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November 5, 2019

To Town Clerk, Mayor Soever, Deputy Mayor Bartnicki and Members of Council

I would like to take this opportunity to discuss the decision made by council on October 21, 2019, with regards to the future construction of sidewalks in the Town of the Blue Mountains, more particularly in Thornbury on Alice St West.

Active Transportation is an important topic of discussion, and a plan that needs to be implemented to ensure a healthy and active community. I support the growth of sidewalks in our town in the sense that we need to focus our efforts to ensure that all residents receive sidewalk service. This needs to happen before other residents receive double sidewalk service. As an example, Duncan St does not have any sidewalks. Would it not make sense that those residents receive a single sidewalk before the residents of Alice St receive two? A sidewalk along Duncan St would connect that street community to both Victoria St and Bruce St, both of which lead to the Downtown core and the Bay.

The Orchard Park Community, Blue Bay Community, Apple Jack & Far Hills are a few other communities within the town of Thornbury who currently have no sidewalk service. Sidewalk development within those areas would connect them to existing sidewalks, providing them with a safe means of transportation around our small town. This would provide those particular residents with a safe means of transportation towards the Bay and Downtown core.

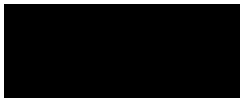
While on this note of healthy living, let us take a moment to think of our youth in the community. There are many parks within the town of Thornbury that have no sidewalk service. Families may feel more inclined to take their children to the parks, or allow the older ones to go on their own, if we had a more connected sidewalk service surrounding these particular areas. The money allocated towards doubling up on sidewalks could be spent elsewhere in our small town to once again, provide a more connected sidewalk service.

Sidewalks require maintenance and snow removal. Both of these are vital to the safe movement of residents throughout our town and all of the Blue Mountains Communities. Both of these also come at a cost. Our Roads Department does a fantastic job with the resources they are given. However, with a budget that only allows for the rebuilding of sidewalks in disarray at a rate of 1km every 3 years, presents a challenge. There are many sidewalks that need repairs within Thornbury and Clarksburg alone. Active Transportation comes to halt in some of our communities over the winter months as those sidewalks are not maintained from November 1 to April 30. For 6 months of the year, some sidewalks are not maintained at all for the residents to use.

We live in a small town that is growing quickly. Services are important for the growth of our town and the happiness of our residents. Does that small town feel mean more hardscapes and less green spaces? Is that small town feel destroying the older parts of town to make them look more urban? Do we really need to change the feel of our older neighbourhoods by adding in double sidewalks? If newer developments like Snowbridge and Windfall only have a single sidewalk, why does our older area of Thornbury need double on all streets?

Please reconsider your decision to provide double sidewalks on all streets. Let us work together to first get all streets connected with a single sidewalk, and once that is completed, let us then consider doubling up. If the Town is challenged now with the maintenance of the existing sidewalks, and then the addition of getting all streets connected, what will happen when streets are doubled up with sidewalks?

Thank you for your time.
Greatly appreciated.



Sarah Clarke



Photos from TBM Website

Town Tour

Let us take a moment to take a quick digital tour of just Thornbury.

We will look at the North/South Streets
Victoria, Elma & Bruce

Then we will look at the East/West Streets
Duncan, Napier, Alfred, Alice, Louisa, Arthur, King, Huron & Lakeshore

