

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,

Protecting Talisman Lands Association supports Councillor Maxwell's motion for a report on how local governments can collaborate with the province, conservation groups and property owners to protect environmental assets in the area.

Protecting Talisman Lands Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting the UNESCO Biosphere designated Niagara Escarpment through minimizing development at the old Talisman ski hill. Early proposals by new owners indicate large subdivisions of up to 600 units at the top and bottom of the escarpment. Development of this size will have significant negative impacts on the natural environment and should be focussed in towns and cities to promote sustainable growth. Large scale housing development on the escarpment will take us further away from our national goals of preserving 30 per cent of the nation's land and sea by 2030 in order to address climate change and biodiversity loss. It also threatens the Niagara Biosphere designation, which is being reviewed in 2024.

The situation at Talisman is not unique, as increasing development pressures along the Escarpment threaten to destroy the precious and beautiful natural environments that sustain us and all living things. We need to strengthen our commitment to the environment if we are to grow in a responsible way, and leave a legacy for generations to come. Environmental matters are too interconnected to maintain strict boundaries between our communities. 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,



Kate Lazier, Chair  
Protecting Talisman Lands Association

