



Blue Mountain Ratepayers Association

Grey County 2020 Budget Deputation

February 7, 2020

Why we are here today

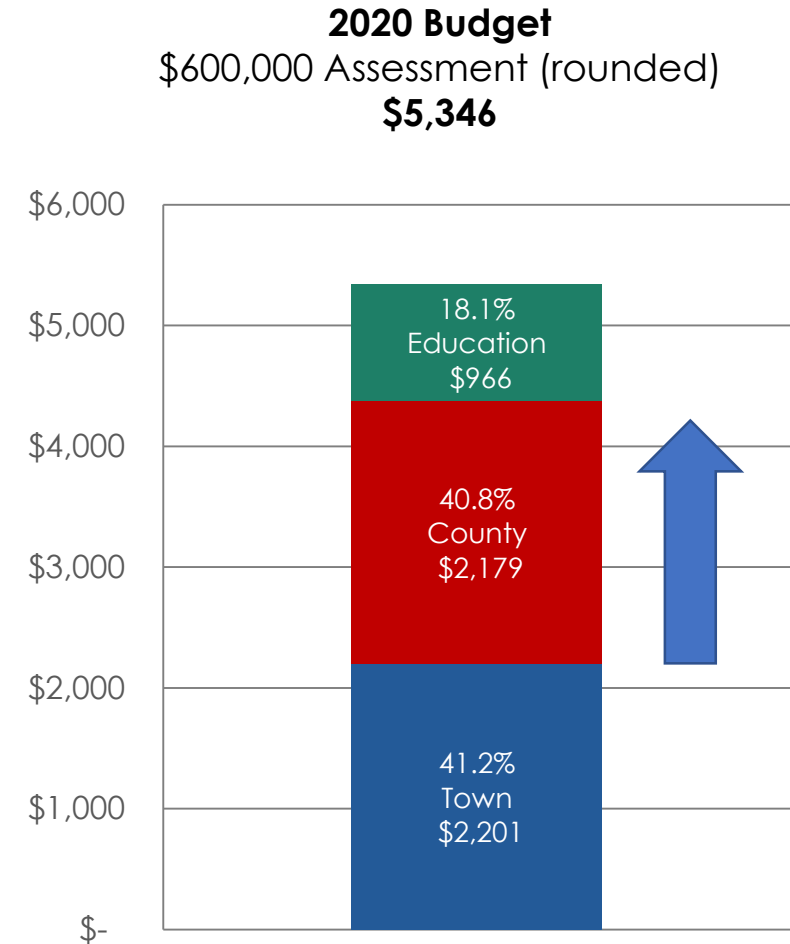
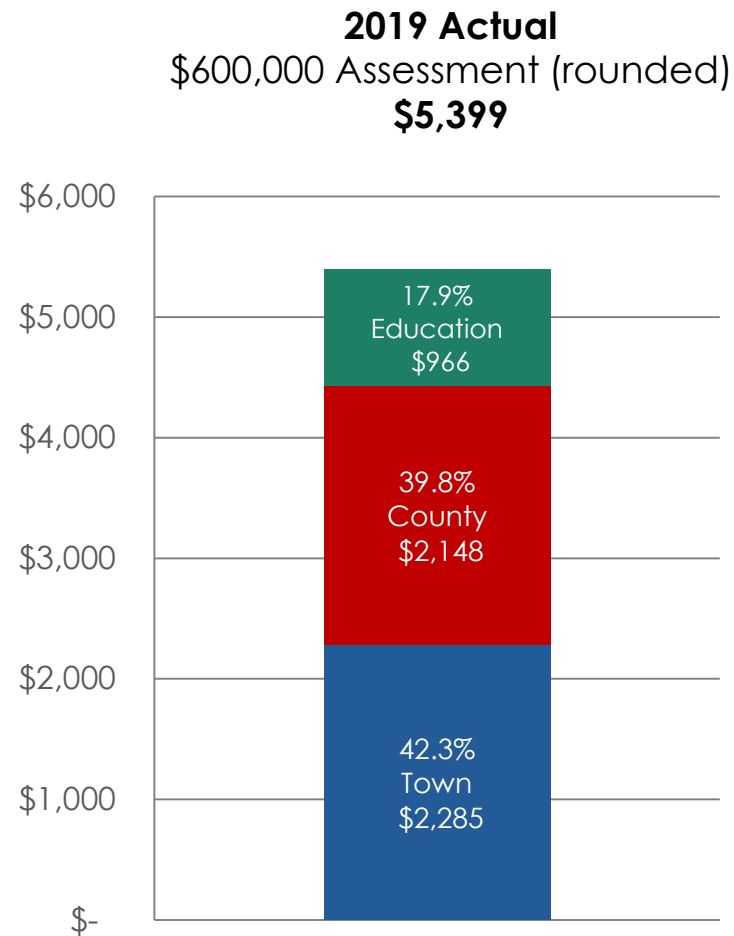
- BMRA serves an advocacy role with all local governance bodies and their staff on behalf of our ratepayers to ensure and enhance our community's quality of life
- Our association has a reach of over 1,000 TBM residents
- We are stewards of our members' tax contributions
 - 40% + of our municipal taxes currently go to the County – and this portion has been, and likely will continue to rise