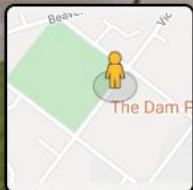


Victoria St S

The Blue Mountains, Ontario

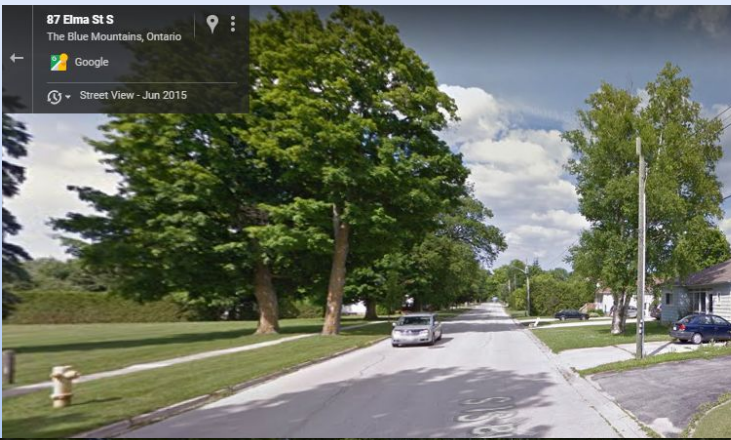


Street View - Jun 2015



Google







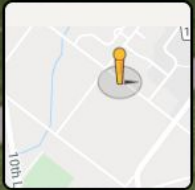




62 Napier St W
The Blue Mountains, Ontario



Street View - Jun 2015



Google

New Development







68 ON-26

The Blue Mountains, Ontario



Google

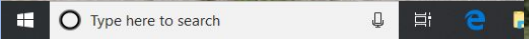
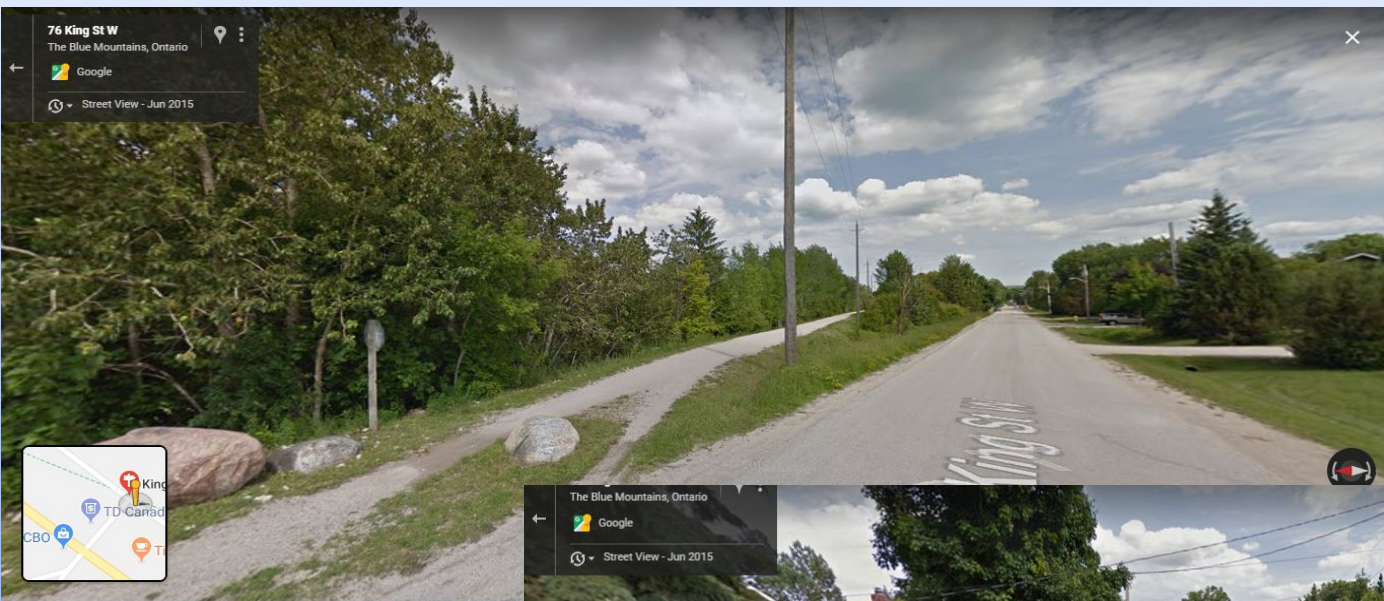


