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RE Attainable Housing

To the Mayor and Members of Council,

Thank you for your work on attainable housing. As a 6th generation resident in the Beaver Valley, I am so thankful to this council for their focus on this vital topic.

I currently live with my family as my husband, baby, and I are unable to find housing we can afford, even with two full-time professional incomes. We love living here and being close to family. That is going to change as we can't afford to purchase our first home or rent in the Town of the Blue Mountains and have had to look progressively farther away.

I wish more action towards attainable housing had been taken earlier so I would have had an option of raising my child in my home town. We cannot wait until this project is done so we have made the very difficult decision to move outside of the Town of the Blue Mountains. This will add other strains on our finances as we will be farther from family and friends who generously support us with child care.

I want to thank Councillor Sampson for his comments in the September 3rd edition of the *Collingwood Today* regarding the attainable housing project. I have watched the progress of this project with hope that I might be able to benefit. I appreciate that Councillor Sampson and the Blue Mountains Attainable Housing Corporation are seeking the voices of people who would live in the housing. I also appreciate the acknowledgement that this demographic has been unable to live in the town, and the attempt to reach out past the limits of the municipality.

A healthy, thriving community needs a wide spectrum of people and demographics in order to grow culturally and economically. I hope the Blue Mountains Attainable Housing Corporation continues to seek innovative ways to meet the housing needs of a wide variety of citizens throughout the many stages of life. As I watch my parents age, I hope they will have attainable options for staying in their town where their support systems, friends, and family are. I also hope the same for the support systems, friends, and family of my parents.

With warm regards,
Caroline Araujo Abbotts