a GIS-based maintenance tracking database to facilitate service delivery.
11. Develop a yearly review of activities, issues, and general performance.
12. Continue and expand Town beautification and horticultural projects. Ensure Staffing levels meet growing needs for creating and maintaining garden features; park maintenance; establishing community garden plots (which could be a suitable use for smaller, fragmented parks) if there is sufficient interest; assisting with outdoor rinks, winter trails, or other recreation facility maintenance in winter.
13. Provide more shade trees and shade features in parks, near facilities, along trails, etc. for personal enjoyment, safety, and in response to climate change.
14. Investigate best option for off leash dog run(s), which should include shade. There should be off leash dog runs in Craighleith and Thornbury.
15. Create and host an interactive, web-based, parks map to increase awareness of facilities.
16. Recruit and Work with volunteers or partners for initiatives such as tree planting, protecting/enhancing natural habitats, donating benches, litter pick-up, special park projects, and so on.
17. Undertake determined upgrades to Skateboard facility. Consult with users.



18. Investigate and consider the construction of Splash pad/water features as part of amenities planning for the various parks properties.
19. Investigate and consider the construction of an outdoor rink, using existing ice plant in Thornbury arena and build extension in most efficient manner.
20. Investigate and consider the construction of a permanent, or acquire a portable outdoor amphitheatre/stage for music, theatre, performances, and movie nights. This may be phased into overall upgrades to existing parks or be part of a multi-purpose facility.

#### 4.1.3 Waterfront Protection, Access and Enjoyment

Opportunity	Challenge
<p>Georgian Bay is a treasured natural feature, not only for the recreation it provides, but for the significant role it plays in a much greater ecological system.</p> <p>Access to Georgian Bay was a very high priority for residents (priority #2) completing the on-line survey and improvements to the pier and harbour (boat launches, storage, etc.) were also highly ranked.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is increasing pressure on the Town's waterfront parks and beaches, as well as trail systems and conservation areas. With a growing number of residents wanting beach front access, and an unprecedented number of visitors from the GTA wanting to escape the City for the day, the Town's capabilities for maintenance, supervision, and supplying the demand, are exhausted.</li> <li>• The beaches are overcrowded and management of traffic, parking, garbage, trespassing, etc., was problematic. While this was attributed to an influx in visitors during the Covid Pandemic, it is likely a trend that will continue post pandemic</li> <li>• Residents find it difficult to access the waterfront</li> <li>• The pier was closed and the harbour area needs upgrades and enhancements</li> </ul>

#### Recommendations

1. Establish guidelines and strategies to better manage and protect the beaches in 2021 and in the future.
2. Set control mechanisms, such as capacity levels for all properties and prepare a detailed response to handle overcrowding pressures on resources, such as at Northwinds, Peasemars, and other public beaches.
3. Work in conjunction/partnership with community partners, private business, and other stakeholders.
4. Improve and expand trail linkages wherever possible for residents to easily access the waterfront.
5. Perform needed maintenance/upgrades on harbour and pier and enhancements to make it a first-rate facility (boat launch, sustainable long term surfacing of the pier, patio, food service).

6. Provide ramps/beach mat system to enable wheelchair access to the waterfront. Consult accessibility regulations and community groups regarding best products to install.

## 4.2 RECREATION PROGRAMS

**Major Concept:** The Town of The Blue Mountains is a growing community whose residents are interested in more year-round, indoor and outdoor recreation programs and activities as diverse in nature as the residents themselves.

### 4.2.1 Program Leadership

Opportunity	Challenge
There's high interest in having more recreation and leisure programs provided by the Town. As more people make The Blue Mountains home, interest will grow as well as the diversity of needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There's a patchwork of activities run by various community groups and the private sector which has resulted in gaps in service, uncoordinated efforts, and people going elsewhere to meet their program needs</li> <li>• There are limited opportunities specifically for families, youth and young adults, and seniors</li> <li>• There's lack of facilities to offer adequate programming (e.g., swimming, tennis, pickleball, fitness and exercise) and programs struggling within aged facilities (e.g., baseball, curling, hockey, skatepark)</li> <li>• Small halls aren't being recognized for the contribution they make to programming, and could be better utilized.</li> <li>• This is not just about sports. Leisure, arts and culture programming must be included (e.g., educational, instructional, cards, crafts, music appreciation, genealogy, reading, dance, etc.)</li> </ul>

## Recommendations

1. Dedicate staff time, or hire a staff person to organize, coordinate and promote programs. Duties could include:
  - i) acting as a liaison with local groups, clubs, associations to locate activity space, procure equipment, schedule activity times, address participant conflicts and issues.
  - ii) increasing the number of recreation programs available to residents by building partnerships with other groups and organizations.
  - iii) promoting and advertising activities and facilities using a variety of media.
  - iv) organizing and promoting special recreation events and tracking economic impact.

- v) working with volunteers to enhance and improve recreation opportunities and amenities.
  - vi) promoting an open environment for community partners to come forward with ideas for new programs.
  - vii) working with agencies for persons with a disability to ensure quality and financial support for participation.
  - viii) participating in training programs and professional networks to gain relevant competencies and valuable resources for the Town residents.
  - ix) representing the Town on relevant recreation committees and special project teams.
  - x) keeping the Town informed and updated on new legislation and policies with respect to provision of parks and recreation services. Gender equity and access to recreation for persons with a disability are two issues that impact recreation services and are targeted through human rights and accessibility legislation.
  - xi) promoting awareness and training relating to and in compliance with the Occupational Health & Safety Act.
  - xii) inventorying existing programming (arts, culture, leisure, sport, fitness, seniors', youth, co-ed, girls only, intergenerational, family, etc.); identifying gaps; planning for future
  - xiii) researching and applying for funding and grants.
2. Start discussions immediately with possible program partners, both private and public, on ways to work together to offer more equitable recreation activities and program offerings across the entire Town.
    - What existing facilities can be shared now with private/public uses, short and longer term?
    - Could there be new recreation facilities established in partnership for public/private co-operation and shared use?—long term.
  3. Make the decision to move ahead with the planning process for a multi-use facility, including a financial-business model.
  4. Keep abreast of the implications of human rights legislation, such as gender equity, and accessibility legislation, as well as physical literacy and national and provincial standards. Implement program guidelines and policies to ensure program accessibility and inclusivity regardless of gender, race, income, age or ability, and adapt programs and services accordingly for safety and quality of recreation services.
  5. Implement a Volunteer Development Plan for recruitment, screening, orientation, training, and recognition of recreation service volunteers.

## 4.2.2 Joint Use Agreements and Building Cooperative Relationships

Opportunity	Challenge
<p>Interest is shown by volunteers, private sector, community groups, in working together to find cooperative initiatives and opportunities.</p> <p>Volunteers can be invaluable partners, and one interviewee suggests that all the new people moving into the area bring new money, new experiences, new skills, and they are willing to volunteer... "just ask!"</p> <p>Public and private partners already operate facilities and run programs, so they have a business model in place, and some are interested in forming a relationship with the Town to expand their level of service and offerings. They suggest that talks with the Town could result in an expanded level of service for all.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People are leaving Town to access programs elsewhere</li> <li>• There are underutilized community assets – both human and physical -- that could be taken better advantage</li> </ul>

## Recommendations

1. Explore opportunities for joint-use agreements with neighbouring municipalities:
  - i) The Town of Collingwood. Can access to recreation in Collingwood through joint-use agreements be more affordable than building smaller, similar facilities at the Eastern end of the Municipality, and more accessible than traveling to the West side of the community?
  - ii) The Town of Meaford. Examine potential ways in which The Blue Mountains could enter joint ventures with new partners to address programming and facility needs, and look at ways to work together to offer better access to recreation across the region. Discussions might include the new high school, regional curling club for south Georgian Bay, new outdoor skating area adjacent to existing Thornbury arena, swimming pool, diving area, fitness centre, climbing walls, and indoor/outdoor courts and fields.
2. Explore potential partnerships with Marsh Street, Lemonade Collective, Plunge, Small Halls, community groups (e.g., curling, baseball, tennis, Rotary, library, arts, crafts, culture, entertainment, Events for Life), other municipalities, schools and school boards, private sector, etc., to assist in provision of equitable program offerings across the entire Town and avoid duplication.
3. Mobilize existing skill set and expertise of volunteers already in the community. Seek out and involve retired professionals, community champions, group leaders, parent volunteers, and those with skills to share in teaching, coaching, advising, spearheading, fundraising, governing, grounds keeping, and so forth.

### 4.2.3 Program Promotion

Opportunity	Challenge
Residents and visitors are eager to learn more about the Town of The Blue Mountains, all of the experiences it offers, and how to become involved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is lack of communication and promotion about existing programs</li> <li>• People are unsure of how or where to access information about where facilities are located, what programs are offered, special events planned, how various trails connect and so on.</li> </ul>

#### Recommendations

1. Prepare a recreation guide and community maps to market programs to the community, educate about policies and services, and so on. Offer both on-line, interactive and hard copy versions. Consider innovative ways of using apps, such as Strava.

### 4.2.4 Enhance Unstructured/Unprogrammed Opportunities

Opportunity	Challenge
<p>The Town is ideally situated to provide high quality unstructured and unscheduled recreation activities and serve a current and growing societal trend (e.g., biking, walking, hiking, paddling, stand-up paddle boarding, cross country skiing and snowshoeing to name a few).</p> <p>Youth are becoming interested in activities they can do all their life, and which may not be on teams (e.g., tennis, kayaking, biking, jogging).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staging areas and amenities that would support a number of unstructured activities are lacking (e.g., access points, parking, boat/paddleboard launch areas, washrooms, benches and rest areas, maps, signage, paved shoulders for cycling)</li> <li>• The Skateboard park needs upgrades</li> <li>• Residents would like to see more maintenance and regular upkeep of outdoor areas</li> </ul>

#### Recommendations

1. Work with organized clubs, groups, and associations (e.g., cycling, hiking, trails, water sports, skiing, snowshoeing groups) to offer more unstructured activities and programs.
2. Consult with youth regarding desired program opportunities.
3. Improve maintenance, enhancements, and upgrades to parks and trails to service growing demands for unstructured recreation. See Parks and Trails sections for specific recommendations.



### 4.3 RECREATION FACILITIES

**Major Concept:** The Town of The Blue Mountains has reached a point where existing recreation facilities cannot keep up with the growing demand. The way forward is a two-pronged approach: upgrade and enhance existing facilities in the short term, and consider and plan for additional needed facilities, including laying the foundation to build a new multi-use facility, in the longer term.

