

# Georgian Bay Times



May 2025

# MAY Flowers



**Notice of Public Open House and  
Information meeting for the future of  
Municipal Accommodation Tax  
May 14, 5:00 pm**  
Check page 9 for details



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](http://www.gbtownship.ca)

# COUNCIL DATES

MAY 2025



## 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](mailto: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](mailto:planning@gbtownship.ca) or [info@gbtownship.ca](mailto:info@gbtownship.ca).



You can Watch Council Meetings on YouTube.

### Council

Monday, May 5 at 9:00 AM

### Planning Council

Tuesday, May 6 at 9:00 AM

### Special Committee of the Whole

Wednesday, May 7 at 1:00 PM

### MAT Tax Open House with ORHMA

Wednesday, May 14 at 5:00 PM

*(Pending Council direction May 5, 2025)*

### Committee of Adjustment

Friday, May 9 at 10:00 AM

### MacTier Arena Advisory Committee

Monday, May 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](mailto: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](mailto:clerks@gbtownship.ca).

## Children's/Youth Programs

### Tiny Picasso's

**HH & MT: Friday, May 2 & 16 at 10:30 am**

Introducing our Tiny Picassos: art exploration for toddlers. Designed for little artists, each session encourages self-expression and helps develop fine motor skills in a fun, supportive environment. Watch your child explore their artistic side and make new friends while having a blast!

### Family Story Times

**HH: Saturday, May 3 at 10:30 am**

**MT: Saturday, May 17 at 10:30 am**

Join us for a family story time where we will read stories, sing songs, and spend time getting to know one another in a fun and social setting at the library.

### After School Adventurers – drop in

**HH: Tuesday, May 13 from 3 – 5 pm**

**MT: Wednesday, May 14 from 3 – 5 pm**

Become an After School Adventurer! Join us every other week as our adventurers embark on a new theme, exploring everything from science and nature to art and technology. Drop in and let the adventures begin!

### Lego Club – drop in

**HH: Saturday, May 17 at 10:30am**

**MT: Saturday, May 3 at 10:30 am**

Calling LEGO enthusiasts of all ages. Join us in creative play and building with Lego bricks! Explore your imagination, develop teamwork and problem-solving skills, meet new people and have fun!

### DIY Storytime – drop in

**HH & MT: May 9**

Drop in for a self led story and craft all day long!

### Checkmate – drop in

**MT: Wednesdays May 7 & 21  
from 3 – 5 pm**

Unleash your Inner Strategist! Challenge your mind and make new friends! Whether you're a beginner or experienced, our club is perfect for improving your skills and enjoying friendly competition!



#### Honey Harbour

Tuesday 10:00 – 6:00  
Wednesday, Friday,  
Saturday 10:00 – 3:00

#### Port Severn

Tuesday, Friday &  
Saturday 10:00 – 3:00

#### MacTier

Tuesday, Friday, Saturday 10:00 – 3:00  
Wednesday 10:00 – 6:00

# Building Department: Building Safety Month

BUILDING SAFETY MONTH 2025

## 50 YEARS OF THE ONTARIO BUILDING CODE 1975 - 2025



BUILDING SAFETY MONTH 2025

The Government of Ontario introduced the first Ontario Building Code (OBC) in 1975 to promote public safety through the application of uniform building standards. The OBC establishes technical requirements for all building construction and demolition in the province.

Building Officials have the important job of enforcing the building code and ensuring that construction and renovations meet safety and quality standards.



BUILDING SAFETY MONTH 2025

### DID-YOU-KNOW

Since the first OBC was published in 1975, it has undergone 7 full new editions and 120 interim amendments. The 2024 OBC has over 2000 changes from the previous code.

[WWW.OBOA.ON.CA/BUILDINGSAFETYMONTH](http://www.oboa.on.ca/buildingsafetymonth)



BUILDING SAFETY MONTH 2025

### KEY CHANGES OVER THE LAST 50 YEARS:

- ✓ Barrier-free accessibility requirements
- ✓ Enhanced fire safety measures
- ✓ Energy efficiency standards
- ✓ Climate resilience measures & MORE!

