



Brockton Buzz Newsletter – March 2021 Issue

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COVID- 19 Updates

The Grey Bruce Health Unit has been transitioned to the Green “Prevent” Level of the Provincial COVID-19 Response Framework. Though the Municipal Office has resumed in-person services, residents are still encouraged to continue to limit unnecessary contact by making electronic payments, using the drop box at the Municipal Office and sending inquiries through [email](#) or by phone 519-881-2223. Keep updated on the Municipality's response to the pandemic on our [COVID-19 Updates page](#). If you have concerns related to gatherings that are occurring and not complying with Provincial orders, call the non-emergency O.P.P. number at 1-888-310-1122.



Council Approves 2021 Municipal Budget

After three special meetings, Council of the Municipality of Brockton have unanimously approved the 2021 Municipal Budget on February 9, 2021 with a total tax rate increase of only 1.61% and a total levy of \$9,855,085. Brockton Council and staff were committed to ensuring sustainability for operations while keeping the tax rate increase as low as possible in recognition of the economic difficulties faced by many residents and businesses as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. View the [Press Release](#) for more information on highlights included in the 2021 Budget.

Strategic Action Plan 2025: Building Brockton's Future

The Municipality of Brockton is creating a new action plan that will solidify the Municipality's goals for the next five years and ensure projects are in line with the community's priorities. Consultations with community groups and residents will begin immediately, using surveys and focus groups, as well as feedback through our community portal, [Build Your Brockton](#). A survey will be coming soon!



Bill Winegard of Winegard Municipal Consulting will be assisting in the process. The action plan will build on the framework outlined in Brockton's 2013 strategic plan, Building a Better Brockton, yet will be updated to reflect our changing economy and local priorities. As part of the process, a separate Economic Development Action Plan will be developed to support the business, farming, manufacturing and development community following the COVID-19 pandemic. Visit our [Strategic Action Plan 2025 webpage](#) for more information.

Tax Installment Due Dates – March 31, 2021 and May 30, 2021

Any payment received in our office after the due date will be considered late and any outstanding taxes will be subject to penalty and interest charges as per the *Municipal Act, 2001*. Please allow 2 to 3 days for processing if you are paying through the online banking system of your financial institution. Visit Brockton.ca/Taxes for more information.

Committee Member Recruitment: Property Standards Committee

The Municipality of Brockton is seeking committee members for the Property Standards Committee – A Committee appointed by Brockton Council to hear the appeal of any owner or occupant who has been served with an Order issued under the Municipality of Brockton's Property Standards By-laws, as may be amended from time to time, and who wishes to appeal the terms or conditions of the Order. If you're interested in serving on the committee, please send a letter outlining how you feel you can contribute to the Committee, including qualifications and background that would be helpful in fulfilling the Committee's mandate, along with your name and contact information, to Clerk Fiona Hamilton by [email](#) or by mail to Municipality of Brockton 100 Scott Street, P.O. Box 68, Walkerton, ON N0G 2V0. The deadline for submissions is Thursday, March 11, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

Winter Landfill Hours and Greenock Landfill Update

From November 1 to March 31, the Brant Landfill is open on Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The **Greenock Landfill** is temporarily closed, but **will reopen on Saturday, March 20, 2021**. Regular hours at the Greenock Landfill are Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. During the remainder of the Greenock Landfill closure, residents can continue to use Brant Landfill. **Residents are reminded to wear a face covering and maintain physical distancing when attending the Landfills.** A limit of 10 vehicles at a time remains in effect for the Brant Landfill. The Walkerton/Hanover Landfill is open on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Curbside collection is still encouraged. For more information please visit Brockton.ca/LandfillSites.

Winter Parking Restrictions

In accordance with Section 8 of the Municipality of Brockton's Consolidated Traffic and Parking By-Law 2020-052, no person shall park on any highway between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. inclusive during the months of November, December, January, February, March and April.



Winter Fire Hydrant Access Reminder

Help our firefighters by clearing snow around fire hydrants to allow easier access in an emergency. Remove any ice and snow, clear a three foot perimeter around the hydrant, and clear a path from the hydrant to the street. By-Law 2019-118 also requires individuals to keep hydrants clear from obstructions, such that shrubs, trees, and hedges should be trimmed to allow free access to the hydrants.

Brockton Parks and Recreation Department:

The Walkerton Community Centre/Arena will offer Public Skating Monday to Friday from 12:00 Noon to 1:00 p.m. and on Wednesdays from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Residents wishing to skate must **pre-register** with Brockton Parks and Recreation by phone at 519-881-0625. No more than 15 skaters can be on the ice at one time, and each resident must complete a COVID-19 Screening Survey prior to entering the ice.

The Lobies Park Skating Oval will be closed for the season effective Monday, March 1, 2021. See you next season!

Fire Department: Safety Facts During Power Outages

- Cordless phones will not work during a power outage. Make sure you have at least one phone that does not require electricity to operate.
- Use flashlights instead of candles.
- If you have to use candles, place them in a secure holder and cover them with a glass chimney. Place them in a place where they can't be knocked over, and out of reach from children and pets.
- Charcoal and Propane Barbeques are for outdoor use only.
- Only use portable space heaters that have been designed for indoor use and follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Provide adequate ventilation by opening a window slightly while the heater is in use.
- Before refueling, turn off the heater, wait for it to cool and take the heater outside to refuel.
- Make sure electric stove elements and small appliances are **OFF** or unplugged to prevent fires from starting when the electricity is restored.
- Make sure your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms have a battery backup and are on every level. Electrically connected smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms will not work when the power is out.
- During the blackout, conduct regular safety checks of each room. Make sure everyone knows how to get out immediately if there is a fire. Practise your home escape plan.
- Stay safe and look after each other.



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South Bruce O.P.P. Detachment – March is Fraud Prevention Month

Cons and scams are attempted daily by phone, social media, email, text, fax, mail or door to door. Understand that con artists are real and that we are all potential targets. Tech-savvy scammers use technology to create very convincing schemes to trick you into sending them money. They will often use the name of an established company, pretend to be someone you know or even impersonate a branch of the government. Your best defense is to verify an unsolicited contact. Unsolicited means that you didn't ask for it. Be very cautious with wire transfer requests, overpayment offers, spelling mistakes and requests for personal and/or banking information. Contact the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at 1-888-495-8501 or check online at www.antifraudcentre.ca for more details.