

connected

Bradford West Gwillimbury

Issue 05 • Winter 2025



Bradford
west
Gwillimbury



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Mayor's Welcome



Photo of Mayor James Leduc

Here we are, in 2025—can you believe it? It feels like just yesterday we were ringing in the new year, and now we have a fresh chapter ahead of us. As we step into this new year, it's the perfect time to reflect on what we've accomplished together and look forward to all the exciting opportunities that lie ahead.

We kicked off the year with a fantastic New Year's Levee, where I had the privilege of connecting with so many of you. It was heartwarming to see families enjoying ice skating, swimming, and just spending time with one another. A special thank you to everyone who joined us to celebrate the start of 2025, and to our dedicated Council members for their continued support in shaping our town's future.

As we look ahead, I'm excited about the many projects and developments on the horizon for our community. From enhancing parks and recreational spaces to planning for growth, there's so much to be hopeful for. I'm confident that this year will bring even more opportunities to strengthen our town and improve the quality of life for all who live here.

I'm deeply grateful for your ongoing support and commitment to making our town such a great place to live, work, and grow. I hope you enjoy this latest edition of Connected, which features updates on our Youth Council Advisory Committee, budget highlights, park improvements, and much more.

Be sure to stay connected with us through social media and our website for the latest information on road closures, construction updates, and upcoming events.

Happy reading, and here's to a fantastic 2025 for everyone!

Yours truly,

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 Councillor
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

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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.

Council's Corner

The Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury (BWG) is proud to reflect on the many positive changes and improvements made throughout this term of council. With the efforts of local leaders, staff, and community members, the Town has become stronger and more vibrant. From enhanced parks and green spaces to strides in community safety, amenities, services, and inclusivity, BWG continues to build a town that's welcoming to all.

Council's Corner will delve into the exciting work that the Town has undertaken to enhance the community, showcasing key projects and initiatives that have contributed to BWG's growth and development.

Parks and Green Spaces

The town has invested in upgrading existing parks and developing new green spaces, providing residents with updated playgrounds, walking trails, sports facilities, and outdoor gathering spots. From the revitalization of Luxury and Lotto Parks, to the resurfacing and widening of the Bill Marks Trail, as well as the construction of the highly anticipated Public Square, these improvements have given the community enhanced outdoor spaces to come together.

Community Safety

Ensuring the safety and well-being of residents remains a top priority for BWG council. The Town has implemented several measures to improve public safety, including increased street lighting, enhanced traffic calming strategies, and new community policing initiatives. Additionally, the implementation of Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) cameras has played a crucial role in improving safety throughout BWG, helping to curb speeding while generating funds to further advance the Town's traffic safety initiatives.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Council has also remained dedicated to advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion across the Town. Through various initiatives, the town has worked to ensure that all residents feel valued and respected, regardless of their background. These initiatives include supporting local cultural events, promoting inclusive programming, and ensuring equal access to resources and opportunities. By fostering a culture of inclusion, BWG is creating a community that celebrates its differences and unites for the common good.

Youth Programming

BWG Council recognizes the importance of supporting the next generation and has made significant progress in expanding youth programming and services. The introduction of the new Youth Centre has provided young people in town with a dedicated space to learn, grow, and connect, while the newly appointed Youth Council offers an opportunity for young people to actively engage and share their ideas and perspectives on the development of the Town.

Accessibility

The Town has also remained focused on improving accessibility for all residents. With a growing emphasis on ensuring that everyone has equal access to public spaces, services, and opportunities, BWG has implemented various upgrades. These include accessible pathways, transportation options, and adaptive programs that support individuals with disabilities, ensuring that all community members can fully participate in and enjoy the town's offerings.

As Council reflects on these accomplishments, they are reminded of the progress made and the ongoing work that lies ahead. They remain deeply committed to enhancing BWG's infrastructure, services, and inclusivity, ensuring that all aspects of the community are equipped to meet the evolving needs of its residents. With a focus on sustainability, innovation, and social responsibility, the council aims to foster an environment where every resident feels valued and empowered. By prioritizing accessibility, equity, and opportunity, BWG will remain a dynamic, forward-thinking community where residents have the chance to thrive, contribute, and build a brighter future together.

