

Summary of Public Comments

Paul Williams (received via email on August 12, 2023)

As a taxpayer in this municipality for 47 years and a full-time resident, i wish to register my dismay about Staff Report FAF.23.129, "Renaming of the Craigleith Depot." The Depot is one of the most recognizable landmarks in our community. Why on earth would senior staff waste their time with this nonsense of renaming it. It makes me question the judgement, focus, and common sense of Mr. Everitt.

Mary and Barrie Lennox (received hardcopy on August 9, 2023)

As life members and strong supporters of the Craigleith Station we are concerned with the indecision and procrastination of Council in failing to resolve the Station's official name. We understand that Dr. Sabrina Saunders, in her position as Library CEO, has spent considerable effort consulting stakeholders and researching proposed names to ensure that the name selected is historically correct and accurately reflects the Station's position as a museum, library, archives, and community activity centre. It is our understanding that Dr. Saunders, after full and comprehensive consideration, has recommended that the name "Craigleith Station" be approved and that this approval was included on the agenda for the town's recent Council Meeting but was inexplicably shelved. With the renovations to the Station complete and the official opening already held there is no reason to delay approving the name "Craigleith Station." We urge Council to accept Dr. Saunders well researched recommendation and to formally approve the name "Craigleith Station" at the August 28th Council meeting.

Laurey Gillies (received via email on September 7, 2023)

I am writing to support the renaming of the Craigleith Depot, returning it to its original (and actual) name of Craigleith Station. The facility was known as the Craigleith Station for over a century. In 2003, the Town of the Blue Mountains passed a By-Law to formally register the Craigleith Station with the Ontario Heritage Foundation (now the Ontario Heritage Trust) as a property of cultural heritage value. Attached is the documentation from the Ontario Heritage Act e-register. I would like to see the Town revert to using Craigleith Station as it is the original name of the building and the actual registered name. This would be a timely change as the museum was recently restored to its original 1886 colours. It would help avoid any confusion with the name being used by the Craigleith Ski Club for its new clubhouse. I am also aware that a return to the name Craigleith Station has been requested by the Library Board which runs the museum in the facility.

Michael Crabtree (received via email on September 7, 2023)

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Michael Coward (received via email on September 7, 2023)

I support the name change to Craigleith Station as a more appropriate and fresh sound for the Craigleith village centre.

Jesse and Nora Glass (105 Hammond Court – received via email on September 8, 2023)

We are residents of the TBM and love almost everything about it. Jesse was formerly a member of the Library Board. This letter is to communicate our strong support for the proposal to eliminate the word “Depot” and to restore the historic name of the Craigleith Station. Please record our support for this change.

Pat and Dan LeBlanc (received via email on September 11, 2023)

We support The Blue Mountain Public Library’s request to rename the Craigleith Heritage Depot to Craigleith Station. If necessary, we can offer reasoning for our support to the name change and if necessary the addition “and Library” for further clarification re: services provided in the building. Thank you for the opportunity to provide our view.

Heather Macnaughton (received via email on September 19, 2023)

The purpose of this email is to advise, as a resident of the TBM, I support the name change for the Craigleith Depot to the Craigleith Station.

Kathryn and Ron Duke (received via email on September 25, 2023)

My husband, Ron Duke and I, Kathryn Duke who have been residents of The Town of Blue Mountains for the past 10 years are all in favour of the proposed name change of the Craigleith Depot to ‘ Craigleith Station.’ It seems very appropriate for the name to be returned to its original name of Craigleith Station. I understand that this was its name for over a century and therefore definitely has historical significance. Thank you for considering my vote.

Nicole and Allan Craig (received via email October 2, 2023)

I am writing to support the renaming of the Craigleith Depot, returning it to its original (and actual) name of Craigleith Station. The facility was known as the Craigleith Station for over a century. In 2003, the Town of the Blue Mountains passed a By-Law to formally register the Craigleith Station with the Ontario Heritage Foundation (now the Ontario Heritage Trust) as a

property of cultural heritage value. I would like to see the Town revert to using Craigleith Station as it is the original name of the building and the actual registered name. This would be a timely change as the museum was recently restored to its original 1886 colours. It would help avoid any confusion with the name being used by the Craigleith Ski Club for its new clubhouse. I am also aware that a return to the name Craigleith Station has been requested by the Library Board which runs the museum in the facility

Bev Matthews (received via email on October 23, 2023)

I am writing to provide my support for the renaming of the “Craigleith Depot”. I appreciate the work that has been done by the museum and library staff on this topic and respect and support their recommendation to rename the facility the “Craigleith Station”. It seems to me that the time is perfect for the renaming with the beautiful and historically-accurate renovations just completed and the facility recently reopened. And with a great future ahead for this public space, I feel that it is an appropriate time for a renaming which more accurately reflects its original purpose and history as the “Craigleith Station”. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.