The Top Priorities Identified for TBM

- Feedback from a survey with our ratepayers revealed:
 1. Maintaining our quality of life – Sustainable Growth, which necessitates delivering the required infrastructure
 2. Ensuring financial transparency and accountability
 3. Achieving fair value / efficient and logical service delivery from all levels of government including the County

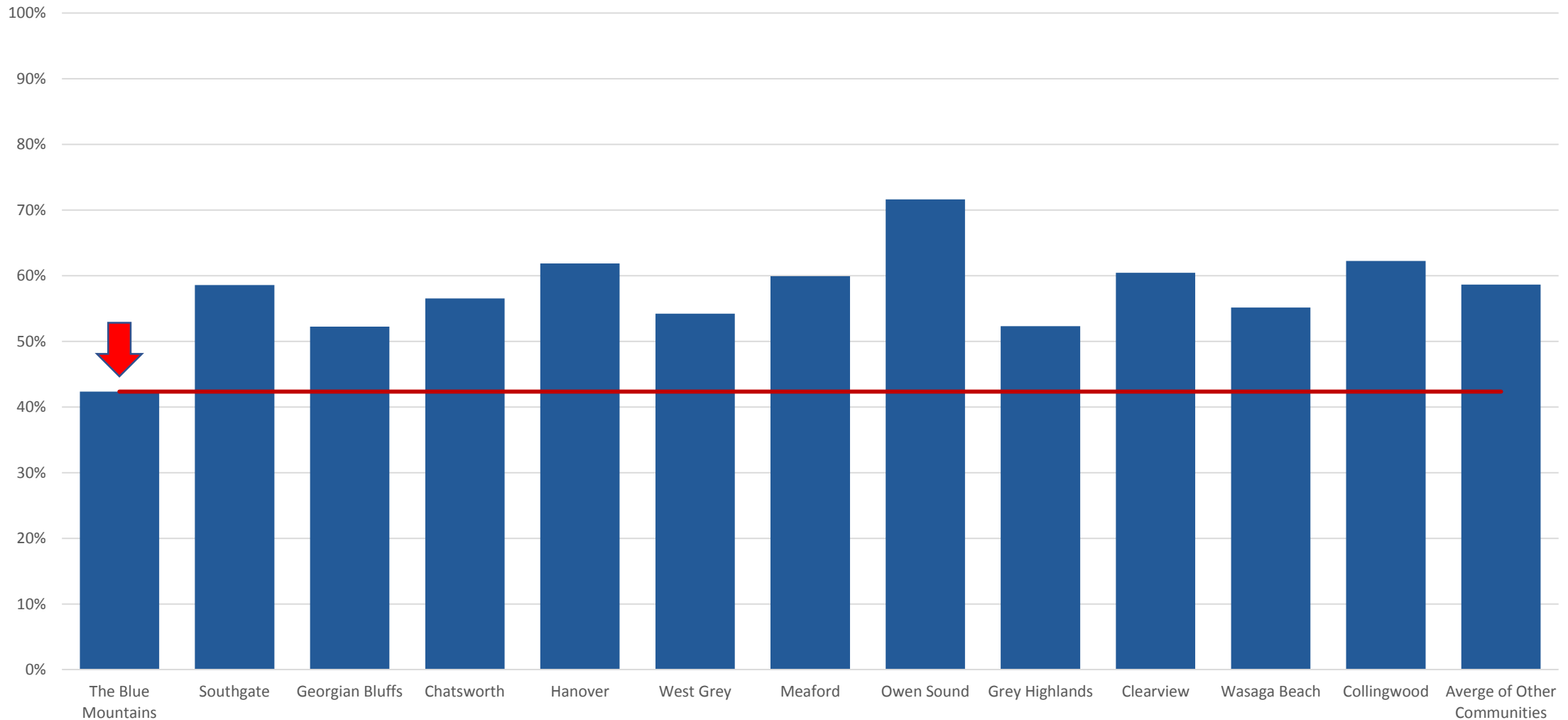
Average TBM Residential Property Tax Bill

The following charts illustrate the average residential property tax bill for 2019 and 2020, based on an assessment of \$600,000, and is broken down between Town, Education, and County.



Percentage of Property Taxes Retained at Lower Tier Level

The following chart illustrates how much property taxes each surrounding municipality retains for its own use from all property taxes collected. Due to the high assessment value within the Town of The Blue Mountains, only 42% of all property taxes collected are retained by the Town, which has been falling, versus an average of 59% and growing by all other municipalities shown. This is based off of 2019 tax rates and Statistics Canada average value.



