

To The Electorate TOWN of THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

After consulting with numerous Town Mayors and Wardens of Grey County, we the undersigned rise to issue caution to the Electorate of our Corporation, Town of The Blue Mountains.

We see adverse impacts to our social make-up from massive development. Conflicting values, and our ability to manage them, are impacting our society. We see lines being drawn and divides are becoming deeper. Animosity and mistrust abound. We are beating each other up, and destroying ourselves from within. Much of this is being fuelled by misleading and inaccurate information by groups or individuals of special interest. Social media has been less than helpful in this regard.

Be aware there are elements among us which serve to weaken/discredit our Municipal Corporation/Council, as this best advances their agendas.

As we lead up to our election, we find it astonishing the level of misleading and/or non-factual information supplied by some candidates. The negative approach and divisive nature of some platforms are disturbing.

We are dismayed by those candidates who executed the "OPEN LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY FROM THE CANDIDATES". It displays a narrow vision of the job for which they are applying. Related to this matter, recent undertakings by two of those candidates against our Town's position raises serious motive and ethics questions. Some of us have had experience in political workplace harassment issues and know the negative consequences. It isn't pretty! We commend the majority body of our elected council for bringing this distractive matter to conclusion.

Much information regarding our upper-tier County is false and misleading. We are satisfied that Grey County has, and will fulfill its obligations made to us before we approved development. We have had, and are expecting, substantial reinvestment of upper-tier resources. The unfounded negative approach towards our County is not helpful in maintaining and culturing the political relationship necessary to advance our agenda; nor is the ill-informed notion of municipal separation from Grey County.

Our Corporation (Town of The Blue Mountains) is a creature of the Province. It must do what the Province says and it can only do what the Province allows. It cannot be all things to all people (despite the platforms of some Candidates). Our Corporation remains at the pleasure and sole discretion of the Province. It is the responsibility of the Electorate, through its Corporation, to provide effective and efficient government. If we do not do this, and do it well, we are likely to lose the privilege of local governance. The forces to regionalize government are much stronger and closer than you may think. The issue is not separation; it's survival!

As the Electorate of our still young town, we need to follow a different path. One where consensus is reached and conflicts are resolved through truth and trust and not bullying and intimidation. We need to stand behind our Elected Council and support them and Staff. They run our Municipal Corporation and we want it to be successful and enduring. We must mature as an electorate. If we do not do these things forthwith, it is our collective view that our lifespan as a Town is short.

Central to good governance is an elected council whose members are knowledgeable and experienced and can work well together because they have common vision. This is critical to advancing our agenda at the County.

We ask that you give focus to the wider picture, beyond the distractions you are being bombarded with.

On the basis of this, and after considering the political platforms and information supplied by all Candidates, and after consulting with our peers, we respectfully ask that you give every consideration to supporting the following Candidates whom we strongly feel will best represent our interests at Council, at Grey County, at the Province and in all Communities of our Town.

ARDIEL, Gail

BARTNICKI, Odette

POTTER, Rob

URAM, Jim

Respectfully,

ROSS ARTHUR

Former Reeve Collingwood Township
Mayor The Blue Mountains
Grey County Councillor

ROD KNOTT

Former Warden Grey County
Deputy Mayor The Blue Mountains
Councillor Collingwood Township

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