

Georgian Bay Times



Township of
Georgian Bay
MUSKOKA

April 2026



April 22, 2026



**Update to the Official
Plan & Zoning By-Law**



Half Load Season



**Fire Recruitment /
Burn Permits**

Georgian Bay Spring

Spring tiptoes in to
Georgian Bay,
where ice loosens its quiet
grip and pines whisper
awake.

Dock boards stretch in the
sun, loons return with
familiar songs, and
cottages blink open like
sleepy eyes.

Fresh air carries the
promise of longer days,
As Georgian Bay shakes
off winter and blooms into
life.



Township of Georgian Bay
99 Lone Pine Road, Port Severn, Ontario L0K 1S0
Phone: 705-538-2337
Toll Free: 1-800-567-0197
www.gbtownship.ca



PUBLIC MEETING 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 clerks@gbtownship.ca.

Council

Monday, April 13 at 9:00 AM

Planning Council

Tuesday, April 14 at 9:00 AM

Committee of Whole

Tuesday, April 14, 2026

Committee of Adjustment

Friday, April 17 at 10:00 AM

MacTier Arena Advisory Committee

Monday, April 27 at 10:00 AM

Planning Council and Committee of Adjustment requests for remote participation are due the previous business day by 12:00 Noon to planning@gbtownship.ca

Council and Committee of the Whole requests for Open Forum remote participation are due the previous business day by 12:00 Noon to clerks@gbtownship.ca.



SUBSCRIBE

You can Watch Council Meetings
on YouTube.

**DO YOU WANT TO
SPEAK BEFORE COUNCIL?
CLICK HERE FOR INFO**

2026 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

BEHIND THE SCENES: HOW ELECTIONS ARE RUN



Every municipal election comes with lawn signs, conversations at the grocery store, and the excitement of shaping the future of our community. What many residents don't see is the careful planning, professionalism, and attention to detail happening behind the scenes to ensure the election is fair, secure, and accessible for everyone.

In the Township of Georgian Bay, running a municipal election is not a single-day event. It is a months-long process led by dedicated staff who work carefully to ensure every vote counts and every resident has the opportunity to participate.

THE ROLE OF THE CLERK

At the heart of every municipal election is the Clerk. Under provincial legislation, the Clerk is responsible for conducting the election and ensuring it is run fairly and in accordance with the law.

This includes:

- Managing candidate nominations
- Ensuring voter information is accurate
- Coordinating voting methods and locations
- Training election staff and volunteers
- Overseeing vote counting and results
- Certifying the official election outcomes

The Clerk acts as the election's referee, ensuring the process remains neutral, professional, and transparent from start to finish.

2026 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

VOTING INFORMATION

Voters will be able to cast their ballot by internet or telephone, making voting accessible anytime anywhere.

Votes casted are encrypted, ensuring secrecy of the vote and accuracy of the count. All data is stored within Canadian data centres, which provides further protection to the Canadian voter.

Results are only available upon close of voting, and the voter's identity is never associated with their selections.

To learn more about the privacy and security measures used by our vendor Simply Voting, visit their website.

VOTER REGISTRATION

Residents can use the Elections Ontario's website to check or update their information for provincial and municipal elections.

Voter registration website:

EN: www.registertovoteon.ca

FR: www.inscriptionvoteon.ca

SAVE THE DATE: WHAT IS A COUNCILLOR?

Join us for an in-person candidates information session with presentations from the Province of Ontario and Clerks on Call to learn about serving on council for any municipality in the District of Muskoka.

Stay tuned to gbtownship.ca/election for more information.

**Thursday, April 30 at
6:00 PM**

**District of Muskoka
Council Chambers
70 Pine Street,
Bracebridge**



COUNCIL 101

The Council 101 Guide is full of information on local government, municipal services, elections, and the Township of Georgian Bay. This Guide is great for candidates, individuals considering filing a nomination, and all voters – check it out at gbtownship.ca/election or pickup a copy at the Administration Office today.

2026 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

IMPORTANT DATES



AMO Training

Series: Stronger Leaders,
Stronger Communities | AMO

Interested in running for office for the first time, or for re-election? The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) is offering a free workshop for aspiring municipal leaders, with one stream for elected officials considering re-election, and one for community members considering a run for municipal office.

The Stronger Leaders, Stronger Communities workshop is part of AMO's Healthy Democracy Project, and includes four sessions covering: leading with purpose; conflict management and relationship building; mental health; and turning values into action.

