

connected

Bradford West Gwillimbury

Issue 03 • Summer 2024



Bradford
west
Gwillimbury



WWW.TOWNOFBWG.COM

Contents

Contents.....	0
Welcome to Connected from Mayor and Deputy Mayor	3
BWG Council.....	4
Do you know your ward?	4
Council meetings	5
Staying Informed	5
Town Website.....	5
e-Newsletters.....	5
Social Media	5
Local News Sources	6
Ward Updates	6
Ward 1	6
Quick Facts	7
Ward 2.....	8
Quick Facts.....	8
Ward 3.....	9
Quick Facts	10
Ward 4.....	11
Quick Facts	11
Ward 5.....	12
Quick Facts	13
Ward 6.....	14
Quick Facts	14
Ward 7	16
Quick Facts	16
BWG Celebrates the RCAF Centennial	17
Advisory Committee Updates	19
Accessibility Advisory Committee	19
Committee Highlights	20
Budget 2024.....	21
BWG Opens Doors to 177 Church Street	21

Park Upgrades.....23
Henderson Park.....24
Celebrating 10 Years of BWG Transit25
Mayor’s Annual Business.....27

Welcome to Connected from Mayor and Deputy Mayor



I As the sun rises higher and the days grow longer, I am delighted to extend a warm welcome to the vibrant energy of summer in our town. With the changing seasons comes a renewed sense of community and excitement for the opportunities that lie ahead. I am thrilled to introduce the third edition of Connected — BWG’s interactive digital publication designed to keep residents informed and engaged with what is new and exciting.

In this edition, we are thrilled to feature the invaluable work of our Accessibility Advisory Committee, share updates on some Budget 2024 projects like our new Public Square, discuss summer upgrades at local parks, and highlight upcoming events you don't want to miss!

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.

If you haven’t already, make sure to 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'.

Photo of Mayor James Leduc

Mayor James Leduc

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.



Mayor
James Leduc

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



Deputy Mayor
Raj Sandhu

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



Ward 1 Councillor
Cheraldean Duhaney

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



Ward 2 Councillor
Jonathan Scott

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



Ward 3 Councillor
Ben Verkaik

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



Ward 4 Counciloor
Joseph Giordano

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



Ward 5 Councillor
Peter Ferragine

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



Ward 6 Councillor
Nickolas Harper

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



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 visit communications@townofbwg.com 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.

Ward Updates

Ward 1

Councillor Duhaney is happy to see the incredible progress that her ward and BWG have made towards community improvements.

Parks and Facilities

The much-needed Brookfield Parkette update is complete with the addition of a new shaded area and seating,

The new Youth Recreation Centre at 236 Colborne Street officially opened its doors in May. The newly renovated facility provides a safe environment for our youth to thrive and connect.

MPP Caroline Mulroney announced that Holy Trinity Catholic High School will undergo a \$6.8-million expansion, adding 12 new classrooms and accommodating 275 additional students.

Community and Traffic Safety

Speed humps at Veterans Drive and Blackwell Crescent have been installed, and the Town will also be evaluating the safety of additional intersections throughout Ward 1.

Automated speed cameras will soon be installed on Miller Park Avenue between Angela Street and West Park Avenue. Residents are reminded to prioritize road safety by driving responsibly and adhering to speed limits.

In May, we inaugurated a state-of-the-art paramedic station at 480 Miller Park Avenue, significantly improving healthcare accessibility in BWG.

Community Engagement

May's Ward 1 meeting saw active participation from residents, who voiced concerns regarding town aesthetics, heritage preservation, cleanliness, and safety. Embracing the feedback, we



Councillor Duhaney at the new bench at Brookfield Parkette.

reaffirm our commitment to preserving BWG's unique heritage while implementing community improvements. Councillor Duhaney wishes everyone a happy and safe summer!

Quick Facts

Ward Councillor: Cheraldean Duhaney

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

Councillor Scott is focused on working collaboratively and thoughtfully to make a positive difference around town. This spring, important work continued to support our seniors and youth, to protect our environment, and to advocate for new schools.

Youth and Seniors' Programming

The Danube Seniors' Leisure Centre recently saw important upgrades including a new HVAC system, a new fire escape, and an entirely new parking lot.

