

2026 TBM MUNICIPAL ELECTION

BEAVER VALLEY OUTREACH

2026 TBM Municipal Candidate

Survey

RESPONSES FROM MAYORAL

CANDIDATES



YOUR VOTE, YOUR VOICE!



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Thank you to all candidates who responded. On behalf of the community that we serve, BVO appreciates the time and care that candidates took with their responses. The candidates that responded are listed on the next page.
- Candidate responses have not been edited, other than to remove paragraph breaks in order to fit the responses in a readable format, and to correct spelling errors.
- BVO surveyed candidates about topics that are important to BVO and to the community that we serve. The candidates' responses in the pages that follow are shared to assist voters in understanding the positions of the candidates on these topics.
- BVO does not endorse any candidate response, or any candidate, in this municipal election.
- BVO is not responsible for any of the content of these responses, including factual errors, if any.
- All candidates were asked the same questions.
- The order of candidate responses as been randomly placed on the pages so that any given candidate is not always the first response on the page.
- If you wish to follow up directly with any candidates about their responses, contact the candidate directly. BVO will not be responding to inquiries for further information from candidates. Candidate contact information can be found on the Town of the Blue Mountains website: [Elections | Town of The Blue Mountains, ON, Candidates](#)
- Additional information about the 2026 municipal election can be found at: [Elections | Town of The Blue Mountains, ON](#)
- This document will be available on [Advocacy - Beaver Valley Outreach](#) and BVO will also use social media channels to promote the document. In addition, BVO will email the document to our staff and volunteers.

QUESTION TOPICS

TBM
MUNICIPAL ELECTION
2026

01

**HOUSING
AFFORDABILITY**

04

**SUSTAINABLE
ENVIRONMENT AND
CLIMATE CHANGE**

02

TRANSPORTATION

05

**EARLY LEARNING
AND CHILD CARE**

03

**COMMUNITY
CONNECTIONS AND
SUPPORT**

06

**MUNICIPAL
CHALLENGES AND
LEADERSHIP GOALS**

MAYORAL CANDIDATES RESPONDED

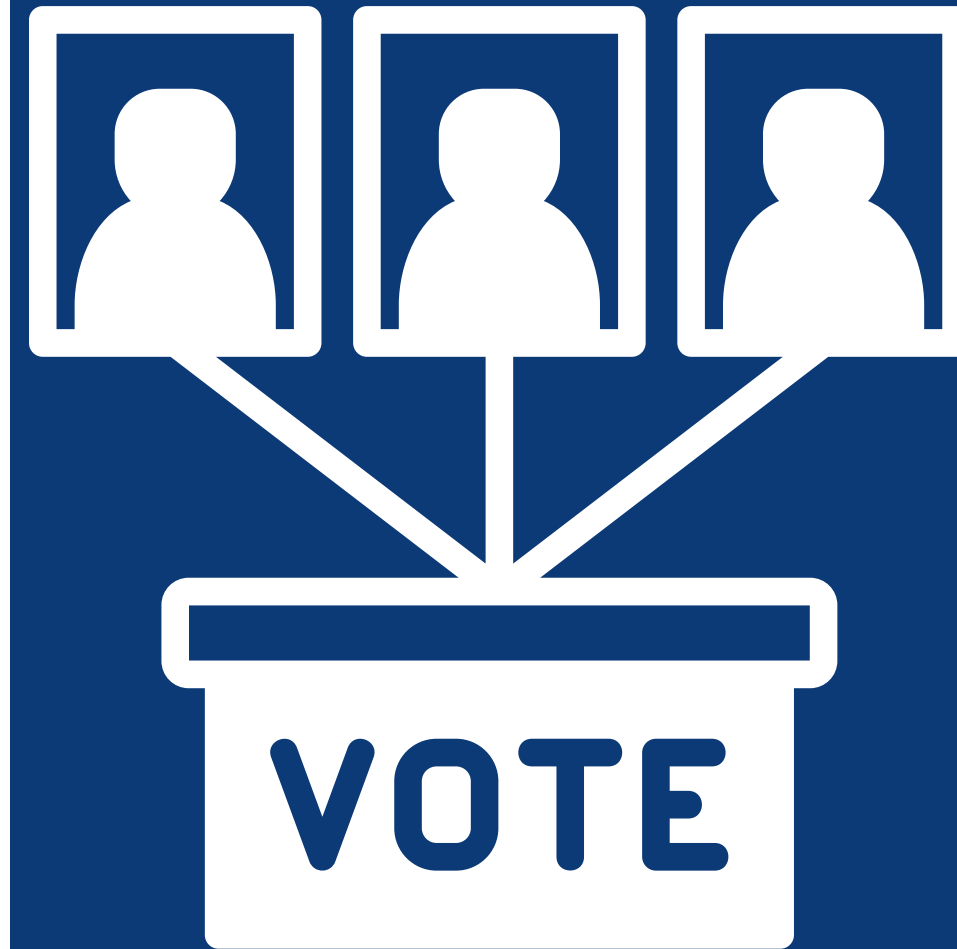
3 out of 3 Mayoral candidates responded to our questions.

