

January 29, 2025

From: Lynn Keays and Cim Nunn



TO: Town of the Blue Mountains Committee of the Whole

Re: February 4, 2025 Committee of the Whole Staff Report OPS.25.004 Recommendations to Council

Mayor Matrosovs and Councillors,

As Bay Street East residents have been saying repeatedly and consistently from the time that they became aware of the Town's plans for re-construction of the street, one of the most significant concerns is the proposed loss of tree canopy. We are not alone in TBM in this concern, as you have all seen when residents have raised opposition to other plans that result in loss of mature trees in different parts of the town.

This is reflected in the response to the most recent PIC (December 17, 2024) on this topic. We know that many residents share our hope that extraordinary efforts will be taken by the Town to preserve as many mature trees as possible.

We fully support the notion that additional communication to residents related to tree removal, including the services of an arborist, landscape architect and designer, is required. It is puzzling that these services have not already been provided for in the monies allocated to this project to date, including the \$25 million provincial grant.

We respectfully request that you support the request for \$150,000 and indeed, for an even larger allocation, because it would reflect your appreciation for the how important the environment is overall, and how important trees are in our community.

In the alternative, if for some reason you choose not to support that requested amount, we request that you direct staff nevertheless to provide exactly what is described in the staff report: additional communication to residents related to tree removal, including the services of an arborist, landscape architect and designer. In other words...just do it because it is the right thing to do.

It will be the right thing to do for any future projects that result in the loss of tree canopy in the Town. It should not be an add-on, but rather an integral part of proper and informed communication and consultation with residents.

Respectfully submitted.

Lynn Keays and Cim Nunn