

connected

Bradford West Gwillimbury

Issue 02 • Winter 2024



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Welcome to Connected from Mayor and Deputy Mayor



2: Photo of Mayor James Leduc

It's hard to believe that 2024 is already underway! A new year is an opportunity for a fresh start and the perfect time to set goals for the year ahead, and that is no exception for BWG Council and staff who have had a productive start to the year with budget deliberations in early January.

We are proud to welcome you to our second edition of Connected — BWG's latest interactive and digital publication. In order to maintain its interactive elements, like photo slideshows, video integration, and links to our website, this publication is best viewed online. You can however download and print the pdf using the "Download PDF" icon on the ribbon at the bottom of this page.



3: Photo of Deputy Mayor Raj Sandhu

This Winter 2024 edition shares a look into our Heritage Advisory Committee, the new (upcoming) Youth Recreation Centre, our new Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) pilot project, highlights of the 2024 Budget, and much more! Stay tuned over the next several months as our Communications team continues to share greater details on the investments Council is making throughout BWG in 2024.

Follow us on social media and on the news portal of our website to receive up-to-date information on road closures, construction and planning notices, and other events and activities.

Happy reading!

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Leduc".

Mayor James Leduc

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Raj Sandhu".

Deputy Mayor Raj Sandhu

BWG Council

Bradford West Gwillimbury Council consists of nine members, all of whom are elected by the public. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor serve the residents at large, and the seven Councillors each represent a Ward within the municipality.



3: Mayor
James Leduc

James Leduc
Mayor
[Send me an email](#)



4: Deputy Mayor
Raj Sandhu

Raj Sandhu
Deputy Mayor
[Send me an email](#)



5: Ward 1 Councillor
Cheraldean Duhaney

Cheraldean Duhaney
Councillor, Ward 1
[Send me an email](#)



6: Ward 2 Councillor
Jonathan Scott

Jonathan Scott
Councillor, Ward 2
[Send me an email](#)



7: Ward 3 Councillor
Ben Verkaik

Ben Verkaik
Councillor, Ward 3
[Send me an email](#)



8: Ward 4 Councillor
Joseph Giordano

Joseph Giordano
Councillor, Ward 4
[Send me an email](#)



9: Ward 5 Councillor
Peter Ferragine

Peter Ferragine
Councillor, Ward 5
[Send me an email](#)



10: Ward 6 Councillor
Nickolas Harper

Nickolas Harper
Councillor, Ward 6
[Send me an email](#)



11: Ward 7 Councillor
Peter Dykie

Peter Dykie
Councillor, Ward 7
[Send me an email](#)

Do you know your ward?

[Click here](#) to confirm your Ward by searching our online interactive ward boundaries map.

Council meetings

Regular Council and Committee of the Whole meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month. Council meetings start at 7 pm and are held in person (Zima Room at the BWG Public Library, 425 Holland Street W.) and streamed live on our Youtube channel.

Click on any of the topics below to learn more.

- [Agendas, Minutes, and Schedules](#)
- [Speaking Before Council](#)
- [Council's Strategic Priorities](#)

Staying Informed

There are many ways to stay connected with Town of BWG news including:

Town Website

Published in Spring 2023, the new Town website is a one-stop-shop for information on BWG's programs and services, featuring an accessible and responsive design, enhanced search functionality, Google translate integrated and more!

Visit our news page for the latest information on projects, road closures, planning notices, and more.

Our community calendar features events happening around town, from Town-hosted events to events organized by local community groups and organizations.

www.townofbwg.com

e-Newsletters

BWG's digital publication Connected is a quarterly digital publication that features stories on upcoming and ongoing projects, Town services, and more.

As we continue to enhance our communication efforts with BWG residents, stay tuned on our website and social media channels for new ways of staying informed with town-wide happenings.

If you have any questions or concerns on anything you have read in Connected or have ideas for future editions, please [click here](#) to get in touch with our communications team.

Social Media

The Town is active on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. Aside from our website, social media is the best place to receive the latest information on BWG's programs and services.

Be sure to follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [X](#), and [Youtube](#)!

Local News Sources

The Town Info section at BradfordToday contains information on events, notices, and more.

Articles from the Town of BWG are shared daily!

Click here to visit our Town Info page: <https://www.bradfordtoday.ca/towninfo> .

Ward Updates

Ward 1

Councillor Duhaney is excited to see some of the investments of the 2024 Budget take shape throughout her Ward and across BWG.

Parks and Programming

Ward residents have shared the need for greater shaded areas at Brookfield Parkette. Through the 2024 budget deliberations, Council approved for the Parkette to receive a new shade structure, which will be installed later this year.

Exciting news is also on the horizon for our youth, with the Spring opening of the new Youth Recreation Centre at Lions Park. This facility will offer local youth a hangout space and several skills-building programs like resume and interview prep, cooking and nutrition, and more! Read more about the new Centre in this edition of Connected!

Community and Traffic Safety

Residents may have already heard the great news that Council and staff kicked off the Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) pilot project earlier this month, unveiling four temporary speed camera locations that will be active in May. An ASE project story is provided in this edition of Connected.

Councillor Duhaney is also thrilled to share significant safety enhancements along Veterans Street, in front of Holy Trinity High School. Improvements include a speed warning camera, a new crosswalk at the Blackwell Crescent intersection and adjacent parking restrictions, and upcoming turning restrictions for traffic exiting the high school parking lot. The camera was installed earlier this month, with remaining enhancements slated for Spring/Summer.

Councillor Duhaney is committed to working with her colleagues on Council to continue exploring additional opportunities to enhance recreational programming and address traffic and safety concerns to foster a vibrant and inclusive community in Ward 1 and beyond.