**FACT** The 2024 OBC is more than double the length compared to the 1975 Building Code, growing from 357 pages to over 1200.





## Adult Programs

*Intro to Barefoot Grounding with Barefoot Sue*

*MT: Saturday, May 31 from 2 – 3pm*

*Join us for an info session and guided walk exploring the world of barefooting! Discover the benefits of going barefoot! This event is perfect for all ages and skill levels. Connect with nature and enjoy the freedom of feeling the earth between your feet!*

*Roaming Readers*

*HH: Thursday, May 1 & 22 at 9:30 am*

*MT: Thursday, May 15 at 9:30 am*

*PS: Thursdays, May 8 & 29 at 9:30 am*

*Introducing "Roaming Readers" our Library's new walking group, a perfect blend of fitness and community! Join us for invigorating walks through our local neighbourhoods, where we can enjoy fresh air, meet new friends, and share our love of literacy, learning and the outdoors!*

*Whether you are looking to stay active, discover new paths, or simply connect with fellow enthusiasts, our walking group is the ideal way to engage with community. Grab your walking shoes, and let's explore together! Weather permitting.*

*Big Booksale.*

*HH & MT: Saturday, May 17 10-3 pm*

*Browse through a wide selection of gently used books across various genres. Don't miss the chance to stock up on great reads! Books for sale by donation, cash only.*

### Mexican Train Dominoes

**MT: Every Wednesday at 1:30 pm**

Come to the MacTier Library and play Mexican Train Dominoes. Whether you are a seasoned player or interested in learning how to play, all skill levels are welcome!

### MacTier Book Club

**The first Friday of the month at 11 am**

**May 2** Title: *Be My Baby: A Memoir* by Ronnie Spector



### One on One Tech Help

**HH: Wednesdays from 1 – 2:30 pm**

**MT: Tuesdays from 1 – 2:30 pm**

Drop in for a technology help session with one of our friendly staff

### Need to access Service Ontario?

You can access their mobile unit outside of the MacTier Library on **Tuesdays May 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> from 10 – 3 pm**.



### Library Hours

**Check with your local branch for seasonal hours starting Tuesday, May 20.**

Honey Harbour

Tuesday 10:00 – 6:00

Wednesday, Friday, Saturday 10:00 – 3:00

Port Severn

Tuesday, Friday & Saturday 10:00 – 3:00

MacTier

Tuesday, Friday, Saturday 10:00 – 3:00

Wednesday 10:00 – 6:00

# ZERO WASTE

## South Gibson Depot

Environmental Compliance Approval: 1280-6SNRNW

### Winter Hours

Balance of year

Monday 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Saturday, Sunday 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

### Summer Hours

First Monday in May to last Sunday in October

Monday, Wednesday,  
Friday 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Saturday, Sunday 12 p.m. to 8 p.m.

**Closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's Day,  
Good Friday and Easter Sunday.**

**Open Statutory Holiday Mondays 12 p.m. to 8 p.m.**

- **Drop-off location for household bagged garbage and recycling only**
- **All loads are subject to inspection by Site Attendant**
- **Site Attendant will instruct proper disposal locations**
- **No dumping is permitted outside of this site**



[www.muskokawaste.ca](http://www.muskokawaste.ca)

24-hour emergency line 705-645-2100 • 1-800-281-3483

SITE ATTENDANT SERVICES AT THIS LOCATION CONTRACTED TO: MAXAMA PROTECTION INC.



# THE FUTURE OF MUNICIPAL ACCOMMODATION TAX

## Invitation to all Hospitality Operators including Short Term Rental Operators

Staff have asked Ontario Restaurant Hotel & Motel Association (ORHMA) to assist in collecting Municipal Accommodation Tax (MAT). For more information, view the May 4, 2025 staff report on the Council Portal.

