

5 October 2021

To: The Town of The Blue Mountains Council
32 Mill St Box 310, Thornbury N0H 2P0

From: The Blue Mountains Historical Society
Box 722 Thornbury N0H 2P0

The mission of “The Blue Mountains Historical Society” (TBHS): is to identify, promote, and assist in the preservation of unique cultural, historical, natural and manmade features within and related to the Town of the Blue Mountains. An objective that we all can agree is an ongoing important contribution to the continued growth and appeal of our four seasons community. The health and density of the tree canopy within the town is an important natural feature in keeping with our overall appeal.

Wikipedia describes The Town of Thornbury as having been incorporated in 1831 and having tree lined streets, a harbour, an active fishery and facilities for processing of agricultural products. This conception of the Town has continued for over a century except; the loss of the fishery. The trees are an important part of the Town’s unique fabric: its trademarks are the sugar maples lining the significant streets and the Niagara Escarpment within the Town having been former lake edge millennia ago.

The Official Plan underscores the cultural values within the Town at page 15 item numbers 1 & 5 and page 16 item 6 & 12. Further O.P. support policies are found at page 21 items 7, 9, & 10 and page 24 item number 3. In summary the O.P. supports a significant standard of care in considering redevelopment of infrastructure: from active transportation, historical significance, compatibility of neighbourhoods, etc. The Society supports the current Official Plan and underscores the importance of incorporating vigorous provisions to enhance significant historical features of the Town in the update of the Plan.

Concerning infrastructure projects please keep in mind that there are new construction methods for enhancing and preserving “Green” values. The Town may maintain its history but move forward as one of Ontario’s unique communities that embraces new ways of doing things while preserving important assets of the community at large. We cannot have the older parts of town looking like all of our new housing development communities that look like an extension of a Toronto suburb.

Although we are aware of the draft Tree By-law and the work of Tree Trust with the Town of The Blue Mountains, much more needs to be done. We need an overall urban forest policy to protect and enlarge our tree canopy. It is one of the most cost-effective steps that our municipality can take to contribute to its stated “sustainable green objectives”

Yours truly,

On behalf of The Blue Mountains Historical Society
Michael Martin: President