Pamela Spence (received via email on October 24, 2023)

First of all I would like to commend the Town for the renovation work done on the Depot this year. Quality renovations were done respecting the environment, the heritage and the community. I would ask that funding be found for the restoration of the Craigleith Community Centre just down the street. This heritage building, formerly the local school now serving as a meeting place, needs attention. However, the primary purpose of these comments is to address the question of whether the Craigleith Depot should change its name to Craigleith Station. I have read the rationale to change the name. The Library Board registered this building as “station” but that does not make it a station. 150 years ago Craigleith was a stop on the CN railway and thus would be considered by train folks as a station. There is no longer a rail system and Craigleith is no longer a stop. In fact the public transit system uses the Craigleith Community Centre as its local stop not the Depot. I think the term “station” is confusing and not applicable anymore. Depot in traditional train lingo has a different meaning than station. In my research, depot is defined as a place to sell tickets and shelter people which is what this building did. It is also synonymous with terminus. In fact in the 1940’s the Depot was the terminus for the “ski train” which brought skiers to the area. On a recent hike at the top of Blue Mountain Resort, I saw one of the many display boards explaining the history of the Weider family and resort. One board labelled 1941 -1949 reads “the Ski Train Special included a return day trip from Toronto to the Craigleith Depot for \$1.95”. It was “Depot” to the ski Community in the 40’s and has been named that for over 80 years as evidenced by this display. Another point to consider is that many folks contributed to the funding of the original purchase of the Depot by the Town and could be considered the founding fathers and mothers. Their thoughts should be paramount as they made the original effort to fund the public ownership and preservation of the Craigleith Depot. When the building was drastically renovated in 2005 and then the exterior redone in 2023, most of the building would be considered new construction

with a mostly modern interior too. So the Depot is not the original building nor is it 145 years old. Then there is the practical matter of the impact on the local community and published marketing information. Residents of Craigleith regularly use the Depot as a landmark and as a service. The landmark labelled Depot on many maps, signs, kits, and brochures would need to be changed. Many public inquiries would have to be addressed. Why go through this? I value the contribution of the Library and as a member I value the service the library provides including having the Craigleith Depot as a repository for books from LE Shore library. Please keep this service going. This building is a depot in the true sense of the word - to retrieve and deposit books from the main branch. The name Craigleith Depot works for me. In conclusion, I value history, tradition and logic. There is logic and history behind changing the name to station. But in my opinion there is more logic, tradition and purpose to keeping the building as "Depot". With that name and tradition in place for 80 years and considering the time and expense to rename so much, I favour keeping the building name as is - Craigleith Depot! Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

In Person Comments

George Fleming

Mr. Fleming provided comments along with background of the property and the facilities former use. Mr. Fleming noted that he would prefer the name of the Craigleith remain. Mr. Fleming noted that in the first 50 years of the facility the use was similar to that of a Depot with additional rail lines being present that allowed rail cars to be stored that held goods for transport before transitioning to more of a station. Mr. Fleming noted that an alternative name that could be considered would be the "Craigleith Heritage Station" to incorporate and highlight the facilities current use and to draw attention to facility and bring visitors to learn about the history including the excellent work that Mr. Charles Garrod had completed over many years.

Monica Norris

Ms. Norris provided comments and information and supports the reverting of the facility name to the "Craigleith Station". Ms. Norris also noted that the name could include "Museum" to redefect the current use and the addition of "The Blue Mountains" to te name may be beneficial to incorporate the entire Town since the facility does provide the history of the entire area.

Tom Buchanan

Mr. Buchanan provided comments and additional background and supports the reverting of the facility name to the "Craigleith Station". Mr. Buchanan also noted that he would suggest from a marketing perspective the name of the facility simple and keeping it to the "Craigleith Station" would be best.

The full [video recording](#) of the October 31, 2023 Public Meeting is available on the Town's website.