- Watch the Council Meeting on YouTube
- Speak at Open Forum: In Person or Zoom
- Attend the Open House: In Person or Zoom

### Open House Online or In Person

The team at ORHMA will be conducting a demo of the program and answer questions that Georgian Bay hospitality operators may have.

### About ORHMA

The Ontario Restaurant Hotel & Motel Association (ORHMA) is the largest provincial hospitality association in Canada. With over 5,000 members. Find out more at <https://www.orhma.com/>



## Save the Dates!



Council Meeting

Zoom Deadline May 2 at 4:00 PM

**May 5, 2025 9:00 AM**

Open House with ORHMA

Zoom Deadline May 14 at 4:00 PM

**May 14, 2025 5:00 PM**

Request a Zoom Link by Emailing

**[clerk@gbtownship.ca](mailto:clerk@gbtownship.ca)**

[gbtownship.ca](https://www.gbtownship.ca)



# Community

## ACCESSING HEALTHCARE IN THE GEORGIAN BAY AREA

There are a number of hospitals and health centres within the District of Muskoka, Parry Sound and North Simcoe. If there's an emergency medical situation, dial 911 for help.



### Muskoka Health Link

Muskoka Health Link partners work together to maintain our health system, including:

- Hospitals
- Primary Care and Walk-in Clinics
- Community Health Hubs

Ontario Health Care Connect helps people who are without a family doctor to find one. For more information, call 1-800-445-1822 or visit Ontario Health Care Connect.



**It's starting to look a little like s'more season!**



**Get Yours Today**

# 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!

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!



## ITEMS TYPICALLY REPAIRED AT REPAIR CAFÉS:

Electronics: Computers, phones, appliances

Clothing: Clothes, bags,

Household Items: Furniture, toys, lamps

Small Appliances: Blenders, toasters, fans

Bicycles: Tire repair, brake repair, pedals

**Saturday, June 14, 2025**

**9:00 AM to 12:00 PM**

**Baxter Ward Community Centre**

# Georgian Bay Biosphere Events

## KITCHEN to COMPOST

Ready to compost, but need a bin? We're here to help!

1. Register for only \$25 (\$125 value!)
2. Join a workshop or webinar to learn tips.
3. Get your compost bin & advice on set up.
4. Start composting!



LIMITED QUANTITY

REGISTER TODAY!



FREE Webinar:

## DO THE ROT THING

MAY 22

7:00 pm EST

Registration Required

Learn how to compost in your backyard with helpful tips and resources!



GEORGIAN BAY BIOSPHERE MNIDOO GAMII

## HONEY HARBOUR TURTLE WORKSHOP

Join GBB to learn about turtles & take home a free nest protector!

May 17th, 2025

10 am - 12 pm

Baxter Ward Community Centre



MORE INFO & REGISTRATION:  
GEORGIANBAYBIOSPHERE.COM/EVENTS



Other Events Available on their website!  
[www.gbbr.ca](http://www.gbbr.ca)

*Support your Biosphere!*

## NATIVE PLANT FUNDRAISER



Parry Sound • Port Severn  
**SATURDAY, JUNE 7TH**



GEORGIAN BAY  
BIOSPHERE  
MNIDOO GAMII

Over 50 species of  
trees, shrubs, and  
wildflowers for sale!

