

Renette and David Berman
[REDACTED] Camperdown Road,
Town of the Blue Mountains, Ontario
N0H 1J0
[REDACTED]

October 4, 2021

Dear Mr. Mayor and Members of Council,

Need for increased Town Treatment of Sewage

As we all know, the Town of The Blue Mountains is growing rapidly with more and more people (young and old) establishing their primary residence here. This is increasing the need for enhanced sewage treatment and although a requirement for approval of new subdivisions is hooking up the new homes into the Town Treatment Facilities, this as we understand it is not a requirement for many homes in existing subdivisions which continue to use septic tanks. Although the quality of these tanks has improved, there is still seepage into Georgian Bay/Lake Huron. Also, although Lake Huron is a large body of water, the organic waste flowing into it from septic tanks will have a profoundly detrimental effect on the quality of Georgian Bay Water – and the health of abutting communities.

We understand further that the Town's Sewer Treatment Facility is at capacity and until future large-scale development takes place the Town will not have the funds necessary to build another treatment facility. We believe that controlled development is good and that the elimination of septic tanks is even better. We know also that a number of years ago, the Town tried to hook the homes fronting on Camperdown Road, Teskey Drive and Hoover Lane into the Town's treatment facility (concurrently with the new development then taking place in the vicinity of the Georgian Bay Golf Club), but for this to happen "buy-in" was needed from the owners of those homes. Many of those who lived on Teskey Drive, who could not see the big picture and/or the long-term benefit, opposed the proposal which was ultimately shelved in the face of their opposition. Since then, many of those owners have moved on and have been replaced by residents who are concerned about the environment, the detrimental impact that septic tanks have on the environment and/or who recognize that that the value of their homes will increase if their homes were on Town sewage.

This time we believe that there could well be a majority in favour of a hook up. But we would suggest that the Town be more proactive and advise residents that the Town will be hooking their homes up to the Town's facilities and that their septic tanks will have to be de-commissioned. Instead of requiring residents to pay for the cost upfront, why not use the Town's credit rating to raise the necessary funds? At the same time, levy a special property tax on residents served by the hook up – which would enable the repayment of the moneys borrowed, say over 25 years. Any resident who would prefer to pay for their share cost upfront should be given the opportunity to do so, thereby avoiding the payment of the interest component.

If Council believes that our suggestion is worthy of follow up, we would be most happy to help in "selling" the proposal to our fellow residents on the three streets mentioned above and/or to discuss with Town officials or Council other ways to facilitate this objective.

Respectfully yours,

[REDACTED]
Renette and David Berman