



# THE *View* FROM *Blue*



Published by Blue Mountain Ratepayers' Association  
[www.bmratespayers.com](http://www.bmratespayers.com)  
Box 198, Thornbury, Ontario NOH 2P0

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Peter Bordignon, President of BMRA

### What a Winter this has Been and Spring is Literally around the Corner!

I am not just talking about the weather and the seasons, as always there is so much going on in our Town of the Blue Mountains. With 7,200 Full Time Residents, 7,400 Recreational and another 10,000 Tourists we are in a very unique position as a Town. This kind of dynamic demographic brings so many opportunities as well as challenges. The BMRA have been having many meetings and discussions with various groups and community leaders in regards to Affordable Housing, Transit, Work Force Talent and Health Care for TBM.

*As a town we are 20 years old, almost an Adult. It is time we live on our own and manage our own money.*

TIER 1 Government would allow us to live like a grown up and stop relying on our parents at the County for our allowance and needs. I think we are capable of making our own decisions about what is best and what is needed for our Town. Also, there are little things, like the \$1.9 million surplus at the County of which almost \$500,000 belongs to us.

**If we ask nicely can we Please get our money back?  
Our Town = Our Destiny Sounds Good Right Now!**



While writing this article, I realize that my tenure with the BMRA Board and as President ends in just 2 months at our AGM on May 12th, so I thought I would make a list to all that has been happening in TBM over the past few months. Here we go in no particular order...

1. Proposed Changes to Town's Code of Conduct, Workplace Harassment Policy, and Investigation Protocols
2. Town Considers Changes to it's Procedural Bylaws
3. Many new 'Blacked Out' Redacted Accounts because of Provincial Legislation
4. Who was that Redacted \$50,000 Payment Recipient?
5. Michael Seguin Returns to Council Seat but still no resolution with Town
6. TBM now has Live Streaming of Council and C.O.W. Meetings
7. We heard a great Report from The Economic Development Advisory Committee
8. Curling Returning to the Blue Mountains
9. The Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) Rules in Favour of TBM with Hwy #26 STA Issue
10. The 2018 TBM Budget was approved
11. Shawn Everitt was Officially Named Interim CAO
12. Regular TBM Business with Planning, By Laws, and of course the County Task Force

**I haven't even mentioned yet that this is a Municipal Election Year!**

**Less then 7 weeks to see Candidates Sign Up and Election Day 7 months away!**

I hope I don't miss anything but this just outlines the need for Community based input and outreach. The BMRA has been working as a Ratepayers' group for over 40 years.

Our membership base is growing and continues to branch out across many platforms and topics.

**Please join us at our Annual General Meeting on Saturday, May 12th at the Marsh Street Centre.**

It is a great chance to meet with the BMRA Directors and renew old acquaintances.

**I HEARD THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE...  
THIS YEAR, THE BMRA PARTY IS NOW  
HAPPENING IN THE VINEYARD!**

**8.25.18**



**BLUE MOUNTAIN RATE PAYERS'  
VINEYARD PARTY  
DINNER • DANCE • AUCTION  
SATURDAY, AUGUST 25TH, 2018**

**O&B**  
CATERING BY  
**OLIVER & BONACINI**

**BMRA  
VINEYARD  
PARTY**

**DINNER • DANCE  
AUCTION GALA**

**SATURDAY  
AUGUST 25TH, 2018  
6.30 PM - 11.00 PM  
TICKETS ONLY: \$60**

**GEORGIAN HILLS  
VINEYARDS**  
496350 GREY COUNTY RD 2,  
BLUE MOUNTAINS, ONTARIO

A Portion of the Proceeds  
will support  
Beaver Valley Outreach  
Events for Life - Thornbury

**BLUE MOUNTAIN RATE PAYERS'**

**BLUE MOUNTAIN RATE PAYERS'  
VINEYARD PARTY**

**FOR TICKETS AND SPONSORSHIP:**

Andrée Lovell - [andree@lovellinc.ca](mailto:andree@lovellinc.ca)  
Paula Hope - [paula@bookedsolid.ca](mailto:paula@bookedsolid.ca)

**SILENT  
AUCTION**

**Cash Bar**



**\$2 SHUTTLEBUS**

**DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY WITH:**



**Bored of  
Education**

**A PORTION OF THE PROCEEDS WILL SUPPORT:**

**AL FRESCO  
DINING  
CATERED BY:**

**O&B  
OLIVER & BONACINI**





**Planning Update**

A group of over twenty residents met February 5th with Michael Benner, the Town's Director of Planning, at Citizens' Forum. They had lots of questions and comments about the pace of housing construction. Benner noted that there are over 3000 units in the planning process and emphasized the critical role of public input in new development. This is especially the case now that the role of the Ontario Municipal Board has changed and fewer decisions can be appealed to a higher authority.

