February 13, 2020

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

Kemble Women’s Institute (KWI) has been advocating for the needs of Home and Country for over 121 years in the Kemble Community. Some of our members are 4th generation WI members.

Our Vision and Values include safe, healthy communities for women living in rural and small town Ontario. As such, we experience daily the impact of climate change and see many examples of its effects in our community. The lake water levels are the highest in history, and the erosion and damage from the waves is unprecedented. Storms and winds have broken and destroyed many trees in our community. The fauna of our rural community is disappearing and losing its food sources and habitat. Where are our bees?

We support the Georgian Bluffs Residents Group request that the Township of Georgian Bluffs Council acknowledge the serious impacts of climate change as declared by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and that it take action as a municipality to both mitigate our carbon footprint and adapt a plan for our community.

Municipalities bear much of the financial damage associated with climate change. Climate Change is mitigated by effectively reducing GHG emissions and we must act at a local level to contribute to the global effort. Forward planning and community engagement is necessary. Public health and safety is a local issue.

We are distressed that Owen Sound City Council has voted to delay the hiring of a Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Coordinator. This person will now not likely be in place for the review of the City’s Official Plan and Strategic Plans this summer. This is NOT a step forward in looking at Climate Change impact in our community.

Dianne Carlson
President
on behalf of Kemble Women's Institute

CC: Kemble Women’s Institute Members: Cory McQuigge, Lorraine Rutherford, Claire Stitt, Connie Morris, Lois Horton, Beth Graham, Ruth Waite, Dorothy McLeod, Roseanne Judge, Freda Henry, Kay Clarke, Elaine Wallace, Frankie Misner, Sandy Houlgrave, Pam Wilson