Alongside investments in new summer camp spaces and youth programs, we also officially opened our new Youth Centre, converting the old Lions Pool Building into a community hub for local kids.



Councillor Scott as Vice-Chair of Conservation Ontario with Bonnie Fox and Terry Duguid

Protecting Our Planet

We're continuing to make progress in protecting our environment, particularly our freshwater. On the national stage, Councillor Scott was in Ottawa in his new role as vice-chair of Conservation Ontario, meeting alongside American and Canadian environmental organizations with MPs to advocate for more protection to our Great Lakes. On the local front, we secured a \$258,000 investment in nature-based solutions for the Holland River. We're using the power of plants to organically filter our water, making an important contribution to a cleaner environment.

Council also saw the installation of another environmental protection measure, 30 LittaTrap™ filters were installed in stormwater basins throughout BWG to prevent waste from entering the Holland River.

Advocating for more Schools

The simple reality is that BWG desperately needs new and improved schools. Specifically, a new public high school, as Bradford District High School is significantly overcrowded. We also need new elementary schools, and upgrades to our older schools.

We also need more childcare spaces and are thrilled to share that BWG will see another 103 new childcare spaces through the Canada Early Learning and Childcare program this year!

We will continue to advocate for increased investments in childcare and in our schools.

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

Councillor Verkaik is proud of the progress that has been made throughout his ward throughout the course of 2024 so far.

Community Safety

The Automated Speed Enforcement Pilot Project is underway with the first rotation of cameras now operational at four locations across Town including on Line 7, between Lallien Drive and Dixon Road. With this new community traffic measure in place, Ward 3 residents can have peace of mind that we are committed to ensuring the safety of our roads and residents.

Planning for a new fire hall in Bond Head has begun. The Town has secured a location for the newest addition to BWG's Fire and Emergency Services department. Located at the base of the Bond Head Water Tower, the new fire hall is an investment in the health and safety of our community and its residents.



Councillor Verkaik with Mayor Leduc and Councillor Duhaney at the Line 2 repaving project.

Road Construction and Rehabilitation

The 2024 Roads Program promised micro-surfacing treatment on Line 2, and the Town has now completed the work in their efforts to improve road conditions throughout BWG.

Significant strides have been made towards the highly anticipated completion of the Southwest Arterial Roads (SWAR) project. The Town has reached the final stages of each phase with minor details remaining and final completion expected this July.

Also coming soon will be the completion of streetlights at the curved intersection of Sideroad 10 and Line 5.

Parks and Programming

As part of the Leisure Facilities Renewal/Replacement Implementation Plan, the parking lot at Bond Head Memorial Community Centre was paved, increasing durability and ease of access for residents.

Protecting our Planet

Grant funding from Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) was received for two Lake Simcoe phosphorus reduction projects. These projects will see the removal of vegetation to help reduce pathways for phosphorus in the Holland Marsh, as well as bank reshaping and slope stabilization in the Holland Marsh.

Councilor Verkaik looks forward to the many improvements happening throughout Ward 3, and is excited for what lies ahead.

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

Councillor Giordano is thrilled to see the strides that BWG has made toward improving community safety and family programming throughout his ward in 2024.

Public Square

BWG's highly anticipated Public Square project is underway. The 6,000m² outdoor special events space located at 425 Holland Street West will act as a gathering place for residents of all ages in our community, offering a variety of amenities including beautiful gardens and seating areas, as well as water features and misters for those hot summer days. Set to be one of BWG's premiere outdoor venues, the Public Square will soon be a permissible space and a sought-after location for community events and celebrations within BWG. Giordano has been a champion for this project from the start and is excited to see it come to life.



Photos of residents at the 2023 Street Party.

Community and Traffic Safety Initiatives

Enhancements to the pickup and drop off zones at Bradford District High School and Fieldcrest Elementary School will soon be underway, funded in partnership between the Town and school board. This initiative will help ease congestion during school transportation hours while ensuring safe arrival and departure for students throughout the school year.

Additionally, the Town is planning the installation of a new ramp at the intersection of Professor Day Drive and Blue Dasher Boulevard to help provide year-round safe access for students and pedestrians in the area.