Quick Town Facts

Population: 45,886

Town Size: 201 Square Kilometers

Parks: 16

Schools: 15



Photo of BWG Council

8th Annual Mayor's Levee

On Sunday, January 5, 2025, the BWG Leisure Centre came alive with laughter, music, and excitement as the community gathered to kick off the new year at the highly anticipated Mayor's New Year's Levee. Hosted by Mayor Leduc and members of Council, this annual event has become a cherished tradition, bringing residents of all ages together to celebrate the start of the new year with fun, fellowship, and community spirit.

From the moment the event began, the atmosphere was filled with joy and excitement. The free leisure skating session was a popular activity, with children, families, and friends gliding across the ice, while others took part in family-friendly sports in the gymnasium. The range of activities created a welcoming environment where everyone could enjoy the day, regardless of age or interest.

One of the key highlights of the event was the live musical entertainment provided by local artist Russ Clayton. His music added the perfect touch to the celebration, creating a lively and inviting atmosphere that brought people together. Council members were also on hand, serving up delicious cake to attendees, which added a sweet touch to the day's festivities.

The Mayor's Levee also provided an opportunity to celebrate the winners of the "Light up BWG" contest, acknowledging residents who brought our community to life with their beautiful outdoor Christmas displays. The stunning lights and decorations brought cheer to our neighbourhoods and reminded us of the importance of community pride and creativity.

This year marked the eighth annual Mayor's New Year's Levee, and it's clear that this event has become an important part of our town's tradition. The sense of togetherness and community spirit that fills the BWG Leisure Centre each year is a true reflection of what makes our town special. The Levee is more than just a celebration of the new year; it's a reminder of the strength of our community and the bonds we share.

As we reflect on the success of the Levee, we are excited to continue this tradition for years to come. The Mayor and Council invite everyone to mark their calendars for next year's event, and we look forward to celebrating with you as we continue to build a vibrant and connected community here in BWG.



Photo of families skating at the Mayor's Levee



Photo of kids doing arts and crafts at the Mayor's Levee



Photo of kids watching musician at the Mayor's Levee

Advisory Committee Updates

BWG's New Youth Council Advisory Committee: Empowering the Next Generation of Leaders

BWG has taken a significant step to amplify the voices of its youth by launching its first-ever Youth Council. The new Youth Council Advisory Committee (YCAC), which officially convened on November 20, 2024, marks an exciting opportunity for the Town's young residents to engage with local government and contribute to shaping policies that directly impact their lives.

The initiative was brought forward by Councillor Cheraldean Duhaney, who presented the motion for the YCAC during a Council meeting on April 2, 2024. The motion received unanimous support from all members of Council, reflecting the shared commitment to youth empowerment within the community.

The Mission of the YCAC

The mission of the Youth Council Advisory Committee is to provide a platform for young people to engage in the municipal decision-making process, offering input on issues that impact youth in BWG. The committee also aims to foster leadership development and cultivate a strong sense of belonging among youth residents.

What the YCAC Does

The committee is tasked with advising both town staff and elected officials on a wide range of issues that impact youth, including education, recreation, employment, and public safety. In addition to providing recommendations to Council, the YCAC will also organize events, projects, and campaigns aimed at addressing youth-related concerns and promoting civic participation among peers.

A New Chapter for Bradford's Youth

The creation of the Youth Council is a great representation of BWG's commitment to building a vibrant, engaged, and inclusive community. By involving youth in shaping the future of their town, this initiative empowers young people while nurturing a culture of civic engagement that will benefit the community for years to come.

For BWG's youth, this is their chance to make a lasting impact on the place they call home. As the YCAC continues its work throughout the coming months and years, it will undoubtedly become a powerful platform for positive change and an essential part of the Town's governance structure.

We look forward to seeing the great work of the Youth Council and celebrating the contributions of these inspiring young leaders!

Meet the Committee

Following a thorough recruitment process, five youth members, aged 12-18 years, were selected to serve on the YCAC. The committee is led by Chair Kyle Lawson and Vice-Chair Syreeika Pryce, both of whom are passionate about creating meaningful change in the community. The Council also benefits from the guidance of two Mentor Chairs—Mayor James Leduc and Councillor Cheraldean Duhaney—who will provide valuable insight to the committee.