Quick Facts

Ward Councillor: Cheraldean Duhaney



12 Councillor Duhaney at Brookfield Parkette.

Ward Boundaries: North: Holland Street West, East: Melbourne Drive, South: Line 6, West: Sideroad 10

Parks

- Alan Kuzmich Memorial Park
- Brookfield Parkette
- Constable Devon Northrup Memorial Park
- Gwillimbury Park
- Westbrooke Parkette

Trails

- Middletown Trail
- Grand Central Valley Land Trail
- Alan Kuzmich Trail

Schools

Primary

- St. Angela Merici Catholic School
- Chris Hadfield Public School

Secondary

- Holy Trinity Catholic High School

Ward 2

The 2024 Budget delivers a plan to move our community forward while delivering a fiscally prudent approach. Councillor Scott is proud of the teamwork between Council and staff who are working together to deliver projects that are important to our residents.

Youth and Seniors' Programming

Council is making big investments in our summer camps, including the hiring of additional camp staff like inclusion facilitators for children requiring one-on-one support, and programmers to run our new Youth Recreation Centre. The Mural Program, which invites high school arts classes to create beautiful additions to our downtown streets, is also continuing in 2024.



13 Councillor Scott at the unveiling of the first set of murals from the Mural Program.

For seniors, the parking lot at the Danube Seniors' Leisure Centre will be replaced this Spring/Summer. Staff have also been tasked with delivering a Leisure Facilities Renewal/Replacement Implementation Plan, which will explore and prioritize the renewal or replacement of Town facilities, including the Danube Centre.

Protecting Our Planet

While the Climate Change Mitigation Master Plan is underway, immediate initiatives are in the works to protect our environment. New "litter traps" will be installed in the older end of town to filter waste out of our stormwater system and prevent pollution of the Holland River.

A new snow storage facility is also in the books for 2024, to store and filter snow after it's plowed. This system will significantly reduce salt, phosphorus, and other contaminants from entering the Lake Simcoe watershed.

Council has also made its most significant investment yet to our tree budget to improve the tree canopy in our parks and neighbourhoods.

East End Revitalization

Investments to maintain existing and deliver new parks are also being made with further upgrades to Legion Park, a new park in the new Green Valley East subdivision and revitalizing the Bill Marks Trail.

Another exciting project to highlight for Ward 2 is the long-awaited replacement of the pathway between Orsi Avenue/Turner Court and the No Frills plaza.

Quick Facts

Ward Councillor: Jonathan Scott

Ward Boundaries: North: Line 9, East: BWG East Border, South: Line 5, West: Simcoe Road/Barrie Street/Yonge Street

Parks

- Centennial Park
- Hernan Parkette
- Legion Parkette
- Lions Park
- Taylor Park

Trails

- Lions Park Trail
- Taylor Park Trail

Schools

Primary

- St. Charles Catholic School
- St. Marie of the Incarnation Catholic School

Ward 3

Several investments from the 2024 Budget are being made throughout Ward 3.

Community Safety

Council approved funding for the extension of the sidewalk along Line 7 (west of Hearn Street) in Bond Head, as well as the construction of a new Fire Hall west of Hwy 400.

The Automated Speed Endorsement (ASE) pilot project is another community safety initiative welcomed by Ward 3 residents. One of the four first speed camera locations announced earlier this month is in Ward 3, on Line 7, between Lallien Drive and Dixon Road. A big thank you to our Community and Traffic Safety Committee and staff who found a full turn-key solution with no upfront costs.



14 ASE Advanced Warning Signs at Line 7

Major Access Roads

2024 will be an exciting year for Ward 3 residents, with the anticipated completion of the Southwest Arterial Roads (SWAR) project later this year.

Work on Middletown Sideroad (Sideroad 10) (north of the new traffic circle) was completed on schedule in December 2023. Work from Coffey Road to Line 5 East will continue in Spring 2024. The new road network will require the renaming of several roads and the Heritage Advisory Committee is developing a public renaming process to recommend to Council.

Economic Development

The Hwy 400 Employment Lands are seeing a lot of development. The new Toromont facility on Line 5 and Rieker Shoes on Stirling Crescent are scheduled to open in Spring 2024. Construction is also proceeding on a third Hotel on Stirling Crescent and site works for the Highlight Motor Group on Sideroad 5 is ongoing. All of these projects will result in employment opportunities for our residents and an increase to our industrial/commercial tax base.

Enhanced Recreation and Leisure Facilities

The Town was able to obtain one acre of land that neighbours the Auld Kirk on Line 6. Along with the Bond Head Memorial Community Hall and Bud Brown Park, these facilities will be evaluated as part of the Leisure Facilities Renewal/Replacement Implementation Plan, which will explore and prioritize the renewal or replacement of Town facilities. This could mean the addition of parking and washroom facilities at the historical Auld Kirk property; a library, small gymnasium, and a community space at the Bond Head Memorial Community Hall; and tennis/pickle ball courts, outdoor skating; and splash pad at Bud Brown Park.

Quick Facts

Ward Councillor: Ben Verkaik

Ward Boundaries: North: County Road 88, East: Sideroad 10/Simcoe Road, South: Highway 9/Holland River, West: 1km west of County Road 27

Parks

- Bud Brown Park

Schools

Primary

- Sir William Osler Public School

Ward 4

Enhancing family programming and community safety are some of Councillor Giordano's top priorities.

While the 2024 Budget is designed to benefit the entire Town, Giordano is thrilled to see greater investments being made toward family-oriented programming and community and traffic safety measures.

Celebration Square and Town Hall

One of Giordano's proudest successes stemming from the 2024 budget is the construction of Celebration Square, a 6,000m² outdoor special events space at 425 Holland Street W. Since 2022, Giordano has advocated for the revitalization of this currently underutilized space, seeing its potential to become a premiere outdoor venue to host and celebrate community events. Construction will begin in early Summer 2024.

