



November 23, 2023

To: Town of the Blue Mountains Mayor, Council, Shawn Everitt CAO and Shawn Carey, Director of Operations

From: Betty Muise, Manager, Tree Trust TBM

Re: Minimizing tree loss as a result of TWR

Tree Trust TBM has been approached by many TBM residents expressing deep concern regarding the proposed tree removals associated with TWR Phase 1b (affecting Louisa, Elma and Alice Streets in particular).

When Tree Trust TBM first learned of the potential tree losses associated with the TWR project, we completed a walk-by assessment and identified that many of the trees slated for removal were highly prized, older, large and healthy established trees. After this preliminary assessment, Town staff considered and implemented design changes that helped preserve some of these trees, in particular, on Elma Street South. We are grateful that staff did this work to pursue design changes that avoid the removal of these mature, well-established trees and we hope that very careful construction techniques will be employed so these trees remain healthy despite the typical and serious threats to trees from construction activities.

On Friday November 17, an updated list of trees slated for removal as compared to the original plan was published. Based on this information, Tree Trust would like Council and Staff to consider measures to ensure preservation of additional trees that are in locations that, to our understanding, are not affected by the installation of wastewater and water supply infrastructure. In particular, there are four trees at the corner of Louisa and Bruce Street (trees numbers 111, 113, 114 and 115) that could be saved with reconsideration of the design/engineering details related to the berm and parkette. Similarly, three trees at the corner of Louisa and Elma (trees numbers 92, 94, 163) are subject to grading specifications at that corner that could possibly be changed.

In identifying these specific, highly valuable and healthy trees our request is that the Town consider additional design/engineering modifications (none of which would disrupt the water supply installations) to save these trees. Louisa and Elma streets currently have our richest, most valued and beautiful urban canopy and residents are deeply concerned about losing these trees, particularly if removals could possibly be avoided. Many of these trees are in the vicinity of a hundred years old and they have the potential for many more decades of life, with good care. The esthetic, community and ecological value of these trees simply cannot be replaced with new plantings. We would need a hundred years or so to make up for these tree losses.

Thank you for your efforts.

Betty Muise
Tree Trust TBM

Additional Note: Tree Trust has identified tree # 105, as a healthy older, legacy tree which is going to be impacted by the water servicing installations along Louisa. Perhaps the Town could consider implementing and showcasing special preservation measures for this tree.