#### 4.3.1 Multi-Use Recreation Facility

Opportunity	Challenge
<p>Residents believe that the time has come for a multi-use recreation facility, and see this as a huge opportunity or turning point to provide accessible, year round recreation to taxpayers in all areas of the municipality.</p> <p>A multi-use recreation facility is important for the physical, mental, and social health, or fabric, of the community, and would provide a variety of recreation, leisure, and arts and culture components for an active community, giving equal opportunities for all ages and abilities.</p> <p>When asked for the top recreation priority for the future, an indoor pool, a fitness centre, and a multi-use centre all ranked in the top five.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public perception is that recreation infrastructure in the Town of The Blue Mountains is stressed, stretched and deficient to serve the needs of the existing and rapidly growing community; it is underfunded when compared to surrounding municipalities; and that it is lagging behind other communities</li> <li>Many facilities are at capacity</li> <li>Some areas, Craighleith for example, are growing and are currently underserved</li> <li>Some residents drive to other communities to access recreation facilities (e.g., pool, fitness, racquet sports, curling, splash pad, or “cram into the library for exercise classes”).</li> <li>There are few opportunities for year round, indoor recreation activities (e.g., pool, fitness, racquet and court sports)</li> <li>Program opportunities in Town are limited by lack of facilities, such as space for meetings, theatre, and stage</li> </ul>

#### Recommendations

1. Research best practices and processes as used by other municipalities that have completed successful like projects (i.e., Georgina process). A major consideration is confirming the population base that may be appropriate depending on scale and proposed components.
2. Begin the groundwork for building a multi-use facility, such as forming an advisory committee, tendering a Feasibility Study, investigating regional partnership opportunities, applying for government funding opportunities, and so on. (See also S6, in 5.2 Implementation of Recommendations.)

### 4.3.2 Regional Approach to Facility Provision

Opportunity	Challenge
<p>Many see a regional approach as the best and most pragmatic way to achieve economies of scale in provision of recreation facilities, services, and programs. In fact, all levels of government are looking for ways to better use tax-based revenues. This increases the incentive for Municipalities, that are seeking federal or provincial grants, to look at regional solutions with private sector involvement.</p> <p>For example, arts, culture and heritage initiatives could be planned with neighbouring municipalities to provide better service to a combined and larger population base.</p> <p>Opportunities such as this do not often come around, and so much can be accomplished with some cooperation, imagination, and creativity, rather than competition among stakeholders. Thinking outside of the box will be necessary to find new public sector service delivery models.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Town is losing youth, players, team members, and residents to other communities due to lack of good facilities in The Blue Mountains</li> <li>• Residents are paying recreation fees in other communities while also paying taxes in Town</li> <li>• Neighbouring communities are competing with each other for recreation membership, rather than working together to accomplish mutual goals.</li> </ul>

### Recommendations

1. Explore a regional approach, for recreation facilities, services, and programs, led by the Town and in collaboration with a diverse group of strong, committed partners, including other municipalities, corporations, and the private sector, developers, sponsors, and relevant groups and organizations. The list of potential partners includes, but is not limited to: Meaford, Grey Highlands, Collingwood, Clearview, Grey County, schools and school boards, Canadian Forces, developers, private sector, the Y (e.g., for their expertise in operating pools), Blue Mountain Resorts, Blue Mountain Village Association, private and public ski operations, and the federal government (grants and initiatives, infrastructure funding programs, economic recovery initiatives, COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream funding, etc.)
2. In particular, lay the groundwork for a potential partnership with Meaford by:
  - i) Reviewing in detail, Meaford's Report No. COR 2020-37 as received, referencing the LAP project.
  - ii) Doing a regional review of all current facilities, infrastructure and open spaces.
  - iii) Evaluating the state of local infrastructure and understanding current lifecycles.
  - iv) Developing levels of service, related to service areas (existing and possible future) for local municipalities.
  - v) Considering other partnerships and potential partners.

3. Consider 'Joint-Use Agreements,' being a successful process and potential opportunity between municipalities and other potential partners.

### 4.3.3 Facility Upgrades and Standards

Opportunity	Challenge
While there is interest in a new multi-use facility, enhancements and upgrades to existing amenities and community assets is equally important for well-rounded offerings that address the recreation and leisure needs of all residents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aging facilities are in need of repair, upgrade, or replacement</li> <li>• There are insufficient amenities/facilities in neighbourhoods, such as playgrounds, parks, trail access, athletic courts, etc. that can't be rectified with a new multi-use facility and have to be individually addressed</li> <li>• Facilities and grounds require more basic, regular, and consistent upkeep and maintenance</li> </ul>

### Recommendations

1. Identify and prioritize short-term initiatives to upgrade, refurbish, or enhance existing facilities (e.g., Crossan Court tennis courts, curling facility, arena, Tomahawk golf course, Community Centre, baseball diamond, playgrounds, pier and harbour, cycling lanes, and others)
2. Prioritize geographical areas in need of service.
3. Increase number of tennis and pickleball opportunities.
4. Secure a reliable indoor tennis facility in appropriate location.
5. Investigate the possibility of Thornbury and Meaford Curling Clubs working together to fundraise and develop a new curling centre, by repurposing the Thornbury arena into a curling club and outdoor skating rink for the region. This recommendation is dependent on an arena being part of a new multi-purpose facility. The existing arena ice plant would require upgrades for outdoor skating, and it would be an efficient repurposing of the ice plant and arena.
6. Confirm/develop standards for regular maintenance.

## 4.4 TRAILS, CYCLING ROUTES, AND ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

**Major Concept:** Trails, cycling routes, and active transportation have become increasingly essential aspects of a prosperous and healthy community. The municipality is ideally situated to plan and secure multiple opportunities for unstructured, unscheduled recreation that is accessible, affordable, and inclusive of all ages and abilities.

### 4.4.1 Trail Planning and Acquisition

Opportunity	Challenge
<p>Trails, cycling routes, and active transportation continue to be in high demand (even more so now due to Covid-19 and people looking for ways to socially distance, get outside, and stay active) and will be for the foreseeable future.</p> <p>Moneris reported that bike shops and services hit a record-high across the country in October, with a 51% increase compared to last year (“Holiday shoppers spending more on household items,” <b>Nov 17, 2020 at:</b> <a href="https://torontosun.com/business/money-news/canadians-spending-more-on-household-items-as-holidays-approach-moneris">https://torontosun.com/business/money-news/canadians-spending-more-on-household-items-as-holidays-approach-moneris</a>).</p> <p>91% of survey respondents are happy with the trails and ranked them in their top 5 priorities for future recreation. They see opportunities to link up with a regional network, create an even stronger trail system, and secure trails in the municipality for years to come.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Residents have to drive to get to parks or trails. More trail linkages between parks, neighbourhoods, athletic fields, public buildings, and so on, would be more pedestrian friendly and desirable.</li> <li>There seems to be a patchwork of trails and a comprehensive long-term plan is missing that would show how the Town could “plug into” the regional trail infrastructure.</li> <li>The impact of Covid has increased the use and stresses on existing trails, beaches, and parks. Existing trails are well used and an important amenity, but are showing wear and tear and require maintenance.</li> <li>Long term planning will have to anticipate, and perhaps accommodate, new types of trail use and user group trends (e.g., equestrian, blue trails, e-bikes, ATV, off-leash dog trails, mountain bike, winter walking trails, trails exclusively for pedestrians or cyclists)</li> </ul>

### Recommendations

1. Be aggressive in trail planning and development over the next five years, and build momentum for trail planning with these initiatives:
  - i) Develop a five and ten year plan for trail linkage and amenities and trail historic signage, and incorporate waterways for canoeing and kayaking.
  - ii) Create an Active Transportation Plan for The Town of Blue Mountains (which includes 1. Walking; 2. Biking; 3. Mass transportation; 4. Car traffic, in that order of priority).

- iii) Promote a Town and Grey County Trails Strategy that links with the Simcoe County trails plan and marketing opportunities.
  - iv) Create a wayfinding plan for the Municipality (Note: it would be easy to adopt the current system in Collingwood.)
  - v) Promote “Share the Road” and other safe-cycling policies and procedures.
2. Immediately upgrade the trail planning process with coordination of transportation planning and recreation management. The Georgian Trail is a significant travel corridor or “highway” and should be connected to all residential developments (minimum 10 foot, off road linkages) and be accessible to all residents in the Municipality. Therefore, desirable corridors of safe connection must be incorporated into all future planning.
3. Adopt Active Transportation Municipal Policies, strategies, and standards, to convey Municipal intent to staff and community members
4. Broaden the definition of trails to include The Town of Blue Mountains waterways, or “blue trails” (and identify opportunities for kayak, canoe and paddle board travel or in combination with hiking or biking trails.
5. Earmark Waterfront Rehabilitation funds for trail and waterfront improvements.
6. Review existing subdivisions, making improvements to trail accessibility and safety where possible.
7. Require all new subdivisions, commercial and public areas to connect their on-site pedestrian routes to offsite sidewalks and trail access points as part of the Official Plan Review. Design pedestrian routes to allow clear and unobstructed passage, with a minimum width of 1.5 metres with no abrupt side slopes, and a minimum overhead clearance of 2.5 metres. All street furniture should be off the pedestrian route of travel, and storm sewers should be placed where they won’t interfere with active transportation.
8. Upgrade and develop the Municipal trail and active transportation system using a three-phase strategy:
  - i) Join the waterfront to the downtown core with asphalt surface.
  - ii) Connect the trail system to schools and parks.
  - iii) Connect all trails to the Georgian Trail; and/or establish other major parallel routes for cycling and other uses.
9. Prepare short, medium and long-term forecasts for trail development, then budget, seek grants, encourage the private sector to donate, etc., to meet objectives. Consider that additional staff may be needed as trail network expands, including possible winter maintenance for year round trail use.
10. Include policy in Official Plan during review to support implementation of trails, cycling routes, and active transportation; and include a conceptual trails plan in the Official Plan update. In addition, review current planning procedures and add language that requires all new site development agreements to make trails, cycling, and active transportation provisions essential.



11. Allocate funds from sale of any town properties to the appropriate Parks/Trails reserves.
12. Create a budget line for both capital expenditures for making new trails and a trails maintenance account. Review the capital forecast, and determine the need for financial repositioning of some projects to allow trail work to commence and start the active transportation plan as soon as possible.