**ORDER ONLINE BY MAY 26:**  
[gbbbr.ca/plant-order-form](http://gbbbr.ca/plant-order-form)



# WISE MOBILE



## MacTier

MacTier Memorial Community Centre, 9 Haig St, MacTier

**THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2025**

10:00 - 10:30 AM	COFFEE / TEA SOCIAL
10:30 - 11:00 AM	TRIVIA & GAMES
11:00 - 12:00 PM	MUSKOKA CLEAR BAG
12:00 - 1:00 PM	LUNCH - BEEF CHILI
1:00 - 2:00 PM	FOOT SOAK DIY



## Port Severn

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

**THURSDAY, MAY 22, 2025**

10:00 - 10:30 AM	COFFEE / TEA SOCIAL
10:30 - 11:00 AM	GAME: GUESS WHO
11:00 - 12:00 PM	PRE-PLANNING FOR YOUR FINAL ARRANGEMENTS
12:00 - 1:00 PM	LUNCH -BEEF CHILI
1:00 - 2:00 PM	BALSAMIC BASICS - TASTING

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](mailto:seniorsprograms@muskoka.on.ca)

## 2025 FEES & CHARGES BY-LAW UPDATED



The Township of Georgian Bay has updated its Fees and Charges By-law for 2025 to reflect the services and programs offered in our community. These changes are designed to ensure fairness and sustainability for all.

 Effective Date: January 1, 2025

Whether you're needing planning permits, facility rentals, or other services, be sure to check the updated by-law for the latest information.

 Visit our website for details:

<https://www.gbtownship.ca/en/township-hall/fees-and-charges.aspx>

# Parking Passes

## 2025



Residents of the Township of Georgian Bay can now pick up their parking passes for the 2025 season. These passes provide access to designated parking areas across the Township.

 **Where to pick up:** Township Office, 99 Lone Pine Road, Port Severn. Or one of the three Georgian Bay Public Library Branches.

 **When:** Monday to Friday, 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM.

Be sure to bring proof of residency (e.g., driver's license or utility bill).

*Stay connected and park with ease!*

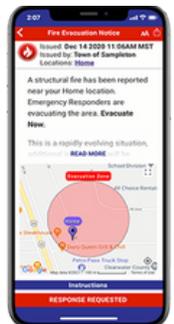
## Download Now!



### GEORGIAN BAY ALERT

#### REGISTER AND RECEIVE NOTICES ON:

- Muskoka Emergency Alerts
- Events
- Notifications
- Fire Rating every Friday
- Emergency Notifications
- Road Closures
- News and Press Releases





PROUDLY PRESENTS THE  
**FOODCYCLER**  
PROGRAM



## INTRODUCING THE NEW FOODCYCLER ECO 3! Small size, BIG POWER.

The Eco 3 is the most powerful and compact food recycler available on the market! The Township of Georgian Bay invites permanent and seasonal residents to purchase this innovative on-site food waste recycling technology at a subsidized rate. Less waste, less worry!

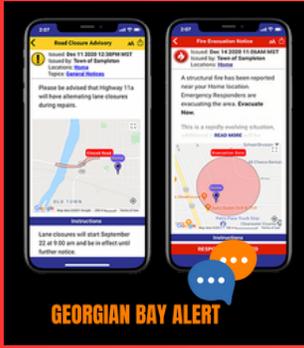
FOR MORE INFORMATION  
AND TO PURCHASE YOUR  
SUBSIDIZED FOODCYCLER:



~~\$599.00~~  
**\$249.00**  
+ tax

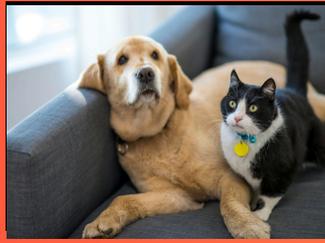


# EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS 2025



**Fire ratings and allowable activities**

Activity	Low	Moderate	High	Extreme
Campfires (and bonfires)	✓	✓	✓	✗
Burning (with permit)	✓	✓	✗	✗
Fireworks	✓	✓	✗	✗



## PLAN FOR EVERY SEASON

Emergency Preparedness Week in Georgian Bay May 4–10, 2025, is a national awareness campaign that encourages residents to be ready for emergencies in every season. Follow along all week for practical tips, local resources, and ways to keep your household safe and prepared!



Looking for more information from Council?



*click here!*



@COUNCIL  
Connect