

November 28, 2023

Deputation

To: Town of the Blue Mountains Council

From: Lucy Richmond, [REDACTED]

Re: The Low Impact Design (LID) drainage infrastructure installation right next door to the Town.

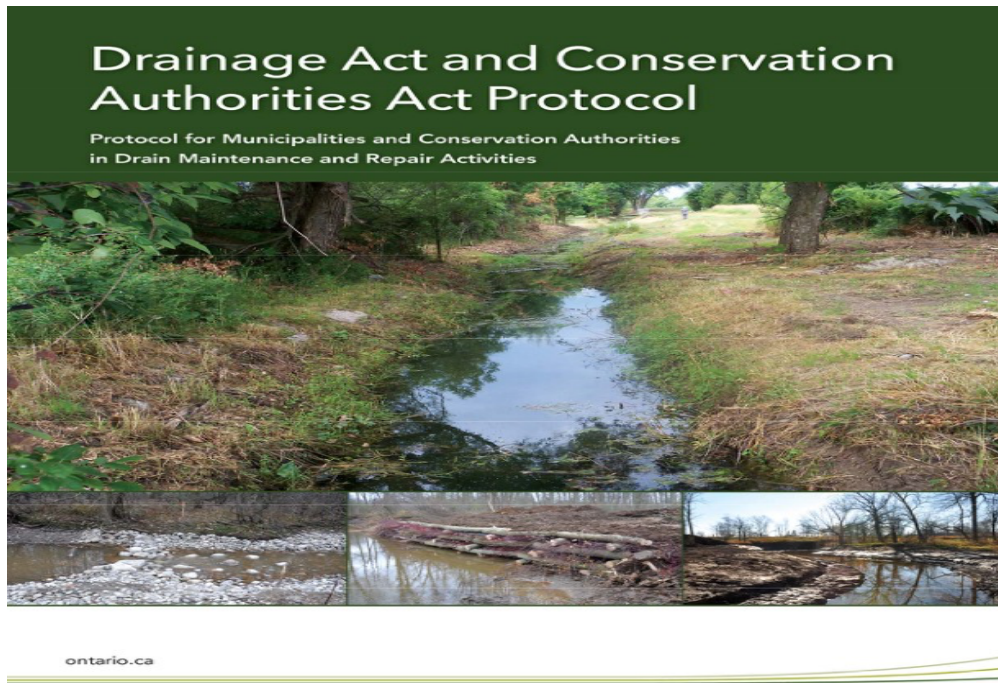
Date: April 2023

Dear Councilors; Ardiel, Hope, Maxwell, McKinlay, Porter,
Deputy Mayor Bordignon and Mayor Matrosovs

I want to thank Ms. Pamela Spence for her Presentation to you today that highlights concerns we share about the health and safety of the Georgian Bay waters when the bay is receiving such a heavy burden of contaminants, without remediation. Her ASKS are reasonable, and I support them, wholeheartedly.

For many of us, this is the water we drink when it has been made safe enough. Like the fish, ducks, and other mammals, many of us use the Bay for recreational pursuits, too. More often, now, we and our children swim in the waters of the Bay only on days when the lurking rocks can be seen and where fluttering or walking feet can be kept from harm. Even then, a good rinse-off after a swim is common practice at my household.

You may recall that in the first quarter of 2023, I made a deputation to you regarding the "Drainage Act and Conservation Authorities Act Protocol" and the Town's "Drainage Master Plan" that you received at that time.



Please take note of the photo at the bottom left of the image, above. It shows one of the low-impact designs (LIDs) the Province of Ontario is promoting in this Protocol as a tool to slow the descent of water through provincially designated, natural watercourses in Ontario Municipalities.

From the Niagara Escarpment to Georgian Bay, rushing water, burdened with eroded silt and sand, loses much of its turbidity when it slows down. The silt and sand fall to the bottom of stream beds where, in the normal cycle of a Town's infrastructure maintenance, they are removed.

I submit to you the following 2 photos of the eastern ditch of Grey Road 21 at Silver Creek Drive, Collingwood, taken on November 22, 2023. The second photo shows the full extent of this infrastructure work. This is evidence that suggests that this LID is a practical and inexpensive way to install effective infrastructure not just there in the ditch of Grey Road 21 in Collingwood, Simcoe County, but also here, and throughout The Blue Mountains, Grey County.



You can see how this LID works to slow down floodwaters from the escarpment and remove turbidity!

My Request:

Would Council please consider asking Staff to research who designed this project, and report to Council and to the public, the process the approval authority followed that led to this LID infrastructure being installed right next door to the Town of the Blue Mountains, recently, along a road that forms a boundary between the Municipalities of Collingwood and The Blue Mountains.

Those of us who care about these matters are very grateful to the creative thinkers who got this neighbouring municipal drainage job done. The installation can serve as a pilot project for the Blue Mountains to use at every similar LID opportunity the Town may have as we strive to manage flooding in the Craigleith and Lora Bay flood-prone floodplains.

Respectfully,
Lucy Richmond