#### 4.4.2 Trail Safety, Standards and Quality of Experience

Opportunity	Challenge
<p>Trails offer many opportunities for unstructured recreation, are affordable, inclusive of all ages and abilities, and contribute to a healthy environment.</p> <p>By working with trail users and stakeholder groups, the trails can be safe and enjoyable for all users.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keeping up with routine maintenance duties, such as garbage collection, fixing holes and maintaining surface, trimming back vegetation, etc., is important for safety and enjoyment.</li> <li>• There is need for more parking spaces, benches, shade shelters, washrooms, and making trails more accessible and barrier free.</li> <li>• Wayfinding and trail promotion could be improved, such as maps, signage, and trail guides.</li> <li>• There are a number of safety issues to address (e.g., cyclists who do not use a warning bell to signal their approach to pedestrians; lack of paved shoulders for cycling; safety at trail crossings, lack of parking (e.g., Loree) causing hazards with people, dogs, kids, bikes and cars along the road; a need for more mutual respect among different user groups, better signage and education, difficulty for adult trikes to go around boulder barricades.</li> <li>• Trails will inevitably start to see more micro-mobility devices (e-scooters, e-bikes, hover boards) on trails. Some are considered eco-friendly and/or enabling trail use for participants with a wider variety of abilities. However, they will also pose more challenges for safe trail use.</li> <li>• Due diligence is necessary for developing and maintaining trails. A standard of care must be maintained for the various types of trails (e.g., single track, nature trails, full two way travel trails, asphalt trails, side of road trails)</li> </ul>

## Recommendations

1. Form a trails and active transportation community volunteer committee to support the Recreation Department in developing and managing trails. Build a strong partnership with community residents early in the trail planning process. Such a group would play an invaluable role in:
  - i) acting as a sounding board for ideas,
  - ii) generating solutions for management issues or conflicting uses and helping to write guidelines,
  - iii) identifying emerging needs (e.g., fitness stations, trailhead parking areas, signage, cross country ski trail, bike rack locations, staging points, historical, ecological, or interpretive plaques with QR codes, etc.),
  - iv) ensuring trails are designed for all abilities and are barrier-free, and making maps available that identify level of trail difficulty, and
  - v) suggesting suitable programming on trails , such as cycle safety, art walks, story book walk, pole walking, fitness areas, etc.
2. Recruit and train a volunteer group of trail users who can be trail ambassadors to promote the trail, monitor trail surfaces, note dangerous conditions, falling trees, garbage problems, signage maintenance, etc. and notify staff for a quick response.
3. Inventory all existing trails and prepare a detailed report on each. There needs to be a formal trails map that indicates the permitted uses and the conditions of all trails that enter the Municipality. The staff must develop a current maintenance report card on all trails (Note: a good start on the report card was made in the fall of 2020.) The trail inventory should continue to show photos of all the amenities that are on the trail.
4. Set minimum levels of acceptable trail maintenance standards and develop trail maintenance schedules. Spring inspections are recommended, as well as periodic inspections throughout the year to identify such maintenance issues as eroding trail surfacing, missing signs, encroaching vegetation, dumping, vandalism or garbage.
5. Evaluate current trailheads and identify choke points that restrict traffic flow, provide inadequate parking or staging room, or otherwise inhibit access to the trail (based on inventory completed). Upgrade construction details of parking areas at trailheads to include more signage that recognizes the need for AODA compliance. There should be a minimum of three parking spaces (two regular spaces and one accessible) per parking area. Parking areas are provided preferably for trails that provide at least a 20-minute walking experience.
6. Based on Engineering Standards and inventory, upgrade existing trails and build all new trails to meet the following standards:
  - i) Hard surface (either stone dust, asphalt or concrete)
  - ii) 10 feet/3 metres wide

- iii) 2 feet/1.5 metres clear cut zones on each side
- 7. Identify sidewalks and trails that require additional benches, shade, and resting areas for barrier-free and inclusive access
- 8. Provide the following conditions on all pedestrian routes (as part of the Official Plan review process) to promote and enable walking:
  - i) All residential areas need connection throughout the development and the distance a pedestrian must walk to reach a connecting pathway should be no further than 150 meters.
  - ii) Cul-de-sacs and other types of dead ends need to provide connection of a minimum of 3 meters wide, which should be hard surface (compacted gravel as a minimum).
- 9. Connect all trails and sidewalks to safe road crossings where possible. When this is not prudent, the Municipality should:
  - i) Provide signage warning of upcoming traffic/road crossing.
  - ii) Use stop bars, fences, boulders, curvature options on incoming trails/walkways to warn users of change or upcoming traffic.
  - iii) Install curb extensions and refuge islands if crossing distance is greater than 3 lanes.
  - iv) Install pedestrian activated crossing lights.
  - v) Install countdown lights to assist walker/rider in road crossing; audible crossing signals are beneficial.
- 10. Place standard-style Municipal bike racks at visible locations at public facilities, trail heads, play areas and public spaces. All commercial developments should be encouraged to provide covered and safe bike racks for employees.
- 11. Improve Municipal trail signage and wayfinding, that is appropriate for all physical abilities, and that has a consistent format which includes information about distance, direction, destination and difficulty. Consider the use of new technologies, such as QR codes, apps and downloadable maps that may enhance the trail user's experience.
- 12. Use QR code technology on some signs to give directions, location, and emergency information, as well as interpretive text, such as local history, culture, geology or ecology.
- 13. Develop a trail guide (Note: see Collingwood trail map as an example; advertisers on map pay for the production of the map; map boxes create a revenue flow for trail maintenance) that could complement Collingwood trails and maps so there is a regional connection, promotion and consistency.
- 14. Celebrate active transportation in the Municipality with a special community event, for example, walk or bike to work and school day. The event will demonstrate the will of the community to celebrate a healthier lifestyle choice and a new way of thinking about transportation in Municipality. The potential for an annual event is tremendous and can be expanded in similar fashion to many other worldwide examples. Potential partners to involve

in the planning for this event may be the schools, health organizations, private sector, active transportation committee, etc.

15. Initiate the practice of seeking trail donations at Municipal offices as well as selected businesses. Make cards available at funeral homes so donations can be made to The Blue Mountains Trails in memoriam.

#### Road Cycling

Road Cycling has its own dedicated program referred to as “Share the Road,” which includes a number of initiatives to make road cycling safer and more enjoyable.

16. As roads are being repaved, extend the pavement surface by an extra 1.25 metre (MOT Book 18/or other standard to be established) for paved shoulder riding.
17. Identify popular and preferred cycling routes in consultation with user groups, and place in a priority list for shoulder paving as road upgrades are being done. Two priorities for improved signage and paved shoulder upgrades are Concession #10 as a major north/south travel corridor, and Sideroad 33 for an east/west travel corridor.
18. Separate recreational trail cycling from road cycling by a minimum 10 feet (3 metre) and where possible by a physical barrier (to be coordinated with standards being developed within Transportation Master Planning).

### 4.4.3 Regional Trail Connections

Opportunity	Challenge
<p>Linear parks have proven to be extremely important to economic development and tourism (Dunbar, 1994, Georgian Trail Economic Impact Study). Both Grey County and Simcoe County have master plans for trails and active transportation.</p> <p>This is an important opportunity for the Town of The Blue Mountains to connect to a larger regional trail network that provides residents and visitors alike with recreation, while benefitting the local economy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are gaps in current trail system that require cyclists to leave the trail and ride on the road</li> <li>• The Blue Mountains is not well connected for example, to Collingwood; Thornbury to Clarksburg; along Beaver River</li> </ul>

## **Recommendations**

1. Refer to the Grey County Cycling and Trails Master Plan and the Simcoe County Trails Master Plan (Dunbar et al, 2006) to plan trail linkages to the greater regional trail network and create consistent maps, signage, and maintenance standards.
2. Continue representation on County Active Transportation Committee and work to implement the Active Transportation Plan. Advance Municipal active transportation initiatives by looking worldwide at towns with similar characteristics as The Blue Mountains to establish a desired course of action on operating and capital budget decisions.
3. Promote the Municipality as a destination point for cyclists. Recreational cyclists from the GTA and neighbouring Counties will ride to the region to enjoy the downtown, waterfront, countryside, etc.
4. Work with neighbouring municipalities and Active Transportation Plan to improve the experience for road cyclists (for example, paved shoulders)
5. Research, review and plan a formal off roads trail to connect to the Collingwood trails system. This would extend trail use for visitors and residents to cycle to Midland, Tiny Township, Penetanguishene, Wasaga Beach and all throughout the Simcoe County trail network. Over the long term, create a joint County committee to market and promote a cycle experience between Simcoe and Grey Counties which would have positive economic benefit for the tourism sector while, providing affordable, local recreation for family and all ages.



## 4.5 ATHLETIC FIELDS AND COURTS

**Major Concept:** Athletic fields and courts require revamping and expansion to better serve growing and changing needs, including flexibility and adaptation of courts and fields for various uses, within the community as new trends influence sport, the older adult population grows, and new families move into the area.

### 4.5.1 Improve Court and Field Availability

Opportunity	Challenge
<p>The older adult population remains a strong influence in the community which is experiencing unprecedented growth, hastened by the Covid Pandemic as people choose to move out of crowded cities. The Blue Mountains offers retirees (or those working from home) a healthy, active lifestyle in a beautiful setting.</p> <p>Many of these older adults and young retirees want to stay fit and active. As taxpaying residents, their expectations will increase for more recreation fields, courts, facilities, and programs, and there is a volunteer base that is ready to help the Town to achieve higher standards.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a lack of field and court facilities to serve the growing community. More planning is needed.</li> <li>• Facilities are not spread out equally across Town</li> <li>• Pickleball is a popular and fast-growing sport, and there is a lack of indoor and outdoor pickle ball courts in Town, so players are on waiting lists to play, or have to travel to other communities.</li> <li>• Residents feel that The Blue Mountains are lagging behind other communities in providing necessary resources.</li> <li>• The Blue Mountains lacks opportunities for year-round tennis and pickleball play and lit courts would extend the hours of play outdoors</li> <li>• Tennis courts are too busy and not available for winter months</li> <li>• Existing tennis courts need refurbishing (e.g., Crossan, resurfacing Bayview)</li> <li>• Youth tennis is a growing sport which will increase pressure for use on already full courts</li> </ul>

### Recommendations

1. Research potential partnerships or joint-use agreements with private clubs.
2. Examine ways to extend the seasonal use of courts, or develop multi-use courts (e.g., tennis in the summer; outdoor skating in the winter)
3. Form a community-based athletic fields and court advisory body for input and planning to address needs and trends.
4. Refurbish existing tennis courts, subsequent to detailed inspections and seek input from users.
5. Add new tennis courts, and establish tennis programs for youth
6. Expand opportunities for indoor and outdoor pickleball, with input from users.

7. A major parameter for the overall and ongoing recreation planning is to ensure that there is/will be opportunities for 'fields and courts' facilities across the geographic areas of the Town.
8. Advance programs for use of courts. Pickleball seems to have a well-organized group that deals with club membership, scheduling, etc. The Nippissing tennis facility has an established membership public-use model that could be established for other facilities.
9. Make connections, wherever possible, of courts and playing fields to active transportation, cycling routes, and trails. Refer to Trails Section Recommendations.
10. Consider including indoor and outdoor courts in a multi-use facility.