PETER BORDIGNON

PAUL REALE

MARNI MOREAU

Voting period October 16-26



RESPONSES FROM MAYORAL CANDIDATES

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QUESTION 1

Housing affordability continues to be one of the most significant challenges facing our community. Many lower-income residents, seniors on fixed incomes, young families, and service industry workers struggle to find safe and affordable housing within the municipality. What do you see as Town Council's role in addressing affordable/attainable housing?





Question 1

Responses

Marni Moreau: I grew up in Clarksburg. My friends' parents worked in town and lived in town. That was normal. Today the people who pour our coffee, pump our gas and take care of our seniors mostly drive in from somewhere else. Fun fact: the 2021 census counted 7,396 homes in this town. Only 4,348 have somebody living in them full time. We don't have a shortage of buildings. We have a shortage of homes people can live in year-round. The Town should not be a home builder. We tried that. The Town's housing corporation borrowed about \$770,000 from taxpayers and there is still no attainable housing to show for it. That's not what a town hall is good at. What a town hall is good at, or should be, is planning. And right now I hear that getting through our Planning department is complex. Slow is expensive. This is not a land problem. It's an efficiency problem. The Town already owns four sites the Housing Action Team listed this summer: 171 King Street, 125 Peel Street, 177 Bruce and 19 Napier, and the Tees Please lands. We don't need to find land. We need to decide, and then get out of the way of the people who can build. If elected mayor every planning file gets one staff contact, one clock, and one answer.

Peter Bordignon: Affordable housing is about helping people remain part of our community. Seniors should be able to stay here, young families should be able to build a future here, and the people who work here should have a reasonable chance to live here. The Town can help by allowing more rental options: apartments, townhouses, smaller homes and additional units in suitable areas. We can also use Town-owned land and work with Grey County, non-profits who specialize in this housing space and private builders. Provincial policy increasingly requires municipalities to allow more housing and speed up approvals. Our job is to meet those requirements while ensuring growth is supported by the infrastructure and services our community needs. Any incentives should be tied to homes that remain affordable. The Town cannot solve this alone, but we can bring the right partners together and help good housing projects move forward.

Paul Reale Town Council cannot solve the housing problem alone, but it has an important role in helping the right housing get built. The new Official Plan gives us a much clearer framework: a mix of housing for different incomes and stages of life, including rental, seniors and workforce housing, along with a target for attainable housing in new development. My focus would be on turning those policies into results. For larger developments, Council should expect a clear answer on what affordable or attainable housing will actually be delivered. We should use the tools available to us—appropriate zoning like the Community Planning Permit System, partnerships, Town-owned land where it makes sense, and other incentives, such as the Community Improvement Plan—while working with the County and other levels of government. And we should measure the result. I want annual public reporting on what is being approved, what is being built, what it costs and whether we are actually closing the housing gaps identified in the Town's Housing Needs Assessment. At the same time, housing need does not make every proposal good planning. Servicing, environmental constraints, scale, traffic and neighbourhood fit still matter. The goal is housing that is actually delivered, in the right places, with infrastructure that can support it. The Official Plan supports that framing: it calls for a full range of housing types and price points, purpose-built employee housing, minimum affordable/attainable targets in new development, and annual housing monitoring.

