

# RESIDENTS PUSHING FOR SILENCE AT TRAFALGAR TRAIN CROSSING

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North Georgetown residents fed up by increasing train noise in their neighbourhood are calling for the horns to be silenced at a nearby crossing.

At issue is the line that crosses Trafalgar Road near Lindsay Court - a track facing the home of Don and Susan Gordon that's being used by a growing number of trains. With more traffic comes more noise, and the local couple has had enough.

"It's those horn-happy engineers," said Susan. "There are some that start (blowing their horns) a kilometre from the crossing and lean on it until they're right through this area. I

**THE QUESTION:** CAN TRAIN WHISTLES BE STOPPED AT THE REQUEST OF RESIDENTS?

**THE CONCLUSION:** YES, THERE IS A WHISTLE CESSATION PROCESS THE MUNICIPALITY CAN INITIATE WITH METROLINX, INCLUDING A SAFETY ASSESSMENT AND POTENTIAL SAFETY-RELATED IMPROVEMENTS.

thought, I have to do something. It's getting ridiculous."

The Gordons started reaching out to local politicians about the issue and also circulated a letter to others in the neighbourhood encouraging them to do the same.

Don suffers from Parkinson's disease, which makes it difficult for him to get a good night's sleep at

the best of times.

"If they pound on that horn three times, it definitely wakes me up," he said. "With Parkinson's, you really don't want to wake up in the middle of the night because it's hard to get back to sleep."

The loud horns also impact their ability to open windows in nice weather, entertain guests outdoors and enjoy their yard, said



Melanie Hennessey/Torstar

Don and Susan Gordon have grown weary of the noise coming from the train line, which runs atop the berm pictured through their north Georgetown neighbourhood, and are demanding action on the matter.

Susan.

So what can be done? According to Metrolinx, it's up to the municipality to initiate the train whistle cessation process.

"Municipalities have the option to eliminate whistling at specific crossings if they feel that would better

reflect their communities' priorities," explained spokesperson Nitish Bissonauth.

With Trafalgar Road being a regional road, the jurisdiction for this process falls to Halton, which is responding to residents' concerns. Public works com-

missioner Jim Harnum told the Independent that the region is conducting a safety assessment at the Trafalgar Road and Lindsay Court crossing this month.

This process will evaluate a variety of factors, he explained, including: existing conditions of the rail line and crossing, warning systems, current and future rail and vehicle traffic, sightlines of approaching and departing trains from the rail crossing, train speeds, adjacent land uses, existing traffic warning signs and pavement markings, along with evidence of trespassing activity on the rail line.

"Results are expected to be available within several weeks and will indicate whether a whistle exemption is warranted," he said. "Based on the results of the assessment, Halton Region would work directly with Metrolinx to determine what safety-related im-

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