#### 4.5.2 Improve Offering for Families and Youth

Opportunity	Challenge
<p>The number of new families in The Blue Mountains is increasing as the Covid Pandemic has proven that work from remote areas or “safe bubbles” is possible, and The Blue Mountains provides more space and perhaps a safer environment for family members.</p> <p>New families need various supports, services, and amenities and want sport and recreation activities for their children. These families will want recreation opportunities similar to what they had in urban centres.</p> <p>Families bring youth and vibrancy to a community and ensure its longevity. Societal trends show that youth basketball, tennis, and e-sport are gaining popularity, while soccer, swimming and dance remain strong. Kids are becoming interested in activities they can do all their life and which may not be on teams (e.g., tennis, kayaking, biking, jogging).</p> <p>Multi -purpose recreation complexes are favourites with parents who want to get some food, take a fitness class, or use</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth and young adults don’t often come out to public meetings, participate in surveys, or be invited to give input, so sometimes their needs and interests can be overlooked</li> <li>• Participation in sport continues to be changeable and there are declines in some sports while others seem to be increasing. The challenge for the Town is to be aware of the broader trends and where sport appears to be heading, while keeping a pulse on participation trends close to home. For example, hockey and baseball participation may be declining, but they will likely remain viable sports, with a long-standing tradition, in the Town.</li> <li>• Some residents believe the arena and athletic fields are underused or poorly utilized. This may be explained by changing sport trends, or it may be because youth are leaving the community in increasing numbers to participate on out-of-town leagues that offer better facilities and programs</li> <li>• There is a lack of youth activities, such as basketball and tennis, while a number of existing facilities require improvements to sustain participation (e.g., baseball diamonds, soccer fields, arena, skatepark)</li> <li>• The baseball diamonds receive very little attention even with significant youth</li> </ul>

<p>facility wi-fi while their child is practicing or playing, inside or out.</p> <p>There is an opportunity now to “plan ahead, rather than catch up later,” said a survey respondent.</p>	<p>enrolment. Upgrades needed are lights, replacing the gravel infields with clay or grass, washrooms, prohibiting dogs and livestock on fields, etc.)</p>
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## Recommendations

1. Continue ongoing collaboration with the Beaver Valley Athletic Association (BVAA) which has provided much support and resources over the years.
2. Seek partnerships, joint-use agreements and other strategies to expand the number of year-round, indoor and outdoor program offerings in the community.
3. Form athletic fields and court youth advisory body for input and planning to address needs and trends specific to youth and families. Consult youth for their ideas on more relevant recreation activities for today, such as skatepark, wakeboard park, bmx park skiing, snowboarding, roller blading , biking , hiking, swimming, walking , kayaking , paddling, clubs and interest groups, arts programs, girls-only, co-ed, etc.
4. Upgrade and repair baseball diamonds as needed.
5. Upgrade soccer fields as needed.
6. Look for regional arena facility partnerships (i.e., soccer and hockey activities have evolved with a regional structure and other recreation activities can as well with collaborative planning).
7. Upgrade Skateboard Park and consider building bmx bike park.
8. Build outdoor basketball courts.
9. Ensure facilities are spread across Town.
10. Set standards and schedules for basic field and court maintenance for consistent and regular upkeep.
11. Connect all fields and courts, where possible, to trails, cycle routes, and active transportation or public transit.
12. Encourage local and house league play which could offer well-trained coaches, skill development training, affordability, less travel and less impact on family time. Support local coaches in meeting training requirements by hosting clinics, referee certification workshops, etc.
13. For the long term, plan for indoor and outdoor fields and courts, integrated with a multi-use facility offering programs that are multigenerational, intergenerational, and family-oriented.

## 4.6 SPECIAL EVENTS

**Major Concept:** The Town of The Blue Mountains is in an enviable setting to host special community-focused events for its residents, and high quality regional, provincial, or North American events in partnership with stakeholder groups.

### 4.6.1 Family and Youth Community-Based Events

Opportunity	Challenge
<p>There is strong interest in Town for youth and family events, and local, community-based events that invite the whole community to attend, such as arts and entertainment, Canada Day, parades, fairs, chili cook-off, festivals, outdoor movies, and so on.</p> <p>Special events are a wonderful opportunity to bring the entire community together and should be inclusive, accessible to all abilities and ages, affordable, and environmentally friendly.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is important to find the right balance or number of events so as not to stretch the volunteer base, or strain residents' patience with road closures, heavy traffic, parking issues, and so on. Some feel that it's best to do fewer events, and do them well.</li> <li>Parking and traffic management need to be well coordinated and managed to minimize inconveniences to residents and visitors.</li> <li>While a few bike races are okay, adding more bike races is not desirable to some residents who are concerned with road and pedestrian safety, and the fact that elite cycling events do not involve or provide recreation opportunity for local residents.</li> <li>Another concern is for preserving the small town charm, nature and beauty of the area that also draws visitors to the Town.</li> </ul>

## Recommendations

1. Ensure tracking, measuring and reporting on the economic benefit of special events in the community.
2. Encourage event organizers, within the planning and permitting process, to include components for local participants, especially youth, and with local promotions. Establish a set of criteria for evaluating whether or not certain special events are congruent with the Town's image and are desirable to host.
3. Set standards or benchmarks to determine if an event is accessible to all abilities, and inclusive.
4. Form partnerships with stakeholders to ensure efficient and effective logistics in terms of traffic, parking, etc.
5. Explore options for special events away from Town centres, such as trail events or fair grounds, to lessen congestion issues and offer variety.

6. Construct a permanent, or acquire a portable outdoor amphitheatre/stage for music, theatre, performances, and movie nights. This may be phased into overall upgrades to existing parks or be part of a multi-purpose facility, or be moved to various special event locations.

#### 4.6.2 Sporting and Competitive Events

Opportunity	Challenge
<p>Hosting competitive events, sports tournaments and regional and/or elite sports tourism events is another interest in Town. Examples are curling bonspiels, pickleball tournaments, hockey tournaments, baseball tournaments, bike races, triathalons, wakeboard events, mountain biking, skateboard events, sailing competitions, fishing derbies, and golf tournaments.</p> <p>A regional sport and recreation facility could attract large numbers of visitors to the area, which in turn would increase traffic to local business and create jobs. Through partnerships with local BIA's, the tourism sector, and municipalities, a regional, state-of-the-art facility could be a venue for special events, regional tournaments, swim meets, hockey camps and training, and be a draw in the shoulder seasons.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This would be dependent on securing regional partnerships, building a multi-use centre, and upgrading existing amenities (fields, courts, arena, etc.)</li> <li>Finding a balance between resident use and special event use would be important</li> </ul>
<p>A Wakeboard/Cable Park would appeal to younger demographic and contribute to regional tourism, attracting a similar demographic as Blue Mountain skiers/snowboarders, mountain bikers, skateboarders and bmx bikers, etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Young adults feel that they do not have many new and relevant recreation activity options in Town</li> </ul>

#### Recommendations

1. Consider/Investigate the potential for a multi-use regional sport and recreation centre as part of the Multi-Use Recreation Centre Feasibility Study process.
2. Confirm public opinion regarding a wakeboard/cable park through the planning process.

## 5. Implementation and Financial Planning

Describing the short and long term direction an organization will execute in realistic, seemingly achievable terms, is fundamental to ensuring that the outcome of the study becomes part of the Town's planning process. While it is difficult to validate the Town's future financial capabilities, it is important to recognize that the municipality has various funding sources and budgeting processes for recreation as well as other Town services.

It is anticipated that the capital and operating costs of construction or improving recreation facilities and services could be financed by one or a combination of the following funding sources:

1. Reserves and Reserve Funds
2. Taxation
3. Debt Financing
4. User Fees
5. Provincial, Federal, or County Grants
6. Donations
7. Partnerships with Community Groups, Service Clubs, etc.
8. Development Charges
9. Parkland Dedication
10. Sale of Property

The Steering Committee and Consultants concur that process for implementation of recommendations should best proceed as follows, subsequent to Town Council's endorsement of the 2020 Update LAP Plan:

- The Community Services Department review and consider resources required to move ahead effectively to address all recommendations (see Strategy #1/pg. 58).
- A Work Plan/Action Plan should be developed to detail how and when recommendations could be successfully achieved, and with reference to Town and Recreation services' priorities and process. This would include a costing/expenditure analysis with attention to the Town's procurement policies and process; and with the informed knowledge of Town staff. Funding sources and budget timeframe would also be part of the Work Plan.
- As the 2021 Town Budget has been approved, the Work Plan would consider what has been budgeted for the current year, and which initiatives and recommendations would be referred to subsequent years.

Regarding funding for Town recreation services, we are noting that the Town commissioned a report as compiled by KPMG ("Municipal Modernization Funding Benchmarking") during November, 2020, which confirmed that "TBM spends significantly less (almost 1/2 in some cases)



per household on Recreation and Cultural Service expenses" than the selection of comparator municipalities (including Collingwood, Midland, and others). The KPMG Report also noted that the TBM has a lower overall tax per household than most comparators, has "exhibited stability," with taxation "increased less than inflation, since 2016.

This situation should be considered, as the above noted 'Work Plan' will most likely identify the need for related funding from taxation (and/or other funding sources) to address the community opinion and interest in evolving more opportunities for recreation facilities, programs, and services. A related analysis may include a "phasing-in" of increased taxation for recreation purposes, while balancing with other Town services and needs, and consideration of the public "threshold" for taxation levels.

An additional important funding component is related to the Development Charges (DC) process, when acquiring the DC funds for recreation services. As the Town may incur future capital expenditures for new recreation infrastructure, that may increase the average capital service levels for recreation services, and result in increased funding from the DC process.

It is advisable, as part of the Work Plan, to move ahead with planning for any major recreation infrastructure components (i.e., Multi-Use Feasibility Study), to be positioned as "shovel-ready" for any upper tier government grant opportunities.

## 5.1 STRATEGY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMMEDIATE NEXT STEPS

The LAP Update proposes 123 recommendations, encompassing six major concepts, some of which should be completed in the short term, and others over a longer term. This makes knowing where to start overwhelming and perhaps confusing. As well, there is a sense of urgency in the community with residents expecting action and specific outcomes at the completion of the LAP Update study process.

In attempt to provide strategic direction and advise on how best to get started, we are suggesting that the following strategic recommendations are of the highest priority and should be addressed first, commencing in 2021. They are listed in no particular order of importance as all are considered essential next steps for building on the momentum created during the community engagement phase of the LAP, and laying the groundwork for achieving success in implementing the other LAP recommendations.

### Strategy #1

Review the current **Town resources available** to move ahead effectively, including:

- staff time commitment required,
- level and expertise of staff required (relevant to required strategic planning, policy and program development, project management, etc.),

- financial/funding/budget planning to move ahead effectively,
- department structure (i.e., will require additional administrative and project manager positions), and consideration of a contract position(s) at the heavy load or front end of the strategic/policy development/implementation phase.

### **Strategy #2**

Update the Town's **Official Plan** Sections that deal with:

- public parkland and open space,
- general policies applying to all public parkland,
- parkland development policies, and
- any other recreation components. Include section 37 and section 45 of the planning act (and develop protocol for negotiating section 37 community benefits) including policy provisions.

This is timely, as the Town is currently updating the Official Plan.

### **Strategy #3**

Appoint a **Parks Committee** to:

- pro-actively engage in needed strategic and policy planning,
- help prioritize relevant initiatives and projects, and
- recommend and promote implementation for enhancements to Park's programs, services, and facilities,
- review other agency and public open space properties within Town (e.g., County Forests, Provincial Parks, Conservation Authorities, Crown Lands, etc.) and strategize how these lands could complement or enhance recreation opportunities, taking some pressures off Municipal parklands.

Consider that this Committee could be expanded to include athletic fields and courts, special events, and other entities.

### **Strategy #4**

Appoint an **Active Transportation Committee** to:

- pro-actively engage in needed strategic and policy planning,
- to prioritize relevant projects and initiatives,
- to recommend and promote implementation for enhancements to trails, cycling routes, and other active transportation programs, services, and facilities, and
- facilitate the Town's involvement with the related County project.