The planning for the new Town Hall building at the 125 Simcoe Road property is also well underway and the Strategic Projects Advisory Committee expects to review the 30% design later this Spring!

Community and Traffic Safety Initiatives

Ensuring the safety of BWG residents is a priority for all of Council, which is why greater investments are being allocated for the Community and Traffic Safety Advisory Committee to implement more physical speed mitigation tools. Councillor Giordano sits on the Committee and is most excited to see the results of the Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) pilot project, which he believes are an important step in fostering safer streets. An ASE project story is provided in this edition of Connected.



15 Council and SSPS Officer at the ASE pilot project unveiling.

Leisure Programming

Giordano is thrilled to see investments being made to enhance town-wide programming and was in full support of the several recreation related hiring requests during January's budget deliberations. These positions will ensure that BWG can provide residents with greater programming opportunities, especially over the summer break when so many young families struggle to find affordable local camps for their children to participate in.

Giordano is committed to continuously supporting town-wide community and traffic safety efforts, as well as advocating for greater programming opportunities so that the many young families in his Ward can enjoy the amenities and programming that their tax dollars are helping to fund.

Quick Facts

Ward Councillor: Joseph Giordano

Ward Boundaries: North: Line 9, East: Professor Day Drive South: Holland Street West, West: Sideroad 10

Parks

- Ron Simpson Memorial Park
- Summerlyn Parkette North
- Summerlyn Parkette South

Trails

- Summerlyn Valley Land Trail

Schools

Primary

- Harvest Hills Public School
- Fieldcrest Elementary School

Secondary

- Bradford District High School

Ward 5

Although this year marked one of the toughest deliberations yet, Councillor Ferragine is confident that the 2024 Budget will deliver a lot of value-added services to BWG residents.

Community and Traffic Safety

Council's top strategic priority is to improve community safety and traffic congestion and the 2024 Budget has committed several investments in these

particular areas. Ferragine is happy to support the hiring of eight full time Firefighters to BWG's Fire and Emergency Services, and eight new Constables to the South Simcoe Police Service.

As the current Chair, and long-standing member of the Community and Traffic Safety Advisory Committee, Councillor Ferragine is also thrilled to see all of the hard work that the Committee and staff have dedicated to several recent initiatives, including the Traffic Mitigation Strategy and the Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) pilot project.

The Traffic Mitigation Strategy includes two components: a background and best practices review, and a traffic calming design guide to help the Town evaluate and address traffic calming requests. The development of the Strategy is well underway and the Committee and Staff have already hosted two PIC's, with the third scheduled for March 6, from 6-8 pm, in the Community Corner at the BWG Leisure Centre.

The ASE pilot project is another big win for the Committee and is something they have been exploring for quite some time now. Council announced the first four speed camera locations earlier this month, when they kicked off the notification period for the project. An ASE project story is provided in this edition of Connected.

Park Upgrades

Councillor Ferragine is also looking forward to the completion of the permissible outdoor space at Henderson Memorial Community Park, which is slated for completion this Spring and available for permit this Summer. Stay tuned for more information!

Quick Facts

Ward Councillor: Peter Ferragine



16 Council at the ASE pilot project unveiling.

Ward Boundaries: North: Line 13, East: BWG East Border, South: Line 9 and County Road 88, West: County Road 27

Parks

- Henderson Memorial Community Park
- Joe Magani Community Park
- Scanlon Creek Conservation Area

Trails

- Scanlon Creek Conservation Area Recreational Trail

Schools

Primary

- Honourable Earl Rowe Public School

Ward 6

The 2024 Budget has paved the way for many exciting developments across Ward 6!

Parks and Facilities

The Bill Marks Trail and Greenspace will be revitalized this year, with the removal of the old, and replacement with a new, asphalt trail.

The 177 Church Street building is nearing its opening, with the Town's renovations completed and further renovations/retrofitting to tenant spaces currently in the works. Stay tuned for more information on an official opening in the coming months!

Community and Traffic Safety

A few highly anticipated projects for Ward 6 have also been recently announced. Phase 1 of the Line 8 Rehabilitation Project will begin this March through July 2024, starting with traffic signals/lights being installed at the Line 8/Professor Day Drive intersection, followed by the much needed road surface rehabilitation from Barrie Street to Sideroad 10.

The Town-wide Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) pilot project is also very much welcomed in BWG. During the ASE kick-off earlier this month, Council and Staff unveiled the first four camera locations, one of which is located in Ward 6 on Professor Day Drive, south of Breeze Drive and West Park Avenue. An ASE project story is provided in this edition of Connected.



17 Councillor Harper at the 2023 Remembrance Day Parade and Celebration.

Looking Forward

The Community and Traffic Safety Advisory Committee will continue working with Staff and our Consultant on developing and delivering the Traffic Mitigation Strategy. During a Fall 2023 meeting, the Committee identified 34 new and 2 amended Community Safety Zones throughout BWG (later approved by Council), which will be considered during the ASE pilot project.

The Committee will also continue exploring further Town-wide traffic calming measures, like red light cameras, and addressing Ward-specific traffic concerns.

Anticipate continuous improvements throughout 2024 as community and traffic safety remain Councillor Harper's priority.

Join the Committee and Staff at the Traffic Mitigation Strategy PIC#3 on March 6, from 6-8pm, in the Community Corner at the BWG Leisure Centre.

