

10 April 2024

Re: Stormwater Natural Infrastructure Project

Ms. Corrina Giles & Ms. Kyra Dunlop, Town Clerks
Town of the Blue Mountains

For inclusion as Correspondence at the next Meeting of Council and for pre-circulation to Mayor Matrosovs, Deputy Mayor Bordignon and Councilors.

We at the Blue Mountain Watershed Trust Foundation (the Watershed Trust) would like to extend our congratulations to this Council and Staff on the Town's initiative to include the "Stormwater Natural Infrastructure Project" in the Town of the Blue Mountains' 2024 Municipal Budget. The timing couldn't be more relevant.

We also strongly encourage the Town to insist that **the guidelines for this Municipal study adhere to those set out by the Province of Ontario** in the "Significant Wildlife Habitat Technical Guide"¹ Section 11, "Assessment, Natural Heritage System" with special regard for "The other natural heritage features, significant ANSI and fish habitat" included in Section 11.

The outcomes of this study can help form a solid foundation for the Council's consideration when decisions about how the Lands in The Blue Mountains are to be used in the next 25 years. Until this study has been completed, please continue to protect the Town's Natural Heritage with special regard for significant Wetlands and Wetlands Ecosystems as outlined in the guide.

About the Watershed Trust

The Blue Mountain Watershed Trust Foundation, Ontario's first watershed trust, was formed in 1994 to protect natural areas in Collingwood and the Blue Mountains from development pressures of many kinds. Since then, we have been instrumental in preserving and protecting our remaining wild places.

Our area of interest totals approximately 50,000 Hectares containing significant woodlands, hazard lands and wetlands that need to be protected within the municipalities of Collingwood and the Town of Blue

¹ "Significant Wildlife Habitat Technical Guide"¹ Section 11, "Assessment, Natural Heritage System"
<https://www.ontario.ca/document/significant-wildlife-habitat-technical-guide/11-assessment-natural-heritage-system#:~:text=The%20other%20natural%20heritage%20features,%20significant%20ANSI%20,%20and%20fish%20habitat.>

Mountains; the Foundation's area of interest is bounded by Georgian Bay in the north and rises into the highlands of the Niagara Escarpment to the south.

With thanks,



Carl Michener, President