Mr. Benner said that the Town has a high standard for open space (40%), and for this and other reasons he feels we are less developer-friendly compared to other municipalities. Perhaps he was also thinking of the Town's Design Guidelines, which the BMRA lobbied to have included in the updated Official Plan. Speaking of the Official Plan, the Town is soon to release for public comment a draft of the Comprehensive Zoning By-Law which will tie the goals of the updated OP to specific permissions and restrictions that dictate what can actually get built.

Another topic of concern at the meeting was housing affordability. Benner noted that the Town has launched two housing programs and is now also looking at ways it can encourage the development of smaller homes and a greater mix of housing types, with a report expected next month.



**Social Update**

Building on the success of last August's Barn Party & Dance 100% SOLD OUT, we are already planning the second annual gala to be held on **Saturday August 25th, 2018**. This year we are moving the Party to the Vineyard Georgian Hills Winery.

**Please SAVE THE DATE on your calendars!**

Please join us for another great evening with Silent Auction, Dinner, Band and Dancing. We are also looking for input to fine tune the experience for everyone this summer and welcome any feedback and/or suggestions. Remember, over \$4000.00 was raised last year for BVO and Events for Life and once again a portion of the proceeds from this event will support these two great local TBM charities.

Please feel free to contact our Social Committee Chair, Andrée Lovell at [andree@lovellinc.ca](mailto:andree@lovellinc.ca)

**In Memoriam:**

**Patricia (Pat) Fennesy.** After a courageous fight, Pat passed away peacefully on February 16, 2018 with her beloved Denis by her side. Pat was the wife of long time BMRA Director Denis, a Memorial Service was held in her honour in Collingwood on March 3rd.

**Judy Donaldson.** Judy passed away peacefully on February 21st, 2018. Judy was the mother of our Social Committee Chair, Andrée Lovell.

**Short Term Accommodation (STA) Committee report**

The Town has enacted Bylaws to protect residential areas from short term rental houses operating in our neighbourhoods. All such residential rentals need to be licensed. The primary tool the Town uses to put pressure on STA owners to operate responsibly is the ability to take away their licenses by applying demerit points for various infractions.

There is proposal to change to the way Demerit points are assigned against a license for a noise violation.

Presently a complaint for noise is made to the OPP and they investigate and may lay charges against the renters. If they do then the case goes to court in Owen Sound (the complainant and OPP must attend) and when a conviction is registered the Town then assigns 5 Demerit points against the license for the STA (at 15 points they may lose their license to operate).

The STA Industry has long complained that because noise charges are placed against their renters the owners don't have "their day in court".

We haven't seen it in writing yet however we have been advised that a change being proposed by town staff would be that instead of assigning points when the noise conviction is registered a whole new process would begin. After the noise conviction, charges would then be laid against the owner for being in violation of a Bylaw and that charge would be tried in Provincial Court and only if they were convicted would demerit points be assigned so two convictions would be required before any action would be taken.

The new proposal would add additional complications and delays to having the owners face the consequences of the actions of their renters for which they are responsible. This process would not support the purpose or the goals of the Bylaw nor offer sufficient protection to residential neighbourhoods and it would incur substantial additional costs to the Town. Who would benefit by delay delay delay.

Our position is that the present system that requires a noise conviction doesn't do enough to stop the noise disturbances from STA's occurring in our residential areas. We would like to see a simpler system, one that would be more reflective of addressing these disturbances. Last year there were 42 complaints phoned in but only 2 charges were laid so the potential for demerit points to be assessed is 1 in 21. There were 40 times that neighbors were disturbed and there weren't any consequences for the owners, they got a free pass. A better method would be that Town investigate all complaints and assign demerit points when they think it is appropriate.