Community Engagement

Councillor Giordano and Ward 4 residents are gearing up for the 3rd Annual Retro Street Party on August 24. The beloved community building event is a chance for neighbours and friends to gather and celebrate one another while connecting with other residents. This year's event will feature performances from Toronto's 90's club scene legend, Joee, and a surprise pop singer will also be gracing the stage. Headlining is Giordano and his band FEEBACK (formerly the Dadbods), rocking out to the hair spraying '80's, as well as the well known and loved Cara Lea Band.

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

Many of the 2024 budget promises are coming to light throughout ward 5.

Community and Traffic Safety

As part of the 2024 Roads Program, Kilkenny Trail underwent a road revitalization to help ensure the safety of residents who frequent it each day. The existing asphalt was partially removed and replaced with new paving, and damaged curb



The newly repaved Kilkenny Trail

sections were also replaced, giving new life to Kilkenny Trail. Additionally, Line 13 between Sideroad 5 to County Road 27 underwent micro-surfacing treatments to improve the condition of the existing road surface.

Our Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) program is officially underway. In May the first rotation of four ASE cameras began with the second rotation slated for September 1. The 12-month Pilot Project is a major step in the Town's traffic calming measures and acts as a reminder for drivers to slow down.

Park Upgrades

You may have noticed significant updates to Henderson Memorial Community Park recently. Councillor Ferragine is excited to see the addition of a new outdoor space which includes a 2400 ft² Pavilion and adjacent playground. The pavilion features a barbeque, as well as access to water, and hydro which the Town is currently awaiting installation on. Residents will have the opportunity to rent out the soon-to-be permissible space for private gatherings of up to 100 people, offering the community a great option to host their special events. This is a welcome addition to one of BWG's busiest parks and we look forward to seeing it up and running this summer.

BWG is also working closely with the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority to determine the feasibility of an additional baseball diamond at Joe Magani Park.

Councillor Ferragine remains steadfast in his commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of residents in Ward 5.

Quick Facts

Ward Councillor: Peter Ferragine

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

Exciting work towards community safety and programming has been underway in ward 6.

Parks and Facilities

The revitalization of the Bill Marks Trail is set to begin this summer with the removal and replacement of the existing asphalt trail. The new trail will also be sloped and widened to improve water drainage and accessibility.

We are thrilled to share the completion of the long-awaited 177 Church Street Building. The 30,000-square-foot facility features a large lobby and reception area, a commercial-grade kitchen with an adjoining multi-purpose room, meeting rooms, and is home to six tenants: The Helping Hand Foodbank, WoW Living, Out of the Cold Café, Catulpa Community Support Services, and Simcoe Muskoka Family Connexions. Harper is excited to see the positive impact this new facility and its tenants will have within our community.

Community and Traffic Safety

After canvassing residents in the area, Councillor Harper received overwhelming support for the installation of speed humps along Northgate Drive. We are happy to share that speed humps are now in place on Northgate Drive, east of Professor Day Drive in an effort to help calm traffic in the area.

Speed humps along Veterans Street have also been installed. With the addition of these speed humps BWG has increased safety measures for both high schools in the community. Harper is committed to increasing safety measures for all schools throughout BWG alongside the Community Safety and Traffic Advisory Committee.

Phase 1 of the highly anticipated Line 8 Rehabilitation is underway. We understand that residents were expecting to see more work completed as part of the rehabilitation but rest assured that subsequent phases will consider the concerns that our residents have shared, like the design of a complete street including sidewalks.

Additionally, lights at the intersection of Professor Day Drive and Line 8 have been installed and are set to be fully functioning later this summer.

Councillor Harper looks forward to future developments in BWG and the impact it will have on the growth of our Town.

Quick Facts

Ward Councillor: Nickolas Harper

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

Parks



Councillor Harper with Councillor Giordano and Contractor at the new speed hump on Northgate

- 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

Important safety and community upgrades are taking place throughout Ward 7.

Parks Upgrades

This spring, BWG staff finalized the construction design for the Luxury Park upgrades promised through the 2024 community investment budget. The Town is currently in the process of securing a contractor with work expected to begin this summer and an anticipated completion of October 2024. Residents will still have access to the west end of Luxury Park as it will remain open during construction.

