
The Blue Mountains Public Library Board Meeting

Meeting Date: September 18, 2025

Meeting Time: 1:00 p.m.

Location: Library Boardroom

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Prepared By: Jennifer Murley, CEO/Secretary of the Board
Franz Greenfield, Administrative Assistant

In Attendance: Carol Sackville-Duyvelshoff
Joanne de Visser (Vice-Chair)
Julia Scott (Chair)
Kristina Wichman
Laurey Gillies
~~Marie Swift~~
Shawn McKinlay

Guests: Steve Conn, Fire Chief
Diana Livingston, CEMC Coordinator & Administrative Assistant for Fire Services
Phil Pesek, Manager of Facilities & Fleet

Absent: N/A

Regrets: Marie Swift

Staff: Jennifer Murley, CEO
Franz Greenfield, Administrative Assistant

A. Call to Order

A.1 Moment of Reflection

The Board meeting was called to order by the Chair at 1:02p.m. A Moment of Reflection was observed.

A.2 Indigenous Acknowledgement Statement

The Chair read the Indigenous Acknowledgement Statement.

A.3 Public Announcement

None – no members of the public were present.

B. Agenda

B.1 Approval of the Agenda

BMPL-Resolution 2025-049

Moved by Kristina Wichman and seconded by Laurey Gillies, THAT the Agenda of September 18, 2025, be approved as circulated, including any items added to the Agenda. CARRIED.

- B.2 Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof**
None.

C. Reports to be “Received as Information”

All reports to be received as information were received with additional discussion occurring as the items arose within the agenda.

BMPL-Resolution 2025-050

Moved by Shawn McKinlay and seconded by Joanne de Visser, THAT this Board receive as information:

- 1) *2025 Action Plan Status*
 - 2) *GOV.25.03 entitled “Strategic Planning Committee Report-September”*
 - 3) *ADM.25.25 entitled “Q2 Statistical Report 2025”*
- CARRIED.

D. Minutes

- D.1 Previous Minutes**

It was noted that some edits were requested and incorporated prior to this meeting.

BMPL-Resolution 2025-051

Moved by Carol Sackville-Duyvelshoff and seconded by Laurey Gillies, THAT this Board approves the Blue Mountains Public Library Board minutes of July 17, 2025, as amended;

AND THAT this Board receives as information the Strategic Planning Steering Committee minutes of July 31, 2025. CARRIED.

- D.2 Business Arising from the Minutes**
None.

E. Communications with the Board

The deadline for registration was Monday, September 15 at 2:00p.m.

- E.1 Deputations**
None.

- E.2 Public Input on the Agenda**
No members of the public were present.

E.3 Correspondence

1. OLA FOPL Response to 2025 DC Regulatory Proposal
Presented as information.
2. OLA FOPL Connectivity Ask
Presented as information.

BMPL-Resolution 2025-052

Moved by Joanne de Visser and seconded by Laurey Gillies, THAT this Board receives as information items E.3.1: OLA FOPL Response to 2025 DC Regulatory Proposal and E.3.2: OLA FOPL Connectivity Ask. CARRIED.

F. Strategic Plan Updates & Action Items

F.1 Strategic Plan Pillar: Organizational Excellence

1. **Presentation:** *Town Emergency Management Plan [Fire Chief Steve Conn and Diana Livingston, Town of The Blue Mountains CEMC Coordinator & Administrative Assistant for Fire Services]*

The presentation provided an overview of the Library's (and staff) role during an emergency in TBM, which would primarily be information distribution and redirection to the appropriate contact. It was emphasized that the library would only be recruited in the event of a larger emergency lasting more than a few days.

2. **Verbal Update:** *Update on Facilities: Washroom Renovation Project at L.E. Shore, Building Condition Assessments, and Generator [Phil Pesek, Town of the Blue Mountains Manager of Facilities & Fleet]*

Washroom Renovation Project

- An overview of this project was provided, outlining the plan to repair and modernize the bathrooms for accessibility. The project will also ensure that the new facilities continue to match the rest of the building's aesthetic.
- Tentatively, completion is estimated for November 2025.
- The project will be covered by Council's capital budget.

Building condition assessment

- The Town has engaged a consulting firm to complete a buildings condition assessment of municipal facilities, identifying critical issues, developing budgets for the current and future years and communicating the remaining life spans of assets.
- Several rounds of assessments will occur. BMPL facilities will be included in the first round, which is already underway. This assessment will identify projects to be completed over the next 5 years, as well as required budgets.

Generator

As the designated emergency media center, the Library is a top priority for a generator. However, other municipal facilities have even greater need of back up power and will be prioritized first. Pending Council budget allowances, the Library will receive theirs in 2026 or 2027.

3. **Discussion:** *2026 OLA Super Conference Board Attendance*

CEO Murley encouraged the Board to attend, specifically the Board-related presentations occurring on the last Saturday of January. Two BMPL staff have submitted presentation proposals for the conference, including CEO Murley (in partnership with the Collingwood Public Library CEO).