On March 29 at the Committee of the Whole meeting this proposed change will be presented to the members of Council. We will ask that they not accept it and that they ask staff for a report on how to change the existing process to one that reflects what is in the Bylaw, the reasons and propose of the Bylaw and that it better protect our residential neighbourhoods.

# Notice of Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Blue Mountain Ratepayers' Association on will be held

**Saturday, May 12th, 2018 at 9.00 AM**

**Closed Session at 9.00 AM for members in good standing only**

Please arrive by 8.30 AM for registration and coffee.

**This is a great chance to renew acquaintances and your \$25 membership**

**The Marsh Street Centre - 187 Marsh Street, Clarksburg**

(Public parking available next to the Legion Building)

For the purpose of:

1. Receiving the Report of the Directors
2. Receiving the Financial Report for the Fiscal Year ending December 31, 2017
3. Election of Board Directors
4. Proposed Amendments to the Bylaws
5. Transacting any other Business presented at the Meeting
6. Question and Answer Period

**Special Guest Speaker - Shawn Everitt - Interim CAO - TBM**

## 10.15 AM - Public Welcome Let's Chat Open Session

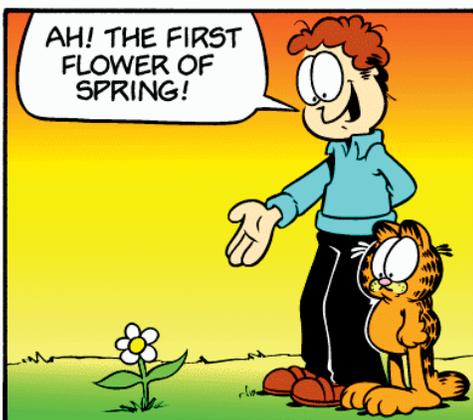
**10:15 AM: Welcome to Public and Guest Introduction(s)**

**10:30 AM - Let's Chat Roundtable Sessions, with BMRA Board & Guests**

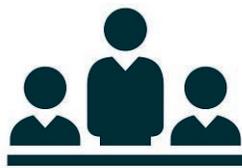
**11:30 AM: Question and Answer Period**



**By Order of the Board, January 13th, 2018  
Peter Bordignon, President, Blue Mountain Ratepayers' Association**



# COUNTY



**By: John Leckie, Chair BMRA County Committee**

## **The County boundaries do not represent our economic or demographic activity.**

### ***Is Blue Catchment a better way to think of our region?***

In previous newsletters we have stated that our ultimate goal is to exit the County and eliminate our funding of an unnecessary tier of government. We have 4 tiers of government: Ottawa, Queen's Park, Grey County and our Town. It is unsustainable for one household to carry 4 tiers on its back. Thus we have been striving to eliminate one of the tiers, the County, from tugging at our wallets. What would a Tier One TBM look like? This is the beginning of a dialogue of what that might become. We need to start painting by demographic numbers instead of legacy boundaries that are now obsolete. We hope to end up with a picture of a Blue Catchment area instead of Grey County.

Many attempts over the last few decades have been made to establish a community that reflects the commercial and economic activity that is driving our region. For example, it has been referred to as the Georgian Triangle and South Georgian Bay. Generally this is thought of as an area from Meaford to Wasaga with the Town of Blue Mountains and Collingwood in between. It has been challenging to find a starting point to make the political boundaries complement the economic and demographic activity. A potential way to start to solve this conundrum is as follows:

Events for Life (EFL) is a not for profit entity, a Charity that the BMRA has sponsored because it so appropriately represents our broader community. It facilitates individualized programs focused on community integration and lifelong learning. But when EFL requested additional funding from TBM it ran into a snag partly because its services were beyond the official boundaries of the Town and extended into the 2 Counties overlaying TBM, Grey County and Simcoe Grey.

A solution to this problem is to think about ourselves as a catchment area instead of artificial political boundaries that don't represent our economic or demographic activity.

Therefore as a test for this concept, EFL will be discussed at the next meeting of the Grey County- The Blue Mountains Task Force meeting in Owen Sound. Ideally we will end up with a solution that can be a model for other services.

