

Georgian Bay Times



Township of
Georgian Bay
MUSKOKA

March 2026



March 8, 2026



**Municipal Election
2026 Information**



**Municipal Grants for
\$1500 open until
March 30, 2026**



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 info@gbtownship.ca.



SUBSCRIBE

You can Watch Council Meetings on YouTube.

Council

Monday, March 9 at 9:00 AM

Planning Council

Tuesday, March 10 at 9:00 AM

Committee of Adjustment

Friday, March 13 at 10:00 AM

Sustainable Communities Advisory Group

Monday, March 23 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.

SPEAK BEFORE COUNCIL?

CLICK HERE FOR INFO

2026 MUNICIPAL ELECTION



So.. What does a Councillor do?

Serving on Council is not just about sitting at the horseshoe table on meeting day. In the Township of Georgian Bay, Councillors are community decision-makers, policy leaders, and stewards of public trust.

1. Review & Make Decisions

- Read and review Council agendas and detailed staff reports
- Debate and vote on by-laws, policies, and major projects
- Approve the municipal budget and long-term financial plans
- Help shape priorities for roads, fire services, recreation, planning, and more
- Decisions made at the municipal level affect everyday life, from snow clearing to boat launches.



2. Represent the Community

Councillors act as a bridge between residents and the municipality. They:



- Listen to concerns and ideas from the public
- Attend community events and meetings
- Bring forward questions or issues raised by residents
- Help ensure all voices are considered in decision-making

It is about advocacy, not individual authority. Council works collectively.

3. Serve on Committees & Boards

Many Councillors also:

- Sit on advisory committees
- Represent the Township on regional boards
- Participate in working groups and special projects

This work often happens outside regular Council meetings.



Georgian Bay Votes

4. Commit the Time



Being a Councillor requires preparation and dedication. In addition to scheduled meetings, members spend time:

- Reading reports and background materials
- Responding to emails and phone calls
- Participating in training and orientation sessions
- Attending workshops or conferences

It is a meaningful commitment that extends beyond meeting night.

5. Follow Legislation & Ethical Standards

Municipal Councillors must:

- Follow the Municipal Act and other provincial legislation
- Adhere to a Code of Conduct
- Complete mandatory training (including integrity and harassment prevention)
- Declare conflicts of interest when required



Transparency and accountability are essential parts of the role.

What Positions are available:

- Mayor (also serves as a District Councillor)
- District Councillor – Wards 1 and 3
- District Councillor – Wards 2 and 4
- Ward 1 Councillor
- Ward 2 Councillor
- Ward 3 Councillor
- Ward 4 Councillor



Whether you plan to vote or are considering a candidacy, now is the time to learn more.

- ➡ Visit the [Township of Georgian Bay Election](#) webpage for information as it becomes available for voters and potential candidates.

MUNICIPAL ELECTION



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:

March 26, 2026
April 23, 2026
May 7, 2026

Stream 2:

March 10, 2026
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)
September 26	<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



2026 Municipal Grants

Supporting our Community

Small ideas can spark big community moments. Apply for funding and bring your event to life!



Community Event Grant Application Now Open

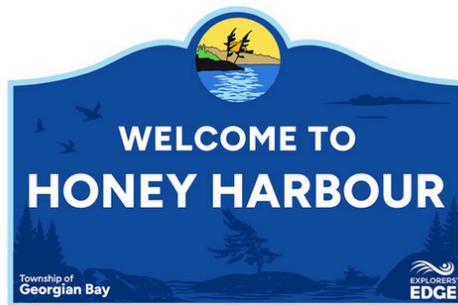
Under \$1500

- ✓ Application Opens January 1 - March 31, 2026
- ✓ Application available on our website.



Submit questions to:
jrattigan@gbtownship.ca

2026 Township Signage



Time for a Refresh

Working with Explorers Edge, the Township is excited to upgrade its logo and branding for the community. This new logo is AODA* compatible, ensuring our support for diversity in our community.

*Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act

THE 2026 INTERIM TAX BILL



The 2026 Interim Tax Bills were mailed on January 23, 2026, and payment is due by March 25, 2026.

Please note that failure to receive a copy of your tax bill does not exempt property owners from late payment charges. If you have not received your bill, contact the Tax Department as soon as possible to request a copy.

To access your tax bill online, you can register for e-billing at:
<https://eservices.gbtownship.ca/customer/setup>

New Look for Georgian Bay



Township of
Georgian Bay
MUSKOKA



Township of
Georgian Bay
MUSKOKA

The Township of Georgian Bay has launched a refreshed logo and newly updated website, completed together to improve efficiency, reduce costs, and enhance accessibility. The website upgrade was required as the previous platform became obsolete. Staff worked diligently to manage both projects responsibly while leveraging grant opportunities and incorporating community feedback. The new logo will be introduced gradually as materials require replacement. For more details on the refresh and what it means for the community, please view the [full media release](#).