The other members of the inaugural committee include Keira Calhoun, Niki Tokhi, and Faran Ahmad. Together, this diverse group of young individuals brings a broad range of perspectives and talents to the table, ensuring that all youth voices in BWG are heard and valued. Learn more about our youth members below.

Kyle Lawson: Chair



Photo of Kyle Lawson of the YCAC

I am passionate about performing arts, including singing, acting, and dancing, as well as playing hockey and golf. I love doing activities that challenge me and allow for growth, creativity, and teamwork.

I joined the YCAC because I want to showcase my leadership and advocacy skills. This committee gives a chance to bring my unique experiences in the arts, sports, and leadership into a collaborative space to inspire and make a difference.

What I hope to take away from the YCAC is more knowledge on how my community works and what I can do to help. I want to have contributed to our committee and to have made a positive difference.

Syreeika Pryce: Vice Chair



Photo of Syreeika Pryce of the YCAC

I am passionate about sports and one of my hobbies is making lip gloss and skin care products for my small business.

I joined the youth council because it sounded like a good opportunity to enact change in the community.

I hope to learn more about what goes on in BWG and be able to help and connect with the Town.

Faran Ahmad: Committee Member



Photo of Faran Ahmad of the YCAC

I am very passionate about helping others. It is important to help each other if we want to live in a happy community. Some of my hobbies are playing basketball and exercising. I like staying physically active as it keeps me energized and focused.

I joined the YCAC because I believe that it's crucial for young people to have their opinions heard and valued. Being part of this committee not only gives the five of us a voice, but it also ensures that everyone we represent has an equal voice. It shows those who may be afraid to speak up that others their age are voicing their opinions, which can inspire and allow them to do the same.

I hope that as a member of the committee, I can learn how to advocate for the issues that affect young people around our town and that I can understand the decisions that affect youth. I hope I can gain leadership skills so that I can further help the youth in future endeavours.

Niki Tokhi: Committee Member



Photo of Niki Tokhi of the YCAC

I am passionate about disability rights and being an advocate. I speak at events that regard accessibility, and I am always looking for inclusivity. My goal in the future is to inspire other youth to go after their dreams, and I hope to become a dermatologist.

I wanted to join the Youth Council Advisory Committee because I wanted to learn more about what it means to work as a team, learn more about the history of Bradford West Gwillimbury, help BWG become more inclusive and accessible, and meet more youth that have the same goals as me.

I hope to learn more about the history of BWG, build connections, and learn how to run important council meetings. I hope to learn more about the different rules and services the Council provides, and contribute to the community by participating in activities, and promoting leadership, inclusion, and collaboration throughout BWG.

Keira Calhoun: Committee Member

Something I am very passionate about is psychology! It's part of my future goals, and I am going to be going into post-secondary education for behavioral psychology. It's something I've had passion for since I was young, and I'm excited to make it into my career!

I joined the YCAC because I have lived in this town my whole life, and I wanted to be a part of something great in this town. It sounds like a very basic answer, but I genuinely just wanted to do it to show my appreciation for the town I was born and raised in.

I hope to learn more about the ways that the town wants to assist the youth, and maybe even about what the town is currently doing. I don't know everything they've done and are doing, so it'll be interesting to learn about that. I hope to take away from the YCAC that everyone has a voice in a community, even the youth. It's hard to feel that way, and sometimes it feels as though youth voices are being drowned out, but being a part of something where my voice is heard is beautiful!