Road Construction and Rehabilitation

Work on Phase 1 of the 2023 Urban Roads Project continues to progress. The watermain installation along Miller Park Avenue, Davey Boulevard, Agar Avenue, and part of Melbourne Drive is nearing completion with the commissioning of the watermain and final connections to follow. Once connections are complete, road work will begin with the removal and replacement of the existing asphalt, a concrete curb installation, road grading, concrete sidewalk construction, and electrical works.

Phases 2 and 3 are also underway with the investigation of the existing infrastructure on Fred Cook Drive, Luxury Avenue, Kulpin Avenue complete. The Town is currently creating a detailed design for these phases with construction slated to begin in 2025 (Phase 2) and 2026 (Phase 3).

BWG is making great strides in the Holland Street Revitalization Project with the detailed design stage currently at 90%. In conjunction with the detailed design, the Town is in the process of preparing project costs which will be posted later this year. Some minor construction is planned for this year with majority of the work scheduled for 2025.

Councillor Dykie is excited to see improvements taking place throughout Ward 7 and looks forward to continuing his efforts in ensuring development within the community.

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

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



Councillor Peter Dykie at the Agar Avenue/Davey Boulevard/Miller Park Avenue project site.

- Fuller Height Trail

Schools

Primary

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

BWG Celebrates the RCAF Centennial

From Monday, June 10, to Friday, June 14, the Town of BWG hosted an incredible week-long celebration in recognition of the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) Centennial Anniversary.

Originated in Base Borden, right here in Simcoe County, the RCAF is celebrating one hundred years of service as a distinct military element in 2024.

In partnership with the BWG Public Library, Lieutenant Colonel (retired) Ferguson Mobbs CD, and Ward 6 Councillor Corporal (retired) Nickolas Harper, the Town of BWG is proud and honoured to have participated in this significant national milestone by hosting several commemorative events.



RCAF Centennial Official Ceremony. Members of BWG Council, dignitaries, and the SkyHawks.

Celebrations began on April 1, 2024, marking the official formation of the RCAF as a permanent component of Canada's defence force, one hundred years ago.

In recognition of this significant milestone, communities across Canada and the world were invited to participate by illuminating different landmarks in blue in recognition of #100YearsOfFlyingBlue, and in an attempt to break the Guinness World Records for the most landmarks illuminated in 24 hours! The Town of BWG was proud to support this record-breaking initiative and lit up several facilities across town, including the Court House, Clock Tower, and Finance Building; the BWG Public Library and Cultural Centre; BWG Fire Station 1; and the Royal Canadian Legion.

In June 2024, the RCAF was awarded with the certificate recognizing that their Illuminations Project, #100YearsOfFlyingBlue, had officially broken the Guinness World Records title for the most landmarks illuminated in 24 hours on April 1, 2024, with a total of 56 landmarks illuminated across the globe!

BWG's local RCAF centennial celebrations continued in June with a week-long event, featuring a flight simulator, a flag raising, movies and discussions, a community parade, and an official ceremony.

The Town kicked-off local celebrations with a flag raising ceremony on June 10 to proclaim the week as the Royal Canadian Air Force Centennial Celebration in the Town of BWG. The ceremony consisted of an opening march performed by our local Colour Guard, the raising of the RCAF centennial flag, and remarks from Deputy Mayor Raj Sandu, Lt. Col. (Ret'd) Ferguson Mobbs CD, and Col. Doré.

The week continued with the popular uFly Flight Simulator at the BWG Public Library, that attracted hundreds of local families throughout the week to take a shot at flying an aircraft in a hyper realistic environment. Other events included a film screening of the Royal Canadian Air Cadets and a panel discussion on RCAF: Then and Now.

Celebrations wrapped up on Friday, June 14, with a community parade featuring a special visit and performance by four historic aircrafts from the Great War Flying Museum, followed by the Official Ceremony to close off the week! The most exciting, jaw-dropping highlight of the week was the performance by the Canadian Armed Forces Parachute Team, the SkyHawks, narrated by their Commentator, Lt. Devon Gorman. Hundreds of residents, dignitaries and Council, and other military personnel, were in awe as the SkyHawks performed complex parachute maneuvers.