**Note:** We are suggesting the above two separate Committees at this time as there is a high degree of importance placed on anticipated work that needs to be done in these two areas. In the future, consideration could be given to meld these two committees within an overall Recreation Committee (or Leisure Activities Committee). And further, for practical transition purposes for the short term, the Town could consider folding these two Committees and the related required

strategic and policy planning, etc., within the Town's current Committee structure, while an ongoing Committee dedicated to leisure activities and services is recommended for the longer term.

### Strategy #5

Explore a **Regional Approach**, of recreation facilities, services, and programs, led by the Town, and in collaboration with identified and potential partners (i.e., area municipalities, School Boards, private sector, etc.) which could:

- review municipal assets and life cycles for potential regional facilities.
- consider and explore joint-use agreements.

### Strategy #6

Begin the ground work for building a **Multi-Use Recreation Facility (or facilities)** such as:

- forming an Advisory Committee,
- tendering a Feasibility Study, which would determine whether or not a multi-use recreation facility is feasible and with what specific components and amenities (including a review of potential cultural, arts, and/or wellness components.)
- investigating regional partnership opportunities,
- applying for government funding opportunities,
- researching best practices and processes as used by other municipalities that have completed successful like projects.

Some major considerations are: confirming the population base that is appropriate depending on the scale and proposed components; determining the best option to serve needs (e.g., one facility, or one facility with satellite(s), or two smaller multi-use facilities); ensuring new builds can be easily retrofitted to adapt to changing sports, activities and trends.

### Strategy #7

Consider developing a **Partnership Framework**, which could include components such as:

- partner planning principles
- opportunities audit process
- methods of locating partners
- definition of the elements of a successful partnership
- evaluation/assessment criteria

The 2006 LAP Study recommended that the Town proceed with development of a partnership framework as it would assist in identifying projects for which partnerships could be considered; standardize the evaluation of potential partners; and help to position the municipality as being "open for business." Further, it would "normalize" partnerships with traditional partners and guide future discussions with potential partners from the private sector.

### **Strategy #8**

Devise and implement an **ongoing process for engaging residents** and receiving their feedback regularly regarding the planning and provision of leisure services. Such a strategy would strive to:

- reach residents who did not participate in this planning process, and who might want to give input at a later time.
- receive input from specific interest groups, such as youth, cyclists, or seniors, for example.
- keep current and update the data and information collected in the LAP.
- test new ideas and generate solutions to overcome problems.

## 5.2 IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS

REC #	Strategy Recommendations for Immediate Next Steps	Short Term 2021-2025	Long Term 2025-2030	Beyond 2030	Additional Implementation Information
S1	<p>Review the current <b>Town resources available</b> to move ahead effectively with all recommendations, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• staff time commitment required,</li> <li>• level and expertise of staff required (relevant to required strategic planning, policy and program development, project management, etc.),</li> <li>• financial/funding/budget planning to move ahead effectively,</li> <li>• department structure (i.e., will require additional administrative and project manager positions), and consideration of a contract position(s) at the heavy load or front end of the strategic/policy development/implementation phase.</li> </ul>	✓			
S2	<p>Update the Town's <b>Official Plan</b> Sections that deal with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• public parkland and open space,</li> <li>• general policies applying to all public parkland,</li> <li>• parkland development policies, and</li> <li>• any other recreation components. Include section 37 and section 45 of the planning act (and develop protocol for negotiating section 37 community benefits) including policy provisions.</li> </ul>	✓			Refer to Official Plan Review and Update currently in progress

REC #	Strategy Recommendations for Immediate Next Steps	Short Term 2021-2025	Long Term 2025-2030	Beyond 2030	Additional Implementation Information
S3	<p>Appoint a <b>Parks Committee</b> to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• pro-actively engage in needed strategic and policy planning,</li> <li>• help prioritize relevant initiatives and projects,</li> <li>• recommend and promote implementation for enhancements to Park's programs, services, and facilities</li> <li>• review other agency and public open space properties within Town (e.g., County Forests, Provincial Parks, Conservation Authorities, Crown Lands, etc.) and strategize how these lands could complement or enhance recreation opportunities, taking some pressures off Municipal parklands.</li> </ul>	✓	✓	✓	<p>Consider that this Committee could be expanded to include athletic fields and courts, special events, and other entities.</p> <p>See Notes in S4 below.</p>
S4	<p>Appoint an <b>Active Transportation Committee</b> to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• pro-actively engage in needed strategic and policy planning,</li> <li>• to prioritize relevant projects and initiatives,</li> <li>• to recommend and promote implementation for enhancements to trails, cycling routes, and other active transportation programs, services, and facilities, and</li> <li>• facilitate the Town's involvement with the related County project.</li> </ul>	✓	✓	✓	<p><b>Note:</b> We are suggesting the above two separate Committees at this time as there is a high degree of importance placed on anticipated work that needs to be done in these two areas. In the future, consideration could be given to meld these two committees within an overall Recreation Committee (or Leisure Activities Committee).</p> <p>And further, for practical transition purposes for the short term, the Town could consider folding these two Committees and the related required strategic and policy planning, etc., within the Town's current Committee structure, while an ongoing Committee dedicated to leisure activities and services is recommended for the longer term.</p>
S5	<p>Explore a <b>Regional Approach</b>, of recreation facilities, services, and programs, led by the Town, and in collaboration with identified and potential partners (i.e., area municipalities, School Boards, private sector, etc.) which could:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• review municipal assets and life cycles for potential regional facilities.</li> <li>• consider and explore joint-use agreements.</li> </ul>	✓			



REC #	Strategy Recommendations for Immediate Next Steps	Short Term 2021-2025	Long Term 2025-2030	Beyond 2030	Additional Implementation Information
S6	<p>Begin the ground work for building a <b>Multi-Use Recreation Facility</b> (or facilities) such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>forming an Advisory Committee,</li> <li>tendering a Feasibility Study,</li> <li>investigating regional partnership opportunities,</li> <li>applying for government funding opportunities,</li> <li>researching best practices and processes as used by other municipalities that have completed successful like projects.</li> </ul>	✓			<p>Some major considerations are: confirming the population base that is appropriate depending on the scale and proposed components; determining the best option to serve needs (e.g., one facility, or one facility with satellite(s), or two smaller multi-use facilities); ensuring new builds can be easily retrofitted to adapt to changing sports, activities and trends.</p> <p>The Feasibility Study would determine whether or not a multi-use recreation facility is feasible and with what specific components and amenities. Community input during the LAP study process confirmed strong support for a multi-use facility, and it requires more dedicated study and consideration, including a review of potential cultural, arts, and/or wellness components.</p>
S7	<p>Consider developing a <b>Partnership Framework</b>, which could include components such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>partner planning principles</li> <li>opportunities audit process</li> <li>methods of locating partners</li> <li>definition of the elements of a successful partnership</li> <li>evaluation/assessment criteria</li> </ul>	✓			<p>The 2006 LAP Study recommended that the Town proceed with development of a partnership framework as it would assist in identifying projects for which partnerships could be considered; standardize the evaluation of potential partners; and help to position the municipality as being "open for business." Further, it would "normalize" partnerships with traditional partners and guide future discussions with potential partners from private sector.</p>
S8	<p>Devise and implement an <b>ongoing process for engaging residents</b> and receiving their feedback regularly regarding the planning and provision of leisure services. Such a strategy would strive to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>reach residents who did not participate in this planning process, and who might want to give input at a later time.</li> <li>receive input from specific interest groups, such as youth, cyclists, or seniors, for example.</li> <li>keep current and update the data and information collected in the LAP.</li> <li>test new ideas and generate solutions to overcome problems.</li> </ul>	✓	✓	✓	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>It's important to build on and sustain the momentum and community interest in the LAP and the recommendations. A feedback mechanism for continually monitoring progress, setting goals, and evaluating work done, will ensure that progress is made in how The Blue Mountains delivers leisure services and facilities.</p>

2021

Dunbar&amp;Associates

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REC #	4.1.1 Parkland Planning And Acquisition	Short Term 2021-2025	Long Term 2025-2030	Beyond 2030	Additional Implementation Information
1	As part of the 5-Year Review of the Official Plan in 2021, amend or update the Municipal Official Plan to reflect the parks and trails Master Plan recommendations and other service recommendations when appropriate.	✓			Refer to Official Plan Review in progress
2	Implement existing parkland developments and improvements as identified in Ten-Year Capital Plan.	✓	✓		
3	Collaborate with regional, local and municipal organizations to enhance park services. For example: Create a regional vision for major parkland acquisition over the next 10-15 years with neighbouring communities to provide for the growing population in an efficient and cost effective manner.	✓	✓	✓	Continuous
4	Develop a strategic land use assembly and future landholding strategy in conjunction with the Official Plan to be triggered by formal municipal planning processes.	✓			Refer to Official Plan Review
5	Optimize opportunities for parkland securement, including amenities, by applying density bonusing and alternate provision standards permitted under the Planning Act and enabled by the Official Plan and Zoning By-laws (i.e., Section 37 and 45 of the Planning Act).	✓			Refer to Official Plan Review

REC #	4.1.1 Parkland Planning And Acquisition	Short Term 2021-2025	Long Term 2025-2030	Beyond 2030	Additional Implementation Information
6	<p>Accept cash-in-lieu of parkland only in the following circumstances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Existing parkland allocation meets the standard conveyance rates of 2% for commercial or industrial purposes and 5% for all other cases, and a larger park area is not desirable;</li> <li>ii) The projected growth will have adequate provision and distribution of parks and recreational facilities;</li> <li>iii) A proposed development or redevelopment has achieved long term capital support and provides alternative leisure opportunities to a broad base of the Municipal population;</li> <li>v) Future developments can provide necessary parklands for future growth;</li> <li>vi) Land does not provide an active transportation link to other parks, facilities or trail heads.</li> </ul>	✓			<p>Establish this within Policy – to be an ongoing guideline.</p> <p>Upon a cursory review of this “cash-in-lieu” versus actual land dedication for parks development within new developments, the Town has been accepting the cash option on a regular basis, which is not progressive recreation planning!</p>
7	<p>Continue to ensure that benchmarking, best practices and continuous improvement initiatives are specifically contained in each budget submission and work plan to Council each year.</p>	✓	✓	✓	Continuous
8	<p>Continually look for ways to protect and enhance parkland for future generations. Reduce the carbon footprint of parks operation and maintenance, such as naturalizing areas for reduced grass cutting, planting more trees, choosing heritage or native species, and so on.</p>	✓	✓	✓	Continuous

