

Sept 12, 2024

Catherine Howell, Helmut Hock
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Town of The Blue Mountains
32 Mill Street, P.O. Box 310
Thornbury, Ontario N0H 2P0

RE: Bay Street East Reconstruction

Dear Council,

Please take this letter into consideration for the COW September 17th Meeting

We are writing to express our complete and utmost disapproval of the Town's proposal to widen Bay St. East to make room for a wider road, a bike lane and sidewalks. While we do not live on Bay St. East, we have friends who live there and we very frequently walk and cycle down this street rarely seeing any cars. The fact that pedestrians, cyclists and cars share this narrow cottage road requires the drivers to travel slower and be much more attentive. The irony is that people drive more carefully when there are no sidewalks. This automatic traffic calming effect is found on all of the other narrow cottage streets such as Bayview Ave., Lakeshore Dr., Landsdowne Rd., Cameron St., Sunset Blvd., and many others in the immediate area.

We live on Lakeshore Dr. which has the very same characteristics as Bay St East. We were drawn to this street and community when looking for a home in Thornbury because of the "cottage" feel with the cedar trees lining the street and people walking and cycling freely down the street. As on our street, Bay St. East residents know best what it is to walk, cycle and drive on their street. Do you really question the validity of their concerns related to Safety and Enjoyment of Life. Their children, grandchildren, elderly relatives, neighbours and friends routinely walk, cycle and drive on Bay St. East and yet they do not believe there is a traffic safety issue.

We would like to know why the Town thinks it is in a better position than its residents to know what is best for the community? Over 1900 people have signed a petition to "Stop the Chop". It is our

expectation that the Town accept the wishes of its ratepayers! It is obvious to everyone that wider roads with sidewalks and bike lanes will encourage drivers and cyclists to travel at higher speeds thereby increasing the risk of pedestrian and cycling injuries. Furthermore, this will kill the cottage-type which residents and visitors have come to enjoy in Thornbury.

Town Council was elected by the ratepayers of Blue Mountain to ensure development is appropriate and controlled, that the necessary infrastructure updates are planned and implemented and that the existing character of the established communities are preserved or enhanced. All of this should be done in collaboration with the local ratepayers along with the mandate to minimize the impact to existing neighbourhoods, tree canopy and green space.

Clearly the sewer and drainage infrastructure need to be upgraded. However, this should be done with utmost care to:

- Respect the wishes of the local ratepayers (it is an established residential area, no more development possible)
- Preserve the existing tree canopy softscaping (we should be prioritizing green space over more pavement, there is a global climate crisis)
- Protect the unique character of the cottage streets in Thornbury that are safe, used and enjoyed by everyone.

Respectfully

Catherine Howell and Helmut Hock