Quick Facts

Ward Councillor: Nickolas Harper

Ward Boundaries: North: Line 9, East: Yonge Street, South: Holland Street West, West: Professor Day Drive

Parks

- Veterans Park
- Deputer Park
- Jackson Parkette
- Rose Garden Parkette
- Davey Lookout

Trails

- Veterans Park Trail
- Bill Marks Trail and Greenspace

Schools

Primary

- St Teresa of Calcutta Catholic School
- Fred C. Cook Public School

Ward 7

Councillor Peter Dykie is thrilled to see investments being made across Ward 7, through the 2024 Budget, particularly in parks and roadways.

Parks Upgrades

During the Ward 7 CAN meeting last October, ward residents had the opportunity to provide input on two design scenarios for Luxury Park. Staff is currently finalizing the design based on community feedback before moving to tender. The upgrades will take place in 2024 and include new walkways, a shade structure, and a sports court.

Maintenance work at other Ward 7 parks will also take place in 2024. Trees will be planted at the ball diamond at Green Valley Park to provide screening to the neighbouring yards. Railing repairs and painting of the Gazebo at Rotary Park are ongoing; as well as wash-out repairs along the pathway system at Fuller Park.

Road Construction and Rehabilitation

2024 marks an exciting year for road enhancements in Ward 7!

Reconstruction work has begun at Agar Avenue, Davey Boulevard, and part of Miller Park Avenue earlier this year and is expected to be completed by December 2024. This project includes road, sidewalk, and curb works; storm and sanitary sewer lining; watermain replacement; and enhanced street lighting.

Phases 2 and 3 of the Fred Cook Drive, Luxury Avenue, and Kulpin Avenue rehabilitation are also in the works and will be tender-ready this summer, with construction projected to take place in 2025 (Phase 2) and 2026 (Phase 3).

Stay tuned for progress updates later throughout the year!

Councillor Dykie is once again hosting his annual Easter Egg Hunt this Spring. Stay tuned for event details from Dykie — everyone is welcome to attend!

Quick Facts

Ward Councillor: Peter Dykie

Ward Boundaries: North: Holland Street West, East: Simcoe Road, South: Line 5, West: Melbourne Drive and Brownlee Drive

Parks



18 Councillor Peter Dykie with local kids at his 2023 Easter Egg Hunt!

- Rotary Park
- Luxury Park
- Fuller Heights Park
- Green Valley Park

Trails

- Fuller Height Trail

Schools

Primary

- Marshview Public School
- St. Jean De Brebeuf Catholic School
- W.H. Day Elementary School

Advisory Committee Updates

Heritage Committee Evaluating Hundreds of Local Properties

The Heritage Committee has had a busy start to 2024 tackling a large component of their Work Plan, which was endorsed by Council in September 2023.

The most cumbersome and highest priority item of their Plan has been the evaluation of listed heritage properties in BWG.

Recent changes to the Ontario Heritage Act, through Bill 23, meant that 386 listed properties in BWG had to be evaluated by the Committee to determine which properties should be reviewed for possible designation. The Town has until January 1, 2025, to formally designate any currently listed properties on the Town’s Heritage Registry, after which they will be removed from the “Listed Heritage Properties” and cannot be relisted for a period of five years — losing any means of heritage protection.

Two (urban and rural) sub-committees were established to complete desktop evaluations, which spanned from June 2023 to January 2024. Each currently listed property was evaluated based on four key criteria: design; integrity; context; and risk of development/demolition, for a maximum score of eleven.

The evaluation is complete and the sub-committees have developed a shortlist of 95 priority properties, which received scores of nine or above during the evaluation.



19 Members of the Heritage Advisory Committee

Despite our disappointment that the Town's Heritage List would soon expire due to Bill 23, the Committee saw this as an opportunity to complete a thorough review. Our volunteer members have really stepped up to the plate over the last seven months to evaluate all 386 listed properties and I am proud of the work we have done — a shortlist of 95 properties that we will prioritize for Designation status.” — Councillor Ben Verkaik

Next Steps

Following Council's endorsement of the shortlisted properties on February 20, 2024, the Committee will begin issuing letters to the affected property owners to provide further insight into the designation process.

Municipalities have the authority to designate properties without the owner's permission, but the Committee is taking a lighter approach and is hopeful that existing programs (like the Heritage Property Tax Rebate) will entice property owners to consider designation status and help the Committee in their goal to preserve BWG's heritage.

Although ambitious, the Committee is confident that they can support all shortlisted property owners to reach Heritage designation by the January 1, 2025 deadline.

If you have any questions or are the owner of a currently listed property that hasn't received a letter/been shortlisted, we are happy to work with you. Please get in touch with Senior Planner, Thomas Dysart, at 905 775 5366 ext. 1403 or by email at tdysart@townofbwg.com.

[Click here](#) to view the Committee's Work Plan.

Did you know?

There are two types of properties identified on the Municipal Registry of Heritage Properties – those designated for protection under the Heritage Act, and those that are listed.

Designating a property for protection under the Heritage Act involves a far more formal process than listing a property on the heritage register.

Listing is a means of formally identifying properties that may have cultural heritage value or interest. It is an important tool in planning for their conservation and provides a limited measure of interim protection.

[Click here](#) to learn more about Heritage Planning.

Committee Highlights

Committee Members

Chair: Councillor Ben Verkaik

Council Representative: Councillor Jonathan Scott

Public Members: Roger Sorensen, Laura Vree, Jane Grantham, Tracey McCann, Jennifer Marks, and James Krueger

Mission

The Heritage Committee provides stewardship of Bradford West Gwillimbury's built heritage through advice and actions focused on preserving heritage resources, supporting heritage-

related tourism and economic development, promoting public participation in heritage matters, and identifying new ways of sharing our stories.

Budget 2024

Highlights

Budget deliberations were held during a special Committee of the Whole meeting on January 9th and 10th. Council subsequently passed the 2024 budget during their January 16th Regular Council and Committee of the Whole meeting.

