Dear Mr. Everitt,

RE: Parking Plan for Visitors near Parks

We are writing in response to the September 30th Council Meeting motion to develop an implementation plan for controlled parking for visitors.

We welcome the attention to this matter and would like to offer our perspectives as it relates to the areas surrounding Bayview Park. We would also like to offer our support for the current parking bylaw that designates Bay Street East (between McAuley and Elgin streets) as a no parking zone. This stretch of Bay Street serves as a much-loved promenade for young families with strollers, elderly residents, cyclists of all ages and dog walkers. Parking along this stretch seriously limits the safety of these pedestrians and cyclists and creates a virtual one-way flow of vehicular traffic.

Bayview Park is a remarkable public space in the Town of Blue Mountains serving as a well-used and much appreciated park for local families, employers, church groups, youth camps and recreation enthusiasts.

Better communication of allowable parking spaces, in addition to the “paid parking for visitors” proposal being developed would assist local residents and visitors to find a spot to park.

We would also encourage Town Council to consider reviewing guidelines for acceptable uses and rental agreements of Bayview Park, which directly impact the volume of people and vehicles accessing the Park. This review would be timely to ensure that the Park continues to serve the local outdoor and recreation needs of the Thornbury community, while preserving the pristine beauty and original design as a community and family-friendly park.
There are several areas that might be worthy of broader review, including:

- Confirming acceptable uses and rental agreements such as family picnics and reunions, local employer events, weddings, etc.
- Including a fee for cleanup costs
- Limiting scale of events to those that are proportional to the infrastructure available to support these events (parking, public washrooms)
- Communicating parking options to facilitate access to the Park (designated spaces including at each end of the Park and town parking lots)

We would also recommend that the Park should not be available for rental by commercial enterprises who plan to conduct business operations in the park, or licensed events, as these kind of gatherings take away from the original design and intention to be community-accessible and family-friendly.

We appreciate the opportunity to share our views and look forward to hearing further updates on these matters.

Submitted by,

Sandra Banks & James Matthews