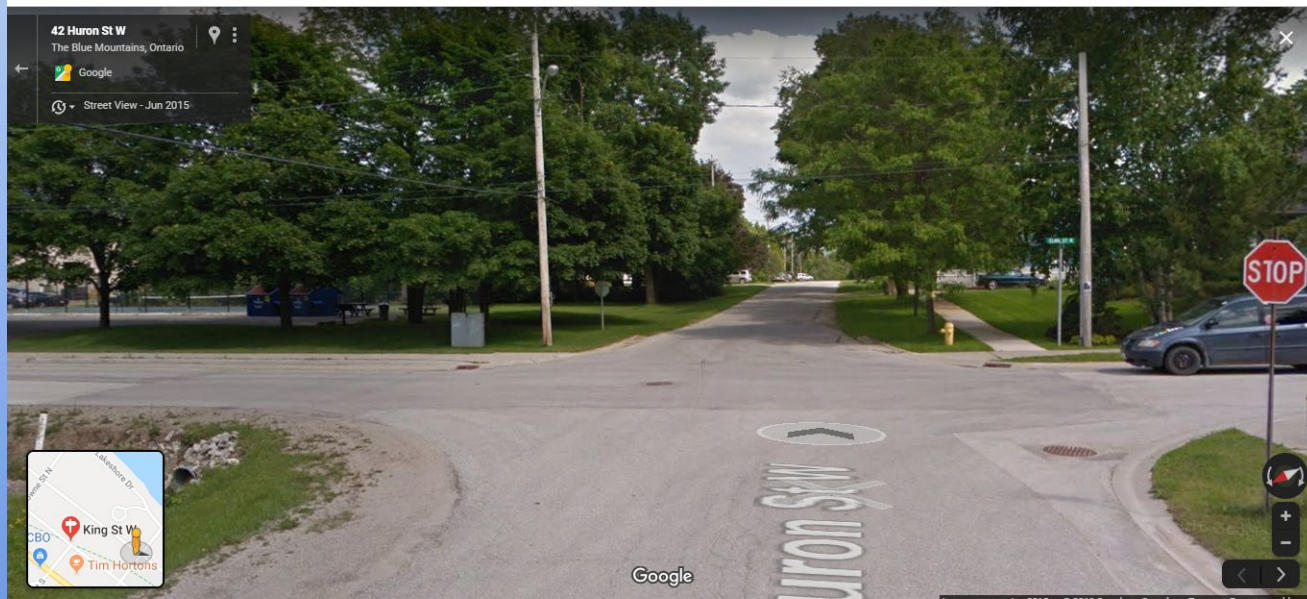
Street View - Jun 2018



Google









What did we see?

North/ South Streets

Double Sidewalks on Bruce, parts of Elma, and very little at all on Victoria

Move the residents safely towards the Downtown Core and the Bay

Double Sidewalks make more sense and seem reasonable

East/West Streets

Generally one sidewalk on the North Side

Quiet Residential Streets

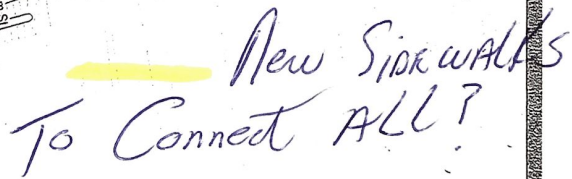
Double Sidewalks are unnecessary

What is missing?

Connectivity for Flow of Foot Traffic

In Thornbury alone, there are many communities that have no sidewalks connecting them to the main North/South roads.

Should the focus first be on joining all communities before we start to double up service on quiet, old neighbourhood streets?



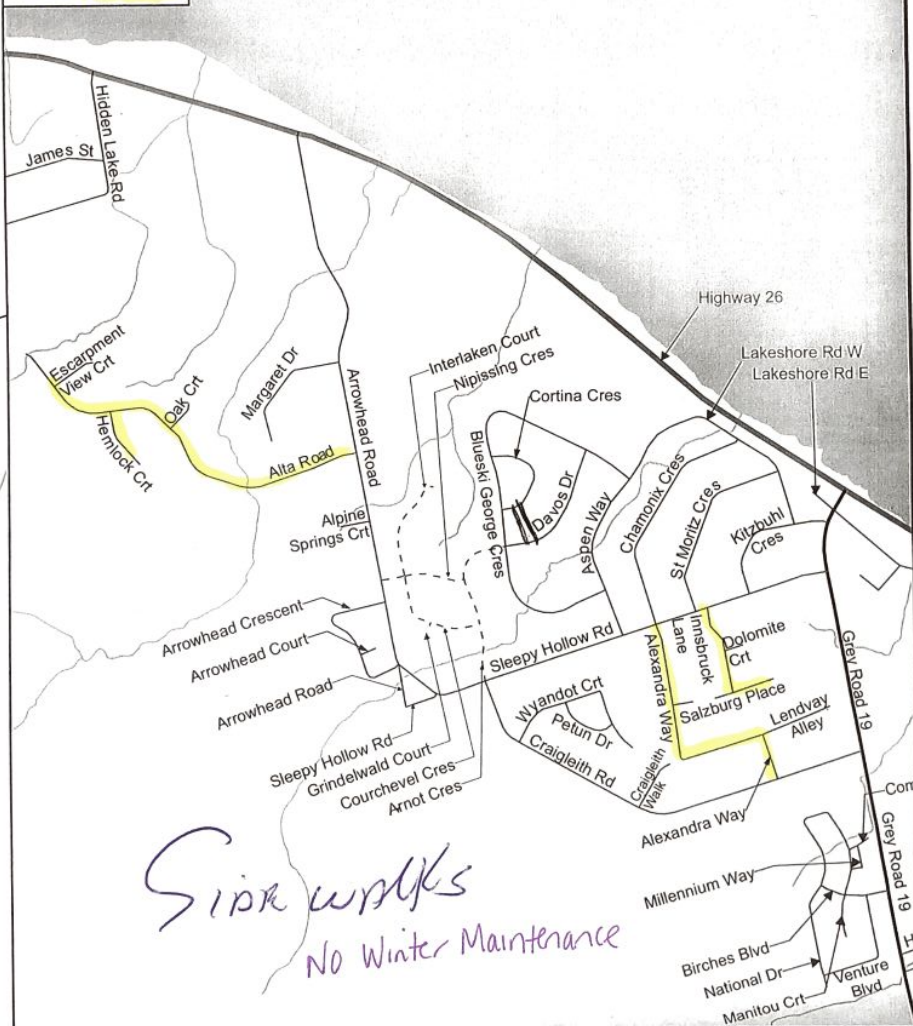
Other Areas of the Town of the Blue Mountains

