



WELCOME TO OUR

## Monthly Newsletter

A message from the  
CAO



“Happy New Year Georgian Bluffs! As we reflect on 2024, we are proud of the strides we have made in enhancing the quality of life for our residents. As we step into 2025, we will remain focused on seeking to provide the services that you rely on each and every day. Our work will align with the strategic pillars and values established in the 2025-2030 Strategic Plan to support a vibrant Georgian Bluffs now and in the future. Together, we will focus on continuing to create a great place to live, work and play.”

**NIALL LOBLEY, CAO**

# Reflecting on 2024 and Looking Forward to 2025



As we celebrate the past year, the Township of Georgian Bluffs is proud to acknowledge successful projects, initiatives, community events and programs that have advanced priorities and strengthened our community. Staff presented the Year-End Report to council in mid-December highlighting some of the many achievements throughout 2024. CAO Niall Lobley says, “this year has been one of significant growth, remarkable change, and notable success for Georgian Bluffs.” [View the 2024 Year-End Report](#)



As a team, we are looking ahead to 2025 with anticipation. The township team will be busy addressing priorities of Council and there is much to look forward to this year. Some of these projects are reliant on budget approval, Council will consider the final budget on January 15. After that, staff will roll up their sleeves and get to work!

- **Citizen Portal** - This will allow for more personalized services and a greater range of ways in which you can access information and connect with the Township
- **Short Term Accommodations** - We expect that the new registration system will be launched in early 2025
- **Infrastructure Projects** - This list is lengthy! We are targeting approximately 10km of road resurfacing and expect construction on the Emery Bridge to begin.
- **Facilities Master Plan** - We will be looking for your feedback as to what facilities you want to see in Georgian Bluffs as we lay down the foundation in the Master Plan
- **Fire Services Master Plan** - In 2025, we will be undertaking a Fire Service Master Plan to identify the needs and pressures on our fire services
- **Park Investments** - Accessibility improvements, washroom upgrades and Rail Trail work
- **Climate & Environment** - Meeting commitments in our corporate climate action plan
- **Waste Management** - This year we will be working to develop the services that we provide to the community in 2026.

Georgian Bluffs will continue to deliver the daily services that you rely on, and we are planning exciting community events and activities. Stay tuned to the township website and social media for upcoming news, and connect with the township to provide your feedback!

# Local Pickleball Club serves up success with nearly 150 members!



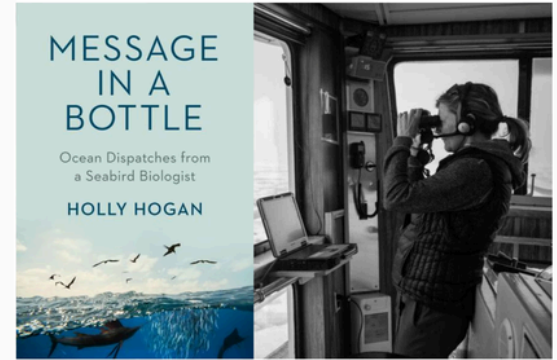
The sport of pickleball is growing fast in Georgian Bluffs and beyond. Pickleball is said to be the fastest growing sport in North America, and community members recognized the demand. The Georgian Bluffs Pickleball Club formed in 2024, thanks to players who are passionate about expanding the sport locally. “Our club opened registration on April 1st, 2024, and we had our first court time on April 21st,” said Barrett Johnston, Georgian Bluffs Pickleball Club member and volunteer. “Within those first three weeks, we had our first 60 members and only two days (10-hours) of play.” The club promised its membership they would increase court time once they reached 100 members. That goal was achieved in July of 2024, and now the club offers 24-hours per week and five days of play! This member-run, non-profit club plays out of the Kemble Arena and even hosted a very successful tournament in October as well as organized competitive play that has attracted players willing to travel from as far as Hanover. According to Pickleball Canada, the game was introduced to ensure all members of a family could participate, and therefore the rules were kept simple. “What I enjoy about pickleball the most is the people,” said Johnston. “There are many physical benefits of the sport, and it is amazing that our youngest member (13) plays alongside our oldest (82).” Many of the rules followed in pickleball are an adaptation from tennis, table tennis and badminton. Pickleball Canada describes the sport as “inclusive, fun and easy to learn but challenging to master.” The Georgian Bluffs Pickleball Club is going into 2025 with nearly 150 members and encourages others to get involved. Johnston credits the club for the friendships he has made, and says they are friendships that will last forever. To learn more about the club, including how to become a member visit the Georgian Bluffs Pickleball Club page on [PickleballCanada.org](https://PickleballCanada.org). Check out the Township of Georgian Bluffs [Community Events Calendar](#) for pickleball opportunities at the Kemble and Kilsyth Arena’s.



# Coming up ...



- January 5 - New Year's Levee, Shallow Lake Community Centre. [Details here.](#)
- January 5 - Residents & Staff Ski for Free, Bruce Ski Club. [Details here.](#)
- January 31 - Join Author Holly Hogan at Grey Roots Museum & Archives for a reading of her book *A Message in a Bottle: Ocean Dispatches from a Seabird Biologist*. [Register here.](#)



Join us for an evening with award-winning Newfoundland author, Holly Hogan.

Hear a reading from her new book *Message in a Bottle: Ocean Dispatches from a Seabird Biologist* (Knopf Canada) Q&A session will follow. Light refreshments will be provided.

Free admission but limited seats; save your spot [www.georgianbluffs.ca/Author-talk](http://www.georgianbluffs.ca/Author-talk)

Friday January 31st, 2025

Doors open at 6:30	Grey Roots Museum & Archives
Reading at 7:00	102599 Grey Road 18, RR4 Owen Sound, ON

The Council [calendar and agendas](#) can be found on the Township website. Meetings are also [livestreamed](#).



Holiday lights now illuminate the streets in Kemble and Kilsyth! The holiday lights experienced delays due to electrical approvals, however they are now lit and will remain bright into the New Year!

Thank you to our community partners, Hutten & Co. Land and Shore, Benmet Steel & Metal and Barry's Construction for supporting community events and initiatives in 2024. The Township looks forward to working with community partners again in 2025 to support community initiatives, opportunities for connection and exciting events throughout the year.

