

December 11, 2025

To: Mayor Matrosovs and Members of Council

CC: Corrina Giles, Town Clerk, Adam Smith, CAO and Alan Pacheco, Director of Operations

From: Betty Muise, Tree Trust TBM

**RE: Tree Loss associated with Bay Street East Reconstruction**

There is an urgent need in our Town for immediate implementation of best-practice tree protection design, policies, and procedures in association with public infrastructure projects.

The deficiencies and failures of current practices are evident in major infrastructure projects currently underway in the Thornbury West and Bay Street East neighbourhoods:

- In Thornbury West we saw the unnecessary removal of healthy, elder trees due to poor construction practices. In response to a deputation by Tree Trust on November 18, Council passed a motion directing staff to provide a “full explanation including lessons learned in response to tree removal in the TWR project and any implications for any other project currently underway to the January 13 COW meeting.” This accountability review is critical but needs to extend beyond implementation and construction practices to *include design and also transparency and communications*.
- On Bay Street East, 185 trees – half of all trees in the areas under construction – are designated for removal. There is no reasonable means for residents to confirm that tree removals have been minimized. Residents must review the detailed arborist report and match this data with detailed engineering drawings that raise many questions regarding exactly which trees are protected and why some tree removals are necessary. *Clear, accessible information is not available, and there is no way to confirm that the design process incorporates every possible effort to minimize tree removal.*

Council and staff are well aware of the strong and consistent support for tree protection that has been expressed by residents at every possible opportunity. As we lose more and more of our urban tree canopy, tree protection is no longer a secondary consideration. It is a top priority that is essential for maintaining the beauty, character, livability and environmental sustainability of TBM. Further, the tree protection policies, procedures and practices advocated by Tree Trust and many other groups and community members are proven and established in Ontario municipalities.

We are at a critical time in the Town of the Blue Mountains as infrastructure renewal projects are underway and planned. We are losing significant portions of the critically important tree canopy in our settlement areas.

I urge Council to mandate and enforce the immediate implementation of best-practice tree protection policies, procedures and practices as passed by Council on December 1, 2025. In addition, these must also be supported by a process that includes fully transparent and accessible communications to ensure residents that all possible measures to protect trees, including at the design phase, are being applied and build confidence in the Town’s commitment to this important priority.

Betty Muise,  
Tree Trust TBM



In response to TBM request for accountability regarding preventable tree removals in Thornbury West Reconstruction Project:

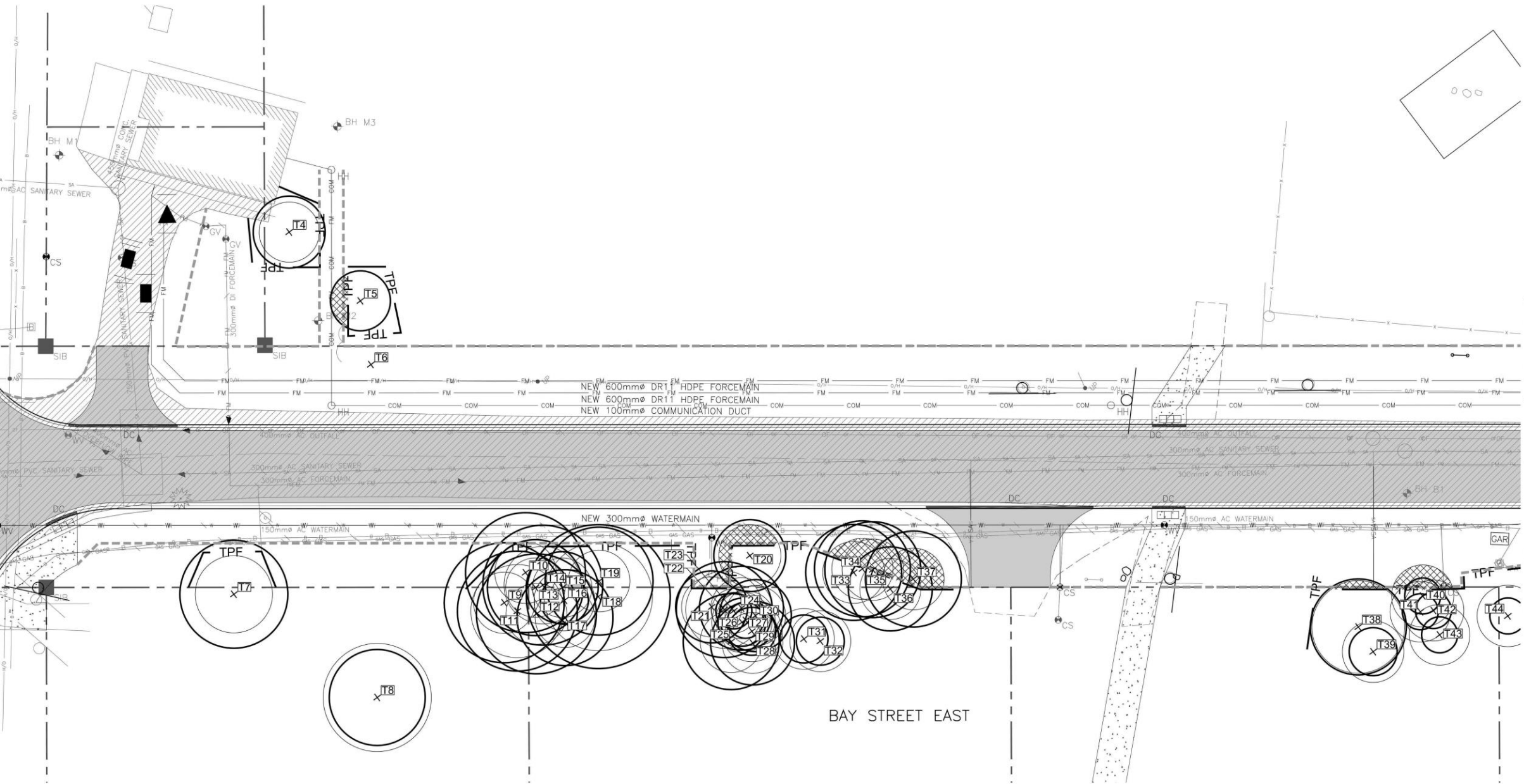
December 1, 2025 Council resolution:

*Council directs staff to provide a full explanation including lessons learned in response to tree removal in the TWR project, and any implications for any other project currently underway, to the January 13 COW meeting.*



- What about the design? Has tree preservation been given a priority?
- How do residents confirm this?
- Are communication practices such that residents can understand and confirm that tree preservation has been addressed as a priority?





MATCH LINE - STA. 0+160 (DWG PP.1.2)

BAY STREET EAST



We are losing a **lot** of our urban tree canopy.

We need immediate implementation of best practice tree protection policies, procedures and practices (as passed by Council on December 1, 2025).

AND, these must be supported by a ***process that includes fully transparent and accessible communications*** to ensure residents that all possible measures, to protect trees, including at the design phase, are being applied and build confidence in the Town's commitment to this important priority.