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Stop gives piece of mind

To the Editor,

In response to Mr. Fournier's letter regarding the four way stop at the intersection of McDonald Blvd. and Division St. I will agree that sometimes the town needs to say "no" to requests for studies. The town could save money and talk to the people in the area that may be directly impacted by the change.

I myself am directly affected by this change. However, I am not one of the "vocal few". I use this intersection between 15 and 20 times per week, both in my vehicle and walking with my wife and infant son. On more than a few occasions I have observed residents drive "slow and safe" through this intersection like it is the final corner of the Indy.

Travelling south on Division and attempting to enter this intersection used to be a game of Russian roulette, with the west bound traffic.

Continued on page 11



FOUR WAY STOP: The corner of McDonald Blvd. and Division St. was recently made into a four way stop, sparking some discussion. More letters here on the subject.

Letters

Four way stop necessary

To the Editor,

I am writing in response to the letter submitted by Jason Fournier on August 28 regarding the new four way stop at McDonald and Division. My husband and I are two of the "vocal few" who have been requesting a four way stop at this intersection and I would like to respond to some of the comments Mr. Fournier made in his letter. First of

all, McDonald Blvd. does not have stop signs every few hundred metres. There were no other stop signs in place on McDonald Blvd., which is about 1/2 a kilometer long.

Second, what the traffic studies done at this intersection do not take into account is how difficult it was to see oncoming cars during the winter when the snow banks are high and when cars are parked along the Blvd. obstructing the driver's and pedestrian's view. Many of our neighbours have had close calls because of these obstructions and the horizontal curve east of the intersection. Even if the majority of cars are doing the speed limit, any driver trying to turn left from Division onto McDonald is almost blind to oncoming traffic.

Lastly, and the main reason the residents of this neighbourhood have been trying to get a four way stop installed at this intersection, is because of our children. While a collision between two cars at 50 km an hour may not cause substantial injuries to the occupants, a child hit at this speed

would be seriously injured or killed. I am very happy that we did not have to wait until a tragedy occurred before the city decided to install the four way stop.

The staff who installed this four way stop did an excellent job of making the new stop signs visible to oncoming traffic. If any drivers are not complying with the stop signs, they are either going to fast or not paying attention. I will be teaching my children that even though there is a four way stop, they will still need to wait until they are sure the cars have stopped before they cross. I hope that the drivers will take more care, especially in residential areas, to ensure they are driving safely and alertly.

I would also like to thank Mr. Bonnette for his help with this issue. I am very proud to have a mayor that takes the time to listen to his residents and makes decisions based on individual situations and not just on traffic studies.

Sincerely,
Yvonne and Steve
Halfyard
Cc: Rick Bonnette,
Mayor

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