



ESCARPMENT CORRIDOR ALLIANCE

January 18, 2023

Town of The Blue Mountains Council
ATTN: Clerk
32 Mill Street, Box 310
Thornbury, ON N0H 2P0

Sent via email to: Corrina Giles, Clerk

RE: Item G.2.1 Councillor Maxwell Notice of Motion Re Protection of Green Space

Dear Mayor Matrosovs and Council,

Please accept this letter as an expression of the Escarpment Corridor Alliance's (ECA) support for Councillor Maxwell's proposal to increase the collaboration between stakeholders to protect our environment.

As you know, the ECA is a coalition of local residents, businesses, and organizations who are alarmed by rapid development in our region and ongoing plans to turn key parts of the brow and prominent slopes of the Niagara Escarpment into mega-developments. Over the past year, our organization has called on the region's municipalities to stop inappropriate developments, including major projects which would replace critical natural features with mini cities.

In The Blue Mountains, the proposed development at the Castle Glen threatens over 1,500 acres of forest, headwaters of two cold water fisheries and ecologically-sensitive wetlands, permanently damaging the habitats of flora and fauna. This project received its initial approvals over 50 years ago and would struggle to get approvals in today's legislative and regulatory regime. Council must critically examine this proposal through a sustainability lens and do their best to conserve the entirety of the Castle Glen. We believe that enacting Councillor Maxwell's motion and creating a process for collaboration with neighbouring municipal and regional councils and other stakeholders is an important first step.

Environmental matters are too interconnected to maintain strict boundaries between our communities. What happens in Clearview matters to Collingwood. What happens in the Blue Mountains matters to Grey Highlands. Our region is made up of many small communities that can become much stronger by supporting each other. Supporting Councillor Maxwell's motion is an opportunity for you as our elected officials to provide strong leadership on the crucial need to protect the environment.

We believe that Councillor Maxwell's idea is a strong proposal to protect the environment and we urge you to support it on January 23rd.

Thank you for your attention this matter.

Sincerely,

Bruce Harbinson, President
Escarpment Corridor Alliance