



Georgian Bay TIMES

April 2023

REGISTER HERE FOR ONLINE SERVICE

MacTier Town Hall Thursday, March 29, 2023



Great turnout and community questions about Internet, Short Term Rentals, and the upcoming MacTier Arena Committee.
More information on this committee on page 6.
Well done Councillor Predko. Seen left with Mayor Koetsier and District Councillor Brian Bochek.

**MUNICIPAL
MODERNIZATION**

SERVICES ARE NOW AVAILABLE
TO YOU AS RESIDENTS.

YOUR UNIQUE ACTIVATION CODE
WAS SENT TO YOU VIA YOUR
2023 TAX BILL.

REGISTER HERE

Township of Georgian Bay

99 Lone Pine Road, Port Severn ON L0K 1S0
705-538-2337 | 1-800-567-0187 (toll-free)

www.gbtownship.ca

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Township of Georgian Bay

Township of Georgian Bay

WHAT IS HAPPENING AT THE LIBRARY FOR APRIL?

Paper Flower Spring Bouquet

Adult craft

Come celebrate Spring with us and make a beautiful spring bouquet out of paper!

Honey Harbour: Tuesday, April 18 at 6:30 p.m.

MacTier: Wednesday, April 19 at 6:30 p.m.

Play Bird Bingo All April Long!

Explore the outdoors and see how many birds you can spot. Get a row to be entered to win a grand prize. Play as a family or by yourself. One prize at each branch. Pick up your Bingo card at any branch.

Seed Library now OPEN!

Ready to garden? We have a variety of vegetable, herb and flower seeds for you to get started. 'Borrow' the seeds and after the season harvest the seeds and bring some back in!

STEAM After School:

Get hands on while exploring the world of STEAM. Fun activities with a focus on one or more of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math.

Build, create, play!

Honey Harbour: Friday, April 14 and 28 at 4:00 p.m.

MacTier: Wednesday, April 12 and 26 at 4:00 p.m.

Ages 5+

Fall/Winter Library Hours:

HH: Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday: 10 am – 3 pm, Fridays 1 – 6 pm

MT: Tuesday, Friday, Saturday: 10 am – 3 pm, Wednesdays 1 – 6 pm

PS: Tuesday, Friday, Saturday: 10AM- 3pm

Library will be closed on Good Friday on April 7, 2023

Legend

MT= MacTier Public Library

PS= Port Severn Public Library

HH=Honey Harbour Public School

HALF LOADS

Half Loads began on March 13, 2023

In the spring, as frost comes out of the ground and moisture comes out of the road bed:

- Roads become softer and weaker
- Heavy loads on roads can cause it to sink and break apart, which can lead to permanent damage
- Half-load restrictions are put in place to protect our roads and road beds from being damaged
- Reduces the need of having to re-build a road after every spring thaw.

WISE MOBILE ACTIVE LIVING CENTRE



WISE Mobile Active Living Centre
Seniors Programs and Services

WISE Mobile Active Living Centre programs offers free programs for older adults 55+. Become a member today!

Baxter Ward Community Centre 275 Honey Harbour Rd., Port Severn	
Thursday, April 27, 2023	
10:00 - 10:30 a.m.	Coffee/Tea Social
10:30 - 11:00 a.m.	Scattergories
11:00 - 12:00 p.m.	Brain Health - North Simcoe Family Health Team
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.	Lunch - Cabbage Rolls
1:00 - 2:00 p.m.	Honey Harbour Historical Society

Please contact us to register or to become a member. **Ontario**

Seniors Programs and Services
705-645-2100 ext. 4199 | seniorsprograms@muskoka.on.ca
Learn more: www.muskoka.on.ca/seniorsprograms



WISE Mobile Active Living Centre
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MacTier Memorial Arena 9 Haig Street	
Thursday, April 20, 2023	
10:00 - 10:30 a.m.	Coffee/Tea Social
10:30 - 12:00 p.m.	Sleep - Brainworks (Live Healthy, Age Well Series)
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.	Lunch - Cabbage Rolls
1:00 - 2:00 p.m.	Birding Basics - Muskoka Conservancy

Please contact us to register or to become a member. **Ontario**

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705-645-2100 ext. 4199 | seniorsprograms@muskoka.on.ca
Learn more: www.muskoka.on.ca/seniorsprograms

BUILDING DEPARTMENT MAINTENANCE FEE

The Building Department is currently reviewing its open building permit files. Any building permit that was issued in 2020 or prior will be subject to the Township of Georgian Bay's maintenance fee as per the Township's Fees and Charges By-law.