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Question 1 Responses



RESPONSES FROM MAYORAL CANDIDATES

ELECTION

QUESTION 2

Transportation is a growing concern for residents who do not have access to a vehicle, including seniors, youth, young adults, people with disabilities, lower-income residents, isolated residents, and workers. Access to healthcare services, employment, shopping, recreation activities, and social supports is often limited by the lack of transportation options. Many residents must travel outside the municipality for medical appointments and specialist services. BVO recently conducted a survey of residents about transportation and you can find more information at this link: [BVO 2026 Public Transportation Survey Presentation](#) What role should Town Council play in providing transportation?



Question 2 Responses

Paul Reale: Transportation is part of basic community access. BVO's own survey shows that residents are missing work, medical appointments, school activities and community participation because they cannot reliably get where they need to go. That goes beyond a transportation issue; it affects independence, employment, health and quality of life. Town Council should look at transportation as a Town-wide and regional issue and be willing to examine different ways of providing service. I would support exploring options, such as demand-responsive transit, a community shuttle, improved active-transportation connections and partnerships with neighbouring municipalities and service organizations. But we should build the service around the need, not start with a predetermined solution. Before committing taxpayers to an expanded system, I would want a clear business case showing who needs the service, where and when they need it, expected ridership, cost, potential provincial or federal funding, and opportunities to share costs regionally. The goal is simple: give people who do not drive a practical way to reach health care, work, shopping and community activities at a cost the community can sustain.

Peter Bordignon: Transportation is about independence. It means getting to work, medical appointments, shopping, recreation and staying connected. BVO's own survey shows the problem clearly: 26% of respondents had no vehicle access, more than half had difficulty getting where they needed to go, and 34% had missed or delayed something important. The Town should bring BVO, Grey County, healthcare providers, local employers and neighbouring municipalities together to develop practical options. I would support exploring a pilot community shuttle or on-demand service, especially during the mornings and weekends identified in the survey. We should also improve safer walking and cycling connections. We had a great presentation from Argo a couple of weeks ago. Start with the greatest needs, measure how well it works and expand what delivers results.

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Marni Moreau: I have to be straight with you. I have always had a car here, or my parents' car. The BVO survey shows 219 people answered. More than half said they have trouble getting where they need to go. One in three has missed work, a medical appointment, or school because of it. And when you asked what would help, more than half said the same thing: a shuttle or a bus.

There are things the Town can and can't do. We can't run a transit system on our own. We're too spread out and too small. First, protect what works. The bus from Collingwood through Craigeleith to the Village carried 53,000 rides in 2024. That is double what it carried ten years ago. Most of those are people getting to work. It's paid for by the Town, by Collingwood, by our business partners, and by provincial gas tax, not by residential property taxes.

Secondly, address that one fixed route is not enough. The service this town needs is point to point. Here is who is suffering: a senior going to a Thursday appointment, a cook whose shift ends after the bus is scheduled, a teen who needs a ride home after hockey practice. There are public-private partnerships that exist and we should examine those. If elected Mayor, I will request that an on-demand transit pilot goes to Grey County and the province in my first year, with BVO's survey attached.

