February 14, 2020

Warden, Members of County Council
Grey County
595 9th Avenue East
Owen Sound, ON
N4K 3E3

Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Members of Council
Town of the Blue Mountains
32 Mill St, PO Box 310
Thornbury, Ontario N0H 2P0

Dear Warden, Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and Members of Council

RE: GTDI Development Moratorium Response

The Georgian Triangle Development Institute (GTDI) is a non-profit organization representing the Development Industry within the South Georgian Bay Region. Our membership has joined together for almost three decades to uphold and support the economic, social, cultural and recreational aspirations of the region.

Our members have been key in driving significant components of our regional economy, through the jobs we provide, and the infrastructure, commercial buildings, homes, recreational amenities, and community facilities that we design, build, and manage. There is no person, resident or visitor, of the communities of Meaford, The Blue Mountains, Collingwood, Wasaga Beach, or Clearview whose lives have not been improved by the work of our members.

I am writing this letter in response to the alarming calls for a moratorium on development that have been made recently. Our membership is equally concerned as our fellow citizens and elected officials with the critically important issues of: attainable, accessible and appropriate housing for all; environmental and economic sustainability; exceptional school facilities; and adequate infrastructure. However, suggesting that putting a stop to development will create more favourable conditions for infrastructure investment and the building of new schools is demonstrably false. Positive actions to effectively address these important community challenges could include: strategically mobilizing the extensive existing municipal infrastructure reserve funds; driving efficiencies and certainty in new infrastructure programs; and, supporting the kind of smart growth that makes schools viable and funds investment in community facilities.
Freezing development activity, will at best maintain the status quo, reduce the amount of infrastructure and public facilities being built, raise risks of significant economic upheaval, and negatively impact the livability and sustainability of our communities. We encourage elected officials and community members to work with us to solve these pressing issues and forgo considerations of misdirected reflexive actions.

Now is the time for bold leadership, collaboration and well-thought-out actionable solutions. The GTDI looks forward to working together with you and all the community stakeholders moving forward.

Robert Voigt, RPP, MCIP
President, GTDI

CC: Kim Wingrove, Grey County CAO;
    Shawn Everitt, Town of The Blue Mountains CAO;
    GTDI Members
Dear Town of the Blue Mountains Council:

As frequent and very appreciative users of the Craigleith Depot branch of the library and of the many activities and services provided by the Craigleith Depot, we want you to know how very important and valuable this facility is to us and many other Craigleith residents.

We urge Council to expedite it reopening and provide full support for its continuing operation.

Sincerely
Mary & Barrie Lennox
Sleepy Hollow Road
Blue Mountains, ON  L9Y 0S8
February 13, 2020

To:

The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario,
The Honourable Ernie Hardeman, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs,
The Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing,
Andrea Horwath, Leader of the New Democratic Party of Ontario,
John Fraser, Interim Leader of the Liberal Party of Ontario,
Mike Schreiner, Leader of the Green Party of Ontario,
Monte McNaughton, MPP, Middlesex-Kent;
Association of Municipalities of Ontario; and
Ontario municipalities

RE: Southwest Middlesex Resolution regarding Government Bill 156

Please be advised that at its February 12, 2020 meeting, the Council of the Municipality of Southwest Middlesex passed the following resolution regarding Bill 156, Security from Trespass and Protecting Food Safety Act, 2019:

Moved by Councillor McGill
Seconded by Councillor Cowell

Whereas the Provincial Government of Ontario is considering Bill 156, Security from Trespass and Protecting Food Safety Act, 2019; and

Whereas Bill 156 is intended to protect farms, farm operations, and food safety and security by addressing unwanted trespassing; and

Whereas Ontario farmers are increasingly under threat of unwanted trespassers who are illegally entering property, barns and buildings, and safety of drivers of motor vehicles transporting farm animals which threatens the health and safety of the farm, employees, livestock and crops; and
Whereas additional protection for the agri-food industry to protect the security of the food chain, the farm owners, family and employees is the purpose of the Security from Trespass and Protecting Food Safety Act, 2019; and

Whereas unwanted trespassing occurs on all types of farm operations, including grain farmers, which has the potential to impact the safety and security of people and the food chain;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That the Municipality of Southwest Middlesex supports the intent of Bill 156 and requests that the Province of Ontario expanding Bill 156 to identify and include protections against trespass for grain farm operations; and

That a copy of this Motion be sent to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, The Honourable Ernie Hardeman, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, the Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Andrea Horwath, Leader of the New Democratic Party of Ontario, John Fraser, Interim Leader of the Liberal Party of Ontario, Mike Schreiner, Leader of the Green Party of Ontario, and Monte McNaughton, MPP, Middlesex-Kent; and

That a copy of this motion be sent to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and Ontario municipalities.

Carried
Hello Tim Hendry,

Mountain Goat Film Company Inc. is currently producing a documentary film on The Blue Mountains infrastructure.

I am writing to official media access to all Town Council meetings. As such we wish to record digital video with our own cameras and sound recording devices, with a stipulation to not show any members of the public.

I am also writing to request interviews with all current members of council, a planning and development representative, a roads department representative and a parks and recreation representative. We can set up individual interview sessions to accommodate each members/representatives schedule and would seek 15-20 minutes for each interview. This can be conducted at town hall.

I look forward to hearing back.

Tom Strnad

Producer
Mountain Goat Film Company Inc.
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www.facebook.com/MGFC.ca
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