



2026-7 Museum Grounds Maintenance: Frequently Asked Questions

Why are improvements being made to the grounds at the Museum?

The Town of The Blue Mountains and the Blue Mountains Public Library are working together to complete necessary grounds maintenance at the Museum.

Over time, vegetation has become overgrown in several areas of the property, including along the rear deck. The work will help protect the heritage building, improve visibility of the Museum, create a more welcoming space for visitors, and support the long-term care of the property.

This is part of property maintenance and will continue as part of an ongoing approach to caring for the site.

What work is being done?

The work includes removing overgrown vegetation, invasive species, and dead or declining plants.

The area along the rear deck has become dominated by plants that spread quickly and are difficult to manage, including grape vine, Manitoba maple, and buckthorn. Sumac, which is not considered invasive but also spreads aggressively, is also present.

Removing some of this vegetation will:

- Improve views of the heritage building and deck;
- Create a more usable outdoor space;
- Improve visibility around the property; and
- Create opportunities to enhance the area beside the Georgian Trail.

Why does the area need to be opened up?

The vegetation along the deck has grown significantly over time and is limiting the use and enjoyment of the space.

Opening up the area will improve sight lines around the property, making it easier for visitors to see and access the Museum grounds. It will also make the area easier to maintain and help reduce issues associated with hidden areas, including garbage accumulation, and unauthorized use of the space.

The goal is to create a safer, more welcoming, and more accessible area for everyone.



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Are all the historic lilacs being removed?

No. The historic lilacs will continue to be protected.

Lilacs naturally spread through root growth, and over time they have expanded beyond the original plantings. The work will help manage their growth and support the long-term health of the lilacs.

Lilacs along the Georgian Trail will be retained. A heritage panel will also be installed to share information about their history and significance with visitors.

Is this work removing part of the Museum's history?

No. The goal of this project is to protect and preserve the Museum property.

The work balances heritage preservation with responsible grounds management. Maintaining the landscape around a historic building is an important part of ensuring the site remains accessible, attractive, and cared for over the long term.

Will the Museum building be affected?

No. This work is intended to support the preservation of the building by improving the care and management of the surrounding grounds.

Will the area look different?

Yes. The area along the rear deck will have a more open appearance, with improved views of the Museum building and surrounding landscape.

The changes will create a more welcoming space for visitors and provide an opportunity to enhance the area beside the Georgian Trail as a small parkette and rest area.

When will the work happen?

Initial work will take place in October.

- **October 19–23:** Vegetation removal
- **October 26–30:** Sod installation
- **Late October–approximately May 24:** Temporary fencing while the new turf establishes



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Will the Georgian Trail remain open?

Yes. The Georgian Trail will remain open and accessible throughout the work.

There may be minor impacts during vegetation clearing, which is expected to take approximately 1–2 days. During this work, the trail will remain open, with a flag person on site to help ensure pedestrians and cyclists can pass safely.

Will the Museum remain accessible?

Yes. The work area next to the Georgian Trail will be temporarily fenced, but the Museum will remain accessible.

Will there be more work done in the future?

Yes. Vegetation management at the Museum will continue over time as part of regular property maintenance.

Ongoing care will help prevent vegetation from becoming overgrown again and will support the long-term health of the landscape.

Does this project have an additional cost to taxpayers?

No. Community Services is using available 2026 operating funds to complete this work with the assistance of a qualified contractor.

Who is completing the work?

The Town of The Blue Mountains and the Blue Mountains Public Library are working together on this project.

How can I learn more about the Depot and its history?

The Craigleith Heritage Depot is an important community museum and archive that preserves and shares the history of the area. Visitors are encouraged to explore the Museum, learn about its collections, and watch for the new heritage panel highlighting the significance of the historic lilacs.