Deliberations were extended to the January 16th Council meeting to discuss the Library budget. Council reached consensus on a 4.24% total increase for local property owners. The increase reflects an additional \$219 per year for the average household, based on an average MPAC assessment of \$516.919.

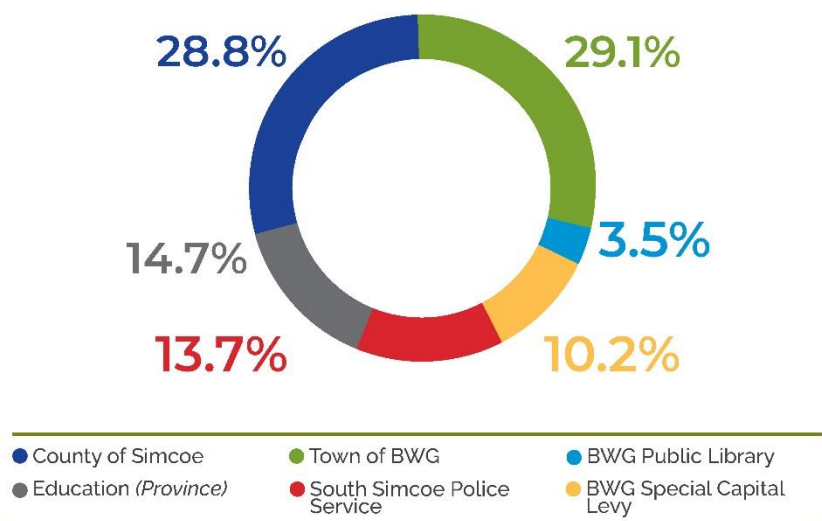
Property tax increases are not reflected on the interim tax bill issued on February 1, but will be reflected on the final tax bill issued on June 3, 2024.

Our municipal budget is a matter that Council takes very seriously. I am proud of Council's meticulous attention and participation as we addressed each line item of the budget during our 2024 deliberations. While I understand that no one wants to see their property tax increase, our 2024 budget will deliver the investments, projects, and personnel required to respond to the needs and expectations of our growing community." — Mayor James Leduc

[Click here](#) to learn more about Budget 2024.

Tax Breakdown

Although the Town of BWG collects all of your property taxes, only about 43% stays with the Town for municipal programs and services like Fire and Emergency, maintenance of roads and parks, leisure programming and events, and the BWG Public Library. The remaining ~57% is distributed among the County of Simcoe; South Simcoe Police; and Education, which is distributed to local school boards by the Province of Ontario.



20 Graph illustrating the tax breakdown for BWG for 2024.

Investing in our Community

For every \$100 in taxes allocated to the Town (including the Library); \$24.57 goes to Transportation; \$17.44 goes to Fire and Emergency Services; \$22.67 goes to Leisure Services, Facilities and Parks; and \$35.32 goes to pay all other services like the Library, Planning and Engineering, Enforcement, Administration, and Economic Development.

The 2024 budget also includes several investments towards Council's strategic priorities:

Community Safety and Traffic Congestion

- Town-wide traffic mitigation initiatives and intersection and lighting upgrades along portions of Holland Street.
- Additional firefighters as well as the design and construction of a new Fire Hall west of Hwy 400.

Infrastructure and Major Roads

- Completion of South West Arterial Roads (SWAR) project.
- Rehabilitation of Line 8 (Barrie Street to Sideroad 10), including traffic signals at the Line 8/Professor Day Drive intersection.
- Town-wide road and bridge rehab projects.
- Expansion to wastewater facility.

Economic Development

- New gateway signage along Hwy 400.
- A new Business Catalyst Centre to provide services and physical office and meeting spaces for small businesses, start-ups, and local entrepreneurs.

Downtown and Urban Renewal

- Phase 1 redevelopment of 125 Simcoe Road including the design of the new Town Hall.
- Rehabilitation of Fred Cook Drive, Luxury Avenue, and Kulpin Avenue.

Enhanced Recreation and Leisure Services/Facilities

- Program funding for new Youth Recreation Centre at Lions Park.
- Completion of 177 Church Street community hub project.
- Enhancements to parks maintenance and summer camp programs.
- New fitness equipment at Leisure Centre.
- Upgrades at Luxury Park, Legion Park, and Brookfield Parkette.
- New outdoor public gathering space at the Library West Lawn.

Enhancing Summer Camps

Through the 2024 budget, significant investments are being made to enhance the Town's recreation and leisure services, particularly within our summer camps programs.

Over the last few years, the Town has shared in the challenges of our neighbouring municipalities when it comes to meeting the programming demands of our quickly growing community. With that being said, through Council's investments towards recreational services over the last two years, we saw a significant jump in our numbers in 2023 and project that 2024 will be our most successful year yet!

"There are so many young families in BWG and we know that they expect enhancements in our recreation and leisure services. We are proud to provide greater investments in this service area to ensure we can have more staff on hand, offer more camps for our youth, and provide greater opportunities for children requiring one-on-one support." — Mayor James Leduc

The Town's summer camps have always been quite competitive to register for — an ongoing challenge that stems from offering affordable programs (as compared to private camp programs), and not having enough inclusion and camp staff on hand to run the camps. Yet, BWG's Leisure Services continues to do their very best to continuously enhance programming and that is evident in the growth we have seen over the past several years.

2024 Camps

We are proud to share that for our 2024 camps season, we are projecting over 600 additional spots, four new camps, a new camp location in Bond Head, and seven inclusion facilitators to allow more children who require one-on-one support to participate in our camps!

