

Good Afternoon Madam Chair, Mayor McKean and Councillors. My name is Vivienne Alper and I am a resident of Thornbury.

It is a wonderful time – it looks as if the final draft of the new Sign Bylaw is in hand and the end is in sight. But before that happens I wish on behalf of the Community to express special thanks to Bob Waind, Chair of the Sign Bylaw Committee, as well as all the Members of the Committee for generously allowing us to attend their meetings and to have input into their discussions. Jim Dymant must be mentioned for his vision reflected in the original draft and amendments made to the earlier versions. Many thanks too must also go to Michael Benner who both suggested and made changes to the numerous drafts (is this number 7 or 8 ?) reflecting the recommendations of the Sign Bylaw Committee and the Community. And last, but never least, is our Mayor and Councillors who have reinforced our desire to keep the look of Thornbury and Clarksburg as charming as we would wish it, as well to be in accordance with the new Design Guidelines for the Blue Mountains.

Our wish now is that variances only be considered when adherence to the Bylaws would create undue hardship, and that variances formerly given not be used as precedents. And if, down the road, a proposal for the fee for variances were to be increased, please know it would have the support of the Community.

I recall the first meeting I attended regarding the sign bylaws and the wish of Council not to be dealing with requests for variances. We believe this new bylaw gives the business community clearer bylaws to what had formerly existed, and new commercial ventures the knowledge of appropriate signage in our Town.

In closing I would like to express the thanks of the public and our Community for our inclusion in this process. It has been challenging and fascinating to be able to have input into something of which I formerly had no knowledge. We believe, and we hope you do too, that the inclusion of the public has been extremely worthwhile, and perhaps could be used as a template for other situations our Town faces.

Once again, our thanks to everyone.
November 28, 2016