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Question 2 Responses

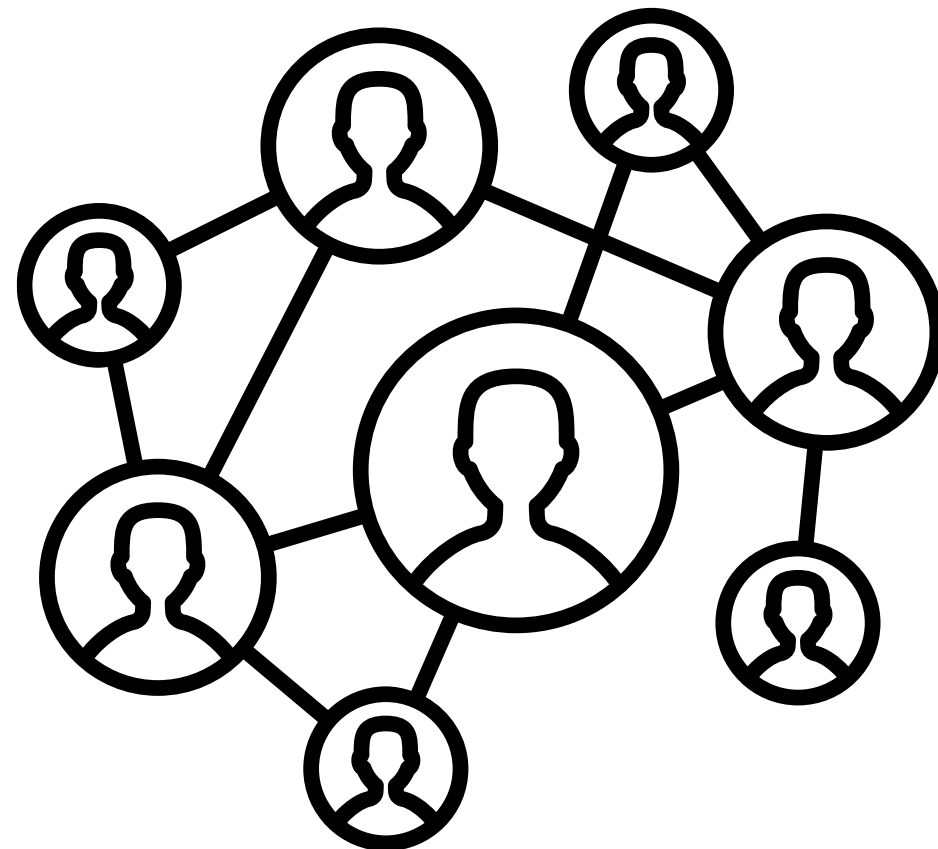


RESPONSES FROM MAYORAL CANDIDATES

ELECTION

QUESTION 3

Community connections and support for residents who may be isolated, vulnerable, or facing difficult circumstances is an ongoing concern. What initiatives would you propose to improve quality of life for vulnerable residents?



Question 3

Responses

Peter Bordignon: No one in our community should feel forgotten or alone. The Town's role is to connect people with the help that already exists and support organizations such as BVO that know the community and do this work every day. I would bring local service groups, healthcare providers, the library, Grey County and volunteers together to identify gaps and make services easier to find. Practical steps could include a community check-in program, better transportation, accessible and affordable recreation, and more opportunities for seniors and youth to connect. The Town does not need to duplicate existing programs. It should listen, bring the right partners together and help make sure support reaches every corner of our community

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Marni Moreau: I know what BVO is. It started in my Mom's friend Muriel Shaw's basement in 1983. Mom started volunteering there in 1990 and worked tirelessly for more than 20 years. It has now grown to 150 volunteers and 18 programs, including the Treasure Shop, the Christmas hampers, the Fresh Food Basket, grocery delivery for seniors, the tax clinic, Good Neighbours and Youth Roots. When there is a need in the community, BVO has always stepped up.

Isolation is a transportation problem first. If you can't get out for groceries, the library, or a lunch with friends, nothing else the Town does reaches you.

The Town owns halls, arenas, and parks in every hamlet. They should be open, warm, and donated or at a low cost for the groups that bring people together.

If elected mayor, the Town will sit down with BVO once a year, on the record, and asks what got better and what got worse, and work to address that.



Paul Reale: The Town should not try to duplicate the work already being done by organizations such as Beaver Valley Outreach and Grey County. It should help remove the barriers that keep residents from accessing those services and participating in community life. In my first year, I would bring local service providers and community organizations together to identify the most important gaps affecting seniors, youth, lower-income residents and people who are isolated, and develop a short public action list showing what the Town can address directly and what requires County or community partners. I would also review how Town-owned spaces and facilities can be used more effectively for community programs, make accessibility and affordability part of decisions about recreation and public facilities, and make sure transportation planning considers people who do not drive.

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Question 3 Responses



RESPONSES FROM MAYORAL CANDIDATES

ELECTION

QUESTION 4

BVO recognizes the important relationship between environmental health and community wellbeing. Environmental sustainability contributes to a healthier and more resilient community for current and future generations. What opportunities would you propose and/or support for Town Council to create a more sustainable and climate-resilient community?