4. **Report:** *GOV.25.03 entitled "Strategic Planning Committee Report-September"*

After further study of the 2022-2026 Strategic Plan, the Committee concluded that major adjustments were required to ensure the Plan is relevant for our current and evolving landscape. The new Plan, covering a 10-year span, will be designed to provide a high-level, guiding framework. This will ensure that the Plan remains relevant, regardless of environmental changes or Board turnover, while ensuring the most important deliverables are achieved.

The Committee requested that timelines be adjusted, moving the final approval of the new plan to November 2026. It was noted that this adjustment would deviate from policy *POL-BLG.2018.99 Agenda & Multi Year Agendas* - this will be revisited in January 2026.

Formal community consultation will begin in fall of 2025 and run through the winter of 2026.

5. **Report:** *ADM.25.25 entitled "Q2 Statistical Report 2025"*

The Board requested edits for clarity and directed CEO Murley to begin sharing these reports with Town Council.

F.2 Action Planning

1. **Discussion:** *2025 Action Plan Status*

An update on the *2025 Action Plan Status* was provided. Of specific note, the application for charitable status has been completed and submitted.

F.3 Strategic Plan Pillar: Community Hubs

1. **Verbal Report** *Multi-Use Recreation Feasibility Assessment (MURFA) Next Steps*

In consultation with the CEO, Ryan Gibbons (Director of Community Services) is preparing a staff report with recommendations informed by the consultants' findings. This report will be presented to the Committee of the Whole on October 6, 2025.

Should Council choose to proceed to phase two of the project, the staff report recommends that the library remain involved in future discussions.

2. **Verbal Report:** *CEO Update on the Youth Climate Action Fund (YCAF)*
CEO Murley spoke to a hybrid workshop held simultaneously in Thornbury and Owen Sound, noting the enthusiasm of the youth participants.
3. **Verbal Report:** *CEO Update on the Space Utilization Study*
Once documentation is finalized, CEO Murley will be able to announce the firm undergoing this project. CEO Murley noted that the Proponent was able to work under the required budget, and therefore, only the CEO's signature was required to bind the contract.

F.4 Strategic Plan Pillar: Empowering Services

1. **Verbal Update:** *30th Anniversary Celebrations*
The 30th Anniversary Celebrations website is now live, listing all anniversary events:
<https://www.thebluemountainslibrary.ca/30th-anniversary>

G. Roundtable

G.1 Roundtable—General updates by the Board

- 1) Community Updates and News
 - Community Updates:
 - Member Sackville-Duyvelshoff noted that during the presentation that the Marsh Street Centre gave to Town Council, one of the Council members suggested that the Centre investigate a partnership with the Library for an International Women's Day event. CEO Murley expressed interest in exploring this further.
 - Member Gillies will be attending the Craigeith Working Group meeting on September 22 and will provide an update at the next Board meeting.
 - News:
 - Centre for Free Expression (September 2, 2025): [Alberta's Real Disgrace is Not Banning Atwood & Huxley \(Bad Though That Is\): It Is Something Far Worse](#)
 - Kawartha Now (September 6, 2025): [Peterborough Public Library to reinstate three librarian positions full-time library CEO position](#)
 - CBC News (September 8 2025): [New Alberta school books order bans explicit images of sexual acts](#)
 - University of Victoria (September 10, 2025): [Reimagining the Future of Libraries](#)
 - Collingwood Today (September 11, 2025): [Adam Smith Named New CAO for TBM](#)
- 2) BMPL Special Events
 - [Film: Voices – Lighting a Pathway to Indigenous Inclusion](#)
Friday, September 26 | 6-8 pm | L.E. Shore Memorial Library
 - [Every Child Matters: Scrunchie Project](#)
Tuesday, September 30 | 3:30-4:30 pm | L.E. Shore Memorial Library
 - [30th Anniversary Event: Author Talk & Exhibit Opening: Daughters of Aatenstic](#)
Saturday, October 4 | 1-4 pm | L.E. Shore Memorial Library

- [Uncovering Vinland: A Viking Mystery Solved? With Robert Burcher](#)
Thursday, October 9 | 7:30-9 pm | L.E. Shore Memorial Library

H. Key Messages

The Key Messages were determined by the Board and approved for release.

BMPL-Resolution 2025-053

Moved by Shawn McKinlay and seconded by Joanne de Visser, THAT this Board approve the release of the Key Messages Update-September 2025. CARRIED.

I. Notice of Meeting Dates

The next regular Board Meeting is scheduled for October 16, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. in the L.E. Shore Boardroom.

All meetings and relevant agenda materials will be posted on the [Meeting and Agenda](#) page of Governance.

J. Adjourned

The Chair declared adjournment at 3:49 p.m.

Julia Scott, Chair

Jennifer Murley, Board Secretary