"The recreation team (within our Leisure Services division) is responsible for designing and delivering BWG's camp programming, and the hiring and training of our camp staff. They have done an exceptional job this year at developing enhanced programming. I would also like to thank our Customer Service team who are always ready to help our residents find the best camp experience." — Nicholas Warman, Manager of Recreation and Client Services

Registration for our 2024 Summer Camps opens for residents at 10 am on Wednesday, February 28, and for non-residents at 10 am on Friday, March 1.

Although some people may have to be on a waiting list to start, rest assured that programming staff are working hard behind the scenes on recruitment and training efforts to ensure we get those on our waiting list registered, as quickly as possible.

Location	Camp Name	Ages
Lions Park	Fun in the Sun	4-5
Lions Park	Camp Splash & Dash	5-6
Lions Park	Tiny Trekkers	6-7
Comm. Centre	Camp Cyclone	6-7
Comm. Centre	Camp Whirlwind	7-8
Comm. Centre	Camp Whatta Trip!	9-13
Leisure Centre	Curious Campers	4-5
Leisure Centre	Lil' Champions	6-8
Leisure Centre	Young Champions	9-11

Leisure Centre	Aqua Adventures	7-10
Henderson	Camp Xtreme	6-8
Henderson	All Terrain Adventures	9-11
Bond Head Hall	Camp Curtain Call	9-13

Highlights

- 2,800+ capacity for 2024.
- 34% increase in camp staff since 2019.
- 75% increase in inclusion facilitators since 2023 (7 total).
- 13 total camps for 2024 – an increase of 4 camps since 2023.
- 5 camp locations for 2024 – an increase of 1 since 2023 and 3 since 2019.

Learn more about summer camps at: www.townofbwg.com/camps

Protecting the Holland River

The Town of BWG is making two significant investments through the 2024 Budget towards local environmental sustainability. Two innovative infrastructure projects are slated for this year which will help protect the Holland River.

“We have an important role on Council to be community and environmental stewards. These projects play a significant role in improving our local environment and build on our ongoing commitment to operate a safe, healthy, and sustainable BWG for all.” — Mayor James Leduc



21 Council members at the future Snow Disposal Facility site at 225 Dissette Street.

Snow Disposal Facility

To be constructed on the Town's Wastewater Treatment Plant property at 225 Dissette Street, the new Snow Disposal Facility (SDF) has been approved for design and construction through the 2024 Budget.

The future facility will replace BWG's existing ad-hoc snow storage locations in our residential areas — safely storing, filtering, and disposing of excess snow from municipal parking lots, narrow streets, and courts/cul-de-sacs.

A Sustainable Solution

The Snow Disposal Facility (SDF) will consist of a large asphalt or concrete pad where the snow will be stored. The pad will minimize the infiltration of meltwater into permeable ground, allow

staff to easily remove debris, solids, and salts that are left behind, and reduce operational costs as unpaved surfaces often require regrading.

Bio-swales will be constructed around the pad's perimeter to collect run-off from the meltwater and remove suspended solids. The swales will convey the meltwater through an oil and grit separator to assist with the removal of fine solids, oil, and grease.

A Storm Water Management (SWM) pond will also be constructed to provide water quantity control and reduce chloride concentrations prior to discharge into the Holland River. The SWM pond will be designed for Enhanced Level of treatment (80% Total Suspended Solids) removal as defined in the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks' Environmental Design Criteria.

Detailed design will begin in Spring 2024, followed by construction in Summer/Fall.

Facility Highlights

- **Construction:** Summer/Fall 2024
- **Location:** 225 Dissette Street
- **Construction Costs:** \$2.3M (estimated, funded from reserve funds).

LittaTrap™ Coming to BWG

The LittaTrap™ Pilot Project is a two-year program (with possible extension) that was also approved through the 2024 Budget.

BWG will soon install LittaTrap™ filters at thirty older stormwater catch basins throughout the Town's east-end. These filters will be inserted into catch basins to collect litter and debris over 5mm from stormwater runoff, which would otherwise make their way through municipal drains and into the Holland River.

This pilot project will cost \$35,000, which will also come from BWG's reserve funds.

Reducing pollution in the Holland River through these projects is so important to the health of our watershed. Investing in retrofitting older stormwater basins and filtering stored snow will see a huge reduction in litter and pollution entering our local water streams.

"Protecting nature helps preserve key economic strengths in our region, like agriculture and tourism, and ensures we are showing moral leadership to steward this planet for future generations." — Jonathan Scott, Ward 2 Councillor and Chair of the Green Initiatives Advisory Committee

Project Updates

A New Hangout for BWG Youth

You may have already heard about the new Youth Recreation Centre coming to Town, and although it is not yet operational, Leisure Services staff have been busy getting the space ready for its official opening in Spring 2024.

The Lions Park building was originally built in 1976, along with the former outdoor pool. Over nearly 50 years, the building has served our community as a meeting place, the original home of BWG's Recreational team, and pool change room. Since the closure of the outdoor pool in 2012, the building has been used exclusively to host some of the Town's summer camp programs.



22 Exterior of Lions Park building

The initial concept for the new Youth Recreation Centre was conceived and presented to Council in June 2022 and a more detailed plan was presented as part of the 2023 budget, detailing the renovation work that needed to be done.

Although the planning and design of the renovation began over a year ago, the 70s-era Lions Park building kicked off its transformation in October 2023 with the demolition of the building's interior.

Nick Warman, Manager of Recreation and Client Services and N'Diia Maharaj, Recreation Supervisor with the Town of BWG have been the project leads for the new Centre.

"I am so incredibly proud to see this project take shape after several months of planning — it's amazing to see it come to life," shares N'Diia.