The Official Ceremony continued with remarks from Master of Ceremonies, Lt. Col. (Ret'd) Ferguson Mobbs CD; MP Scot Davidson; MPP Caroline Mulroney; County of Simcoe Warden Basil Clarke; Mayor James Leduc; Lt. Col. Terry Wong; and MWO Douglas Hennessey CD, followed by a special certificate presentation to the SkyHawks, and a Key to the City presentation to Lt. Col. Terry Wong.

The RCAF Centennial is an opportunity to showcase Air Force personnel and their accomplishments, demonstrate air and space power, enhance the reputation of the RCAF, and proudly honour its distinguished history and heritage.

Advisory Committee Updates

Accessibility Advisory Committee

The Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) has been working diligently on various initiatives to enhance the Town's accessibility and inclusivity, including the Accessible Taxicab Grant, BWG Facilities Accessibility Enhancements, and celebrating local accessibility throughout National AccessAbility Week and Red Shirt Day.

Accessible Taxicab Grant

The AAC continues to advocate for better transportation options for individuals with disabilities. In June 2018, BWG entered into an Accessible Taxicab Grant Agreement with Bradford/Bond Head Limousine Taxi (BB Taxi). Since the expiration of this agreement in June 2023, the AAC has had great interest in increasing the availability of inclusive and accessible ridership options within BWG. The Committee completed research into current on-demand accessible transit options, reviewed costs associated with retrofitting accessible vehicles, and gathered information through a public engagement survey and a BWG taxi brokerage questionnaire.



Members of the Accessibility Advisory Committee

The Committee passed a recommendation to Council to proceed with circulating and executing two agreement opportunities for taxicab companies licensed in BWG. First, a one-time accessible taxicab conversion grant and second, a marketing agreement.

The two agreement opportunities will increase the availability of wheelchair-accessible taxicab services to residents and will assist in creating awareness of accessible transit services in BWG. Both agreements will allow the Town to gather performance data, which will assist in establishing accessibility-based strategies and objectives. The Expression of Interest (EOI) was advertised online and closed on Friday, June 14, 2024. Awarded brokers will be announced once available.

BWG Facilities Accessibility Enhancements

During their June 2023 orientation meeting, AAC members emphasized the importance of promoting accessibility in the community. The Committee recommended to Council that they conduct a physical accessibility consultation of Town facilities including the Leisure Centre, Public Library, and other public facing Town offices.

To guide their consultations, the Committee and Town staff developed a set of guidelines to assess how easily these environments can be used by a diverse range of people.

The consultations were completed between August and November 2023 and resulted in a report recommending accessibility-based enhancements across public facing facilities. Council supported the report in March 2024 and Town staff have since been working towards implementing the recommended enhancements.

National AccessAbility Week

The AAC hosted their Annual National AccessAbility Week event on May 26, 2024. To kick things off, Mayor Leduc, members of Council, and staff held a flag raising and proclaimed May 26-June 1 as National AccessAbility Week in the Town of BWG.

One initiative that was celebrated was Red Shirt Day, which is a movement that originated in Canada to promote awareness and support for persons with disabilities. On Red Shirt Day, people are encouraged to wear red shirts to show their commitment to promoting accessibility, inclusion, and equal opportunities for people living with disabilities.

“I am proud of our Committee's ongoing commitment to enhancing accessibility throughout BWG. From improving transit options to enhancing accessibility within our public spaces, the AAC is dedicated to fostering an inclusive, accessible and welcoming BWG where every resident can fully participate in and enjoy all that our town has to offer.” — Councillor Peter Dykie

Upcoming AAC Events

The Accessibility Advisory Committee and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee will be attending Carrot Fest to engage with the public and spread awareness of the Committees and their initiatives.

The Accessibility Advisory Committee's Annual Public Meeting to Consult on the Design of Public Spaces will be occurring on September 9, 2024. All are welcome to attend.

Committee Highlights

Committee Members

Chair: Councillor Peter Dykie

Council Representative: Councillor Cheraldean Duhaney

Public Members: Tracey Doncses, Karla Pilozo, Meade Helman, Lexi Tokhi, Olivia Khan, and Lynn Woods

Mission

The Accessibility Advisory Committee provides stewardship of BWG's Accessibility plan through advice and reviews focused on ensuring the standards of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 are being met. The committee also reviews plans for development in BWG with respect to accessibility issues and acts as a champion for accessibility within the community.

