



# Town of The Blue Mountains

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**Date:** April 4, 2024

**Re:** East Side Water Storage and Supply Environmental Assessment - Public Information Centre #2

This memo is intended to provide a summary of the questions, comments and answers that were received prior to, or asked during, the Public Information Centre (PIC) held on March 20, 2024. The PIC was held virtually on Microsoft Teams from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. A total of 20 individuals attended the meeting including Town staff and the project team.

Included below is a summary of the primary themes heard throughout the PIC, as well as a table with the verbatim written questions and comments that were submitted before and after the meeting. To see all of the questions and comments that were brought forward during the PIC, please [view the full recording of the meeting](#).

**1. Location of proposed Craigleith Water Treatment Plant (WTP) intake**

Concerns were raised regarding impacts of runoff in Craigleith, and attendees were seeking more information regarding the process and studies that would need to be completed prior to selecting a location for an intake for the proposed new Craigleith WTP.

*Staff/Consultant Response: If the preliminary preferred alternative for the new Craigleith WTP is selected and advanced, additional studies would be required and conducted prior to the selection of a new intake location (e.g. water quality sampling program, bathymetric survey, ecological assessments, intake protection study to inform and support future source water protection work for the new intake, etc.). Easements may also need to be granted for the installation and maintenance of the intake, however more information regarding these would not be available until a final route is determined.*

**2. Regional approach for drinking water**

Commenters has questions regarding the possibility of pursuing a more regional approach for water servicing given the commitment that the Town of Collingwood has made to increasing the capacity of its Water Treatment Plant.

*Staff/Consultant Response: Several alternatives were evaluated as part of this study to address the water supply deficiencies in the Town's eastern pressure zones, including expanding the existing Thornbury WTP, building a new WTP in Craigleith, and increasing the supply from Collingwood's expanded WTP. Further information regarding the evaluated alternatives, including Alternative 3C – Increase water supply from Collingwood, is provided in the Staff Report CSOPS.24.015 and the Draft Project File Report for this study, available on the town's project web page.*

**3. Future water supply requirements for proposed developments**

Commenters had questions regarding how future growth projections were considered through the modeling used to inform the study.

*Staff/Consultant Response: The study's growth projections considered future areas reserved for draft plan approvals, are on Official Plan Designated Lands with application, or are Official Plan Designated Lands without an application. Growth projections were based on the best available information – changes to estimated growth projections were closely monitored throughout the study and updated as required.*

**4. Estimated costs and funding for identified projects**

Commenters had questions regarding when elements were included in the Class D estimate (+/- 30%) and how much of the proposed upgrades were eligible to be funded by development charges. There were also questions regarding the additional staff costs that would be required to run a second WTP.

*Staff/Consultant Response: Cost estimates include capacity upgrades at the Thornbury WTP, construction of the new Craighleith WTP and at-grade reservoir, watermain upgrades to convey water from Site 2/5 to the Happy Valley Reservoir and further to Pressure Zone 4. Given that the proposed infrastructure included in this project is related to growth, the Town would have the opportunity to utilize and collect development charges to fund the work. The Town's staffing levels are determined based on what it takes to make the water safe and distribute it to users. As additional infrastructure comes online, it's expected that more staff will be needed to maintain and operate the Town's water system. However, new technology and automation systems means that increases to staffing levels can be kept within reason.*

**Written Comments Received**

<p>George Powell Emailed 3/1/2024</p>	<p>As I am sure you aware Collingwood is planning to expand its water treatment plant on a tight site and using ultra filtration water treatment a very costly treatment process. It was put in when the Town thought the raw water had a bacterial problem Giardia and cryptosporidium , this was never proven and I don't believe the Town test for the presence of these bacteria in their water supply. Would it not be prudent for the two Towns to look into a Regional system taking water from the Bay?</p>
<p>Pamela Spence Emailed 3/5/2024</p>	<p>I highlighted in my November 2023 power point Deputation concerns regarding erosion, volume and water quality of the runoff in numerous watercourses between Osler Rd and Northwinds Beach in the Craigleith area and the impact this runoff is having on Nottawasaga Bay. I have asked for this area and problem to be added to and studied within the Stormwater Natural Infrastructure Project (pg. 53) in the Town's 2024 Budget. I would like to reiterate these concerns to TBM staff and reinforce the necessity to study Nottawasaga Bay in Craigleith ahead of considering this area as a potential water intake location for the East Side project.</p> <p>As you may recall I made the case that the massive and dangerous runoff in Craigleith is much more than a freshet or spring occurrence. I presented visual examples from April to October 2023 of multiple occurrences of fast and dirty water in numerous Craigleith watercourses originating at the Escarpment carrying heavy plumes of soil stretching far into, out and down Nottawasaga Bay. I have included another example of additional erosion on February 27-28, 2024. I have not recorded every and all erosion incidents but offer a sampling.</p> <p>This erosion is my real-world example of the grave concern about and impacts from climate change aptly identified in the Town's Official Plan Review Background Paper entitled Environment and Climate Change, namely, that heavy rains and erosion will be an increasing occurrence in TBM.</p> <p>As winters warm and ski resort operators rely more and more on artificial snow making, there will be much more water running off all ski slopes when the snow melts. Estimates are that artificial snow has 50% or more water content versus 7-15% water content in natural snow. Snowmaking is done with inherent chemicals, bacteria and, periodically, fertilizer which lowers the temperature to preserve snow for races and skiing in general. The impact of this highly charged snow when it melts on the quality of our water is unknown. I am concerned that, combined with climate changes, the impact of artificial snow will be exponentially greater than the impact of natural snow melt.</p> <p>Currently, the principle drinking water intake is in Thornbury. According to staff and logic the quality of the water at Thornbury is not noticeably affected by any snowmaking operations in Craigleith which are 15 km to the south when predominant winds are from the north.</p> <p>However, the proposed East Side Water Storage and Supply project identifies Craigleith near Northwinds Beach as a future drinking water intake location. There have been large plumes of runoff stretching out from Northwinds Beach (watercourse 11) multiple times per year. As I reminder, I provide a set of photos of the dirty runoff and extensive plume from one sample date being June 26, 2023.</p> <p>Shockingly, the Town's Official Plan Review does not highlight or identify Craigleith as a location for Source Water Protection (TBM 2016 Official Plan Section C4). That must be changed.</p> <p>Ahead of determining a suitable location for water intake, now is the time to study and determine if the impacts of volume, turbidity, bedload, and chemical content of the runoff from the Craigleith watercourses will be detrimental to any future drinking water intake.</p> <p>Furthermore, the concern I highlighted also asked that the watercourses in Craigleith be studied under the Stormwater Natural Infrastructure Project in order to determine the impact of erosion and sedimentation to the banks of the watercourses, the shoreline as well as the effect the bedload and silt in the runoff has on the waterfowl, aquatic life, algae, vegetative growth, and infilling of the bottom of Nottawasaga Bay.</p>

	<p>The Town expressed interest at the time of my deputation that these concerns were real and I would ask that that concern be turned into action. The study is critical to determining the feasibility and viability of considering the water in the Craigleith area for drinking purposes.</p> <p>I am out of the country March 20, 2024, the date of the public meeting, but am circulating these comments and ask them to be read at the meeting on my behalf. Please keep me apprised of any developments, decisions and next steps on this important project.</p> <p>Thank you for considering making the study of the Craigleith watercourses a part of the East Side Water Project.</p>
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