

System Name: Thornbury Drinking Water System
Municipality: Town of the Blue Mountains
Drinking Water System Category: Large Municipal Residential

The Town of the Blue Mountains is located on the western shore of Georgian Bay, extending from west of Thornbury to east of Craigeith. It is part of Grey County and in the Grey Sauble Source Protection Area as well as the Nottawasaga Valley Source Protection Area, which is not in this Source Protection Region. In 2006, the population was 6,825, which was an increase of 11.6% from 2001. The Blue Mountains has extensive shoreline development. The main towns are Thornbury (population 1,771) and Craigeith. Smaller villages include Clarksburg, Slabtown, Heathcote, Ravenna, Red Wing, and Kolapore. One surface water intake serves the Town of the Blue Mountains and it is located in Thornbury. No new drinking water systems are planned.

The west pier in Thornbury is east of the water intake and extends 115m from the shore out into the lake to form the north-western limits of the harbour. The end of the pier has a rubble mound extension for entrance protection to the harbour. The pier is a parallel steel sheet pile wall with a concrete deck. The eastern limit of the harbour has taken its shape from a spit of sand and boulders that formed along the west bank of the Beaver River. This spit naturally extends north-west to enclose the harbour.

The Thornbury small craft harbour is home to numerous recreational vessels and an occasional tugboat. There is no commercial activity at the Thornbury harbour. Occasional commercial activity occurs far offshore for vessels heading to Midland, which is in excess of 37km from Thornbury. The former commercial harbour at Collingwood is 18.5km southeast of Thornbury. The Thornbury Marina is managed by the Town and has capacity for 195 recreational vessels (OMOA 2007) including transient vessels.

The town of Thornbury is located on the southwest shore of Georgian Bay, within the Manitoulin-Lake Simcoe ecoregion (Environment Canada, 2005). Its municipal water system draws water through a surface intake from Georgian Bay, classified as a Type A (Great Lakes) Intake.

The Thornbury Drinking Water System is located on the western shore of Nottawasaga Bay in Georgian Bay. It is a large municipal residential system that services an approximate population of 11,389 within Thornbury and surrounding area (Clarksburg, Camperdown and Lora Bay) via a 747m³ water tower. The system partly services the Craigeith area via the Arrowhead Booster Pumping Station, which supplies water to twin in-ground storage tanks with a combined capacity of 5000m³ (MOE 2005). Craigeith also receives water from Collingwood via the Collingwood Connection Booster Pumping Station at a rate of 2500m³ daily.

The 600mm diameter raw water intake extends approximately 430m into Nottawasaga Bay (Georgian Bay) with twin 1.1m diameter intake bells. The depth of the top of the intake crib is reported at 6.7m, at a lake depth of 8.9m (Stantec 2009). The intake piping splits just prior to the water treatment plant into two separate pipes feeding the raw water clear well. The intake capacity is 20,000m³/day.



Thornbury water treatment building