

Hwy. 7 resident fights against property shoulder parking

By Eamonn Maher
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A family who resides on Hwy. 7 in Halton Hills beside a Tim Hortons' restaurant is threatening legal action if concerns about traffic at the intersection of 22 Sideroad aren't addressed.

Steve Attard says that ever since a Tim Hortons' outlet located inside an Esso station opened next to his home early last year, he's had several confrontations with tractor trailer drivers who stop in on the shoulder of the road front of his driveway in order to purchase something at the restaurant.

He added that "my blood pressure has gone through the roof" worrying about the safety of his wife Cathy and their six children as they have had difficulty pulling out onto Hwy. 7, which has a posted speed limit of 80 km/h, because of the parked trucks.

"The Town and the MTO are ultimately responsible for putting us in harm's way," said Attard, who asserted that he's lived at that address for 17 years prior to the Tim Hortons' open-

ing without any traffic problems.

"They gave Tim Hortons and Esso this permit that didn't take into consideration my family whatsoever. We pay a big chunk of taxes to the Town and part of my taxes should go towards protecting us from dangerous situations. They threw us under the bus."

Halton Regional Police have responded to complaints numerous times at the location, Attard claimed, and says there have been serious motor vehicle collisions at the intersection, but he's had little response from the Town or the MTO about the issue.

Currently, several orange traffic pylons are situated along the shoulder of Hwy. 7 and that both the HRPS and OPP have been instructed to enforce the no-stopping zone by handing out tickets.

But Attard isn't satisfied with the measures and believes there could be an engineering option to prevent the trucks from stopping there.

The final straw for Attard came this summer when his daughter Kaitlyn looked out the front window of their home to see a truck driver urinating

against a fence in the driveway.

He said the incident caused him to erect a nine-foot wooden fence surrounding his property at a cost of \$20,000 and noted he's had to fork out another \$6,800 in order to put the pylons on the shoulder of the road.

What Attard is asking for is that some sort of physical barrier or curb be installed to the south side of his property that would prevent the trucks from stopping, but the MTO said in an email that any such structure could create other safety concerns.

"The ministry is aware of the issue and has placed 'No Stopping' signs in front of the commercial establishments to prevent vehicles from parking along Highway 7," said MTO spokesperson Ajay Woozageer.

"We have looked into the issue of placing possible physical options such as barrier posts, but it would create a greater safety hazard for vehicles exiting during the winter should there be snow banks."

Attard has hired a Toronto law firm to address the matter and sent letters to the parties involved, but has



The Attards say that trucks parked on the shoulder along that stretch of the highway make trying to pull out into traffic difficult and often times dangerous. Left photo: From left, Cathy Berardicurti, daughter Kate Attard, Steve Attard and son Arron Attard are recently pictured outside their home and the giant fence erected for their safety and privacy on Hwy. 7 at 22 Sideroad.

Photos by Eamonn Maher

concluded that filing a lawsuit is the only way to show the family is serious about getting some sort of solution.

Town of Halton Hills Commissioner of Planning & Infrastructure Service Chris Mills explained that the application for the project went through a site plan, which means the use of the property was already permitted under Commercial 1 designation and didn't need to go through a public process. The property did re-

quire an MTO Building and Land Use Permit, which was granted.

"The development is legally there. I can understand how (Attard)

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