

HALTON HILLS TO CONTINUE ALLOWING BOULEVARD PARKING – FOR NOW

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Halton Hills council voted to continue to allow boulevard parking until a permanent solution can be found.

Council directed town staff to continue to look into boulevard parking at Feb. 11 council meeting. The review is expected to be completed in the spring, at which point recommendations will be made to council.

The issue arose due to numerous complaints from residents about the number of vehicles parked on residential boulevards. Parking control officers responded to the complaints and began ticketing vehicles parked on boulevards.

Residents who said they had been parking on the boulevard for years, wondered why they were suddenly receiving tickets. Due to the number of complaints from residents being ticketed, council called an emergency meeting Jan. 14 when they approved temporary allowances for parking on boulevards.

Those same conditions will now be continued. Under those conditions the vehicle must be:

- parked on the paved portion of the boulevard with all tires fully on the hard surface;
- parked fully on the hard surface between the sidewalk and the edge of the curb/road;
- facing the direction of traffic if parked parallel to

the road;

- parked within the boundaries of the home's projected property line.

Council did add one more condition, saying that fire hydrants and above ground utilities must be unobstructed and readily available for use at all times.

The town will continue to ticket vehicles parked on the boulevard that hang over the sidewalk or the edge of the curb/road, that are parked on the landscaped portion of the boulevard, that interfere with snow plowing efforts, or are parked less than 30 metres from an intersection.

While one resident, Frank Sirianni, said the town had addressed his concerns with the allowance, Debra Holloway said parking will continue to be problematic in the Dominion Gardens subdivision where she lives. Even with the allowances, she said she can't find parking within walking distance of her home and has been getting rides to her car.

Holloway said because of the narrow, shared driveways in the subdivision, in most cases it is not possible to keep all four tires on the paved surface when parking on the boulevard without partially blocking the neighbour's driveway.

There is 12-hour parking on the street, but Holloway said there are only 8-10 spaces for a subdivision of 200 homes.

The town does provide 14 parking spaces in Dominion

Gardens Park reserved for permit holders, allowing them to park from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. Holloway submitted her name for a permit in June, but there are five people ahead of her on a waiting list.

Holloway said due to the design of the townhouses in the subdivision, some vehicles don't fit in the garages, and if a car does fit, there is no room for a lawn mower or even garbage and recycling bins.

Councillor Jane Fogal said the Dominion Gardens subdivision is a unique case because of the size of the garages.

"There still are some people out there who can't find enough parking, largely in those subdivisions that were built before we realized there was a problem with the size of the garages," she said. "Dominion Gardens still has a problem and I think we should work with staff to try to find a solution."

Fogal said the town has since changed the standard for garage sizes and townhouse developments built since Dominion Gardens have not encountered the same parking issues.

Holloway made a number of suggestions, including a permanent exception for boulevard parking in Dominion Gardens, similar to the one on Mountainview Road; allowing parking on Dominion Gardens Drive with a permit; and allocating more spaces in Dominion Gardens Park.

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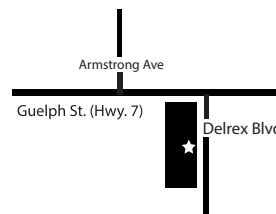
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