



# Town of The Blue Mountains

32 Mill Street, Box 310  
THORNBURY, ON N0H 2P0  
[www.thebluemountains.ca](http://www.thebluemountains.ca)

**OFFICE OF:** Corrina Giles, CMO  
Town Clerk

Email: [townclerk@thebluemountains.ca](mailto:townclerk@thebluemountains.ca)

Phone: 519-599-3131 Ext 232

## Town of The Blue Mountains 2018 Municipal & School Board Elections Frequently Asked Questions from Candidates

### 1. QUESTION:

Voter Registration:

- Section 7 of the *Municipal Election Procedures for Use of Vote-Counting Equipment and Alternative Voting Method (Internet and Telephone Voting)* states that:
  - **Help Centre**
    - Eligible voters who attend at the Help Centre and are not on the Voters' List will be able to be added to the list by filling out an "Application to Amend Voters' List" Form EL15 and providing proof of identity and residence as prescribed in O. Reg. 304/13. Their names will be added to the Voters' List and they will be assigned and delivered a Voter Information Letter containing voter credentials.
    - How will the Voter Information Letter be delivered to the newly registered voter? By mail or physical delivery?
    - How will the Voter Information Letters get to the Voter prior to the Election Day if the Voter attends to the Voter list matter (either remotely or by attending the Help Centre) in the last days of the election, when a delivery and receipt of the letter by mail would not be possible?
    - I understand that there will be a Help Centre at City Hall. Can you confirm if Voters will be able to use internet voting at City Hall?

### ANSWER:

In coordination with Dominion Voting, August 29 is the cutoff date for eligible electors to receive their Voter Information Letter via Canada Post in the bulk mailout.

Eligible electors added to the voters list between August 30 and September 14, will receive their Voter Information Letter via Canada Post (mailed by the Town).

After September 14, up until Election Day, electors will be provided with their Voter Information Letter at the time they are added to the Voters List. Please note that eligible electors must attend in person and provide identification to be added to the Voters List. Eligible electors can be added to the voter list and receive a Voter Information Letter up until October 22, 8:00 pm.

During the Voting Period (October 12 to October 22) during normal office hours, and during the extended hours as noted below, a Help Centre will be available at the Town Hall, 32 Mill Street as follows:

Saturday, October 13, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
Monday, October 15, 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, October 16, 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
Wednesday, October 17, 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
Thursday, October 18, 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
Friday, October 19, 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
Saturday, October 20, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
Monday, October 22, 9:00 a.m. until the close of voting at 8:00 pm

There are no polling stations. However, Electors that require assistance to vote may request assistance at the Help Centre at Town Hall from Election Officials who can assist the elector to vote via telephone or via internet. The LE Shore Memorial Library and Craigleith Heritage Depot will have computer terminals available for those that wish to vote via internet at the Library or Depot (during normal hours of operation).

Also, the Town Hall, LE Shore Memorial Library and Craigleith Heritage Depot have public WIFI that the public can access to vote on their personal devices.

## **2. QUESTION:**

Could the Town permit polling stations arranged by others?

### **ANSWER:**

There are no polling stations. However, electors that require assistance to vote, may request assistance at the Help Centre at Town Hall from Election Officials who can assist the elector to vote via telephone or via internet. The LE Shore Memorial Library and the Craigleith Heritage Depot, will also have trained staff and computers available for those that wish to vote via internet at the library or Depot, or may require assistance to vote (during normal hours of operation).

## **3. QUESTION:**

Voting:

- Section 7 of the ***Municipal Election Procedures for Use of Vote-Counting Equipment and Alternative Voting Method (Internet and Telephone Voting)*** states that:
  - With the assistance of an Election Official a roving Help Centre will visit institutional and certain multi-residential buildings during the Voting Period.
  - A schedule will be provided to candidates at least one week in advance of the first roving Help Centre.
- Are you able to confirm these locations now?
- How does an institution get on the list?
- What criteria are you using to determine which “institutions” get on the list or are not on the list?
- What is the definition of institution?

- Particularly, for nursing homes, will the Roving Help centre also have a computer and or telephone for residents to use? Will the telephone be equipped with hearing assistance?
- Will the roving locations be visited more than once during the election period?
- Will you allow selected and approved locations to obtain Election Official status by signing the “Appointment and Oath of an Election Official”, Form EL11?