REC #	4.1.2 Park Standards, Upgrades and Enhancements for Enjoyment By All	Short Term 2021-2025	Long Term 2025-2030	Beyond 2030	Additional Implementation Information
1	<p>Appoint a community-based Parks Committee to support the Recreation Department in developing and managing parks. Build a strong partnership with community residents early in the park planning or re-development process. Such a group would play an invaluable role in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) acting as a sounding board for ideas,</li> <li>ii) generating solutions for management, safety, or maintenance issues,</li> <li>iii) identifying emerging needs (e.g., fitness stations, signage, off-leash dog areas, trail connections, shaded sitting areas, playground equipment, etc.),</li> <li>iv) ensuring parks are designed for all abilities and are barrier-free,</li> <li>v) suggesting suitable programming in parks, such as yoga, tai chi, arts fair, mom and tot, pick-up basketball, special events, etc.</li> </ul>	✓	✓	✓	As per S3 and S4 on page 58
2	Create a process for new park design and development.	✓			
3	Establish a municipal parkland classification system for existing and new parks. Within each park classification (Neighbourhood, Community, Parkette, Open Space), there should be guidelines for standard design features (e.g., form, location, and amenities) for all new or redeveloped parkland. Where possible, parks should be at least 2 hectares so care and maintenance is more efficient.	✓			See Guidelines for Standard Park Design Chart.
4	Establish parks in new and re-developed areas by using a community-based assessment (demographics, socio-economic factors, population projections, proximity to existing parkland, desired urban type) to determine how much (4.0 ha/1000 gross and minimum 1.2 ha/1000 net) and where parkland is needed.	✓			Establish within Policy

REC #	4.1.2 Park Standards, Upgrades and Enhancements for Employment By All	Short Term 2021-2025	Long Term 2025-2030	Beyond 2030	Additional Implementation Information
5	As a condition of development of land, the municipality will ensure that lands will be conveyed to the municipality for park and recreational purposes using the standard rate of 2% (proposed development or redevelopment for commercial or industrial purposes) and 5% (in all other cases) or cash in lieu in accordance with Recommendation 6 in Section 4.1.1. Review parks and trails assembly, linear parkland, and parkland/ trail acceptance policies in the context of an assured level of service (i.e., minor parks or playgrounds within 800 metres of each residence). Update standards to include timing of provision of parkland amenities so that such facilities are available to residents when 25% occupancy, or sooner, of a subdivision is reached. In the future, the municipality may consider undertaking the requisite consultation and study to provide for alternative parkland dedication rates for cash-in-lieu, as provided in the Planning Act.	✓			Establish within Policy
6	Upgrade existing parks. Develop policy and accompanying procedures and maintenance practices consistent with provincial best practices. For example, commit to a long term policy in regards to replacing existing or installing new park play structures that ensures all landing areas are replaced with CSA approved composite/rubberized (or equivalent) and in addition maximizing physical accessibility should be a priority in the design. Maintain inspection reports on structures on a monthly basis.	✓	✓	✓	Continuous
7	Keep current and respond to new or changed provincial policy with municipal by-laws, such as the municipal by-law ensuring that all Municipal lands and public use areas are designated as tobacco free, including parks, play areas, and trails.	✓	✓	✓	Continuous

REC #	4.1.2 Park Standards, Upgrades and Enhancements for Employment By All	Short Term 2021-2025	Long Term 2025-2030	Beyond 2030	Additional Implementation Information
8	Adhere to guidelines and principles of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) and Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) legislation for park design. As well, use design features to avoid conflict between active and passive park uses.	✓	✓	✓	Continuous
9	Maintain in new subdivisions an Urban Forestry Canopy Cover (UFORE) for new development of 40% for the Municipal settlement areas.	✓			New tree bylaw currently being considered; refer to that process.
10	Develop an overall goal, specific criteria and performance measurements for park maintenance and consider creating and maintaining a GIS-based maintenance tracking database to facilitate service delivery.	✓			
11	Develop a yearly review of activities, issues and general performance.	✓			
12	Continue and expand Town beautification and horticultural projects. Ensure Staffing levels meet growing needs for creating and maintaining garden features; park maintenance; establishing community garden plots (which could be a suitable use for smaller, fragmented parks) if there is sufficient interest; assisting with outdoor rinks, winter trails or other recreation facility maintenance in winter.	✓	✓	✓	Continuous
13	Provide more shade trees and shade features in parks, near facilities, along trails, etc. for personal enjoyment, safety, and in response to climate change.	✓	✓	✓	Continuous
14	Investigate best option for off leash dog run(s) which should include shade. There should be off leash dog runs in Craighleith and Thornbury.	✓			
15	Create and host an interactive, web-based, parks map to increase awareness of facilities.	✓			



REC #	4.1.2 Park Standards, Upgrades and Enhancements for Enjoyment By All	Short Term 2021-2025	Long Term 2025-2030	Beyond 2030	Additional Implementation Information
16	Recruit and Work with volunteers or partners for initiatives such as tree planting, protecting/ enhancing natural habitats, donating benches, litter pick-up, special park projects, and so on.	✓	✓	✓	Continuous
17	Undertake determined upgrades to Skateboard facility. Consult with users.	✓			
18	Investigate and consider the construction of Splash pad/water features as part of amenities planning for the various parks properties.	✓			
19	Investigate and consider the construction of an outdoor rink, using existing ice plant in Thornbury arena and build extension in most efficient manner.	✓			
20	Investigate and consider the construction of a permanent, or acquire a portable outdoor amphitheatre/stage for music, theatre, performances, and movie nights.	✓	✓		This may be phased into overall upgrades to existing parks or be part of a multi-purpose facility.

REC #	4.1.3 Waterfront Protection, Access and Enjoyment	Short Term 2021-2025	Long Term 2025-2030	Beyond 2030	Additional Implementation Information
1	Establish guidelines and strategies to better manage and protect the beaches in 2021 and in the future.	✓			
2	Set control mechanisms, such as capacity levels for all properties and prepare a detailed response to handle overcrowding pressures on resources, such as at Northwinds, Peasemarsh, and other public beaches.	✓			
3	Work in conjunction/partnership with community partners, private business, and other stakeholders.	✓	✓	✓	Continuous
4	Improve and expand trail linkages wherever possible for residents to easily access the waterfront.	✓	✓	✓	Continuous
5	Perform needed maintenance/upgrades on harbour and pier and enhancements to make it a first-rate facility (boat launch, sustainable long term surfacing of the pier, patio, food service).	✓	✓		
6	Provide ramps/beach mat system to enable wheelchair access to the waterfront. Consult accessibility regulations and community groups regarding best products to install.	✓			

REC #	4.2.1 Program Leadership	Short Term 2021-2025	Long Term 2025-2030	Beyond 2030	Additional Implementation Information
1	Dedicate staff time, or hire a staff person to organize, coordinate and promote programs.	✓			<p>Duties could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) acting as a liaison with local groups, clubs, associations to locate activity space, procure equipment, schedule activity times, address participant conflicts and issues.</li> <li>ii) increasing the number of recreation programs available to residents by building partnerships with other groups and organizations.</li> <li>iii) promoting and advertising activities and facilities using a variety of media.</li> <li>iv) organizing and promoting special recreation events and tracking economic impact.</li> <li>v) working with volunteers to enhance and improve recreation opportunities and amenities.</li> <li>vi) promoting an open environment for community partners to come forward with ideas for new programs.</li> <li>vii) working with agencies for persons with a disability to ensure quality and financial support for participation.</li> <li>viii) participating in training programs and professional networks to gain relevant competencies and valuable resources for the Town residents.</li> <li>ix) representing the Town on relevant recreation committees and special project teams.</li> <li>x) keeping the Town informed and updated on new legislation and policies with respect to provision of parks and recreation services. Gender equity and access to recreation for persons with a disability are two issues that impact recreation services and are targeted through human rights and accessibility legislation.</li> <li>xi) promoting awareness and training relating to and in compliance with the Occupational Health &amp; Safety Act.</li> <li>xii) inventorying existing programming (arts, culture, leisure, sport, fitness, seniors', youth, co-ed, girls only, intergenerational, family, etc.); identifying gaps; planning for future.</li> <li>xiii) researching and applying for funding and grants.</li> </ul>

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REC #	4.2.1 Program Leadership	Short Term 2021-2025	Long Term 2025-2030	Beyond 2030	Additional Implementation Information
2	<p>Start discussions immediately with possible program partners, both private and public, on ways to work together to offer more equitable recreation activities and program offerings across the entire Town.</p> <p>--What existing facilities can be shared now with private/public uses, short and longer term?</p> <p>--Could there be new recreation facilities established in partnership for public/private co-operation and shared use? —long term.</p>	✓			
3	<p>Make the decision to move ahead with the planning process for a multi-use facility, including a financial-business model.</p>	✓			
4	<p>Keep abreast of the implications of human rights legislation, such as gender equity, and accessibility legislation, as well as physical literacy and national and provincial standards. Implement program guidelines and policies to ensure program accessibility and inclusivity regardless of gender, race, income, age or ability and adapt programs and services accordingly for safety and quality of recreation services.</p>	✓	✓	✓	<p>Continuous</p> <p>Note: previous draft recommendations 4 and 6 have been combined here.</p>
5	<p>Implement a Volunteer Development Plan for recruitment, screening, orientation, training and recognition of recreation service volunteers.</p>	✓			

REC #	4.2.2 Joint Use Agreements and Building Cooperative Relationships	Short Term 2021-2025	Long Term 2025-2030	Beyond 2030	Additional Implementation Information
1	<p>Explore opportunities for joint-use agreements with neighbouring municipalities:</p> <p>i) The Town of Collingwood. Can access to recreation in Collingwood through joint-use agreements be more affordable than building smaller, similar facilities at the Eastern end of the Municipality and more accessible than traveling to the West side of the community?</p> <p>ii) The Town of Meaford. Examine potential ways in which The Blue Mountains could enter joint ventures with new partners to address programming and facility needs, and look at ways to work together to offer better access to recreation across the region. Discussions might include the new high school, regional curling club for south Georgian Bay, new outdoor skating area adjacent to existing Thornbury arena, swimming pool, diving area, fitness centre, climbing walls, and indoor/outdoor courts and fields.</p>	✓	✓	✓	
2	<p>Explore potential partnerships with Marsh Street, Lemonade Collective, Plunge, Small Halls, community groups (e.g., curling, baseball, tennis, Rotary, library, arts, crafts, culture, entertainment, Events for Life), other municipalities, schools and school boards, private sector, etc., to assist in provision of equitable program offerings across the entire Town and avoid duplication.</p>	✓	✓	✓	
3	<p>Mobilize existing skill set and expertise of volunteers already in the community. Seek out and involve retired professionals, community champions, group leaders, parent volunteers, and those with skills to share in teaching, coaching, advising, spearheading, fundraising, governing, grounds keeping, and so forth.</p>	✓	✓	✓	Including in planning processes related to a potential multi-use facility.