Another service that could benefit from this approach is the long term care issue which has recently taken some interesting twists.

Additionally TBM sits within 2 Local Hospital Integrated Networks (LHINs) that require funding for both Meaford Hospital and the Collingwood Hospital. The Collingwood Hospital rebuild has yet to be presented by their Board to the County. But when that happens who will be called upon? Grey County of which TBM is a contributor as well as Simcoe County. As well as TBM and Collingwood. Plus the province of course. How many political jurisdictions is that? 5. But how many wallets do the Ratepayers have to fund these overlapping funding needs?

**Could we make this more complicated? We don't think so!**

**Given the explosive development activity which is expected to continue it is important that we sort out the way we see ourselves.**

It would seem that from a distance the New York Times article Feb 28th 2018 sees our area more clearly than we do ourselves.

"In recent years, nearly 30 percent of new immigrants have settled in greater Toronto, making Canada's largest city the top destination for arrivals, according to the 2016 census. Almost half of Toronto's residents are foreign-born, the highest proportion of any major urban center in Canada.

"That makes Blue Mountain a good choice for many to learn the most Canadian-of-hobbies...in a reflection of the region's dizzying diversity, Blue Mountain employs ski and snowboard instructors who speak 19 languages, among them Dutch, Korean, Polish, Romanian and Greek. Inside the resort's rental center, Chinese characters were emblazoned on a "ski pickup" sign, and a cacophony of Hindi, Mandarin and English resounded among the jostling crowd."

So when thinking about our future in the context of that Times article... this is no longer just a quaint little rural community that is able to stumble along with the status quo.

Then we have a Collingwood Connection article from March 1st.

"Simcoe-Grey MPP Jim Wilson said there continues to be unresolved issues, including the amount the municipality contributes to Grey County. 'The Town is always fighting on behalf of residents to get their fair share' he said.

As BMRA President Peter Bordignon says: "So many of the issues: Housing, Health Care and Transit are County and Catchment wide, not just Town issues. The OPP coverage already operates that way to some extent. Someone falls skiing at Blue = over to Collingwood. Someone lives in Collingwood and needs to work in Thornbury = Transit. The County and Town relationship will be so important over the next decade and maybe we have to broaden that to think CATCHMENT."

To summarize: is thinking about ourselves as a catchment area a way to rekindle a decades old conversation that referred to ourselves as the Georgian Triangle or South Georgian Bay? It will probably take our entrepreneurial sector and not-for-profit sector to pick up the ball and push these ideas upon our elected representatives to take this to its logical conclusion.

#### **Resignation:**

After many years of dedication to the local TBM community, Blanka Guyatt is resigning from her position as a Blue Mountains Ratepayers' Director and Environmental Chair, effective immediately.

We thank her for all her years of community service and dedication to our town and the BMRA. Blanka will be continuing her Environmental efforts with the Blue Mountain Watershed Trust.

We wish her well with all her future endeavours.

# MEET YOUR TBM CANDIDATES

## Saturday, September 22nd, 2018

HOSTED BY: THE BMRA  
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC  
9.00 AM to NOON  
ROUND TABLE  
DISCUSSION FORMAT

THE BLUE MOUNTAIN RATEPAYERS'  
**ALL CANDIDATES**  
**FORUM** 

**Beaver Valley Community Centre**  
**58 Alfred Street West, Thornbury**



**MUNICIPAL  
ELECTIONS**

**MONDAY - OCTOBER 22nd, 2018**

### Election 2018 - Internet and Telephone Voting

The Town of The Blue Mountains will be using both internet and telephone voting only in the 2018 Municipal Election.

**MAIL-IN AND PAPER BALLOTS WILL NOT BE USED.**

With internet and telephone voting, electors will have the opportunity to cast their ballots where telephone or internet service is available. The Town will offer Help Centres and Education Centres throughout the election period to ensure all voters have the opportunity to participate.

Always check the town website [www.thebluemountains.ca](http://www.thebluemountains.ca) for additional information regarding the 2018 Municipal Election.