**ANSWER:**

Election Officials will attend the Errinrung Long Term Care & Retirement Home (“Errinrung”) in advance of the Voting Period to allow residents that are eligible electors an opportunity to be added to the Voters List. During the Voting Period, Election Officials will attend Errinrung to assist residents in voting (if requested). Election Officials have confirmed the following attendances at the Errinrung:

- a) September 13, 2018  
9:30 am to 11:30 am  
Election Officials will attend Errinrung to complete documentation to add residents to the Voters List.
- b) October 17, 2018  
9:30 am to 11:30 am  
Election Officials will attend Errinrung to assist residents in voting (if requested)

Election Officials will also attend Grey County Affordable Housing, Maple Villa and Lemon Court, to allow eligible elector residents an opportunity to be added to the Voters List, dates as noted below. Electors residing in Maple Villa and Lemon Court will receive their Voter Information Letter via Canada Post.

- a) September 12, 2018  
10:00 am to 11:00 am  
Maple Villa - 81 Bruce Street, Thornbury
- b) September 12, 2018  
11:30 am to 12:30 am  
Lemon Court – 85 Lemon Court, Thornbury

Election Officials will attend Maple Villa and Lemon Court to assist residents in voting (if requested)

- a) October 16, 2018  
1:00 pm to 2:00 pm  
Maple Villa
- b) October 16, 2018  
2:30 pm to 3:30 pm  
Lemon Court

Election Officials take an oath to assist electors to vote, upon request

Section 45(7) of the *Municipal Election Act* provides direction regarding voting places in institutions and retirement homes:

### **Voting places in institutions, retirement homes**

45(7) On voting day, a voting place shall be provided on the premises of the following:

1. An institution for the reception, treatment or vocational training of members or former members of the Canadian Forces.
2. An institution in which, on September 1, 20 or more beds are occupied by persons who are disabled, chronically ill or infirm.
3. A retirement home in which, on September 1, 50 or more beds are occupied. 1996, c. 32, Sched., s. 45 (7); 2016, c. 15, s. 34 (2, 3).

### **Attendance on resident**

(8) The deputy returning officer for a voting place described in subsection (7) may attend on an elector who is a resident of the institution or retirement home, to allow him or her to vote. 1996, c. 32, Sched., s. 45 (8).

### **Attendance on electors with disabilities**

(9) To allow an elector with a disability to vote, a deputy returning officer shall attend on the elector anywhere within the area designated as the voting place. 2001, c. 32, s. 30 (3).

## **4. QUESTION:**

When can candidates erect their campaign signs?

### **ANSWER:**

Signs may be placed no sooner than 60 days before the election, being August 23, 2018. Municipal Candidates and School Board Trustees are required to follow the Town's Sign By-law 2016-71, as revised, regarding the size and placement of election signs.

## **5. QUESTION:**

Can a voter give their PIN number to someone else to vote by proxy?

### **ANSWER:**

One of the benefits of voting by internet or telephone is that voters can vote any time during the voting period (commencing 10:00 a.m October 12, 2018 and ending at 8:00 pm on October 22, 2018) from anywhere in the world, where phone or internet service is available!

By-law 2017-12 authorizes the use of voting and vote-counting equipment for the 2018 Municipal and School Board Elections, and authorizes electors to use an alternative voting method (internet and telephone) for the 2018 Municipal and School Board Elections. Section 42(5) of the *Municipal Elections Act* states that when a by-law is in effect that authorizes an alternative voting method, that voting proxies only apply if the by-law so specifies. Voting proxies are not included in By-Law 2017-12.

## **6. QUESTION**

Your answer on proxies seems to indicate that the Municipal bylaw is silent on proxies so therefore proxies are not allowed. Is that correct? Will the Bylaw be amended to allow for proxies?

### **ANSWER:**

Correct. When a by-law is in effect to authorize the use of an alternative voting method, voting proxies apply only if the by-law so specifies. No, the By-law will not be revised to allow for proxies.