To learn more and/or register for the workshop, visit AMO's website [here](#).

New dates available for:

Stream 1:
April 23, 2026
May 7, 2026

Stream 2:
April 7, 2026
April 28, 2026
May 19, 2026

Date	EVENT
May 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Candidate Nomination Period Opens• Third Party Advertiser Registration Opens
August 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nomination Period Closes• Final Day to Withdraw Nomination
August 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Declare Acclamation (if applicable)
October 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Voting Period Opens
October 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Third Party Advertiser Registration Closes
October 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Election Day (Voting Period Closes)
November 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• New Term of Council Begins
November 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inaugural Council Meeting

PLANNING

Official Plan and Zoning By-law Review

The Township of Georgian Bay has begun its 2026-2028 Official Plan and Zoning By-law Review. This important process will help guide future growth, development, and land use across the Township.

Residents, businesses, and stakeholders are encouraged to stay informed and share their input throughout the review process.

Why is the Township conducting an Official Plan & Zoning By-law Review?

Meet Provincial Requirements

- Municipalities are required to periodically review planning documents to ensure they align with current provincial policies and legislation.

Plan for Future Growth

- Ensure the Township is prepared for future development, housing needs, and changing community priorities.

Protect the Environment

- Update policies to support environmental protection, sustainability, and responsible land use.

Address Community Needs

- Reflect feedback from residents, businesses, and stakeholders about how the Township should grow and develop.

Improve Clarity and Consistency

- Modernize policies and zoning regulations to make them easier to understand and apply.

SCAN ME



Learn more and view proposed updates by scanning the QR code or visiting:
<https://www.gbtownship.ca/ofpzoningammendment>

Did You Know?

You can subscribe to receive Planning Notices directly from the Township website. Simply click Subscribe, select the items you'd like updates on, such as Planning Notices, and you're all set. You can unsubscribe at any time.

SUBSCRIBE NOW

SPRING IS HERE!

Half Load Season

Started March 9, 2026

TRAVEL LIGHTLY

Starting March 9, 2026 half-load restrictions will be in effect on all District and Township roads. During this period, vehicles are limited to a maximum of 5 tonnes per axle, unless otherwise posted.

Half load season typically runs through the spring thaw and will remain in place until road conditions stabilize.



FROST IS LEAVING THE GROUND

As temperatures rise, frozen roadbeds begin to thaw from the top down. The surface may look stable, but underneath it can be soft and saturated.



WATER WEAKENS THE BASE

Melting snow and ice introduce moisture into the gravel and sub-base layers. Water reduces the structural strength of the road, making it more vulnerable to heavy loads.



OUR GOAL

Heavy vehicles on weakened roads can cause rutting, cracking, and long-term structural failure. Limiting axle weight during this period helps extend the lifespan of our infrastructure and reduces repair costs for taxpayers.

What This Means for Drivers & Contractors

If you operate commercial vehicles, transport materials, or schedule deliveries, please plan accordingly. Loads may need to be reduced, rerouted, or delayed until restrictions are lifted.

Protecting our roads during this short seasonal window helps ensure they remain safe and reliable for everyone throughout the year. For updates on the status of half-load season or specific road inquiries, contact the Township or visit the [Municipal website](https://www.gbtownship.ca).

GEORGIAN BAY FIRE



OUR GOAL

To educate the residents and visitors on the open air burning by-law to create a safe environment for all to enjoy.



WHERE TO GET BURN PERMITS?

Burn permits are available for purchase at:

- Township website
- Libraries
- Admin building in Port Severn



COST

Each burn permit comes at a fee of \$10 for the year per property which are valid from January 1st to December 31st

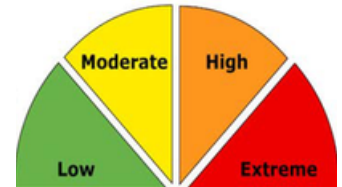
OPEN AIR BURNING IN GEORGIAN BAY

The Township of Georgian Bay By-law 2019-18 was established to regulate the settings of fires, prevent the spreading of fires and to establish a fire permit system for the Township.



DID YOU KNOW?

The Township of Georgian Bay's Fire Danger Rating is determined by the Fire Chief in consultation with the Ministry of Natural Resources and wildfire hazard report.



Web Services

Get your burn permit online at our website. It's fast, easy and convenient.

<https://www.gbtownship.ca/en/living-here/burn-permit-and-by-law.aspx>



Why is this important?