If a building permit remains open as of September 29th, 2023, you will be invoiced \$200.00 per open building permit.

Be advised that under the Ontario Building Code Act, no person shall occupy or use a building OR part of a building until the requirements of the building code are met. This means that if you have not had an occupancy inspection on your outstanding building permit – you are not allowed to occupy it. This could also lead to issues with your insurance provider.

COMING SOON

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2023

www.honeybeefestival.ca

We are HERE

Let us help you understand By-laws and Permits in the Township of Georgian Bay

MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED FOR

- Building Permits
- Burn Permits
- Dark Sky By-law
- Fireworks By-law
- Greywater By-law

VIEW OUR WEBSITE FOR

- News & Press Releases
- Community Events
- Links to Georgian Bay Speaks Podcast
- Permit Applications
- Council Meeting Agenda & Minutes
- Fire Rating

CONTACT INFO:

Main: 705-538-2337
 Toll Free: 1-800-567-0187
 Email: bylaw@gbtownship.ca
 Website: www.gbtownship.ca

DISCOVER

Our Customer Portal

www.gbtownship.ca

COMMUNITY PROFILE 2023

COMMUNITY PROFILE

WHAT'S INSIDE
 Get to know Georgian Bay
 Find out what makes the Township of Georgian Bay unique.
 Community insight
 Discover each one of the three urbanized centres there.
 Sustainable Balance
 Balancing business and the environment.

99 Lane Pine Road, Port Severn, ON L0K 1S0
 705-538-2357
 Follow us on social media icons.

GET TO KNOW Georgian Bay

The Township of Georgian Bay is a large beautiful area of islands, inland lakes and rivers which is the very definition of "cottage country" in Ontario. The municipality was established in 1971 through the amalgamation of the former townships of Freeman, Gibson and Baker. It is located on Highway 400, approximately 90 minutes north of Toronto, in the District of Muskoka on Georgian Bay at the entrance to the 50,000 Islands.

Access point to Georgian Bay Islands National Park. Steeped in history, our cultural roots are an important part of our community. This history includes locks along the Trent-Severn Waterway National Historic Site and the 1970s Bressette House.

Our seasonal population of 17,500 people complements our modest permanent population of 3,441. The more populated and urbanized areas include the communities of Honey Harbour, MacTier and Port Severn.

A community of communities, Georgian Bay reflects a variety of diverse perspectives and needs, from seasonal and permanent populations to local businesses and tourism industries. At the centre of this is the municipal administration and Township Council, who balances the needs of the municipality as a whole and ensures a sustainable and thriving future for residents, the secondary and visitors.

Inclusive and welcoming to all Georgian Bay is a great place to call home.

July 2022, Pride Flag raising at the Township of Georgian Bay Administration building, in support of the Muskoka Pride group.

FAST FACTS

Total Population: 20,941 (3,441 Permanent, 17,500 Seasonal)

Median Age: 58.4

Visible Minorities: 50 (40 Chinese, 10 Filipino)

Median Household Income: \$67,904

Level of Education: High School

Total Dwellings: 7,425

Largest Industry: Real Estate

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COMMUNITY INSIGHT Honey Harbour

Identified as the 'Back Country Boomers' by Prism Environics, the permanent residents of Honey Harbour are mostly newly retired with modest incomes.

"I make an effort to buy local!"

Average Household Income	Occupation	Family Life
\$79,165	Blue Collar / Primary	Mature Singles & Couples
Diversity	Home Type	Likes
Low	Single Detached	Volunteering

The Port of Honey Harbour
 The new Port of Honey Harbour is situated perfectly for island traffic and tourists going to the Georgian Bay National Park. The inviting promenade, paired with a public park, public docks and a gorgeous pavilion.

Our history. Our pride. Georgian Bay Mills.

The Georgian Bay Mills have a strong presence in the community.

