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To: Community Communications Advisory Committee
Date: 19 August 2020
Re: **Support for the Blue Mountains Review newsletter**

I am writing to ask that the Community Communications Advisory Committee include the Review in its development of a Strategic Communications Plan for evolving community engagement.

In recent years Ontario has seen an alarming decrease in community newspapers either due to lack of local funding or part of larger newspapers acquisitions and then cancellations. A vital role in our democratic tradition, local newspapers provide a source of community events, municipal issues and opinions for and against current subjects.

As an example, the July edition of the Review contained the following items;

- Town news on Landfill hours and the Pilot Parking Project
- Robert Burcher stories on Tree Trust.ca and the Grey and Gold Cidery
- Blue Mountains Library programs
- Events for Life program
- Opinion piece
- Obituaries
- Blue Mountains Ratepayers update on Sustainable Growth
- Council Highlights
- Bluewater School Board plans for school openings
- Greenbelt Foundation activity update
- Lobsterfest fundraising event results
- Gardening advice

This reflects a wide variety of subjects of interest to the residents of the Town of the Blue Mountains.

I would like to encourage the Committee to provide whatever support possible to include the Review in your Communications strategy to ensure that it continues to provide an important communications linkage to the community. Let us stand apart from all the other Ontario towns who have lost their local newspaper.

Sincerely,

John Corrigan
Resident of Thornbury