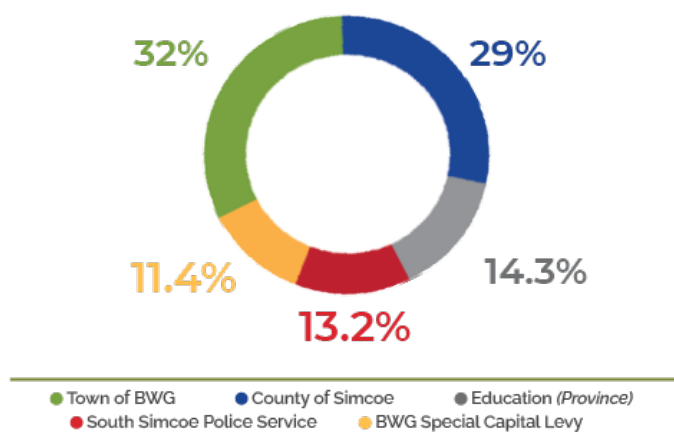
Budget 2025

Highlights

Budget deliberations were held during a special Committee of the Whole meeting on November 12th and 13th. Council subsequently passed the 2025 budget during their November 19th Regular Council and Committee of the Whole meeting.

Council reached consensus on a total increase of 2.70% paid via annual property taxes. The Increase reflects an additional \$145.00 per year for the average household, based on an average MPAC assessment of \$516,919.

Maintaining the safety and infrastructure of our community, while delivering the services our residents expect, remains a top priority. Despite significant inflationary pressures and growing demand for new services, our Council has worked together to deliver a responsible, strategic budget. This reflects our commitment to fiscal stewardship, ensuring we meet the needs of our community while planning for a sustainable future, all while being mindful of the financial impact on our taxpayers.” Mayor James Leduc.



Graph illustrating the tax breakdown for BWG for 2025.

Tax Breakdown

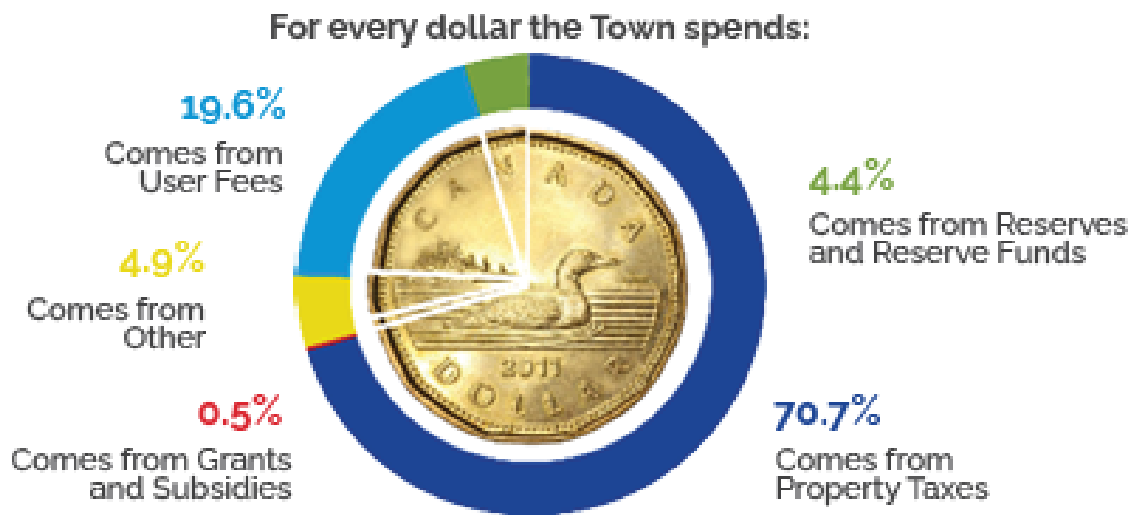
Although the Town of BWG collects all of your property taxes, only about 43.5% stays with the Town for municipal programs and services like Fire, maintenance of roads and parks, leisure programming and events, and the BWG Public Library. The remaining ~56.5% is distributed among the County of Simcoe; South Simcoe Police; and Education, which is distributed to local school boards by the Province of Ontario.

Investing in our Community

Infrastructure Services (Transportation, Asset Management and Stormwater); \$26.47 goes to Recreation and Culture (Programs, Parks and Facilities); \$18.25 goes to Fire; and \$29.56 goes to pay all other services like Planning and Engineering, Enforcement, Administration, South Simcoe Police and Economic Development.