Question 4 Responses

Marni Moreau: Our tap water was judged the best tasting in North America in 2019, and was the first Canadian town to win. The biggest environmental problem this Town controls is in our water pipes. Our water capacity report in 2025 said that half of our water capacity left is lost in leaks. Fixing leaks is the greenest thing we can do, and it buys room for homes without building a new plant. The Craighewastewater plant upgrade and the Thornbury outfall are climate projects. They will result in cleaner water into the bay and fewer overflows in big storms. Work with Grey Sauble Conservation Authority and the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority to keep flood maps and plans updated. The trees are the cheapest flood control we own. A tree bylaw with significant fines, so clear-cuts cannot happen before the planning application is filed. We need to continue to keep our emergency plans current. Ice storms, frazzle ice, wildfire smoke, washed-out roads. I would also continue to publish the Town's water loss every year, with a target to bring it down.

If elected mayor, I would pursue all of these issues to enhance our climate resilience.

Peter Bordignon: A healthy environment means a healthier community. I would continue to support practical steps that protect our water, natural areas, farmland and tree canopy. We also need to design roads, drainage systems and other infrastructure for stronger storms and changing weather. Improving energy efficiency in Town buildings and creating safer walking and cycling routes can help the environment while lowering costs and improving daily life. Sustainability does not have to mean expensive programs. It means making smart, practical decisions today that protect our community for the future.

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Paul Reale: I would make environmental resilience part of how the Town plans, builds and maintains infrastructure—not something considered after decisions have already been made. That means using a "best practices" method that we see with other Town standards for projects: protecting our water, wetlands, trees and natural drainage systems; improving stormwater and flood planning; rebuilding and protecting the tree canopy; and making environmental constraints real decision points when Council considers development and major infrastructure projects. The Town's current Strategic Plan already calls for climate considerations to be integrated into decision-making, stronger biodiversity and tree canopy, and continued watershed protection with conservation authorities. I also want growth and infrastructure planned together. Roads, pipes, stormwater, drainage and natural systems affect one another. New development should be directed where infrastructure can support it, and the cost of making an area resilient should be understood before development is approved. The Town's Official Plan similarly emphasizes infrastructure being available with development and protecting water, natural heritage and stormwater systems. Finally, we should measure whether these policies are working. Council should be able to show residents what we are doing to reduce flood risk, protect tree canopy and water systems, and make Town infrastructure more resilient as the community grows.

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Question 4 Responses

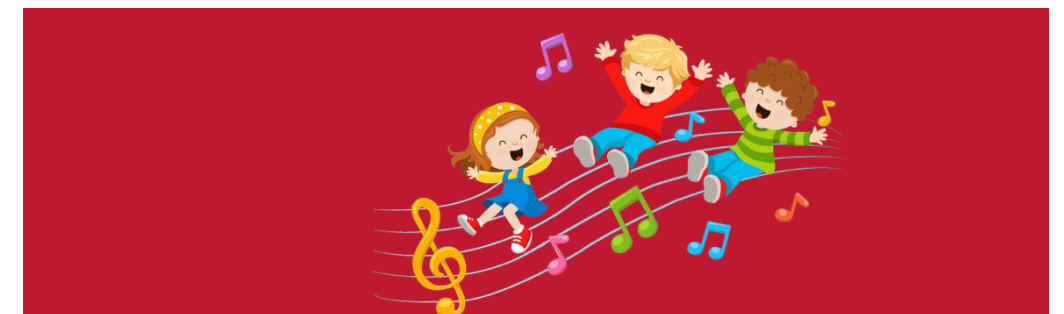


RESPONSES FROM MAYORAL CANDIDATES

ELECTION

QUESTION 5

Early learning and child care is often treated as a federal or provincial responsibility—especially since the introduction of the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) system. But whether families can actually find affordable, high-quality care is also shaped by decisions made close to home. The BVO PreSchool has an extensive waiting list, as do all other child care centres in the Grey County. Municipal governments plan neighbourhoods, approve development, own land and buildings and finance infrastructure. You can find out more about child care in Ontario at this link: [Child Care Must Be a 2026 Municipal Election Issue - Building Blocks for Child Care](#) . If elected, what would you do to create and support a local child care expansion plan with measurable targets for our growing community?



