



June 2025

# Blue Mountain Ratepayers' Association

- Our Structure
- Our Mandate
- Key Priorities for our Council



# Our Mandate

BMRA serves in an advocacy role with Town Council and staff on behalf of our ratepayers to protect and enhance our community's quality of life



## How we perform our mission

1. Solicit input from our members and develop a consensus which is shared through ongoing working relationships between our Board and TBM Council and Staff
2. Monitor TBM actions and program development to determine whether commitments to residents are being delivered, and defined processes followed
3. Proactively engage ratepayers and town residents through regular communications and periodic public information sessions
4. Provide leadership opportunities on our committees and Board, and actively encourage and support potential Council candidates



# Advocacy Priorities per Our Most Recent Survey

- Growth and Development
- Budget and Tax Increases
- Infrastructure
- Protecting Our Environment
- Housing Strategies
- Attracting Medical Professionals

# Growth and Development

- Our survey identified this topic as the topic with the highest score with regards to priority
- 70% of our respondents identified Growth and Development as their number one priority for council to focus on.
- The Official Plan Review is linked to this topic along with the desire to maintain our small town feel as the town continues to grow
- The lengthy official plan review process created an atmosphere of confusion over the towns plans for future development
- Density needs to be carefully used in new developments

# Budget and Tax Increases

- 47% of respondents identified budget and taxes as a priority for council
- Tax increases in excess of the rate of inflation are viewed as unacceptable
- Progress needs to be made on alternative methods of budgeting such as zero based budgets along with core vs non core analysis of programs and services.
- The portion of our tax dollars that goes to Grey County is also an issue
- Little is known about what the TBM gets in return for the tax dollars that go to Grey, Council should prioritize maximizing the return to TBM from the County for our taxes.



# Infrastructure

- The Town's backlog of infrastructure development required to support our ongoing growth has continued to grow
- Director Pacheco's presentation at our AGM provided some clarity and reassurance
- Construction inflation means that delays literally cost our ratepayers millions of dollars in increased project costs
- The BMRA estimates that over 250 Million Dollars of infrastructure is required by 2029
- Town Staff and Council seem challenged to constructively moving this work forward in a timely manner
- 44% of our respondents expressed a concern for this issue





# Housing

- All Council members stated a commitment to attainable housing in their campaigns
- Efforts to address our skewed housing mix date back to Gateway in 2019, but things seem stuck in neutral
- The BMRA led the formation of a TBM Housing Strategy Working Group with various community stakeholders, and it will continue working with Town Staff and Council to develop an Affordable Housing Strategy and Plan
- Currently there is a perception that council is a barrier to a strategy



# Protecting our Environment

- 40% of our respondents expressed concern that protection of our environment must be prioritized as new development comes on line.
- Holding developers accountable for minimizing environmental impact within our town is the responsibility of council



# Council Approval Rating

- When asked to approve or disapprove of council's performance thus far in their mandate 60% of our respondents disapproved of this councils performance.
- Comments on this topic from our respondents included lack of transparency, lack of meaningful progress on many files, lack of accountability for failed or cancelled projects lack of cohesion within council and a perceived lack of collaboration with staff.
- The basic message is that our council is stuck in neutral and is not making progress on the issues important to residents of TBM
- Having council clearly state priorities for the remainder of the term and report on progress is our recommendation going forward

