

Outlook on Halton Hills

Council compromises on speed limit reduction

A 91-name petition asking the town to reduce the 80 kilometre an hour speed limit on the Tenth Line between Steeles Avenue and Sideroad 5 met with some success Monday.

Despite a staff report which recommended that the speed limit not be reduced, council voted to decrease the limit by ten kilometres an hour to 70 kilometres for the stretch of road which has 50 houses.

Residents had asked for the speed limit to be dropped to 60 kilometres.

A report by town Operations Engineer Ted Drewlo said the accident rate for that stretch of road is 21 per cent higher than the average rate. But the accident incidence is "not significantly greater than the average expectancy. The number or types of accidents should not be expected to decrease with a lower speed limit," the report said.

The stretch of road is straight and relatively level, said Mr. Drewlo.

He did recommend a hidden driveway sign for one of the driveways which doesn't meet provincial sight line requirements.

There have only been two accidents on that stretch of land in the past five years, said Mr. Drewlo. One involved a snowmobile crossing the road and the other involved a car backing out of a driveway.

Mr. Drewlo said the increased traffic on that portion of the Tenth Line might be attributed to the construction taking place on Steeles Avenue near the Eighth Line.

The Town's General Committee voted not to invoke the lower speed limit last week but council overturned that decision Monday.

"It's a very serious thing when 50 people along a stretch of road are concerned about their safety," said Coun. Norm Elliott.

But Coun. Hewitt said all the roads

in the rural area are 80 kph and lowering the speed limit on this stretch of road "is not going to solve the problem."

Coun. Elliott argued that motorists will always speed but they will reduce their speed a bit of the speed limit is reduced.

People are not going to continue to drive at 95 kilometres in a 60 kilometre an hour zone, he said.

If the speed limit was not reduced then the town would have "neglected the concern of 50 ratepayers," he said.

Coun. Al Cook said reducing the speed limit against the scientific recommendation of the staff study would be "a political thing and not basing it on facts."

"It may be a political issue but it never bothered me to be accused of being political," replied Coun. Pam Sheldon.

She reminded councillors that the population in the rural ward is greater than the population in any one of the other wards.

Town, hydro swap property

The town and Halton Hills Hydro are going to trade properties.

Earlier this year the Hydro Commission announced its intentions to close up its Georgetown office on Mill Street and move the entire operation to its Acton yard which can be expanded.

Hydro intends to sell the Georgetown building to pay for some of the expansion costs in Acton.

The town was interested in parking facilities at the Georgetown Hydro offices and Hydro needed to acquire lands surrounding its Acton yard for expansion.

So the two sides are simply going to swap deeds.

That will ensure that the parking facilities at the Georgetown Hydro building will be maintained and Hydro can expand in Acton.

Hydro will still sell off the building in Georgetown to raise money for its Acton expansion.

"It's an excellent deal for both parties," said Municipally Owned Property Committee Chairman Pam Sheldon.

Local merchants were worried about the loss of parking space in Georgetown, she said.

Ambassador visits Tickets still available

Tickets are still available for the Chamber of Commerce Dinner Tuesday, April 19, which will feature US Ambassador Thomas Niles as guest speaker.

At 2 p.m., Ambassador Niles will address students and staff of Georgetown District High School.

At 7 p.m., he will be special guest for the Chamber's Annual Spring Dinner at the North Halton Golf and Country Club on Maple Avenue.

The Ambassador will be speaking on the unique relationship between Canada and the United States, which have the longest undefended border in the world. He will also speak on the Free Trade deal.

For tickets, call Doug Penrice of the Chamber, at 877-7119.



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By Glenda Hughes, Sales Rep. 873-0300

What a wonderful boost it was last weekend, to be treated to "almost" summer weather. It brought droves of people outside to get started on trimming up their shrubs, raking their lawns and fertilizing for new green growth. As I travelled along the streets, I could hardly believe my eyes at the hive of activity that took place in our lovely town. Preparing your lawns and gardens early is well worth the effort, and doubly so, if you are planning on selling.

Even though this market is great for the sellers, I think it always pays to have your property looking its very best. Despite the lack of homes on the market, buyers are still influenced by the curb appeal of a home, and one that looks well cared for, will sell faster than the neglected home. Most people look at eye appealing homes, before they look elsewhere. A case in point this past week, was the happy sale of a lovely home in Moore Park that I introduced my clients to. This home had been beautifully cared for, outside as well as in. The landscaping and exterior of the home spoke volumes of what was inside. It was not a large home, but it was so pretty that I think it was almost sold before we went inside the door. What a joy it is to show this type of home!

The end result, of course, was that my clients bought a home that they can just move into, enjoy the work that was already done for them, and the vendors of this home are pleased that they had a fast sale and got their money out of their improvements. It was a very happy sale for everyone, and it can be just as rewarding for anyone else if they take the time to do the little things that mean so much, to their home. Being house proud will benefit your pocket book in the end!

If you have any questions about what to do, give your favorite real estate agent a call and ask for some advice. We are always more than happy to help you make some decisions and obtain the highest possible selling price for your home.

Green lawns can mean green backs in your pocket and happy smiles on your face. I love to see those smiles!

Homes Sold Creatively

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Bank of Montreal	9%	9%	10%	9%	10%	10%	10%	11	11%
Canada Trust		9%		9%	10%	10%	10%	11	11%
C.I.B.C.	9%	9%	10%	9%	10%	10%	10%	11	
T.D. Bank	9%		9%	10%	9%	10%	10%	11	
Royal Bank	9%	9%	10%	9%	10%	10%	10%	11	

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