



Protecting our Ecosystem

FEBRUARY 2020

The Blue Mountain Watershed Trust is a 25-year-old registered environmental charity based in Collingwood. We have no paid staff and rely on membership fees, donations and our own fundraising initiatives in order to operate.

Our mission is to protect and encourage responsible stewardship of the Blue Mountain Watershed ecosystem through direct action, advocacy and education.

Some of the things we do:

- Monitor development applications and encourage a broad interpretation of regulations and policies for protection of sensitive environments such as woodlands, wetlands, and natural spaces, including protection of species at risk
- Support biodiversity and oppose harmful invasive species
- Run an environmental education program in local schools
- Hold public outreach events to educate the public on the value of wetlands and watercourses
- Lobby for better provincial legislation to reverse the loss of biodiversity through stronger protection of the natural environment
- Encourage municipal Planners to go beyond the protection provided by provincial policies
- Support effective tree conservation by-laws and tree planting programs

The specific actions we can take together as a Town to achieve Sustainable Development goal #11 and build a thriving community:

- Do everything possible to combat the ideology of “business as usual” at the expense of the environment. Current examples include proposals for: reduction in roles of Conservation Authorities, Species at Risk Act, Niagara Escarpment Commission functions, threats to the Provincial Policy Statement etc.
- Stop equating “Thriving” with growth. Stability and the equal distribution of prosperity are much more important
- Support local, national and international efforts to address climate change. Locally, we promote increasing tree canopy, protecting the waterfront, not developing flood-prone areas, resisting ecologically unsustainable population growth, etc.
- Support progressive waste management practices, including the elimination of single-use plastic water bottles, disposable cups, etc.