Renovations have wrapped up and the project team is currently completing outfitting of the building. *"Although all furniture and supplies have been ordered, we are waiting for all of these items to be delivered and installed before we can officially open our doors. We are also taking the next several weeks to recruit and on-board our new programming staff who will be responsible for managing the daily operations of the Youth Centre," says N'Diia.*

Amenities

The main floor and basement of the new Youth Recreation Centre will include a games area, a lounge and hangout area with plenty of seating, an entertainment area outfitted with a TV and computer lab, as well as a resource area, kitchen, quiet space, and admin area.

The recently renovated sports courts and outdoor ice rinks (during the winter months), will also lend itself to outdoor activities for BWG youth attending the new Centre.

Programming

Youth can drop-in from Tuesdays to Fridays, between 4 and 8pm, for \$1 per visit or \$20 for an annual membership. As time progresses and demand increases, the team will consider expanding their hours of operation.

I am very proud of the work and dedication that our project team has put into this project. This building has served our community in so many ways since it was originally built in 1976 and I am thrilled to see it repurposed for our youth, camps programs, and more! — Mayor James Leduc

Once open, the Youth Recreation Centre will feature several in-house programs including cooking and nutrition, homework, resume building and interview prep, as well as social/entertainment programs like movie, trivia, and sports nights.

The team's vision for the Centre is for it to be a multi-use facility that can operate an adult day program during the day and for youth after school and evenings. Plans for expanding the facility's use are underway and will be shared with residents once confirmed.

Three summer camp programs will continue to operate at Lions Park, between 7am and 6pm (including extended care). The main lobby area of the Youth Recreation Centre will be designated to and used by campers on days of inclement weather, as well as during extended care hours.

Centre Highlights

- **Construction:** October 2023 to February 2024
- **Official Opening:** Spring 2024. Stay tuned for an official opening date!
- **Operating Hours:** Tuesday-Friday; 4-8pm
- **Fees:** \$1/visit or \$20 for annual membership
- **Amenities:** Games room, lounge, entertainment area, computer lab, kitchen

Automated Speed Enforcement

Advanced warning signs have been posted at four community safety zones across BWG!

Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE), also known as speed cameras, are making their way to Community Safety Zones across BWG for a 12-month Pilot Project. On February 1, 2024, the ASE project team and Council gathered to announce the first four locations where ASE cameras will operate, as of May 2024.



“I have served on the Community and Traffic Safety Advisory Committee for three consecutive terms. The most frequent concern we hear from our community is regarding speeding, especially in our neighbourhood streets. This pilot project has been a long time coming, and I am sure that I am joined by my fellow Council, Committee members, and residents in my excitement to see automated speed enforcement come to BWG!” — Ward 5 Councillor and Committee Chair, Peter Ferragine

23 Council and project team at the ASE pilot project unveiling and kick-off.

Each rotation will commence with a mandatory 90-day notification period before any cameras are installed and operational, via advanced warning signs at each respective ASE location. The notification period will be followed by an operational/in-use period of four months during which time the cameras will be active and tickets will be issued to vehicle owners caught going over the posted speed limit. After four months of operation, the cameras at the locations of the first rotation will be removed and reinstalled at four new Community Safety Zone locations, to begin the second rotation of the pilot project.

“During our first strategic planning session, Councillors shared their campaign experiences and speeding was among the top issues, across all wards. Integrating ASE in BWG is an important step that we mutually support and are proudly taking to ensure safer streets throughout our community. We look forward to reviewing the results of the pilot in 2025.” — Mayor James Leduc

The first rotation of cameras will be installed at the following Community Safety Zone locations, at least 90 days after the start of the notification period. Advanced warning signs were unveiled during the February 1st announcement.

- Line 7, between Lallien Drive and Dixon Road.

- Holland Street West, between West Park Avenue and Professor Day Drive.
- Professor Day Drive, south of Breeze Drive and West Park Avenue.
- Simcoe Road, near Catania Avenue.

The notification period for the second rotation will begin on June 1, 2024, at which point the four new ASE locations will be announced to the public.

Visit our website to learn more about the pilot project including timelines and an FAQ: www.townofbwg.com/ASE.

Water Consumption Portal

Stay informed about your water consumption and help reduce the risk of extended leaks!

The Town of BWG has launched a new Water Consumption Portal for property owners to monitor their water consumption prior to receiving their water/ wastewater utility bill. The online portal also allows owners to set up email notifications when higher than normal water usage is detected at their property.

When should you suspect a leak?

If you fill a pool and are aware of the higher than normal water usage, there is no reason for concern. But, if you spend the day outside of your home with no known water usage and can see that water is being used on that particular day, it would be worth checking for leaks and monitoring your usage over the next few days.

Although leaks can occur from faucets, water softeners, and other household equipment connected to water, the most common culprit for leaks are toilets.

Before you get started

There are a few items to keep in mind before creating your online account on our Water Consumption Portal:

- Only one account is permitted per property and meter number so accounts are reserved for property owners only.
- If you are a tenant, and wish to receive water usage data for your home, please speak to your landlord about adding you as a recipient of the usage notifications.
- Multiple properties (account/meter numbers) can be configured under a single account, and nicknames can be configured to easily identify each property.
- If you are registering using a mobile device, it may ask for a “security token provided by your utility.” Please enter your water meter number in this field.

More Info

Click on the following topics to learn more!

- [Water Portal Webpage](#)
- [Create an Online Account](#)
- [Water Conservation](#)

For questions related to the customer portal or your water meter, please contact Water Services. For questions about your water/wastewater utility billing, please contact Financial Services.

BWG Transit Driver Appreciation Day

To honour of the dedication and achievements of BWG's transit operators, we are proud to celebrate National Transit Driver Appreciation Day on March 18.