Failure to abide by the open air burning By-law 2019-18 could result in penalties. If fire personnel are required to respond, you may be charged the current MTO rate per apparatus required to attend.

IGNITE YOUR PASSION



Join the Georgian Bay Fire & Emergency Services Team!



Township of
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MUSKOKA

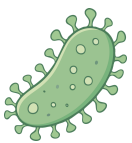
Water Quality Monitoring Program

Volunteer Recruitment

Help Protect the Waters of Georgian Bay

Volunteers needed in the Port Severn, Cognashene, Go Home Bay, and Twelve Mile areas.

The Township of Georgian Bay is seeking volunteers to support our Water Quality Monitoring Program, a community based initiative similar to the Lake Partner Program. Volunteers collect near-shore water samples to help safeguard our local waters.



E. Coli Sampling

- Collect shoreline samples
- Process samples
- Record and submit results



Phosphorus Sampling

- Collect deep water samples
- Deliver to the Township Administration Office



Time Commitment

- Approximately 5 sampling sessions
- June - September
- 30-60 minutes each

Who Can Volunteer?

- **Shoreline residents**
- **Cottage owners**
- **Persons able to travel by boat**

Training will be provided

Contact Kim Schiefer

kim.schiefer@bluewaterbiosciences.com

LIBRARY NEWS

April at the Library brings fresh reads, rainy-day escapes, and stories blooming on every shelf.



Programming

The Georgian Bay Public Library offers rich programming for every age, designed to inspire, engage and connect our community. With three friendly branches throughout the Township, you'll find a warm space for learning, fun and creativity.

Adult programs

Whether you're looking to expand your knowledge, meet new people or just try something different, our adult-focused sessions deliver. Think book clubs, hands-on workshops, tech help, and social events that bring neighbours together.



Childrens Programs

For our youngest readers and their families, we've got story-times, play-based learning, craft sessions and regular events that make literacy and a love of reading fun and accessible.



Tween Programs

Tweens and teens are invited to dive into dynamic, age-friendly activities that spark curiosity and creativity — from coding and crafts to games and group projects built just for them.



Library Hours

Fall / Winter

Honey Harbour

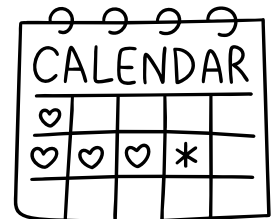
Tuesday: 10 am – 6 pm
Wednesday, Friday, and
Saturday: 10 am – 3 pm

Port Severn

Tuesday, Friday, Saturday:
10 am – 3 pm

MacTier

Tuesday: 10 – 3 pm
Wednesday: 10 – 6 pm
Friday and Saturday:
10 am – 3 pm



View the [Township Community Calendar](#) for daily schedule or check out the [library website](#) by clicking the links.



WISE MOBILE

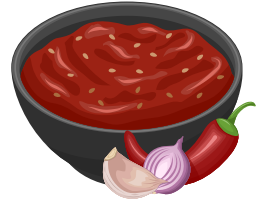


MacTier

MacTier Memorial Community Centre, 9 Haig St, MacTier

THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2026

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 10:00 - 10:30 AM | Coffee / Tea Social |
| 10:30 - 11:00 AM | Podcasting 101 |
| 11:00 - 12:00 PM | The Life of the Endurale Alex Tilley - Nancy Beal, Author |
| 12:00 - 1:00 PM | Lunch: Beef Chili |
| 1:00 - 2:00 PM | Beaded Succulent |



Port Severn

Baxter Ward Community Centre, 275 Honey Harbour Rd, Port Severn

THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2026

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------------------|
| 10:00 - 10:30 AM | Coffee / Tea Social |
| 10:30 - 12:00 PM | Acrylic Painting - Nancy Hunter |
| 12:00 - 1:00 PM | Lunch: Beef Chili |
| 1:00 - 2:00 PM | Spring Sign/Decor |



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

SENIORS PROGRAMS & SERVICES
Registration Required One Week in Advance

705-645-2100 ext. 4199

seniorsprograms@muskoka.on.ca

EARTH DAY

Celebrate **EARTH DAY**

SMALL ACTIONS,
BIG IMPACT



Earth Day is a great opportunity to protect and celebrate the natural beauty that makes Georgian Bay so special. Here are a few simple ways residents can make a difference.