## **7. QUESTION**

Each candidate and registered third party advertiser is permitted to place no more than 50 election signs in or on the public right-of-way. Can candidates and registered third party advertisers place additional signs on private property (over and above the 50 on public right-of-ways)?

### **ANSWER:**

Yes, provided the signs comply with the provisions of the Sign By-law 2016-71.

## **8. QUESTION**

With respect to the placement of election signs, what is a "sight triangle" as referenced in paragraph 3.4(4)d) of the Sign By-law 2016-71?

### **ANSWER:**

I refer you to page 19 of the Sign By-law 2016-71 that provides the definition and an illustration of a "sight triangle".

## **9. QUESTION**

Why would the Voter Look Up system not recognize the "Town of The Blue Mountains" since that is the municipality that is the legal electoral district? How was it that the person answering the phone at the designated phone number was unaware of why the voter was calling? Is this not a designated phone number for such inquiries? Will the Town have its own designated phone number for residents to call or be directed to for help other than the one staffed by MPAC?

### **ANSWER:**

In accordance with the *Municipal Elections Act*, the preliminary list of electors is prepared by the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation ("MPAC"), and delivered to the Clerk of the municipality for the purposes of the election. Voterlookup.ca is owned and operated by MPAC and allows electors to log-in to confirm or update their electoral information, add an elector or change their school support. Questions about voterlookup.ca are to be directed to MPAC.

Yes, electors can call the Town to receive information regarding the election. Election Officials including the Town Clerk, Deputy Clerk and Administrative Assistant in the Clerk's Department can assist electors. The Voter Information Card previously emailed to candidates (also available in hard copy), provides the Help telephone number 519-599-3131 ext 232. This telephone number will also be printed on the Voter Information Letter.

## **10. QUESTION**

Voters are surprised and upset that there will not be a "paper ballot" option for this election and that there will be limited options for voters to access the electronic internet system other than the limited stations you have mentioned in your previous answers.

### **ANSWER:**

Council has directed that the Town will be utilizing an alternative method of voting, being internet and telephone voting for the 2018 Municipal and School Board Elections. To clarify, voters are not required to attend at the Town Hall to vote. Voters will receive a Voter Information Letter ("VIL") in the mail that will provide information on how to vote via internet or telephone. Voters may vote during the voting period (October 12, 2018

10:00 a.m. to October 22, 2018 8:00 p.m.) from anywhere where they may access the internet or telephone. Voters may vote from their homes using their home internet, on their home telephone, on their cell phone, at the Library or Depot (using the dedicated computers), or at the Town Hall if they require assistance to vote. Electors are encouraged to watch the Dominion Voting video that provides information on how to vote [Internet Voting Voter Education 1-Step - YouTube](#)

## **11. QUESTION**

I am extremely concerned that the telephone voting option will be unmanageable and prejudice candidates at the bottom of the list of candidates for Council positions as it is highly unlikely that voters will remember who is on the list after listening to the long list of Candidates. I realize that there is a listing of candidates being sent to all registered voters (as long as one is on the list at the time of the mailing by the Town) and that you will have the list on your web site, but frankly voters will not always be equipped with that data when it comes time to vote.

I have enquired of a number of lower tier municipalities in other regions of the Province and they are offering multiple access points for voters during the voting period using in some cases ipads connected to the municipal wifi and these stations will be staffed by persons so designated by the Returning Officer for the municipality. Some also are offering a paper ballot option at Town Hall as a final option for voters.

### **ANSWER:**

The Voter Information Letter (“VIL”) sent to all electors provides information on how to vote. The VIL also includes the information required to vote, including the elector’s unique PIN number and Voter ID number. The backside of the VIL includes a complete listing of the certified candidates.

If electors require assistance to vote, they may attend the Town Hall, Help Centre, during the election period (October 12, 2018 to October 22, 2018) to receive assistance to vote on a designated Town computer. Election Officials at the Town Hall have taken the oath to maintain the secrecy of the voting.

Electors may also attend the LE Shore Memorial Library or Craigleith Heritage Depot during normal hours of operation to receive assistance to vote on the designated computers. I confirm that the LE Shore Memorial Library and Depot will have designated staff trained to provide assistance to vote, and that the designated staff will take an oath to maintain the secrecy of the voting.