Our 2025 budget, reflects a community-focused approach to managing resources while enhancing the quality of life for residents. With a tax levy increase of just 2.7 percent — significantly smaller than the 4.21 percent increase of the previous year — this budget prioritizes the needs of BWG's growing population while keeping costs manageable.

The Town is committed to keeping BWG safe and healthy. New roles, including a Fire Prevention Inspector and nine additional South Simcoe Police officers, will help maintain high safety and wellness standards for residents.



Graph illustrating the breakdown of where the town's spending comes from.

Expanding Aquatics and Camp Programs

As part of its ongoing efforts to meet the needs of a growing population, BWG is working to expand its Aquatics and Camp programs to reduce waiting lists and ensure that as many residents as possible have access to these services. These programs are not only popular but are also vital in fostering a sense of community and well-being. The expansion will ensure that residents have more opportunities to engage in healthy, active pursuits, whether they are swimming, participating in day camps, or enjoying other recreational activities.

In addition to the traditional aquatics and camp programs, the town is also expanding its programming at the new facility located at 177 Church Street. This new space will soon host a variety of community programs, with a particular focus on inclusive offerings such as the C.A.R.E. Club (Community Adult Recreation Experience). This adapted day program provides a safe and supportive environment for individuals aged 16 and up with exceptionalities, allowing them to socialize, explore new activities, and engage with their community. Programs like the C.A.R.E. Club highlight BWG's commitment to inclusivity and providing spaces for all residents to participate in enriching activities.

The 2025 budget emphasizes not only the development of new programs but also the creation of local job opportunities. By funding new roles in multiple departments, BWG is contributing to a vibrant and thriving workforce, particularly by supporting local youth. The inclusion of an events coordinator, seasonal park attendants, and other new positions is helping to meet the increasing demand for services while providing valuable work experience for young residents.



Photo of two children with special needs enjoying time with their camp councillors.



Image of a child swimming on his back in a pool and looking up at the camera.

Road Rehabilitation and Urban Projects

BWG is currently undertaking several significant road rehabilitation projects, including new phases of the Urban Roads Project, which covers key streets such as Fred Cook Drive, Luxury Avenue, Kulpin Avenue, Mary Street, Drury Street, Thomas Street, and Holland Court. These essential infrastructure improvements are designed to enhance safety and accessibility throughout the Town. Many of these projects are set to be completed by Spring 2025, marking a major milestone in the ongoing development and modernization of BWG's roadways. The Urban Roads Project reflects the Town's commitment to maintaining and improving its transportation infrastructure for the benefit of all residents and visitors.

Parks and Facilities Enhancements

One of the most exciting elements of the 2025 budget is the substantial investment in maintaining and enhancing BWG's parks, outdoor spaces, and recreational facilities. As the summer season approaches, the Town is focused on ensuring that its parks remain well-maintained, accessible, and enjoyable for all residents. This is achieved through the creation of several new seasonal roles, including three summer students in the parks department and two seasonal park attendants. These positions will not only help to maintain green spaces but also provide valuable work experience for local youth. By offering these job opportunities, BWG is actively engaging young residents and giving them the chance to contribute to the community while developing skills that will benefit them in the future.

The importance of parks and outdoor spaces in BWG cannot be overstated. They provide residents with opportunities to connect with nature, stay active, and enjoy leisure time. In 2025, the Town is making significant investments to ensure that these spaces remain in prime condition for summer activities. Whether it's a family picnic, an outdoor fitness session, or a casual walk, the goal is to create an environment where everyone, from families to outdoor enthusiasts, can enjoy well-maintained facilities that are easy to access and enjoy.

In addition to maintaining existing parks, BWG is also investing in improvements to key recreational facilities. Upgrades to parks like Joe Magani Park are already underway, along with renovations to baseball diamonds and other outdoor spaces. The Town is also enhancing other community facilities, including Ron Simpson Memorial Park, Rotary Park, Lions Park, and the Community Centre. As part of these upgrades, a new Parkette is also being built in Bond Head, providing a new space for residents to gather and enjoy the outdoors.

