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Residents on Erin-Halton border renew road safety concerns

By **Graeme Frisque**
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A five-year-old road safety debate on the Erin-Halton border in Ballinafad has resurfaced.

A group of residents living on Wellington Road #42, also known as 32nd Side Road, have renewed calls for increased road safety measures after they say the same concerns issued to authorities in 2011 fell on deaf ears.

Copies of the letter have been sent to various stakeholders including councils in Erin and Halton Hills, as well as the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) and Halton Police.

This letter is written today to inform you that our original concerns remain, and in fact are growing and are in need of immediate attention, writes the group.

In the original communication to you, community residents asserted through a signed petition that traffic speed and enforcement on this route was a top priority and this letter is to advise you that it remains a top priority today, they added.

According to one of those concerned residents, Cara Knibbs, the stretch of road in question is at the tail end of a residential area where the speed limit transitions from 50 km/h to 80 km/h.

People just fly through here and we're noticing way more big trucks now. What's happening here is that it's a transition from 50 to 80 and people are only stopping when they have to break for the stop sign, said Knibbs, adding more than 100 people signed the original petition in 2011.

Knibbs said residents were happy with the original response from local politicians

and police after the concerns were first raised more than five years ago. She said an increased police presence and flashing radar speed sign.

There was only one problem. She says those measures were only in place for about a week and then everything went back to normal.

We are writing again because this issue has not gone away. It remains an active and growing concern in this community and we implore those of you in decision-making positions to take action before a tragic incident occurs, reads the letter.

As such, some of those residents plan to bring the issue back to local councils in person in the New Year with the same recommendations, which include:

- That a flashing speed sign be installed to remind not to accelerate until they enter the 80 km zone.
- That extra-large 50 km signs be posted instead of the existing small signs.
- That speed bumps be installed.
- That the word SLOW be painted on the pavement within the 50 km zone to bring attention to the posted speed limit.
- The installation of sidewalks for pedestrian traffic.

These measures are essential to ensuring the safety of anyone using this stretch of road on foot, bike, stroller or with an assistive mobility device, reads the letter.

As previously recommended to the Towns of Erin and Halton Hills and Wellington County; to the police units servicing this area, and to the MPP representing this area, this community needs a permanent solution to ensure the safety of our residents, it adds.



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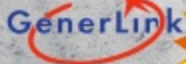


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