Budget 2024

BWG Opens Doors to 177 Church Street

After two years of construction the Town of BWG officially opened the doors at its 177 Church Street building during a grand opening ceremony on June 27.

Together with Tony Van Bynen, Member of Parliament for Newmarket—Aurora, the project team, town staff, tenants, and community members, the Town of BWG proudly celebrated the transformation of the former Bradford Public School.



Council with residents outside of 177 Church Street at their grand opening.

The revitalized building is now an accessible, modern, and thriving hub that offers an array of services for the community.

Nearly one hundred people gathered to celebrate the grand opening during an official ceremony, consisting of a ribbon cutting, refreshments, and a guided tour.

“177 Church Street is more than a building — it’s a community-centred facility offering social services and Town programs. It’s a place of support, a space to gather, and a welcoming environment that the entire community can utilize and enjoy. This is a long-awaited and highly anticipated grand opening and would not be possible without the dedication of our project team and DOMM Construction, as well as the support of our federal government through their Green and Inclusive Community Buildings program.”

— Mayor James Leduc

The Town purchased the 1950s-era building in 2020 with a vision to transform it into a centralized community and social service hub for all residents to use and enjoy. As of June 2024, tenants have completed the necessary renovations to their spaces and are moved in and ready to serve the residents of BWG.

The 30,000-square-foot facility features a large lobby and reception area, a commercial-grade kitchen with an adjoining multi-purpose room, meeting rooms, and is home to four tenants: The Helping Hand Foodbank, WOW Living, and Catulpa Community Support Services.

Construction began in May 2022, with an anticipated grand opening of Fall 2023. However, there were a few setbacks along the way, including scope changes due to structural discoveries and material delivery delays during early construction.

The Town's portion of the renovations were officially completed in the Fall of 2023, but our tenants had to complete further renovations and retrofitting to their spaces. The Town worked closely with its tenants to move them into the building promptly as a few had to vacate their former spaces.

BWG is excited to see the positive impact this facility and its tenants will have within our community. Hours of operation will be established based on programming. The Town will be scheduling municipal programs and the community spaces will be available for public permit in the near future.

New Outdoor Public Square

Exciting updates are in progress for the construction of a new space!

As highlighted in the Town's 2024 budget, work has commenced on a new outdoor Public Square. The approximately 6,000m² lawn adjacent to the BWG library is being transformed into a permanent public square and event space featuring:

- An event stage
- An interactive water walk
- Year-round seating
- Additional tree and garden plantings

With an estimated completion date of June 2025, BWG looks forward to using this space to host many Town events like Music and Movies in the Park, the Farmers' Market, as well as other community events.



Rendering of the new Public Square

Road Updates

Road maintenance work has been diligently underway since the spring, with efforts continuing over the summer months. The Danube Seniors Leisure Centre and the Bond Head Memorial

Community Centre both got a recent facelift with the resurfacing of their parking lots, as well as micro-surfacing along Line 2 and Line 13.

Other major projects that are well underway include:

- Phase 1 of the Line 8 rehabilitation project: road rehabilitation from Barrie St to Sideroad 10; road rehabilitation from (Line 8 to Reagens Industrial Parkway; and traffic lights at Line 8/Professor Day Dr intersection.
- Agar Avenue, Davey Boulevard , and Miller Park Avenue: road, sidewalk, and curb works; storm and sanitary sewer lining; watermain replacement; and improved street lighting.



Council members at the Line 8 project site during construction.

Investing in road maintenance is an investment in the safety, mobility, and overall quality of life for everyone in our town. We look forward to providing future updates on current projects.

Park Upgrades

Exciting upgrades and new developments are underway across four wards in BWG!

Luxury Park

As one of the oldest community parks in Town, Luxury Park is set to receive a much-needed revitalization starting this summer. Contractors are on site and beginning upgrades to Luxury Park which will consist of grading modifications for improved drainage and accessibility, new walking paths, a new shade structure, and a new multi-use sports court which will replace the existing court.

Bill Marks Trail

Work is set to begin this summer to improve the trail network nestled behind Northgate Drive and Barrie Street. Improvements will include pathway widening and grading changes to improve drainage and accessibility along the trail.