County of Grey Development Charges Collections and Capital Expenditures – 2014 - 2018

While we recognize not all County DC collections raised in this period have been spent, the gap between \$ collected from, and invested in TBM is significant

Collected from TBM		County Expenditures in TBM
2014	\$284,461	0
2015	\$444,822	0
2016	\$854,209	\$52,639
2017	\$1,663,264	\$889,695
2018	\$1,303,456	0
4 YR TOTAL	\$4,550,212	\$942,334 / 21%

This flashes a warning sign to TBM residents that we have not been receiving the necessary County reinvestment of our contributions, particularly in roads and related works, to support our growth

Questions we want to table to determine how County tax \$ are being managed and allocated

1. Provincial efficiency grant – how has it been applied, what efficiencies are being pursued? What will be the target savings to be achieved from any expenditure of these monies?
 - Other Counties seem to be actively pursuing new approaches

Story Reported in [Simcoe.ca](#) re Simcoe County Efforts to Pursue More Efficient Operations

While the province's regional governance review fizzled out, the County of Simcoe is still looking at ways to find savings.

On Tuesday, county council took the next step in the process by voting to hire third-party consultants to look into streamlining fire services, land-use planning (Official Plans and zoning) and library services across the County of Simcoe. The county will also be using their own staff to investigate possible efficiencies in storm-water management, legal services, transit, water and wastewater.

"The intent of this is to look at every angle and every opportunity and, at the end of the day, several of these items may come forward with a 'Made in Simcoe County' solution. We're looking for solutions," said Wasaga Beach Mayor Nina Bifulchi, who serves as the chair of the county's Service Delivery Task Force.

TBM has been utilizing its grant to pursue operational efficiencies in a variety of areas

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2. The Draft 2020 County Budget projected increases between 3 - 5% for major spending categories
 - Corporate Services + 4.5 %
 - Planning and Community Development + 3.0 %
 - Social Services + 4.8 %
 - Transportation and Public Safety + 4.9 %

 - **TOTAL FUNDING REQUIRED + 4.73 %, with an inflation rate of about 1.5%**

Is this spending increase level being driven by need or increases in assessment and potential revenue?

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3. There seems to be no information related to sources and uses of revenue by municipality
 - How has the funding been trending for all municipalities?
 - Of new assessment \$ – key to limiting tax increases – how has that been generated across municipalities?
 - We do know that of the \$1,847,857 in total 2019 County assessment growth, 64.5% has come from TBM
 - Has the impact of county operational spending by municipality been calculated?
 - What is the projected capital spend by municipality, and how is that prioritized, and decided upon?

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4. Long Term Care Facilities

– we have insufficient capacity, and demand in Grey is only going to grow

- Has a per bed cost comparison with other providers (including municipal providers) been performed to get a handle on our operating efficiency?
- What are the plans for additional capacity in our catchment area (highest projected bed shortage in the County)?
- Have any partnerships with other private and public sector providers been considered to achieve operational savings through increasing numbers of beds?

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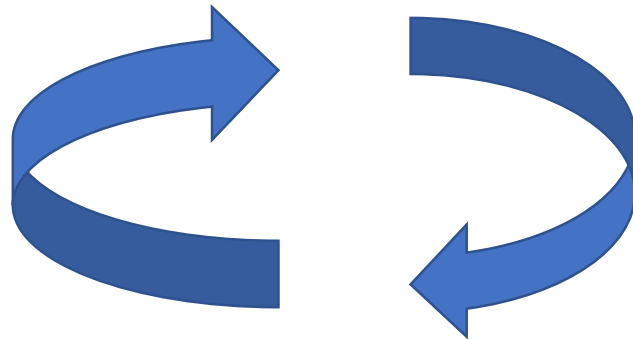
5. SWIFT

- Review of project financials revealed that a number of Counties have received rebates on their contributions, but not Grey – has Grey not requested rebate on fees like other Counties, or have we not qualified for some reason in spite of no additional service being provided in our area?
- Have any projects been confirmed for implementation in Grey?
- What measures are in place to ensure financial accountability of SWIFT considering the significant amount of public funds being expended?

In Closing, the Messages from BMRA We Want to Register

- In a time of continuing Provincial funding pressures , there needs to be a shared commitment to finding efficiencies across all levels of governments including the County
- Town of Blue Mountains requires investment to ensure that our growth is sustainable, and fair contribution from the County is needed to make that happen
- We believe that by taking a coordinated approach, ensuring that all municipalities receive the support they require, the County as a whole benefits

A Fair Level of Reinvestment in TBM of our Tax Contribution to the County helps ensure our growth is sustainable



TBM Sustainable Growth Delivers Greater Funding to Grey County (60% of increased 2019 assessments)

We want to initiate a dialogue and conduct related analysis with relevant County personnel to further explore some of the issues we have raised