Paul Reale: Child care is essential infrastructure for families and for our local workforce. We already know there is more demand than available space, so I would start by working with BVO, Grey County and existing child-care providers to establish a clear local baseline: how many licensed spaces we have, how many families are waiting, which age groups are most affected, and what is preventing providers from expanding. From that baseline, I would support a local child-care expansion plan with measurable targets for additional licensed spaces and annual public reporting on progress. The Town should focus on the tools it actually controls: identifying suitable Town or community-owned space, making sure zoning and approvals do not create unnecessary barriers, considering child care when planning new neighbourhoods and major developments, and helping providers pursue available capital and government funding. I would also work with Grey County to advocate for additional provincially funded CWELCC spaces. Grey County has already allocated its current expansion spaces, so local planning and provincial funding have to work together if we are going to meaningfully increase capacity. The goal should be straightforward: more licensed child-care spaces, in the places families need them, with progress we can measure.

Marni Moreau: When my kids were small we lived in Toronto, and I was president of our nursery school co-op, the Dufferin St. Clair Bears. Parents ran it. Parents did the hiring, staffing and fundraising. Grey County counts only 131 licensed child care spaces in the municipality. The Town should publish the number of licensed spaces and the number of families waiting every year. Every new building in Town should be asked in the planning process, can a daycare go here? If elected mayor, I would propose that the Town's new Community Improvement Plan will be amended to include licensed child care and will progress will be examined annually.

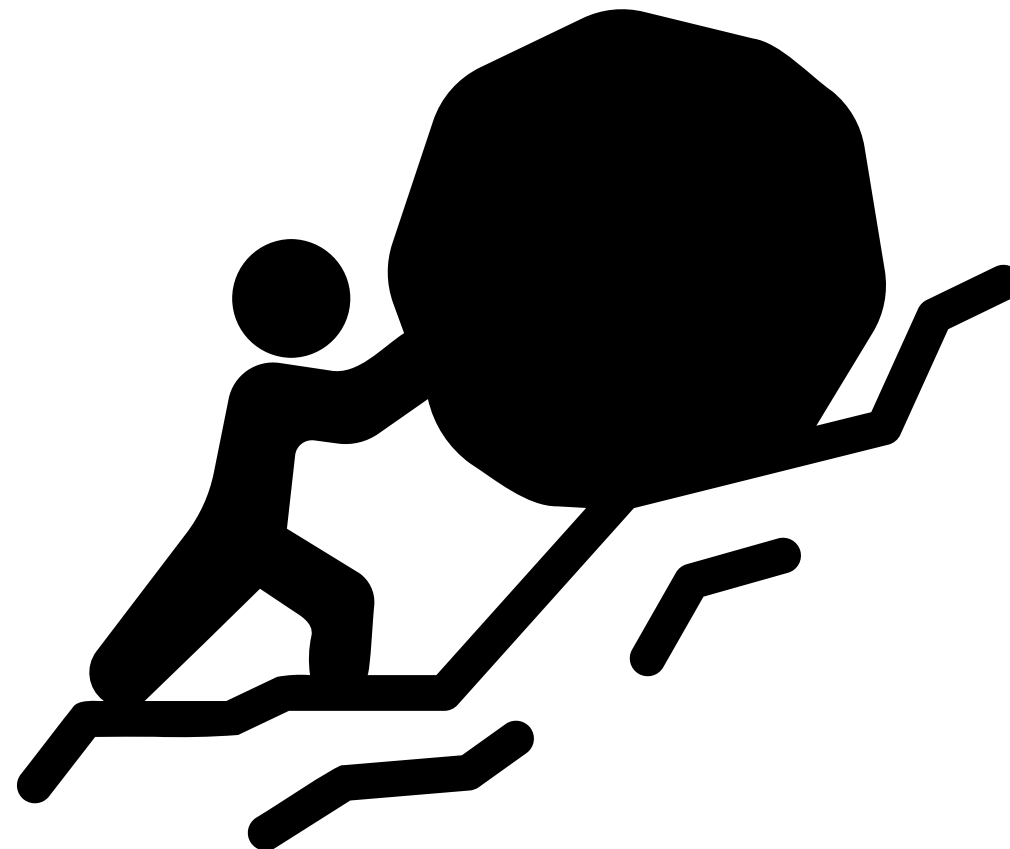
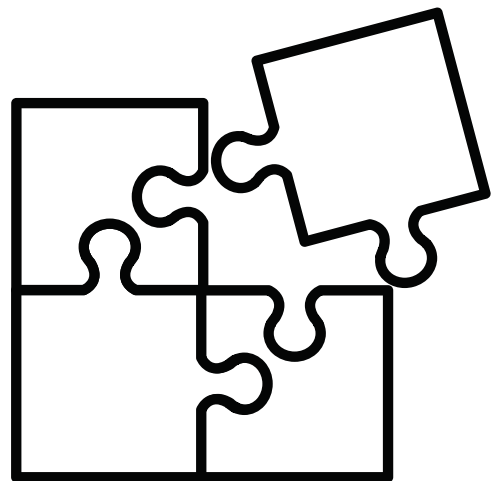
Peter Bordignon: I would bring BVO, Grey County, school boards and local providers together to create a local expansion plan. Within the first year, that plan should identify the number and type of spaces needed, possible locations, funding options and clear timelines. The Town can help by identifying municipal land or buildings, including child care in the planning of new neighbourhoods, and speeding up approvals for qualified providers. Progress should be reported publicly each year: how many spaces were promised, how many opened and what is still needed. We should plan child care as our community grows, not just after families have already arrived. We are consistently speaking with the Blue Water School Board on future plan opportunities.