Craigleith has many orphaned sidewalks.
These are sidewalks that do not lead to any main arteries.

New developments like Windfall and Snowbridge have only **one** sidewalk.

The Town does not maintain any of the sidewalks in Craigleith over the winter months.
Blue Mountain Resort clears the sidewalks around the village, Snowbridge and
Fairway, as seen on the map.

CRAIGLEITH



SWISS MEADOWS

SIDE WALKS

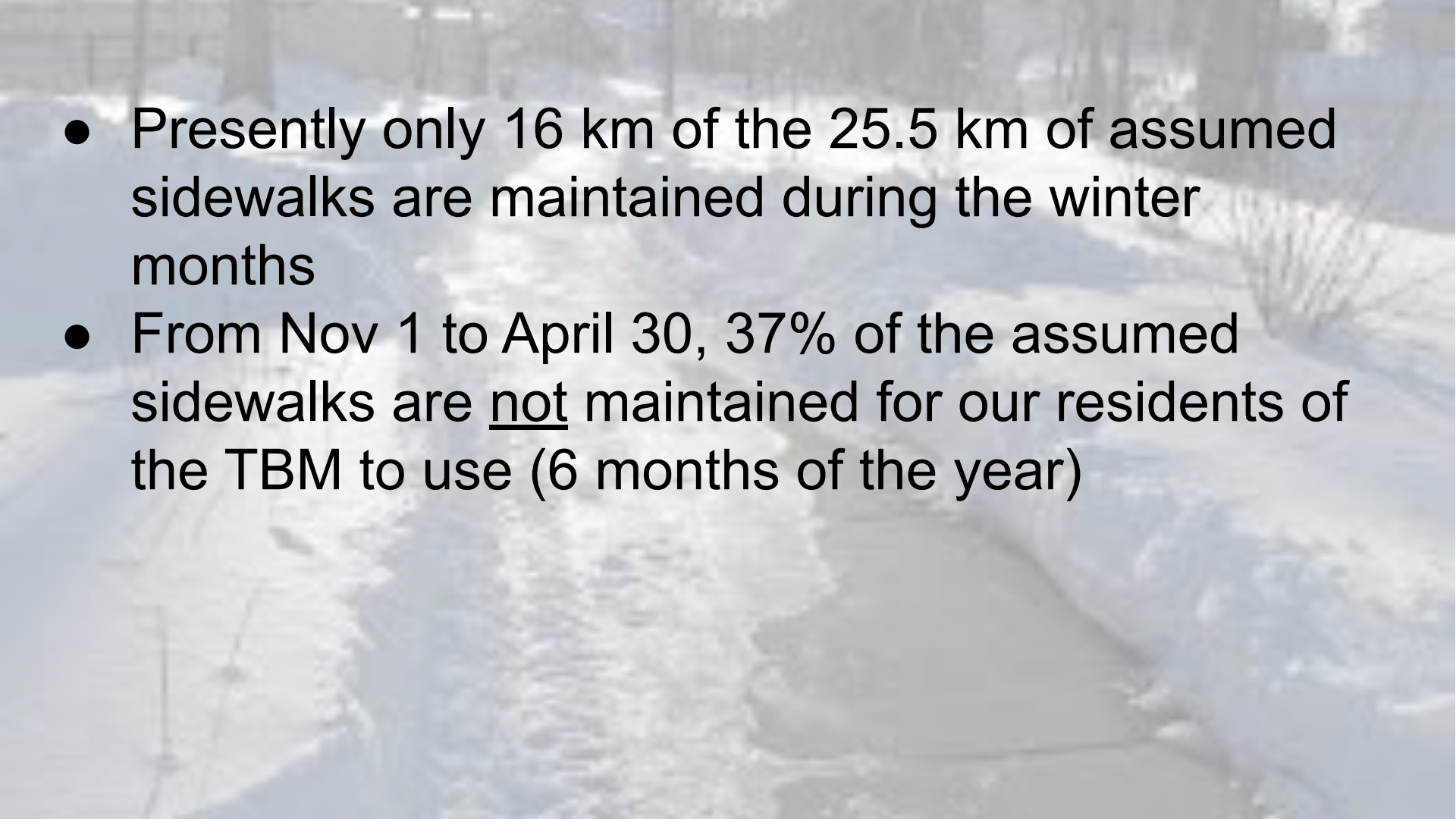
SIDE WALKS

Placed by Blue Mountain Resort

Blue Mountain Road

FACTS

- Presently TBM has 25.5 km of assumed sidewalk
- The Roads Department has \$10 000/year for Sidewalk Maintenance (Trip Hazard Repair & Tree limb removal)
- Once every 3 years, they have \$250 000 to use towards replacing 1 km of existing sidewalk
- Presently, under these conditions, it would take 75 years to ensure the sidewalks are in a safe condition for our residents - and that is with just the amount of existing sidewalks to date

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- Presently only 16 km of the 25.5 km of assumed sidewalks are maintained during the winter months
 - From Nov 1 to April 30, 37% of the assumed sidewalks are not maintained for our residents of the TBM to use (6 months of the year)

Deep Dive: Infrastructure, boulevards Sidewalk

OPTIONS

- *No sidewalk*
- ***Sidewalk on one side, extra wide where possible***
- *Sidewalk on both sides*

SIDEWALK LOCATION

- *Behind curb*
- ***Separated from curb by boulevard***
- *As part of driving lane (painted separation)*

MATERIAL

- *Gravel (does not meet accessibility requirements)*
- *Asphalt*
- ***Concrete***

Level of Service Workshop
September 25, 2017