**MEMBERSHIP FORM  
MAIL • E-MAIL • ON-LINE  
ONLY \$25.00 ANNUALLY**

[bmratespayers.com/membership-renewal](http://bmratespayers.com/membership-renewal)

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

First Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

TBM Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone(s): \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Email(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Email(s): \_\_\_\_\_

*Mailing if Different then Above:*

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal: \_\_\_\_\_

Paid: Cash: \_\_\_\_\_ Cheque: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

[treasurer.bmra@gmail.com](mailto:treasurer.bmra@gmail.com)

(also email our Treasurer for the Question & Security Answer with your contact info)



Blue Mountain Ratepayers Association • Box 198, Thornbury, Ontario, N0H2P0

# MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

By: Jane Moysey  
Membership Director

## WHY BE A MEMBER OF THE BMRA?

The Blue Mountain Ratepayers' Association advocates for responsible governance of our Municipality. It reports to you so that you are in the know about current local issues, giving you the opportunity to have a voice in matters which affect your pocketbook.

The more paid Members we have, the greater the political clout for all of our voices to be heard. Our current local politicians, and the future hopefuls, are impressed by our paid membership numbers and recognize the force we've become!

Thanks to many of you who keep abreast of the issues and support BMRA activities, we have grown in numbers.

**Especially in this Election Year, we ask that you re-new your memberships and encourage your friends and family to join us.**

We actively seek members from all TBM neighbourhoods, the agricultural community, full time & recreational residents and corporate and small businesses.

## All of you are important to the BMRA.

Membership remains at \$25 for you and a spouse. Joining or renewing has never been easier:

A sign-up form is included herein, fill out and mail in. You can always visit our website at <http://bmrateratepayers.com/membership-renewal/>

You may also do a \$25.00 email money transfer to [treasurer.bmra@gmail.com](mailto:treasurer.bmra@gmail.com) (also email our Treasurer for the Question & Security Answer with your contact info)



# JOIN TODAY!

The Blue Mountains Ratepayers' Association is growing in numbers thanks to many of you who keep abreast of the issues and support BMRA activities! Please don't forget to send in your \$25 and keep us the force we've become! New members and diversity always welcome!

We are actively seeking residential members as well as members from our agricultural community, corporate business, and small business. We are looking for committee volunteers with skillsets in website, social media, fundraising and municipal elections.

**PLEASE RENEW OR JOIN TODAY!**

**RENEW TODAY  
ONLY \$25!**

[www.bmrateratepayers.com](http://www.bmrateratepayers.com)

Visit the website and click on JOIN NOW today!



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Peter Bordignon, President**  
[pbordignon@outlook.com](mailto:pbordignon@outlook.com)

**John Leckie, Vice President**  
[john.leckie@rogers.com](mailto:john.leckie@rogers.com)

**Bill Pittaway, Secretary**  
[billpittaway13@gmail.com](mailto:billpittaway13@gmail.com)

**Peter Sharpe, Treasurer**  
[pesharpe@rogers.com](mailto:pesharpe@rogers.com)

### Directors:

**Denis Fennesy, Director**  
[djf@rogers.com](mailto:djf@rogers.com)

**Janet Findlay**  
Chair, Planning Committee  
[jfindlay@rogers.com](mailto:jfindlay@rogers.com)

**Paula Hope**  
Chair, Communications Committee  
[paula@bookedsolid.ca](mailto:paula@bookedsolid.ca)

**Terry Kellar**  
Chair, STA Committee  
[tkellar@sympatico.ca](mailto:tkellar@sympatico.ca)

**Andree Lovell**  
Chair, Social Committee  
email: [andree@lovellinc.ca](mailto:andree@lovellinc.ca)

**Jane Moysey**  
Membership Director  
[jane@janemoysey.com](mailto:jane@janemoysey.com)

**Terry Thompson**  
Chair, Budget Review Committee  
[terencethompson@rogers.com](mailto:terencethompson@rogers.com)

**Michael Seguin**  
Past President

[www.bmrateratepayers.com](http://www.bmrateratepayers.com)

## WHY BE A BMRA MEMBER?

- Strength in numbers = influence on government and community issues, paid membership is the proof
- Membership means you can bring issues of concern to the attention of the Association and perhaps find like minded support
- Represent the issues facing your neighbourhood or industry and make a difference
- While your Board are all Volunteers... Website, Newsletters and AGM are costly: for effective and timely communication we need your dues!