GB Blue

This is our anchor colour. Deep, steady, and confident, GBay Blue reflects the expansive waters of Georgian Bay and the trust placed in municipal leadership.

GB
Highlight

A lighter companion to our primary blue, GBay Highlight represents sky, reflection, and openness.

GB
Sunshine

Golden and uplifting, GBay Sunshine captures the glow of a Muskoka sunset over the shoreline. It introduces warmth and optimism into the brand, symbolizing community spirit, opportunity, and forward momentum.

GB
Greenery

Inspired by windswept pines and our natural landscape, GBay Greenery represents sustainability, stewardship, and environmental responsibility.

Building Department: Maintenance Fee

The Building Department is currently reviewing its open building permit files. Any building permit that was issued in 2023 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 30th, 2026, you will be invoiced \$200.00 per open building permit (unless Fees and Charges By-law is updated).

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.

Note: This is not a renewal fee. If your building permit does not meet the requirements of the Ontario Building Code regarding commencement or continuation of construction, the Chief Building Official may cancel it.

As the owner of the home, you are entirely and solely responsible for the building permits that are issued in relation to your property.

VORR SURVEY



Vessel Operation Restriction Regulation (VORR) Survey

Process



VORR SURVEY



The VORR Survey collects community input to help improve boating safety, protect shorelines, and guide vessel regulations on local waterways.

<https://portal.laserfiche.ca/k4738/forms/1fnaw>



Survey Closes March 8, 2026

Click the image to go to the survey

WINTER IS STILL HERE



Winter Parking In Georgian Bay

November 15 and April 1.
Parking By-Law 2018-06

WINTER PARKING

The Township prohibits parking within 3.05 metres (10 feet) of the edge of any gravel, surface treatment or asphalt road within Georgian Bay between November 15 and April 1.
Parking By-Law 2018-06



WHERE IS BYLAW ENFORCED?

On **ALL** municipally maintained roads within the Township of Georgian Bay.



WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Remember, it's not just about parking – it's about creating a winter wonderland that's safe, accessible, and ready for anything!



OUR GOAL

To educate our residents and visitors to create a peaceful, safe place for all to enjoy.

Web Services



Pay your tickets online at our website. It's fast, easy and convenient.
gbtownship.ca/payments



Don't Get Towed

Our By-Law officers have the right to have your vehicle towed if you are in contravention of the parking by-law. This will cost you \$\$\$.

SPRING IS ON ITS WAY

Half Load Season

Starting March 9, 2026

TRAVEL LIGHTLY

Starting March 9, 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](#).

GEORGIAN BAY FIRE

GEORGIAN BAY

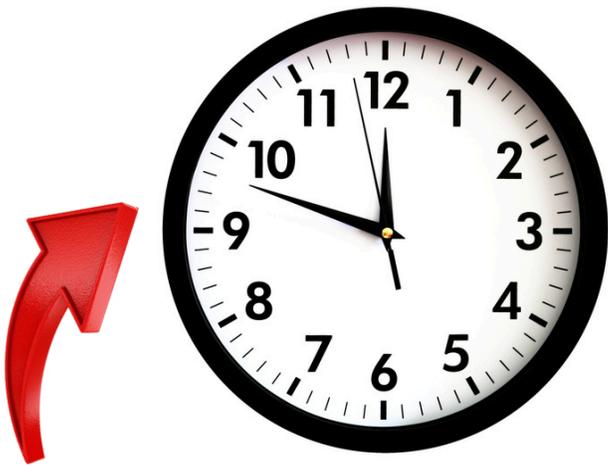


JOINT MUNICIPAL VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER RECRUITMENT



Apply by March 20, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 8, 2026



Change Your clocks - Check Your Batteries

MAKE IT TODAY!

Recipe Corner



Corned Beef & Cabbage

Ingredients

- 3–4 lb corned beef brisket (with spice packet)
- 10 cups water (or enough to fully cover)
- 2 bay leaves
- 1 tbsp whole peppercorns
- 1 large onion, quartered
- 4 carrots, cut into large chunks
- 6–8 baby potatoes (or 4 large potatoes halved)
- 1 small head green cabbage, cut into wedges
- 2 tbsp butter
- Fresh parsley for garnish

Optional glaze for a glossy finish:

- 2 tbsp brown sugar
- 1 tbsp Dijon mustard

Directions

Simmer to Tender

Place corned beef in a large Dutch oven or stock pot. Add spice packet, bay leaves, peppercorns, onion, and enough water to cover.

Bring to a gentle boil, then reduce to a low simmer. Cover and cook for 2.5–3 hours until fork tender.

The kitchen will begin to smell like tradition itself.

Add the Vegetables

Add carrots and potatoes to the pot. Simmer 20 minutes.

Nestle cabbage wedges into the broth and cook an additional 10–15 minutes until just tender but still vibrant.

Optional Glaze Finish

For a slightly caramelized finish, transfer the cooked brisket to a baking sheet. Brush with brown sugar and Dijon mixture. Broil for 3–5 minutes until lightly glazed.