No town studies have been completed with regards to pedestrian traffic to warrant two sidewalks on Alice St W.

“During two site visits by Tatham Engineering staff, excessive numbers of pedestrians were not evident”

Oct 7, 2019, Committee of the Whole

“Mayor Soever questioned if the sidewalk alignment considers the existing trees, Allan replying no, that the sidewalk will have a **straight alignment.**”

Special Committee of the Whole Meeting, July 8, 2019



As we increase the number of sidewalks in the Town of the Blue Mountains:

- The risk and liability increases
- The cost of maintenance increases over time
- The number of yearly inspections and repair work increases
- The cost of snow removal increases
- The monies in Reserves will need to increase for sidewalk replacement

Will the Town Budget be able to support
unwarranted sidewalks?



Hundreds of kilometres of Toronto roads lack sidewalks, and lots of people like it that way

By [Ben Spurr](#) Transportation Reporter

Sat., July 20, 2019 timer7 min. read

“Its (Humber Valley Neighbourhood) quiet winding streets slope up and down gentle hills, and are lined with leafy trees and stately old houses. But there’s something else about the neighbourhood that gives it a distinct pastoral feel: its residential streets are among the 800 km of local roads in Toronto that don’t have sidewalks.”

Let us upgrade and service all residents before making major changes to the character of old neighbourhoods.

Why are double sidewalks in the final design for Alice St W., when there are so many neighbourhoods with no sidewalks or connecting sidewalks?

Let's address connectivity/linkages issues of our walking routes.

Thank you!