CLICK HERE

HOW CAN I CATCH UP ON COUNCIL MEETINGS?

YOU CAN WATCH COUNCIL MEETINGS ON YOUTUBE.



[TO WATCH](#)
[CLICK HERE](#)

View the [Council Portal](#) for the meeting calendar, agendas, minutes, council highlights, by-laws, planning notices, or sign up for e-updates. Missed a meeting? Visit the Township's [YouTube](#) channel or read the [Council Highlights](#).

PUBLIC MEETING INFORMATION

Public Meetings Information

Public participants for electronic public meetings are responsible for securing their own device (web camera, microphone, and speakers required) and internet connection.

All participants will be required to follow all instructions and procedures provided. Failure to comply will result in their removal from the meeting.

Submit registration requests to planning@gbtownship.ca and clearly identify the following information:

- First and last name
- Municipal address
- Phone number
- Application number and title

As always, written correspondence for Members can be sent in advance of the meeting start time to planning@gbtownship.ca or info@gbtownship.ca.

COUNCIL MEETINGS FOR APRIL 2023

Council

Monday, April 3 at 9:00 AM
Open Forum Deadline – April 3 at 9:00 AM

Planning Council

Tuesday, April 4 at 9:00 AM
Public Meeting Registration Deadline
April 3 at 12:00 Noon

Committee of the Whole

Tuesday April 4 at 1:00 PM
Open Forum Deadline – April 4 at 1:00 PM

Committee of Adjustment –

Friday, April 14 at 10:00 AM
Public Meeting Registration Deadline
April 13 at 12:00 Noon

JOIN A COMMITTEE TODAY!

We are seeking volunteers for the following committees:

MacTier Arena Advisory Committee

Property Standards Appeal Committee

For more information, visit our website's [Committee page](#).

Applications are due end of day on Friday, April 28.

TOWNSHIP OF GEORGIAN BAY ATTENDS SSEA EVENT



MPP Simcoe North and Minister of Colleges and Universities, Jill Dunlop took the time to snap a photo with District Councillor Brian Bocek and Councillor Kristian Graziano at the Severn Sound Environmental Association Awards Night. This event was held at the Coldwater Arena Friday, March 24, 2023.

DID YOU FIND A TURTLE IN NEED? [CLICK HERE](#)



Turtles on Roads and in Waterways:



How to Help an Uninjured Turtle Cross The Road

1. Always be aware of road traffic. Only attempt to help the turtle if it is safe to do so and you feel comfortable handling it.

2. Do NOT remove a turtle from the area you found it in. Turtles rely on the ponds and wetlands they are familiar with.

3. Move the turtle in the direction it was going/is facing.

Grip the edge of the shell at the hind legs and raise the back end. Quickly slide your other hand between its back legs to its stomach to support the turtle from its lower shell, then lift.

4. Always wash your hands after handling a turtle!



STRATEGIC PLANNING 2023-2026

Working with Council to develop their Strategic Plan 2023-2026

A collaborative meeting with staff to set priorities for the coming years



FEBRUARY 2023

Council Connect

[Council](#) [Planning Council](#) [Committee of the Whole](#)



Newsletter Highlights

[Committee Terms of Reference Policy](#)

[Short Term Rentals](#)

[Procedure By-law Update](#)

[2023 Budget](#)

[Upcoming Meeting Dates](#)

NEW For 2023
An additional publication to share updates from Council meetings.

Oak Bay Rock Crushing Application

Planning Council heard an application from Oak Bay Development for a permit to permit rock crushing in a temporary period in the area of their development; the application is requested to permit the crushing for a period of two weeks from 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM six days a week. This rock has been accumulating in Summers Bay during the excavation during the development of precast concrete for Oak Bay Developments is proposing to recycle the rock for construction purposes and is approximately 1000 cubic meters. The total quantity of rock required for servicing Summers Bay is approximately 1000 cubic meters.

Tuesday's Public Meeting on this matter received much public attention and comments, which Council will be receiving.

Council agreed with staff's recommendation to defer the matter until further information is available including peer reviews, and other concerns relating to quality, health and safety, land use compatibility, and the protection of natural heritage features.

These peer reviews are required, and need to be addressed to the satisfaction of the Township. A future Public Meeting will be scheduled.

Follow us