## **12. QUESTION**

You state that “*After September 14, up until Election Day, electors will be provided with their Voter Information Letter at the time they are added to the Voters List. Please note that eligible electors must attend in person and provide identification to be added to the Voters List. Eligible electors can be added to the voter list and receive a Voter Information Letter up until October 22, 8:00 pm*”. I understand that up to 50% of the Voters are not normally residents of TBM, yet still eligible to cast a vote. How does this process of physical attendance (I assume at the Town Hall) accommodate their particular circumstance? Will you provide some flexibility to this significant percentage of the voters that will recognize that they are legitimate voters but not normally resident

in the area and not able to attend to the Town Hall during the time you have made available? Will Candidate Scrutineers be allowed to attend?

**ANSWER:**

If an eligible elector is not on the Voters List, they will be required to attend the Town Hall to provide proof of identity and residence to be added to the Voters List. Commencing the beginning of September, up until Election Day, eligible electors may contact the Clerks Department to confirm that they are on the voters list. Election Staff will be present at numerous events and the Town Hall will be open extended hours closer to the election period to allow electors to check they are on the voters list. The extended hours will be advertised.

**13. QUESTION**

You state that *“There are no polling stations. However, Electors that require assistance to vote, may request assistance at the Help Centre at Town Hall from Election Officials who can assist the elector to vote via telephone or via internet. The LE Shore Memorial Library at 73 Bruce Street, will have a computer terminal available for those that wish to vote via internet at the library (during the Library’s normal hours of operation)”*. Can you confirm that voters will be allowed to vote at the Town Hall using a computer provided by the TBM? Can you confirm the number of computers that will be available at LE Shore Library? Will access to voting be available at the Craigleith Depot as well? Will Candidate Scrutineers be allowed to attend?

**ANSWER:**

Electors that require assistance to vote may vote at the Town Hall using a Town computer. A computer and a tablet will be available at the Craigleith Heritage Depot for electors to use to vote. Two computers will be available at the LE Shore Library for electors to use to vote.

**14. QUESTION**

You state that *“During the Voting Period, Election Officials will attend Errinrung to assist residents in voting (if requested)”*. You state that only October 17<sup>th</sup> between 9:30 and 11:30 will be provided for *“Voting assistance”*. Will that assistance also include the provision of a computer for access to the computer voting system? Will Candidate Scrutineers be allowed to attend?

**ANSWER:**

Yes, the assistance provided to residents of Errinrung will include the provision of a computer. Yes, Scrutineers may attend. Please see the backside of Form EL12(A) Appointment of Scrutineer by Candidate.

**15. QUESTION**

Federal and Provincial donations can be written off. Since the municipality is a child of the Province, can donations to a municipal campaign be issued a tax receipt.

**ANSWER:**

Please refer to page 20 of the [2018 Municipal Candidates Guide](#) that states as follows:

**Note:** Contribution receipts are not tax receipts. Contributions to municipal council and school board campaigns cannot be credited against provincial or federal income taxes.

Candidates are responsible for keeping records of the financial activities related to your campaign.

**16. QUESTION**

You state that you will attend Grey County Affordable Housing, Maple Villa and Lemon Court, on one day only each in September to assist for voter registration. Why are you not returning to assist with voting as you are doing for Errinrung?

**ANSWER:**

We are returning on Tuesday, October 16, 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm to Maple Villa and 2:30 pm to 3:30 pm to Lemon Court to assist electors to vote, if requested.

**17. QUESTION**

Can donations or a candidate's own money be written off against one's income.

**ANSWER:**

I cannot answer this question, and would refer you to your accountant.

**18. QUESTION**

What is involved for a person to become an Election Official and take the Oath so that they can be at a community location to assist folks and or visit them in their homes? I am presuming there is no difference, but if there is what is the impact on training, etc.

**ANSWER:**

The Clerk has an election team that includes the Deputy Clerk and Administrative Assistant who are appointed as election officials for the purposes of The Blue Mountains 2018 Municipal and School Board Elections. Select staff at the LE Shore Memorial Library and Craigeleith Depot will also swear the oath to maintain the secrecy of the voting for electors that require assistance to vote at the LE Shore Library or Depot. Electors requiring assistance to vote may contact Election Officials here at the Town Hall.