## Leisure Activities Plan

REC #	4.2.3 Program Promotion	Short Term 2021-2025	Long Term 2025-2030	Beyond 2030	Additional Implementation Information
1	Prepare a recreation guide and community maps to market programs to the community, educate about policies and services, and so on. Offer both on-line, interactive and hard copy versions. Consider innovative ways of using apps, such as Strava.	✓			

REC #	4.2.4 Enhance Unstructured/Unprogrammed Opportunities	Short Term 2021-2025	Long Term 2025-2030	Beyond 2030	Additional Implementation Information
1	Work with organized clubs, groups, and associations (e.g., cycling, hiking, trails, water sports, skiing, snowshoeing groups) to offer more unstructured activities and programs.	✓	✓	✓	Continuous
2	Consult with youth regarding desired program opportunities.	✓	✓	✓	Continuous; i.e., Georgian Bay Youth group
3	Improve maintenance, enhancements and upgrades to parks and trails, to service growing demands for unstructured recreation. See Parks and Trails sections for specific recommendations.	✓	✓	✓	Continuous



REC #	4.3.1 Multi-Use Recreation Facility	Short Term 2021-2025	Long Term 2025-2030	Beyond 2030	Additional Implementation Information
1	Research best practices and processes as used by other municipalities that have completed successful like projects (i.e., Georgina process). A major consideration is confirming the population base that may be appropriate depending on scale and proposed components.	✓			
2	Begin the groundwork for building a multi-use facility, such as forming an advisory committee, tendering a Feasibility Study, investigating regional partnership opportunities, applying for government funding opportunities, and so on.	✓			Important to be “shovel ready” for government infrastructure funding opportunities.

REC #	4.3.2 Regional Approach to Facility Provision	Short Term 2021-2025	Long Term 2025-2030	Beyond 2030	Additional Implementation Information
1	Explore a regional approach, of recreation facilities, services, and programs, led by the Town and in collaboration with a diverse group of strong, committed partners, including other municipalities, corporations and the private sector, developers, sponsors, and relevant groups and organizations. The list of potential partners includes, but is not limited to: Meaford, Grey Highlands, Collingwood, Clearview, Grey County, schools and school boards, Canadian Forces, developers, private sector, the Y (e.g., for their expertise in operating pools) Blue Mountain Resorts, Blue Mountain Village Association, private and public ski operations, and the federal government (grants and initiatives, infrastructure funding programs, economic recovery initiatives, COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream funding, etc.)	✓	✓		Collaboration with potential partners whom may be willing to move ahead with an “exploration” initiative.
2	In particular, lay the groundwork for a potential partnership with Meaford by: i) Reviewing in detail, Meaford’s Report No. COR 2020-37 as received, referencing the LAP project. ii) Doing a regional review of all current facilities, infrastructure and open spaces. iii) Evaluating the state of local infrastructure and understanding current lifecycles. iv) Developing levels of service, related to service areas (existing and possible future) for local municipalities. v) Considering other partnerships and potential partners.	✓			Review details of Meaford’s Report No. COR 2020-37.
3	Consider 'Joint-Use Agreements,' being a successful process and potential opportunity between municipalities and other potential partners.	✓	✓	✓	

REC #	4.3.3 Facility Upgrades and Standards	Short Term 2021-2025	Long Term 2025-2030	Beyond 2030	Additional Implementation Information
1	Identify and prioritize short-term initiatives to upgrade, refurbish, or enhance existing facilities (e.g., Crossan Court tennis courts, curling facility, arena, Tomahawk golf course, Community Centre, baseball diamond, playgrounds, pier and harbour, cycling lanes, and others)	✓			Refer to Town Asset Management Plan
2	Prioritize geographical areas in need of service.	✓			
3	Increase number of tennis and pickleball opportunities.	✓			
4	Secure a reliable indoor tennis facility in appropriate location.		✓		
5	Investigate the possibility of Thornbury and Meaford Curling Clubs working together to fundraise and develop a new curling centre by repurposing the Thornbury arena into a curling club and outdoor skating rink for the region. This recommendation is dependent on an arena being part of a new multi-purpose facility. The existing arena ice plant would require upgrades for outdoor skating, and it would be an efficient repurposing of the ice plant and arena.	✓			Could be as part of 4.3.2 Rec #1 Regional Initiative, page 75
6	Confirm/develop standards for regular maintenance.	✓	✓	✓	Review what Town currently has/keep up-to-date.

REC #	4.4.1 Trail Planning and Acquisition	Short Term 2021-2025	Long Term 2025-2030	Beyond 2030	Additional Implementation Information
1	<p>Be aggressive in trail planning and development over the next five years and build momentum for trail planning with these initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Develop a five and ten year plan for trail linkage and amenities and trail historic signage and incorporate waterways for canoeing and kayaking.</li> <li>ii) Create an Active Transportation Plan for The Town of Blue Mountains (which includes 1. Walking; 2. Biking; 3. Mass transportation; 4. Car traffic) in that order of priority.</li> <li>iii) Promote a Town and Grey County Trails Strategy that links with the Simcoe County trails plan and marketing opportunities.</li> <li>iv) Create a wayfinding plan for the Municipality (Note: it would be easy to adopt the current system in Collingwood.)</li> <li>v) Promote “Share the Road” and other safe-cycling policies and procedures</li> </ul>	✓			
2	<p>Immediately upgrade the trail planning process with coordination of transportation planning and recreation management. The Georgian Trail is a significant travel corridor or “highway” and should be connected to all residential developments (minimum 10 foot, off road linkages) and be accessible to all residents in the Municipality. Therefore, desirable corridors of safe connection must be incorporated into all future planning</p> <p>Adopt Active Transportation Municipal Policies, strategies, and standards, to convey Municipal intent to staff and community members</p>	✓			Refer to current Transportation Master Planning Initiative.
3	<p>Broaden the definition of trails to include The Town of Blue Mountains waterways, or “blue trails” (and identify opportunities for kayak, canoe and paddle board travel or in combination with hiking or biking trails.</p>	✓			As per #2 above.
4		✓			

REC #	4.4.1 Trail Planning and Acquisition	Short Term 2021-2025	Long Term 2025-2030	Beyond 2030	Additional Implementation Information
5	Earmark Waterfront Rehabilitation funds for trail and waterfront improvements.	✓	✓	✓	Continuous
6	Review existing subdivisions, making improvements to trail accessibility and safety where possible.	✓	✓	✓	Continuous
7	Require all new subdivisions, commercial and public areas to connect their on-site pedestrian routes to offsite sidewalks and trail access points as part of the Official Plan Review. Design pedestrian routes to allow clear and unobstructed passage, with a minimum width of 1.5 metres with no abrupt side slopes, and a minimum overhead clearance of 2.5 metres. All street furniture should be off the pedestrian route of travel and storm sewers should be placed where they won't interfere with active transportation.	✓	✓	✓	Continuous and refer to Official Plan Review and Master Transportation Planning
8	Upgrade and develop the Municipal trail and active transportation system using a three-phase strategy: i) Join the waterfront to the downtown core with asphalt surface. ii) Connect the trail system to schools and parks. iii) Connect all trails to the Georgian Trail; and/or establish other major parallel routes for cycling and other uses.	✓	✓	✓	Continuous
9	Prepare short, medium and long-term forecasts for trail development, then budget, seek grants, encourage the private sector to donate, etc., to meet objectives. Consider that additional staff may be needed as trail network expands, including possible winter maintenance for year round trail use.	✓	✓	✓	Continuous

REC #	4.4.1 Trail Planning and Acquisition	Short Term 2021-2025	Long Term 2025-2030	Beyond 2030	Additional Implementation Information
10	Include policy in Official Plan during review to support implementation of trails and active transportation; and include a conceptual trails plan in the Official Plan update. In addition, review current planning procedures and add language that requires all new site development agreements to make trails, cycle routes, and active transportation provisions essential.	✓			Refer to Official Plan Review
11	Allocate funds from sale of any town properties to the appropriate Parks/Trails reserves.	✓	✓	✓	Continuous
12	Create a budget line for both capital expenditures for making new trails and a trails maintenance account. Review the capital forecast, and determine the need for financial repositioning of some projects to allow trail work to commence and start the active transportation plan as soon as possible.	✓			Includes review of current budget lines



REC #	4.4.2 Trail Safety, Standards and Quality of Experience	Short Term 2021-2025	Long Term 2025-2030	Beyond 2030	Additional Implementation Information
1	<p>Form a trails and active transportation community volunteer committee to support the Recreation Department in developing and managing trails. Build a strong partnership with community residents early in the trail planning process. Such a group would play an invaluable role in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) acting as a sounding board for ideas,</li> <li>ii) generating solutions for management issues or conflicting uses and helping to write guidelines,</li> <li>iii) identifying emerging needs (e.g., fitness stations, trailhead parking areas, signage, cross country ski trail, bike rack locations, staging points, historical, ecological, or interpretive plaques with QR codes, etc.),</li> <li>iv) ensuring trails are designed for all abilities and are barrier-free and making maps available that identify level of trail difficulty, and</li> <li>v) suggesting suitable programming on trails, such as cycle safety, art walks, story book walk, pole walking, fitness areas, etc.</li> </ul>	✓	✓		As per recommendation S4 (pages 58, 61); could consider melding with an overall Recreation Committee, or consider folding into the Town's currently Committee Structure.
2	Recruit and train a volunteer group of trail users who can be trail ambassadors to promote the trail, monitor trail surfaces, note dangerous conditions, falling trees, garbage problems, signage maintenance, etc. and notify staff for a quick response.	✓			
3	Inventory all existing trails and prepare a detailed report on each. There needs to be a formal trails map that indicates the permitted uses and the conditions of all trails that enter the Municipality. The staff must develop a current maintenance report card on all trails	✓			Note: a good start on the report card was made in the fall of 2020. The trail inventory should continue to show photos of all the amenities that are on the trail.  Is in progress

REC #	4.4.2 Trail Safety, Standards and Quality of Experience	Short Term 2021-2025	Long Term 2025-2030	Beyond 2030	Additional Implementation Information
4	Set minimum levels of acceptable trail maintenance standards and develop trail maintenance schedules. Spring inspections are recommended, as well as periodic inspections throughout the year to identify such maintenance issues as eroding trail surfacing, missing signs, encroaching vegetation, dumping, vandalism or garbage.	✓	✓	✓	Review what the Town currently has.
5	Evaluate current trailheads and identify choke points that restrict traffic flow, provide inadequate parking or staging room, or otherwise inhibit access to the trail (based on inventory completed). Upgrade construction details of parking areas at trailheads to include more signage that recognizes the need for AODA compliance. There should be a minimum of three parking spaces (two regular spaces and one accessible) per parking area. Parking areas are provided preferably for trails that provide at least a 20-minute walking experience.	✓	✓	✓	Good example is property adjacent to the Chamber of Commerce property; plans to provide trailhead parking.
6	Based on Engineering Standards and inventory, upgrade existing trails and build all new trails to meet the following standards: i) Hard surface (either stone dust, asphalt or concrete) ii) 10 feet/3 metres wide iii) 2 feet/1.5 metres clear cut zones on each side	✓			Review Engineering Standards as part of the Transportation Planning
7	Identify sidewalks and trails that require additional benches, shade, and resting areas for barrier-free and inclusive access.	✓	✓	✓	