RESPONSES FROM MAYORAL CANDIDATES

ELECTION

QUESTION 6

What do you believe are the most significant challenges facing the municipality over the next four years?



Question 6 Responses

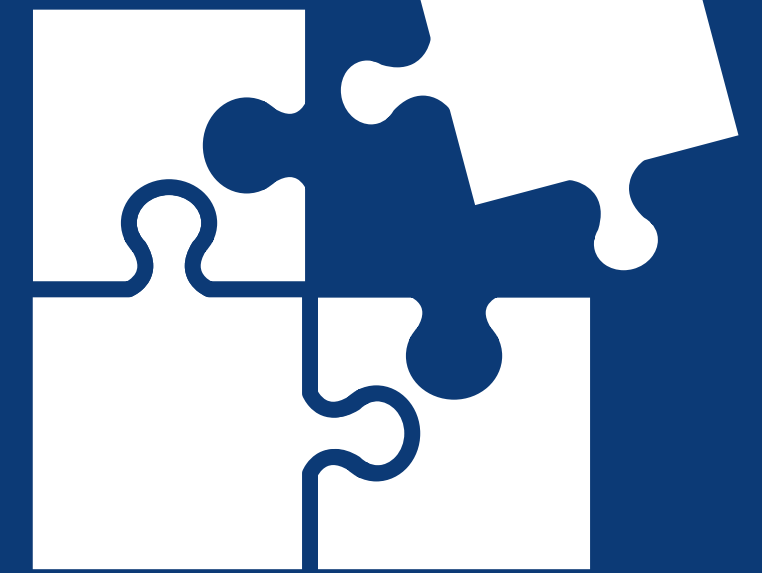
Peter Bordignon: The biggest challenge will be balancing growth with what our community can afford and support. We need to rebuild our financial reserves, control operating costs and make sure every dollar has a clear purpose. At the same time, we face major decisions about roads, water, wastewater and maintaining the infrastructure we already own. Growth also brings pressure on housing, transportation, recreation, emergency services and the environment. We need to manage growth and not just simply react to it. Finally, the next Council must work well together, set realistic priorities and communicate honestly with residents. We cannot do everything at once, but with good planning and strong, experienced leadership, so we can protect the services and quality of life people value everyday.

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Marni Moreau: Finances: First we need to examine our asset management plan to make sure the forecasts reflect the current economy. Then Council must make tough decisions about what needs to get done, what can wait, and how to finance it. Transportation: Youth, seniors, kids and tourists need a point to point transportation service. I would support looking at innovative solutions such as AGRO to address this challenge. Water Infrastructure: Water and sewer capacity decides where homes, schools, and daycares can go. Thornbury is close to the limit and Craigleith's plant is mid-build. Cost of Living: Everything costs more, and while the Town can't fix inflation, it can do is make sure the people who fall behind have somewhere to turn. In this town, that's BVO. For a lot of families, BVO is the school breakfast, the hamper, the daycare. So when BVO says it needs to grow I would consider that to be an important residential need and support that.