Bradford East Park

Construction for a new park located near Line 6 and Simcoe Road (Jonkman Road and Ferragine Court) is set to begin this summer. The park will feature a playground, walking trails, a shade structure, and a tennis/pickleball court.



Rendering of the new Bradford East Park

Parks Highlights

Parks with Splash Pads

- Alan Kuzmich Memorial Park
- Green Valley Park
- Henderson Memorial Community Park
- Lions Park
- Constable Devon Northrup Memorial Park
- Ron Simpson Memorial Park

Recently Upgraded (2023)

- Joe Magani Park
- Legion Park
- Taylor Park
- Veterans Park

Henderson Park

The new outdoor space at Henderson Memorial Community Park is nearly completed and will soon be available to rent for your next event!

The large playground and neighbouring splash pad, paired with its large shade structure with a panoramic view of the park, are a few of the amenities that make Henderson one of the most utilized parks in BWG. The large greenspace and ample parking also allows the Town to find more ways to utilize the property and continuously enhance its footprint.

The construction of a new secluded permissible space on the northeast corner of the property began in the Fall of 2023. Although the play and shade structures have been completed for some time, the project team is awaiting water and electrical hookups to finalize things and make the space available for permitting. The team expects that these items can be wrapped up over the next few weeks.

More About the Permittable Space

This permittable space is a great option for residents looking for an outdoor rental space to host family reunions and celebrations, birthday parties, and more!

The new space is nestled away from the existing playground and splash pad at Henderson and features a 2,400 ft² shelter/shade structure with a barbecue and an adjacent playground. Once completed, the space will be available for our resident and community groups and organizations to rent and utilize exclusively for gatherings of up to 100 people.



New shade structure at Henderson Park

The playground and shade structure will remain available to the general public during the times it hasn't been rented. Look out for signage at the entrance of the space to determine whether the space is closed for a private function.

Celebrating 10 Years of BWG Transit

BWG Transit was officially established on May 1, 2014, as a conventional, fixed route service with 3 buses, 2 routes, just over 100 bus stops and a Shuttle-to-GO program connecting BWG residents to Bradford GO.

Today, BWG Transit has expanded its fleet, hours of operation and operating days; added shelters and benches; improved smart bus



BWG Transit bus outside of the BWG Leisure Centre

technology; and implemented a Shuttle-to-Reagens service, providing much needed transit between BWG Transit stops and businesses in Reagens Industrial Park during the late-night shift change period.

Over the past decade, BWG Transit has been instrumental in molding our community and facilitating travel for residents exploring, living, and working in BWG and nearby areas.

BWG Transit extends its gratitude to everyone involved in making the past 10 years a success, from our dedicated operators to our loyal riders.

Looking Forward

The Town has partnered with transit consultant, “Left Turn Right Turn,” to develop a 2031 Transit Plan that will pave the way for the future of BWG Transit over the next seven years. The Plan will support the development of a future service that responds to the needs of our growing community.

Thank you Crossing Guards

School Crossing Guards play an essential role in our communities by helping children safely cross busy streets.

In celebration of School Crossing Guard Appreciation Week (June 3-7, 2024), BWG recognizes and honours the essential contributions of our local Crossing Guards!

Please join us in thanking Christine, Clayton, Danielle, Dawn, Deborah, Dee, Denyse, Linda, Lou, Paul, Serge, Stephen, Suzie, Tony and Wayne, for the work they do — rain/snow or shine — to keep our children safe on their way to and from school every day!

Get to know some of our crossing guards and say hi next time you see them and remember to say a big thank you for their service to our community.

If you are interested in becoming a Town of Bradford Crossing Guard, please visit www.townofbwg.com/careers.



School Crossing Guard.

Pedestrian Safety

- Obey crossing guards when present
- Make eye contact with drivers before crossing
- Get off of bikes, skateboards and scooters before crossing
- Never stop in the middle of an intersection
- Always yield to emergency vehicles
- Please do not bounce balls, skip rope or horseplay while waiting to be crossed or while crossing.
- At crossings with signals, only cross when the pedestrian walk signal is displayed.