To further expand the Town's recreational offerings, BWG has introduced new roles aimed at improving service delivery and enhancing community engagement. For example, the addition of



Photo of basketball court at Taylor Park

an events coordinator and a bookings clerk for Recreation and Cultural Services will help streamline the booking process for public events and recreational spaces. These new positions will also work to expand the variety of programs and activities available to residents, ensuring that there are more opportunities for people to participate in community events and enjoy BWG's recreational facilities.

Water Consumption Portal

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

The Town of BWG's Water Consumption Portal helps 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.

Employee Appreciation Day

March 7, 2025, is Employee Appreciation Day, and we want to take a moment to recognize and celebrate the invaluable contributions of our municipal staff.

At the heart of every thriving community lies the commitment and dedication of its municipal employees. They are the unsung heroes who ensure that the wheels of local government continue to turn smoothly, supporting everything from public safety and infrastructure to social services and community programs.

Municipal employees play a vital role in shaping the everyday experience of our citizens. Whether it's the public works team ensuring clean streets and safe roads, the parks department maintaining green and outdoor spaces for families to enjoy, or the administrative staff who make sure that town services run efficiently, every team member has a hand in making BWG a better place to live, work, and visit.

Employee Appreciation Day is a time to reflect on these contributions and a chance to say "thank you" for all the hard work and commitment that our staff shows day in and day out.

The work that the Town's employees do may not always be visible on the surface, but it's felt every day by our residents. Our police officers, firefighters, and paramedics are always ready to protect and serve. Our engineers and planners help to create infrastructure that supports growth and sustainability, and our customer service staff provides seamless support to residents of BWG.

In every department employees are working together to improve services and meet the needs of the community. Their dedication and expertise foster an environment where residents feel safe, heard, and cared for.

Our staff members are not just employees; they are neighbours, family members, and friends who contribute to the overall vibrancy of our community.

Investing in our employees means investing in the long-term success of the municipality. By providing opportunities for growth, ensuring a work-life balance, and maintaining a culture of respect and inclusivity, BWG empowers our staff to continue delivering the high-quality services our residents expect and deserve.

As we celebrate Employee Appreciation Day, we also look ahead with anticipation for the future. We are excited about the growth and development of our municipality, knowing that we have a team of professionals who will carry us forward. Our employees are the backbone of this community, and their work ensures that BWG remains a flourishing and connected place for all.



Photo of BWG Parks and Facilities employee next to one of the Town's soccer fields.

To all town employees: thank you. Your tireless efforts, passion for public service, and unwavering dedication make BWG truly exceptional.

If you see a town employee, take a moment to express your gratitude for their service and celebrate the incredible impact that BWG staff has on our community. We are truly grateful for the work they do and look forward to continuing our shared journey toward a better tomorrow.

Upcoming Events and Campaigns

Black History Month

February 2025

Black History Month celebrations continue in BWG:

- February 15 | 6:30 pm: Black History Conference
- February 19, 24, 26 | Various Black Story Tellers
- All February Long: Display Case Exhibit

Location: BWG Public Library

Learn more by following us on social media!

Community Clean-up Week

April 21-27

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](#)

Marsh Mash

Saturday, May 11

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 2025 event will open in April.

Location: Sovereign Grace Church (1466 5th Sideroad)

Time: 8:00 am-12:00 pm

Thank you to our staff and residents for braving the winter storms!

As winter continues to bring its challenges, we want to take a moment to express our deepest gratitude to everyone who has helped BWG weather the intense storms and heavy snowfall. This season has tested our resilience, and with the most snow we've seen in almost 30 years, it has been a true test of our strength. However, it has also showcased the unwavering spirit of our community.

First, we extend our sincere thanks to our incredible staff. From the public works teams out plowing and salting roads in the dead of night to the emergency responders working around the clock, your commitment has been nothing short of heroic. You've ensured that roads stay passable, services remain operational, and that our residents are kept safe and informed. Your dedication and hard work in the face of relentless weather challenges have not gone unnoticed.



Photo of BWG employee plowing sidewalks in Town.

To our residents, thank you for your patience, cooperation, and community spirit. Whether you were shoveling sidewalks, helping a neighbour, or simply exercising caution on the roads, your efforts have made a tangible difference. We've seen neighbours coming together, checking on each other, and offering assistance when needed. While the winter weather can feel overwhelming, the way we come together as a community makes all the difference. It is this spirit of mutual support that helps us navigate even the toughest storms.