Paul Reale: The biggest challenge is managing growth without losing the things that make The Blue Mountains a place people want to live, work and visit. We need more housing and economic opportunity, but growth has to be supported by infrastructure and planned in a way that protects our water, natural areas, farmland and community character. At the same time, the Town faces major financial pressure. We have significant infrastructure and asset-management needs, competing capital projects, and limits on what taxpayers, reserves and debt can reasonably support. Council will have to make real choices about what we need, what can wait, and how projects will be funded before we commit to them. The third challenge is execution. The Town does not lack plans. The challenge is turning those plans into results. Council needs better information before major decisions, stronger oversight as projects move forward, and clearer public reporting when costs, risks or circumstances change.

Voting period October 16-26



Question 6 Responses



RESPONSES FROM MAYORAL CANDIDATES

ELECTION

QUESTION 7

What specific goals would you like to achieve if elected?



Question 7

Responses

Marni Moreau: If elected mayor, my goal would be unify the Town in my role as a collaborative leader. Staff, residents, and Council are three groups that too often talk past each other. I want a Town Hall where a resident, a clerk, and a councillor are on the same side of the table. That starts with how meetings run and how people are treated when they have a criticism. I would work to improve Town efficiency. Working with the CAO, I would examine ways to improve meetings, communications and help interactions with the Town by residents, developers and potential employers to be prompt and seamless. This Town has many talented and affluent residents who could organize formal fundraising through the new Community Improvement Plan to help fundraise for BVO's endeavours. I would work to strengthen the public and private funds available for our kids, youth, seniors and those that need assistance.

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Paul Reale: I would focus on four measurable goals. First, put the Town on a stronger financial footing by giving Council and residents a clear multi-year picture of our capital commitments, reserves, debt, operating costs and infrastructure needs—and then making real choices about what proceeds, what waits and what we can afford. Second, improve how major projects are planned and delivered. Before significant money is committed, Council should understand the full cost, funding source, risks and alternatives. If cost, scope or risk changes materially, the project should come back to Council while there are still choices to make. Third, move housing from plans to delivery by setting measurable targets for the types of housing we need and publicly reporting on what is approved, underway and completed. And fourth, plan growth before we build—making sure infrastructure keeps pace, environmental constraints are respected, and residents are involved while important choices are still open. At the end of the term, I want residents to be able to see what Council said it would do, what it cost, and whether it actually got done.



Peter Bordignon: By the end of the next term, I want residents to feel that their Town is working for them again. I want to stabilize our finances, rebuild our reserves, and manage major projects better. I want growth planned properly, with infrastructure, housing, transportation and community services keeping pace. I also want seniors, young families and the people who work here to have a better chance of staying in the community they call home. Most personally, I want to lead a Council that listens, respects different viewpoints and gets things done. I will also take a hard look at our bylaw services, fees and operations to see the cost/benefit to our residents. If residents can see where their money is going, feel heard before decisions are made and trust that every corner of our Town matters, that I will consider that real progress.

Voting period October 16-26



Question 7 Responses



GET INFORMED! GET READY TO VOTE!

GET ACCURATE INFORMATION

For accurate and up-to-date information about the 2026 Municipal Election, visit the Town of The Blue Mountains website at: [Elections | Town of The Blue Mountains, ON](#)

ASK QUESTIONS

Take the time to ask candidates about the issues that matter to you and our community. Stay informed, ask questions, and learn where candidates stand on the issues you care about.

KNOW THE CANDIDATES

In the 2026 Town of The Blue Mountains Municipal Election, voters will choose from 3 candidates for Mayor, 4 candidates for Deputy Mayor, and 9 candidates for Councillor.

VOTE BY INTERNET OR TELEPHONE

In the 2026 Town of The Blue Mountains Municipal Election, eligible voters can cast their ballot online or by telephone for Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Councillors, and School Board Trustee.

Learn more: [Elections | Town of The Blue Mountains, ON](#)

LOCAL ELECTION. LOCAL VOICES.

YOUR DECISION.

VOTE



OCTOBER 16-26TH

ELECTION

2026

