Georgian Bluffs Climate Action Team (CAT)

Backgrounder:
- Group of neighbours met in December 2019 to discuss climate action specific to Georgian Bluffs.
- Inspired by locally-made documentary Resilience: Transforming our Community
- Release of Georgian Bluffs Strategic Plan containing section on “environmental leadership” was seen as an invitation to discuss specific outcomes and targets.

Mission Statement (to be confirmed):

The Georgian Bluffs Advantage:
In short: Regeneration & protection of “carbon sinks” such as wetlands, forests, and healthy soil. These are the most effective efforts we can make as residents of Georgian Bluffs in order to make a positive impact on the climate crisis. If we can help family farms thrive and become more climate-resilient in the process, if we can promote the value of wetlands & forests and how they capture our emissions, and if we can link with other rural townships regionally, Georgian Bluffs can make a difference and contribute to regeneration of the earth.

Membership:
Although GBcat does not (yet) have a formal membership, around 75 people have been consistently involved in our meetings, presentations and other activities. As more sub committees get established and our visibility increases, we expect this number to double by mid 2021.

Accomplishments so far:
- “Virtual” screening of Resilience documentary
- Letters of support from Georgian Bluffs groups
- Youth Climate Contest
- Participation and outreach has not been hampered by covid-19

Purpose (what we wish to achieve)
To be part of a Council/Community Member Climate Action Committee endorsed by Council. Such a committee would integrate climate change-related activities into the Strategic Plan, and to support implementation of recommendations.

General objectives in presenting to council:
To determine, in practical terms, how we will collaborate:

- Propose a mandate for an advisory committee:
  o Clarify roles and responsibilities between the Council, Grey County, and our group
  o Determine the frequency of interaction and in what modalities
- Generate a list of ideas and actions that are:
  o linked to the Strategic Plan
within control of the Municipality
- either have no cost or fit within existing budgets or, alternatively, work with the Council to access additional funds to implement objectives if needed (source out grant options, public fund raising, use of reserve funds etc.)
- forward looking with a focus on mitigation, as opposed to management, of climate change related impacts

- Prioritise actions by taking the following approach:
  1. Low-hanging fruit (to generate momentum)
  2. Projects that have a start and an end (utilise SMART goals)
  3. Important long-term projects that may be open-ended (and therefore require more political will)

- Ensure that suggested actions are implemented as intended:
  - Determine the process by which suggested actions can be adopted by the Council
  - Determine when a project can be declared “completed” to celebrate milestones.
  - Determine the frequency by which the Council reports on progress related to accepted suggestions
  - Establish relations with local media and put in place a media plan to celebrate successes.