

November 17, 2021

FROM:

CANN (Climate Action Now Network for Town of the Blue Mountains)

RE:

DESTRUCTION OF MATURE TREES IN TOWN OF THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

Greetings Mayor Soever and Members of Council,

We are in the midst of a climate crisis. In 2019, the Town of the Blue Mountains (TOBM) declared a climate emergency. As air and water temperatures continue to rise, there is one kind of carbon capture and storage that has been proven to work: trees. This makes it all the sadder to see the way several century old trees have been treated [REDACTED]. With most of the trees' root systems now destroyed, the trees are likely to die. (Please see attached photos.)











Trees boost biodiversity, create carbon dioxide sinks, and reduce the impacts of climate crisis such as flooding and erosion, all while offering social, economic and environmental benefits.

There has been much time and many dollars spent on the issue of a tree by-law update in TOBM, but so far we have been unable to increase local tree protection.

Many other municipalities, both large and small, have successfully updated their tree by-law to preserve and protect community trees, including our neighbours in the Town of Collingwood. To increase protection of trees in TOBM, CANN proposes that Council immediately adopt a bylaw similar to the attached Collingwood by-law to prohibit and regulate the destruction or injury of trees in our community, on both public and private property.

[https://www.collingwood.ca/sites/default/files/docs/town-services/bylaws/2012-084\\_destruction\\_trees.pdf](https://www.collingwood.ca/sites/default/files/docs/town-services/bylaws/2012-084_destruction_trees.pdf)

We sincerely hope you will vote unanimously on our proposal to adapt an existing local tree by-law already in use. There is no time to waste. We can't replace old trees once they're gone. Until we all use green energy, build green homes, drive green cars, and lead greener lives, trees are one of the few climate crisis fighting tools we've got.

Sincerely,

Climate Action Now Network Town of the Blue Mountains (CANN)

Diana Dolmer, Barry Tatchell, Bonnie Russell, Byron Cook, Christina Sheardown, Elizabeth Brims, Heike Reck, Jack Coulson, Jim Oliver, Lorraine Sutton, Michael Treuman, Pam McDermid, Pete Russell, Rosemary Gosselin, Kim Harris, Sally Leppard