REC #	4.4.2 Trail Safety, Standards and Quality of Experience	Short Term 2021-2025	Long Term 2025-2030	Beyond 2030	Additional Implementation Information
8	<p>Provide the following conditions on all pedestrian routes (as part of the Official Plan review process) to promote and enable walking:</p> <p>i) All residential areas need connection throughout the development and the distance a pedestrian must walk to reach a connecting pathway should be no further than 150 meters.</p> <p>ii) Cul-de-sacs and other types of dead ends need to provide connection of a minimum of 3 meters wide, which should be hard surface (compacted gravel as a minimum).</p>	✓			Refer to Official Plan Review
9	<p>Connect all trails and sidewalks to safe road crossings where possible. When this is not prudent, the Municipality should:</p> <p>i) Provide signage warning of upcoming traffic/road crossing.</p> <p>ii) Use stop bars, fences, boulders, curvature options on incoming trails/walkways to warn users of change or upcoming traffic.</p> <p>iii) Install curb extensions and refuge islands if crossing distance is greater than 3 lanes.</p> <p>iv) Install pedestrian activated crossing lights.</p> <p>v) Install countdown lights to assist walker/rider in road crossing; audible crossing signals are beneficial.</p>	✓			Refer re: Standards considered within the Transportation initiative.
10	Place standard-style Municipal bike racks at visible locations at public facilities, trail heads, play areas and public spaces. All commercial developments should be encouraged to provide covered and safe bike racks for employees.	✓	✓	✓	Continuous

REC #	4.4.2 Trail Safety, Standards and Quality of Experience	Short Term 2021-2025	Long Term 2025-2030	Beyond 2030	Additional Implementation Information
11	Improve Municipal trail signage and wayfinding, that is appropriate for all physical abilities, and that has a consistent format which includes information about distance, direction, destination and difficulty. Consider the use of new technologies, such as QR codes, apps and downloadable maps that may enhance the trail user's experience.	✓			
12	Use QR code technology on some signs to give directions, location, and emergency information, as well as interpretive text, such as local history, culture, geology or ecology.	✓			Being developed by the Town
13	Develop a trail guide (Note: see Collingwood trail map as an example; advertisers on map pay for the production of the map; map boxes create a revenue flow for trail maintenance) that could complement Collingwood trails and maps so there is a regional connection, promotion and consistency.	✓			
14	Celebrate active transportation in the Municipality with a special community event, for example, walk or bike to work and school day. The event will demonstrate the will of the community to celebrate a healthier lifestyle choice and a new way of thinking about transportation in Municipality.	✓			The potential for an annual event is tremendous and can be expanded in similar fashion to many other worldwide examples. Potential partners to involve in the planning for this event may be the schools, health organizations, private sector, active transportation committee, etc.
15	Initiate the practice of seeking trail donations at Municipal offices as well as selected businesses. Make cards available at funeral homes so donations can be made to The Blue Mountains Trails in memoriam.	✓			

REC #	4.4.2 Trail Safety, Standards and Quality of Experience	Short Term 2021-2025	Long Term 2025-2030	Beyond 2030	Additional Implementation Information
	<b>Road Cycling</b>				Road Cycling has its own dedicated program referred to as “Share the Road,” which includes a number of initiatives to make road cycling safer and more enjoyable.
16	As roads are being repaved, extend the pavement surface by an extra 1.25 metre (MOT Book 18/or other standard to be established) for paved shoulder riding.	✓			Refer to Transportation initiative; if related standards are approved, then a continuous item.
17	Identify popular and preferred cycling routes in consultation with user groups, and place in a priority list for shoulder paving as road upgrades are being done. Two priorities for improved signage and paved shoulder upgrades are Concession #10 as a major north/south travel corridor, and Sideroad 33 for an east/west travel corridor.	✓	✓	✓	Include as part of the County Master Plan initiative.  Strava Heat maps and Strava data purchased by Grey County will be great tools to identify popular and preferred cycling routes.
18	Separate recreational trail cycling from road cycling by a minimum 10 feet (3 metres) and where possible by a physical barrier (to be coordinated with standards being developed within Transportation Master Planning).	✓	✓	✓	Consider re-write of this; include re-write as part of the Transportation initiative.

REC #	4.4.3 Regional Trail Connections	Short Term 2021-2025	Long Term 2025-2030	Beyond 2030	Additional Implementation Information
1	Refer to the Grey County Cycling and Trails Master Plan and the Simcoe County Trails Master Plan (Dunbar et al, 2006) to plan trail linkages to the greater regional trail network and create consistent maps, signage, and maintenance standards.	✓			
2	Continue representation on County Active Transportation Committee and work to implement the Active Transportation Plan. Advance Municipal active transportation initiatives by looking worldwide at towns with similar characteristics as The Blue Mountains to establish a desired course of action on operating and capital budget decisions.	✓	✓	✓	Ryan to check re: status of County Initiative; is it an actual Committee? Is Economic Development planning related?
3	Promote the Municipality as a destination point for cyclists. Recreational cyclists from the GTA and neighbouring Counties will ride to the region to enjoy the downtown, waterfront, countryside, etc.	✓	✓	✓	
4	Work with neighbouring municipalities and Active Transportation Plan to improve the experience for road cyclists (for example, paved shoulders)	✓	✓	✓	
5	Research, review and plan a formal off roads trail to connect to the Collingwood trails system. This would extend trail use for visitors and residents to cycle to Midland, Tiny Township, Penetanguishene, Wasaga Beach and all throughout the Simcoe County trail network. Over the long term, create a joint County committee to market and promote a cycle experience between Simcoe and Grey Counties which would have positive economic benefit for the tourism sector while providing affordable, local recreation for family and all ages.	✓			



REC #	4.5.1 Improve Court and Field Availability	Short Term 2021-2025	Long Term 2025-2030	Beyond 2030	Additional Implementation Information
1	Research potential partnerships or joint-use agreements with private clubs.	✓	✓	✓	
2	Examine ways to extend the seasonal use of courts, or develop multi-use courts (e.g., tennis in the summer; outdoor skating in the winter)	✓	✓	✓	
3	Form a community-based athletic fields and court advisory body for input and planning to address needs and trends.		✓		Before if appropriate
4	Refurbish existing tennis courts, subsequent to detailed inspections and seek input from users.	✓	✓	✓	Part of ongoing Asset Management Planning
5	Add new tennis courts, and establish tennis programs for youth	✓			
6	Expand opportunities for indoor and outdoor pickleball, with input from users.	✓			Pickleball facility in progress at Tomahawk; completion spring of 2021.
7	A major parameter for the overall and ongoing recreation planning is to ensure that there is/will be opportunities for 'fields and courts' facilities across the geographic areas of the Town.	✓	✓	✓	Continuous
8	Advance programs for use of courts. Pickleball seems to have a well-organized group that deals with club membership, scheduling, etc. The Nippissing tennis facility has an established membership public-use model that could be established for other facilities .	✓	✓	✓	Continuous
9	Make connections, wherever possible, of courts and playing fields to active transportation, cycling routes, and trails. Refer to Trails Section Recommendations.	✓	✓	✓	Continuous
10	Consider including indoor and outdoor courts in a multi-use facility.	✓			Include in multi-use planning.

## Leisure Activities Plan

REC #	4.5.2 Improve Offering for Families and Youth	Short Term 2021-2025	Long Term 2025-2030	Beyond 2030	Additional Implementation Information
1	Continue ongoing collaboration with the Beaver Valley Athletic Association (BVAA) which has provided much support and resources over the years.	✓	✓	✓	Continuous
2	Seek partnerships, joint-use agreements and other strategies to expand the number of year-round, indoor and outdoor program offerings in the community.	✓	✓	✓	Continuous
3	Form athletic fields and court youth advisory body for input and planning to address needs and trends specific to youth and families. Consult youth for their ideas on more relevant recreation activities for today, such as skate park, bmx park, skiing, snowboarding, roller blading , biking , hiking, swimming, walking , kayaking , paddling, clubs and interest groups, arts programs, girls-only, co-ed, etc.		✓	✓	Before if appropriate
4	Upgrade and repair baseball diamonds as needed.	✓	✓	✓	Continuous
5	Upgrade soccer fields as needed.	✓	✓	✓	Continuous
6	Look for regional arena facility partnerships (i.e., soccer and hockey activities have evolved with a regional structure and other recreation activities can as well with collaborative planning).	✓	✓	✓	Collaborate with Meaford; i.e., Georgian Bay Minor Hockey
7	Upgrade Skateboard Park and consider building bmx bike park.	✓			
8	Build outdoor basketball courts.	✓			
9	Ensure facilities are spread across Town.	✓	✓	✓	Continuous
10	Set standards and schedules for basic field and court maintenance for consistent and regular upkeep.	✓	✓	✓	Continuous
11	Connect all fields and courts, where possible, to trails, cycle routes, and active transportation or public transit.	✓	✓	✓	Continuous

REC #	4.5.2 Improve Offering for Families and Youth	Short Term 2021-2025	Long Term 2025-2030	Beyond 2030	Additional Implementation Information
12	Encourage local and house league play which could offer well-trained coaches, skill development training, affordability, less travel and less impact on family time. Support local coaches in meeting training requirements by hosting clinics, referee certification workshops, etc.	✓	✓	✓	Continuous
13	For the long term, plan for indoor and outdoor fields and courts, integrated with a multi-use facility offering programs that are multigenerational, intergenerational, and family-oriented.	✓	✓	✓	Consider as part of the multi-use facility planning.

REC #	4.6.1 Family and Youth Community-Based Events	Short Term 2021-2025	Long Term 2025-2030	Beyond 2030	Additional Implementation Information
1	Ensure tracking, measuring and reporting on the economic benefit of special events in community.	✓	✓	✓	Some of this existing with Town's application process.
2	Encourage event organizers, within the planning and permitting process, to include components for local participants, especially youth, and with local promotions. Establish a set of criteria for evaluating whether or not certain special events are congruent with the Town's image and are desirable to host.	✓	✓	✓	Some of this existing with Town's application process.
3	Set standards or benchmarks to determine if an event is accessible to all abilities, and inclusive.	✓	✓	✓	Some of this existing with Town's application process.
4	Form partnerships with stakeholders to ensure efficient and effective logistics in terms of traffic, parking, etc.	✓	✓	✓	Continuous
5	Explore options for special events away from Town centres, such as trail events or fair grounds, to lessen congestion issues and offer variety.	✓	✓	✓	i.e., Open space at Tomahawk
6	Construct a permanent, or acquire a portable outdoor amphitheatre/stage for music, theatre, performances, and movie nights. This may be phased into overall upgrades to existing parks or be part of a multi-purpose facility, or be moved to various special event locations.		✓		Same as Rec #20 in 4.1.2 Park Standards, Upgrades and Enhancements for Enjoyment By All; Focus here is on being "moveable" to various sites and events.

## Leisure Activities Plan

REC #	4.6.2 Sporting and Competitive Events	Short Term 2021-2025	Long Term 2025-2030	Beyond 2030	Additional Implementation Information
1	Consider/Investigate the potential for a multi-use regional sport and recreation centre as part of the Multi-Use Recreation Centre Feasibility Study process.	✓			Consider as part of the multi-use facility planning.
2	Confirm public opinion regarding a wakeboard/cable park through the planning process.				