Thank you, staff and residents alike, for your unwavering dedication and the role each of you plays in keeping BWG safe, connected, and resilient. We couldn't do it without you. Stay safe, stay warm, and let's continue to support one another through the remainder of the winter season.

Investing in BWG

Community Improvement Plans: The Next Chapter

In 2012, BWG embarked on a bold initiative to spur business investment and promote urban renewal by implementing Community Improvement Plans (CIPs). These financial tools, authorized under the Planning Act and Municipal Act, allow municipalities to provide grants and

loans for new building construction, expand existing building stock and make building improvements.

The CIP journey began in BWG when Council prioritized the revitalization of its downtown core in its Official Plan (2002), to stimulate economic growth and create employment opportunities for a growing community. The plan authorized the creation of a Downtown Revitalization Study (completed in 2011) and a Downtown CIP (completed in 2012) to help achieve these goals. The popularity of the Downtown program would also prompt the quick implementation of an Industrial Areas CIP in 2013.

The programs have been adjusted over the years to align with the Council's changing economic priorities. Both the Downtown and Industrial Areas CIPs have typically offered grants and/or loans to business owners or tenants to support aesthetic upgrades, functional improvements to building interiors, expansions, or the construction of new buildings.

Over the past several years, BWG has seen exceptional population growth, which has stretched housing capacity. The Downtown CIP helped to meet this need by incentivizing many new condominium units as well as rental apartments. In 2016, housing for seniors was a key priority of Council and a Seniors Housing CIP was approved. The Elden of Bradford and Holland Gardens were both constructed with the assistance of grants under this program, which fulfilled its goal of 250 housing units in its first year, allowing the program to be retired in 2017. Since the launch of the CIP programs, a total of 85 different businesses have been approved for grants and loans in the amount of \$9 million, including development charge mitigation and property tax assistance. In return, this allowed for more than \$255 million in private sector investment in our community. In other words, for every dollar invested through the CIP programs, BWG leveraged 28 dollars worth of building improvements and additions.

The CIPs have been a huge success, creating hundreds of direct jobs and thousands more through the impact on the economy. BWG has vibrant downtown buildings once again, with a variety of modern businesses lending to the commercial landscape. Our manufacturing sector remains robust, internationally competitive and growing. Seniors now also have options for living locally when they choose to downsize their homes.

BWG Council just approved the last of its Downtown CIP applications in January 2025, and the program is now on hiatus. The Industrial Areas program continues, and an application will be coming to Council in February. Priorities change over time, and the CIP programs will continue to adapt to pressing needs. The Office of Economic Development has been working diligently over the past several months to present Council with options for new and re-tooled programs that reflect our present political and economic climate. A report to Council is expected later this quarter, with implementation – if approved – in 2026. Stay tuned!

[Visit the Economic Development Website](https://www.townofbwg.com/connected)

Closing Remarks from Deputy Mayor



*Photo of Deputy Mayor
Raj Sandhu*

As we close out another edition of Connected, I want to take a moment to reflect on the wonderful progress we've made in the early part of this year. We've already had a chance to celebrate meaningful moments in our community, including Tamil Heritage Month, Black History Month, and Crime Stoppers Month, all of which brought us together in recognition of our shared history and commitment to safety.

We've also hosted a number of information sessions including the Jalsa Salana Public Information Meeting, the Bond Head Heritage Open House, and our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Symposium that have helped keep our residents engaged and informed about the important issues and developments that affect our daily lives.

Recently, we also enjoyed "Hockey Day in BWG", a beloved tradition now in its 16th year. It was truly heartwarming to witness the community come together to celebrate this Canadian classic. The excitement and camaraderie on full display highlighted just how much this event means to everyone, reminding us all of why we cherish this sport and the sense of community it creates.

We are excited about many more events and announcements that lie ahead and, as always, encourage you to stay connected with us. Your voices are essential in shaping our community, and we love hearing from you. Never hesitate to reach out to members of council – we are here to listen and to serve.



Deputy Mayor Raj Sandhu