Driver Safety

- Be observant of students when in a school area and be ready to stop at all times
- Be patient and wait for students to complete their crossing before proceeding
- Reduce speed in school zones
- Stop when a stop paddle is held up by a crossing guard
- Obey school bus flashers
- Obey yield, stop, no U-turn, traffic signal controls, and traffic signs
- Be mindful of children walking around your vehicle and of other vehicles.

Investing in BWG

Mayor's Annual Business

Every year, the Mayor joins forces with the Bradford Board of Trade to co-host the Mayor's Annual Business Breakfast. Attracting nearly one hundred local businesspeople, this year's event provided an update to our local business community on the several investments being made throughout BWG.

This year's panel of speakers featured Donna Katz, President of the BBT; Mahesh Ramdeo, BWG's new Deputy CAO; Geoff McKnight, Town CAO; and Mayor James Leduc.

Donna Katz, spoke of the BBT's long and fruitful partnership with the Town, highlighting their mutual efforts to build and enhance businesses through networking and business supports. Essential to this effort were several upcoming events, including the Open for Business Golf Tournament in July, a new Fall in Love with Bradford event proposed for this autumn, and expanded Business Excellence Awards.

Geoff McKnight highlighted the organization's commitment to delivering on Council's strategic priorities, citing the implementation of a new corporate reorganization and a renewed focus on infrastructure delivery — both necessary as BWG prepares for 2051 growth targets to 85,000 people.

To help accomplish this, the Development and Engineering division has been separated into Infrastructure Services and Growth Services. McKnight introduced Mahesh Ramdeo, who will supervise both new divisions, and Jennifer Best, the recently appointed Director of Growth Services.

During his remarks, Ramdeo shared the need to streamline the process for development applications to better facilitate business and home construction projects. This includes a future online system to apply for and track the progress of permits. Assisting this will be an industrial land strategy to create an inventory of developable lands to attract industry, as well as expanded water/wastewater capacity to support the construction of new homes and businesses.

A keynote address was shared by Mayor Leduc who focused his remarks on carefully managing our investments in BWG to prepare for a healthy and sustainable community in the future.

Leduc noted traffic safety and road improvements as being critical components to our growing community, especially the new Southwest Arterial Road (SWAR) and Line 8 Rehabilitation projects, as they will both divert traffic from local roads. On the topic of traffic safety, Leduc highlighted the new Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) pilot project, which is focused on altering driver behaviour to decrease speeding and increase safety along our Community Safety Zones.

Mayor Leduc shared details on other recent and upcoming investments in town, including the new Youth Centre at the Lions Park, 177 Church Street, Celebration Square, and upgrades to multiple parks and trails throughout BWG. Finally, plans are underway for a Business Catalyst Centre to help entrepreneurs and small business owners succeed by offering specialized resources and support services.

Leduc concluded his remarks highlighting the redevelopment of BWG's Downtown, with a new detailed design for Holland Street nearing completion. At the core of the downtown revitalization will be a new Town Hall at the 125 Simcoe Road property. This new, modern facility will create a common workspace for BWG staff, provide event and entertainment space and free up commercial spaces currently leased for Town offices — all part of a strategic vision to build a better BWG.

Closing Remarks from Deputy Mayor

As we close out another edition of Connected, I can't help but be proud of all the initiatives that were highlighted within this issue. As one season turns to the next, we are constantly reminded of the work that is being done within BWG, with our community partners and within our community. As highlighted by each council member in their ward update, numerous projects are either nearing completion or are progressing through various stages across the town.

It has been a pleasure to attend and participate in so many of the wonderful happenings around town such as the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) Centennial celebration, flag raisings including Seniors Day, Pride Month, Italian Heritage month, Khalsa Day - Sikh Heritage Month, Black History Month, Indigenous Peoples Day, Canada Day, and the Grand Opening of many new businesses including our Farmers Market.

It is my hope that you stay connected with BWG and with each other as we have many exciting events to look forward to such as Music in the Park, Movies in Park, Carrot Fest and so much more.

You can always find the latest updates about what is happening around the Town by visiting our social channels on Facebook, Instagram, X, and our website at www.townofbwg.com.

I look forward to seeing many of you out and about this summer!

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Raj Sandhu', written in a cursive style.

Deputy Mayor Raj Sandhu