

July 10, 2024

Mayor Matrosovs, Deputy Mayor Bordignon and TBM Councillors,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed reconstruction of Bay St E.

The Bay St E reconstruction proposal goes against the Town's stated aims:

- identification and preservation of various and unique communities within Thornbury
- preservation of the tree canopy
- timely and transparent communication with residents regarding issues impacting their specific neighbourhoods as well as the community as a whole

Bay St E is one such unique neighbourhood with an enviable tree canopy. To cut down this important stretch of the Town's tree canopy would be heartbreaking. There are hundreds of trees lining the street, the vast majority of which have been classified as being in excellent to good health. Fronting my property there are 5 large, truly magnificent pines - all in excellent shape. Large mature trees are vital for capturing carbon, improving air quality, preventing storm water runoff in addition to providing shade and shelter and food for many species. And, of course, they are beautiful. It would take generations to replace what already is here. To gauge the impact of what this proposal would mean a short stroll down Bay St E, in its present incarnation, would help. Then, visualize the streetscape with a fraction of the current tree canopy, and more asphalt and/or concrete. The loss of the tree canopy, coupled with more hard surfaces will result in higher temperatures and thorough loss of ambiance. Hardly the street that currently is enjoyed by many visitors as well as residents. Hopefully Council will appreciate that one street scape cannot be imposed in every situation.

There are other options to locate the force main that will not result in devastating a residential neighbourhood. None of which, incidentally, that are in such close proximity to Georgian Bay. The careful and well-planned growth of the Town is important, but it seems the small, residential neighbourhood of Bay St E is being sacrificed for the premise of future potential neighbourhoods and developments. Trusting Council will continue to commit to examining other options.

Peggy Nunn

Resident of Bay Street East