Slice & Serve

Let the brisket rest 10 minutes before slicing against the grain.

I hope to get an invite to dinner



LIBRARY NEWS

*March at the Library:
where longer days, fresh
ideas, and well-loved
pages all begin to thaw.*



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

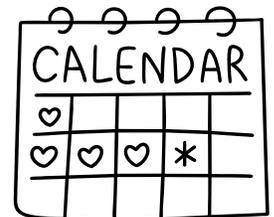
Tuesday: 10 am – 6 pm
Wednesday, Friday, and
Saturday: 10 am – 3 pm

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.



SKATE SCHEDULE

MacTier Arena



MONDAYS
PUBLIC SKATE
5:00 TO 5:50 PM

TUESDAYS

LEARN TO SKATE 4:00 - 4:50 PM	PUBLIC SKATE 5:00 - 5:50 PM
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WEDNESDAYS
ADULT SKATE
8:00 TO 8:50 PM



THURSDAY
ADULT SKATE
5:00 TO 5:50 PM

FRIDAYS

PUBLIC SKATE 7:00 - 8:20 PM	SHINNY HOCKEY 8:30 - 9:20 PM
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gbtownship.ca



[@gbtownship](https://www.instagram.com/gbtownship)

Stay Informed - Visit Engage Muskoka

Engage Muskoka is your go-to online hub for shaping the future of our community. Whether you're passionate about local infrastructure, housing, or sustainability, this platform lets you learn about ongoing projects, share your thoughts, and stay connected to the issues that matter most.

Why check it out?

- Be heard: Share your opinions on key community projects.
- Stay informed: Access up-to-date information on local developments.
- Shape the future: Contribute to decisions that impact Muskoka's growth and sustainability.

Featured Projects:

- Solid Waste Master Plan: Planning for sustainable waste management over the next 30 years.
- Transportation Master Plan: Developing a long-term strategy for Muskoka's transportation network.
- Muskoka Housing Task Force 2.0: Addressing the affordable housing crisis with community-driven solutions.
- Community Transportation Plan: Creating accessible and affordable transportation options for all residents.
- Bay and Beyond: Upgrading aging infrastructure to ensure reliable access to clean drinking water and efficient wastewater services.

Visit engagemuskoka.ca today to explore these projects and more.



Upcoming District of Muskoka Meetings



WISE MOBILE



MacTier

MacTier Memorial Community Centre, 9 Haig St, MacTier

THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2026

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 10:00 - 10:30 AM | Coffee / Tea Social |
| 10:30 - 11:00 AM | Scattergories |
| 11:00 - 12:00 PM | Services and Supports - Home Comfort Care Services |
| 12:00 - 1:00 PM | Lunch: Vegetarian Lasagna |
| 1:00 - 2:00 PM | Beading Project - Metis Nation of Ontario |



Port Severn

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2026

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 10:00 - 10:30 AM | Coffee / Tea Social |
| 10:30 - 11:00 AM | Tick Talk |
| 11:00 - 12:00 PM | Pelvic Health - Meghan Lillie
Physiotherapy |
| 12:00 - 1:00 PM | Lunch: Vegetarian Lasagna |
| 1:00 - 2:00 PM | DIY Sleep Spray |



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

muskoka.on.ca/seniors-programs

EASTER

In Georgian Bay



April 2026

Easter the Sustainable Way

Easter weekend, celebrate with intention and a lighter footprint.

- Choose reusable baskets over plastic
- Opt for fair-trade or locally made chocolate,
- Decorate with natural touches like branches, potted flowers, or hand-dyed eggs using kitchen ingredients.
- Plan meals that reduce food waste by repurposing leftovers and composting scraps.

Small, thoughtful swaps can turn your holiday into a celebration that's joyful for your family and gentle on the planet.



Reminders

The Administration Office will be **CLOSED**:

Friday, April 3, 2026
and
Monday, April 6, 2026

Watch our
Community Calendar
and Social Media for
local Egg Hunts &
Activities!

HAPPY
Easter



PROUDLY PRESENTS THE
FOODCYCLER
PROGRAM



**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)**



AVAILABLE NOW!

THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT!

DOWNLOAD

MUSKOKA WASTE APP

Get customized waste management information right to your phone.



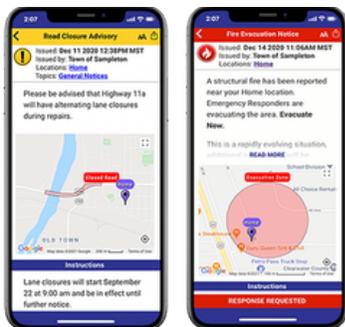
MUSKOKA

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.

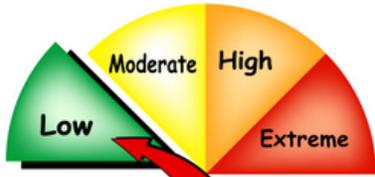


BURN PERMITS ARE REQUIRED

Purchase yours for \$ 20

Renewal Date is 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