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GRACE UNITED CHURCH
P.O. BOX 219
THORNBURY, ONTARIO N0H2P0

June 9, 2009

RECEIVED
June 10, 2009

Mayor. Ellen Anderson
Town of the Blue Mountains

Dear Mayor

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Board of Trustees of Grace United Church regarding the severance of the manse lot from the Church lot.

First of all, let me say that it has been a pleasure to work with Bryan Pearce on this endeavor. He has done a very effective job.

We have been advised by David Slade (fellow Rotarian) and others that we could challenge the five percent Parks Assessment on the following grounds:

- 1) The creation of the manse lot does not create additional need for parkland as this property has been used for residential purposes since 1901.
- 2) The manse has been taxed as a residence (albeit at a special rate) for many years.
- 3) The church property itself has provided recreational use to the neighbourhood with the basketball nets installed some years ago.

David Slade informs me that the town can assess this Parks fee anywhere from zero to five percent depending on the circumstances. As you are probably aware, our church, like most, runs an annual operating deficit and decided to sell the manse in order to create some interest income to cover a portion of this deficit. This Parks fee will reduce the amount we have left to invest, if and when we are able to sell it.

The word challenge sounds harsh, but any help that you can provide to reduce or eliminate this fee would be most appreciated.

Sincerely,



Terry Blackman, Secretary
Grace United Church Board of Trustees

Finance
cc: Planning +
Buildings