

Speed cushions return to Eaton St.

By **LISA TALLYN**
Staff Writer

The speed cushions are back on Eaton St. Halton Hills council voted to reinstall the cushions at a recent meeting after hearing from Eaton St. resident Laura April who requested they be put back in, despite a recommendation by Town staff not to reinstall them.

The cushions were being installed yesterday (Thursday), said Chris Mills, the Town's Director of Infrastructure Services and Town Engineer.

In its report to council Town staff recommended that the traffic calming cushions not be reinstated because a survey of residents on the street didn't meet the minimum acceptance rate to put them back in based on a protocol for implementation of traffic calming measures set by the Town back in 2007. Under that protocol, 60 per cent of the households in the study area must return the survey, and there must be a 60 per cent acceptance rate to install the speed cushions.

The residents of the area were surveyed by the Town this year, 100 of 213 surveys were returned, and the results were 50 wanted the cushions put back in, and 50 didn't.

In its report to Council, Town staff said

the speed cushions improved the livability of the neighbourhood, there were reductions in both speed and cut-through traffic on the street, and that technical data fully supported they be used on the street.

April said the survey results were "inaccurate and incomplete," and she knew of at least eight households that didn't receive the survey.

Wards 3/4 Regional Councillor Jane Fogal said "Every effort was made to get them to every house," adding what likely happened is people didn't take notice of them and threw them away. She put forward an amendment to the staff recommendation, changing it from not reinstalling the speed cushions, to installing them.

"I don't think it should be a vote (by the residents). It seems to be an abdication of our responsibility," said Fogal. "We're here to look at safety." She said the speed cushions clearly provided a safer street.

Ward 4 Councillor Bob Inglis said he would support re-installing the cushions as they reduced speeding and volume of traffic on the street.

Ward 4 Councillor John Duncan also said he would support the re-installation and that only a small majority of residents on the street don't want them put back in.

End of an era for Clark-owned licensing office

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Soler said employees of the current licence office who applied for a job in the new ServiceOntario office have received an offer of employment. He said four employees of the current office will be working in the new office.

Dave Clark, who has operated the Georgetown Driver Vehicle Licence Issuing Office since 1983, took over the business from his mother Beatrice Clark who opened the Georgetown office in 1950.

"We've done a good job of serving Georgetown for 60 years," said Clark.

He said he wasn't planning to close the Georgetown office. "It's been a second gen-

eration business that I was expecting would be a third generation business (run by his son)," said Clark.

Clark said the MTO terminated the contracts of 274 private licence office operators effective Jan. 31, however he was given a six-month extension.

"I was shocked they would terminate the contracts of the private licence issuer network across the province because they have been doing the job for over 100 years at a cost of about four cents on the dollar," said Clark.

"After terminating my contract, I'm going out of business because they would not give me a contract I could sign," said Clark.

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