

Good Morning Mayor Soever, Deputy Mayor Bordignon, Members of Council.

Patricia Grant of Heathcote and Rosemary Gosselin of Thornbury, speaking today on behalf of The Blue Mountains Climate Action Now Network. Our goal is to reduce the carbon footprint of the area, and work together-towards a more sustainable community.

Soon after CANN was formed in June 2019, with the Mayor's encouragement, our Building Team embarked on a county-wide road trip to investigate what our fellow municipalities were doing about drywall disposal.

As a side benefit, we discovered where to find the best butter tarts along the beautiful back roads.

Now Waste Management is not the sexiest subject, but our team was moved by the passion, concern and frustration of many Waste Management teams we spoke with. Climate change is happening, landfills are filling up, and waste continues to pollute.

We presented our findings to you in a deputation, and thanks to you and to hardworking Staff, before long TBM was recycling masses of drywall waste, and styrofoam too.

Working together is key, as this "deputation of appreciation" will highlight. We thank each and every one of you for fostering a culture of openness and collaboration.

And this despite the challenges of COVID and the loss of two beloved councillors, Rob Potter and Jim Uram, both so open to listening to their constituents and offering thoughtful feedback.

It has been instructive for CANN members to work with Staff, whose time and expertise is warmly appreciated. We give credit to Council and Staff for putting in place a blueprint for moving forward in addressing our climate emergency.

We applaud you for taking the important step of signing up for the Municipal Natural Asset Initiative and for making a commitment to create a Natural Asset Inventory, acknowledging the significant role that our natural assets will play in our efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

CANN has been represented on a number of Advisory Committees, including the Sustainability Committee and the Attainable Housing Committee Design Guidelines Task Force, the Committee of Adjustment and the Police Services Board. It has been an honour to collaborate, to learn, and to serve in this way.

CANN is pleased to work together towards embedding Climate Action criteria in all the Official Plan policies.

Our Natural Burial Team continues to work closely with Staff to put in place this environmentally friendly option, unanimously approved in principle by Council. We appreciate being invited to the consulting table to help create a natural sanctuary in our beautiful Thornbury Clarksburg Union Cemetery.

These are just a few highlights of our four years together.

And now I'll pass the microphone to my colleague from Heathcote, Patricia Grant.

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Thanks Rosemary.

I would like to endorse Rosemary's comments and add a few of my own!

Who knew -- that when we elected you four years ago we were all on the brink of an historic pandemic. We wish it hadn't been so and we congratulate you on navigating us through the shoals of Covid!

Who knew -- that over these four years Canada would experience more floods, fires, heat domes, hurricanes, tornadoes and other climate change related catastrophes, making the work of organizations like CANN ever more urgent and necessary. Thank you for acknowledging this and working with us.

Who knew – that, as a result of Covid, it would seem as if half the population of Toronto decided to come and live here, and that quite frequently Highway 26 would resemble the line up on the main runway at Pearson International. Thank you for helping us come to terms with the massive changes that this community has undergone during your tenure.

Who knew -- I could go on . . . but the fact is that these past four years have been particularly difficult on so many levels.

Finally, in today's climate of abusive social media posts and increasing lack of civility in public life, to stand for public office is an act of courage and deserves our admiration and gratitude. We hope that all of you – those who remain and those who are stepping down – will continue to speak out on behalf of our community and the preservation of the spectacular natural *environment* we are fortunate enough to live in.

We thank you.