Join a Clean-Up

- Pick up litter along roadsides, trails, parks, or shorelines

Explore Responsibly

- Explore trails and parks and woodlands, leave no mess behind

Plant for Pollinators

- Add native plants, trees, or flowers to support local wildlife

Protect Our Water

- Avoid harsh chemicals and ensure septic systems are well maintained

Get Others Involved

- Invite family, friends and neighbours to take part

Small actions add up. This Earth Day, let's work together to keep Georgian Bay beautiful for generations to come.



REPAIR CAFE

Give Your Broken Items a Second Chance at the 2nd Annual Repair Cafe



Before you toss that wobbly chair, or the bike with a squeaky wheel, consider giving it a second life.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 6
9:00 AM TO 12:00 PM**

IN ADDITION TO FIXING

* Soles for Souls

Baxter Ward Lions

Bring your old shoes and the BW Lions will help find them a new home.

* Seeing is Believing

Baxter Ward Lions

Bring your old glasses to help someone see again!

* Electronics Drop Off

Bring in broken electronics for proper disposal

* Household Battery Disposal

Explore new hobbies, meet new friends, and get involved in campus life!



Township of Georgian Bay

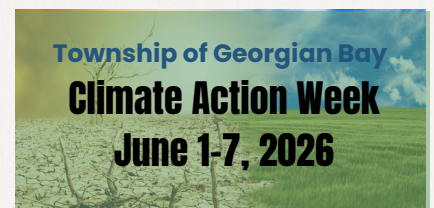
Join us at the Repair Cafe

A Repair Cafe is a free community event where volunteers help fix broken household items to reduce waste and save money. Bring items like bikes, chairs, small appliances, jewelry and more to see if they can be repaired.

This year's event also includes additional opportunities to declutter responsibly. There will be areas to drop off batteries, electronics, old shoes and glasses.

Start saving your items now.

- Bikes
- Teddy Bears
- Costume Jewelry
- Clothes
- Tools
- Knife sharpening
- Woodworking



Looking for Volunteers

We are looking for volunteers to make this event successful.

If you have a talent for fixing items like small appliances, woodworking, tools, jewelry, sewing, and knitting.

Contact:

Sustainable Communities Chair,
Lisa Hutchinson at l.h@live.ca



REPAIR CAFE



*Throw it away?
No Way!*

A free, community event where volunteers help fix broken items like electronics, clothing, tools, and more.



Bring it, mend it, learn a skill – don't toss it!



Reduce waste, connect with neighbours, and keep things out of the landfill!

GET THE FOLLOWING REPAIRED:

Sewing



Woodworking



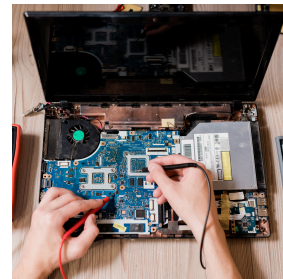
Bicycles



Knitted items



Electronics



Costume Jewelry



Upholstery



Knife Sharpening



Tool Sharpening



Small Appliances

Your item will be assessed by our volunteers, and while parts aren't provided on-site, you'll take your item home with you, repaired or not, with new insight and helpful advice!

Saturday, June 6, 2026

9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Baxter Ward Community Centre

gbtownship.ca

FOOD CYCLER



Turn your food waste into something useful with the FoodCycler, now available for purchase through the Township of Georgian Bay.

This innovative, compact appliance transforms everyday food scraps into nutrient-rich soil amendment in just hours, helping reduce household waste and keep organic material out of landfills.

From fruit and vegetable peels to coffee grounds and leftovers, the FoodCycler makes it easy to manage food waste right from your kitchen.

By purchasing through the Township, residents can take advantage of a convenient and environmentally friendly solution while supporting local waste reduction efforts.

It's a simple step that makes a big difference for our community, helping protect Georgian Bay's natural environment while creating a cleaner, more sustainable future for everyone.

Discounted Filters at Library Branches and the Township Municipal Office

1 Pack for Eco 3/5
\$22.60 (HST included)

4 Pack for Eco 3/5
\$67.80 (HST Included)

1Pack +Refillable
cartridges for FC-30
\$22.60 (HST Included)



 **ORDER NOW**

DRINKING WATER TESTING REMINDER

IS YOUR DRINKING WATER SAFE?

If you use **well water**, regular testing helps protect you and your family. Water quality can change throughout the year—especially during **Spring Thaw, Heavy Rain, and Seasonal Changes**.

WHEN SHOULD YOU TEST?