BWG's transit staff deliver an important service to the community, and whether they are in the driver's seat or working behind the scenes to maintain our transit system — we appreciate and thank them.

During their shift, BWG's transit drivers are responsible for checking fares, offering directions, special stop requests, maintaining schedule, and more — all while safely maneuvering an extra-large vehicle through unpredictable traffic, driving through adverse weather conditions, and ensuring the safety of their riders.

The fact is, transit drivers don't have an easy job, they just make it look that way.

Their work is supported by other staff who create schedules, maintain our fleet, and manage our fare system. The entire team works collectively to deliver the best service to our customers, safely and affordably.

The Town constantly hears positive feedback and stories about the difference our transit team makes in the community. From helping reunite a customer with a lost item to educating newcomers on local transit routes, local transit helps connect hundreds of customers with the people they love, to the places they need to be, and to the services they depend on daily.



24 BWG Transit Driver

National Transit Driver Appreciation Day

Did you know that March 18 was selected as National Transit Driver Appreciation Day in commemoration of the very first bus line, Blaise Pascal's carrosses à cinq sols ("five-penny carriages") in Paris in 1662.

This March 18, we invite local transit users to celebrate the contributions and dedication of our bus and train operators, and other transit workers who keep vehicles and systems functioning. Showing your appreciation could be as simple as a smile and a wave when you board the bus or train and a "thank you" when you leave.

In addition to the great staff that keep BWG Transit on the road, we also want to thank Simcoe County Linx/Linx+ and GO Transit employees for everything they do.

This day of recognition honours everyone who plays a vital role in keeping BWG moving. Thank you to our transit workers for their hard work and dedication!

Upcoming Events and Campaigns

Black History Month

February 2024

Black History Month celebrations continue in BWG:

- February 21 | 6:30 pm: Psych Thriller Book Club.
- February 22 | 1:30 pm: Movie Matinée: Summer of Soul.
- All February Long : Display Case Exhibit curated by the Olundara Foundation.

Location: BWG Public Library

Learn more by following us on social media!

Community Clean-up Week

April 22-28

BWG's Community Clean-up Week takes place every spring. It's an opportunity for our community to come together and clear litter and debris from public spaces around town.

Residents can pick-up 'Clean-up Kits' and clean-up around their neighborhoods any time during Community Clean-up Week.

Location: BWG-wide

Click here to learn more about BWG Community Clean-up Week: Town of BWG Community Clean-up Week <https://www.townofbwg.com/en/recreation-culture/community-clean-up.aspx>

Marsh Mash

Friday, December 1

The Marsh Mash Canoe and Kayak Race is the 4th oldest Marathon Canoe Race in Ontario. The race attracts Canoeists, Kayakers, Stand Up Paddleboarders, and Outrigger Paddlers from all over the province!

There are a number of classes and choices of race distances. Registration for the 2024 event will open in April.

Location: Sovereign Grace Church (1466 5th Sideroad)

Time: 8:00 am-12:00 pm

Click here to learn more about Marsh Mash at: [Town of BWG Marsh Mash \(https://www.townofbwg.com/en/recreation-culture/marsh-mash.aspx\)](https://www.townofbwg.com/en/recreation-culture/marsh-mash.aspx)

Investing in BWG

BWG to Welcome Business Catalyst Centre

In September 2022, the BWG Office of Economic Development (OED) began working with Accolade Innovations Inc. to investigate the need for, and feasibility of, developing a Business Catalyst Centre (BCC) to serve the needs of the local business community. The overarching goal in creating a BCC is to develop a collaborative ecosystem where industry, small businesses, entrepreneurs, start-ups, government, academia, and venture capital can come together to create community, spark innovation, and stimulate economic growth.

Under the guidance of the OED, a Steering Committee was created to oversee and guide this feasibility study. Members were chosen for their business experience, entrepreneurial history, economic development involvement, and knowledge of the entrepreneurial ecosystem of support and resources across Ontario.

Over several months, the Committee reviewed extensive research on best practices for business acceleration, a variety of business model options for business hubs, and the effectiveness of programming options that can be delivered by such hubs. Community engagement was an essential part of the process and Accolade met with many individuals and groups to determine the needs of the small business community, hybrid workers, and entrepreneurs.

Through this process, the Steering Committee identified three key gaps in services and resources for business start-ups, early-stage entrepreneurs, and small business operators:

- Lack of local programming aimed at assisting companies to start, grow, and scale.
- Lack of access to high-quality business mentors and business funding.
- Lack of collaborative training and networking space as well as co-working or flexible smaller office space, meeting space, and event space.

After their extensive efforts and visits to eight different catalyst centre facilities across Simcoe County and York Region, the “BWG Co-Working Model” was identified as the best option to address the needs of entrepreneurs and the community. This would entail the development of a business-oriented co-working space that offers professional working, meeting, and event space to local start-ups, hybrid workers and small businesses, operating under a membership model with users paying based on their use of space and amenities. Mentorship and support for entrepreneurs would be provided via a variety of programming offered by Georgian College’s Henry Bernick Entrepreneurship Centre.

This concept was approved in principle by Council in mid-2023, with a full report and financial analysis approved in December 2023. Funding for the first phase of the project was approved during the 2024 Budget Deliberations, with \$200,000 in initial financing for the BCC.

The OED is continuing its work with Accolade on the next steps, including Memoranda of Understanding with partner groups, grant funding applications to supplement Council’s approved funding, creating articles of incorporation, selecting a BCC Board of Directors, locating and renovating a site in the downtown area, hiring an office coordinator/programmer, and launching the new Centre.

The goal is to have all elements in place by 2025.

Click here to visit the Economic Development Website: <https://www.gotobwg.ca/contact-us/>