

Corrina Giles

From: Grant Campbell [REDACTED]
Sent: September-24-14 7:33 AM
To: Corrina Giles
Subject: The Lillypad, Grant and Liz Campbell

Attention: Town Councillors

We would like to bring to your attention the difficult situation our business has endured with regards to the Town of the Blue Mountains. In the spring of 2013 we began the process of moving our spa from Club Intrawest to Thornbury, we found the perfect property and began the process of purchasing 69 King Street. Before we made an offer we visited the Town office and asked if this property would be an appropriate location for a spa and the response we received was, "yes, that would be nice and that most definitely fits in with our official plan." Unfortunately we were never advised that such things as, "change of use" would cost upwards of \$9,000.- when this property was zoned commercial and had been used so for many years. With great enthusiasm we began the arduous task of bringing a derelict historic building back to it's original glory. Our intent was to maintain the integrity of this beautiful property and we employed at great expense a designer who respected our vision. Endless hours were devoted to this project, we had committed ourselves 100% to making The Lillypad a world class spa in the heart of Thornbury. Every aspect of the 104 year old house needed repair including a new roof, new wiring, new electric service and taming a wild overgrown yard. Finally the old place was ready to have a new life, the Lillypad was ready to open it's doors just in time for the busy festive season. With great excitement we went to the Town to pick up our Sign Permit. Sadly that was the only easy part, we had many obstacles still to overcome. Frantic meetings with Town Officials brought to light that we were way out of our depth, with no chance of opening in a timely fashion we gave up all hope, staff was laid off, clients were turned away and we contemplated selling our dream and returning to Intrawest. It was at this time that Georgian Planning Solutions came to our aid and enlightened us in all matters that pertained to our case, more money was borrowed and fees of \$9000.- were paid to the Town. Finally we were given a little breathing room and opened our doors on December 24th, 2013. Needless to say all anticipated revenue from Gift Cards and services were non existent. Now we have a planner, a surveyor and an engineer working on an uncomplicated property at huge expense. Nonetheless we persevered and created a well respected business that provides a service well needed and appreciated in Thornbury, many clients from Intrawest and beyond visit the Lillypad and spend money in our community. We employ ten people that live and pay taxes here. This represents a positive business model that should be applauded instead of penalized. Currently we are struggling with a town By Law that requires us to pave our driveway and parking area. Unfortunately after incurring expenses for engineering, permits and planners at roughly \$25,000.- we can't begin to get financing for the projected paving cost of \$34,000.-, let alone posting a bond to cover such expenses. Collectively that would put a \$93,000 burden on a new business in it's first 9 months of being open! Is this the town being open for business, we think not. The property sits on at least 6 feet of gravel, drainage is ideal and there is no risk of any flooding.. The Mill Pond Development beside us borders our property on our high sides and captures it's storm water. The Lillypad plans on further beautification of our property, we have an engineered plan for the future that includes concrete pavers. Our business prides itself on being a green spa so asphalt can in no way be part of our plan even though it is a more affordable option. At this time we feel accessibility should take precedence over paving. Many small businesses in our community have gravel lots and this is, and should always be part of our rural charm.

To summarize we have complied with all the Town's requirements to date. The Lillypad follows the mandates of the BIA and the Chamber of Commerce and fits into the Official Plan. At this point in time we are asking for relief from paving and the monetary commitment that entails.

Thank you for your consideration
 Grant & Liz Campbell
 2 Attachments

Preview attachment dads phone 642.jpg



dads phone 642.jpg

Preview attachment dads phone 643.jpg