- ✓ **At least 3 times per year** (Spring, Summer, Fall)
- ✓ **After heavy rainfall** or flooding
- ✓ If you notice **changes** in taste, smell, or colour

HOW TO GET YOUR WATER TESTED:

STEP 1: PICK UP A FREE TEST BOTTLE

Visit your
Public Health Unit
or Township
Office



STEP 2: COLLECT YOUR SAMPLE



- ✓ Use cold water only
- ✓ Follow sampling instructions

STEP 3:

Return to the
drop-off location
SAME DAY



GET YOUR RESULTS

Results available **ONLINE** in 2–4 business days

WHY TESTING MATTERS:

- ✓ Protects your family's health
- ✓ Detects bacteria like **E. coli**
- ✓ Ensures your water is safe

Safe Water Starts With You!
Testing is FREE, EASY & IMPORTANT.



THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT!

DOWNLOAD

MUSKOKA WASTE APP

Get customized waste management information right to your phone.



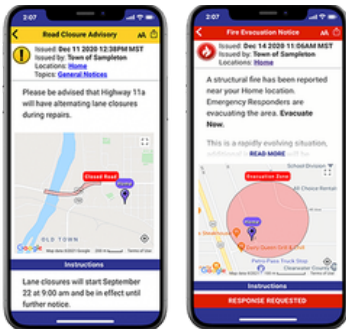
MUSKOKA

Never miss a collection day again! The Muskoka Waste App makes managing your recycling, compost, and garbage schedules simple. Get weekly reminders, collection calendars, and sorting tips right on your phone. Not sure where something goes? Use the handy "What Goes Where" tool to find out instantly. Download it free from your app store and keep Muskoka clean and green, one bin at a time!



WHAT3WORDS

The What3Words app divides the world into 3-metre squares, each identified by a unique set of three words. It's a fast and precise way to share your exact location. Perfect for emergencies, trail adventures, or giving clear directions in rural areas. Download What3Words today to help emergency responders or friends find you quickly, anywhere in Georgian Bay.



GEORGIAN BAY ALERT

Be the first to know about emergencies and important community updates with Georgian Bay Alert, powered by Voyent Alert! This free notification system keeps you informed about road closures, fire bans, extreme weather, and other critical events in the Township. Receive alerts the way you prefer — by text, email, phone, or through the mobile app. Sign up today at gbtownship.ca/alerts and stay connected when it matters most.

MAKE IT TODAY!

Recipe Corner



Stuffed Zucchini Boats

Ingredients

- 4 medium zucchini (about 8–10 inches long)
- 1 cup crumbled feta cheese (use Greek feta for the most authentic flavor)
- 1 cup cherry tomatoes, quartered
- 1/2 cup kalamata olives, pitted and chopped
- 1 small red onion, finely chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cumin (optional, for a slightly smoky flavor)
- 1/4 cup fresh parsley, chopped
- 1/4 cup fresh basil, chopped
- 1 lemon, zested and juiced
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1/4 cup breadcrumbs (optional, for extra crunch)
- Extra virgin olive oil for drizzling

Start by preheating your oven to 375°F (190°C). While the oven heats up, wash the zucchini thoroughly and pat them dry with a clean towel.

Slice zucchini in half lengthwise and scoop out the centre, leaving about ¼ inch to form boats.

Set the scooped flesh aside. Place zucchini on a lined baking sheet, drizzle with olive oil, and season with salt and pepper.

Chop tomatoes, onion, herbs, and reserved zucchini flesh. Sauté onion and garlic in olive oil until soft.

Add chopped zucchini flesh and cook briefly. Stir in tomatoes, olives, salt, and pepper, and cook until tomatoes soften.

Remove from heat and mix in feta, oregano, and cumin (optional).

Spoon filling into zucchini boats, pressing gently.

Top with breadcrumbs if desired for added crunch.



Township of
Georgian Bay
MUSKOKA

If you would like to submit an activity, craft or recipe for our next newsletter please reach out to Trisha Walton, Communications and Sustainability Officer at twalton@gbtownship.ca



BURN PERMITS ARE REQUIRED

Purchase yours for \$ 20

Renewal Date was January 1, 2026

Current Fire Rating?

CLICK HERE

ATTENTION SHORELINE LANDOWNERS

Changes to Provincial planning regulations mean that shoreline lands are subject to Site Plan Control. Before making a Planning application, contact the Planning Department to find out what this means for you.

Email:

planning@gbtownship.ca



Looking for more information from Council?

click here!

@COUNCIL
Connect