

Public Comment – B.4.1 Craigleith SLS, Mill Street SPS and Bay-Grey Street Linear Works
Jim Torrance on Behalf of the Blue Mountain Ratepayers Association
January 29, 2026

The current and future financial health of our Town are not what we knew in the past. On top of this is the crippling reality that a major infrastructure project – Mill Street/Bay Street/Craigleith sewer main upgrades -- will exceed its original budget by \$19 million — about 50%.

BMRA is presenting to Council three key questions that require clear answers and timely corrective measures.

These include:

- What are the critical learnings regarding financial oversight, project management discipline and timely communications and reporting? How and when will these be implemented?
- Do Council and Staff leadership have confidence in our current asset management plan, how the Town will prioritize upgrades and replacements of other major infrastructure, and have a clear picture of what this means for our long term finances?
- Will an external audit also be conducted so that we get an unvarnished evaluation and further recommendations for the future?

But the biggest question may be: Can a town the size of Blue Mountains responsibly and effectively manage these kinds of large infrastructure projects?

The province has also raised this question, and considered a model for having such projects managed by a broader regional authority – a Municipal Service Corporation – working across multiple municipalities. BMRA has already indicated that this could be worthy of consideration for our region, with the municipalities of Southern Georgian Bay seeming to be a logical geographic area to test this concept.