

Aggressive driving to be targeted

SUBMITTED BY NASSAGAWEYA COMMUNITY CONSULTATION COMMITTEE

The Nassagaweya Community Consultation Committee (C.C.C.) will hold a public meeting 7:30 PM, May 12, at the Nassagaweya Community Centre, Brookville, to introduce the Community Road Watch Program. The goal is to improve road safety in Nassagaweya by targeting aggressive driving habits through community awareness, driver education and police enforcement, thereby lowering the rate of traffic accidents and fatalities.

A special report form has been prepared that the concerned citizen will use to record license number, vehicle description, and the aggressive driving observed, such as following too closely, failure to stop for signs and red lights, failing to yield, and excessive speed. The identity of the person submitting the report is known only to the police, who will contact the vehicle owner by letter or phone to issue a caution and to encourage the driver to drive more safely. Serious incidents reported can result in further police action, and if trouble spots are identified a project of enforcement can be applied to these areas.

The Road Watch Program was started in Caledon and

introduced in Halton Hills last year. In both cases the program has been successful. To date, in Halton Hills, over 317 reports have been followed up with positive results. A citizen volunteer from the C.C.C. handles much of the paperwork and details, under an oath of secrecy.

The Nassagaweya C.C.C. was initiated about eight years ago as part of the community policing policy of the Halton Regional Police Service. The committee is run by volunteers with the participation of a town councillor and the police. Public safety concerns of the community can, in most cases, be resolved by working with the appropriate local authorities.

The most frequent, and ongoing, public concern relates to road safety. This is why the Committee is pleased to introduce the Road Watch Program in their area which covers the northern rural part of Milton, Campbellville, south to Derry Road and east to Tremaine Road: roughly the boundaries of the former township of Nassagaweya. Citizens participating in the Road Watch Program will now have an opportunity to make a positive contribution to reduce aggressive driving.

Ashgrove Women's Institute

Agriculture in the Classroom

BY BETTY BROWNRIDGE
SOUTH ESQUESING

The March meeting was held at the home of Pat Stark on March 17 at 1:00 p.m. Dessert and beverage was served by the lunch committee.

The president, Gwen Brander called the meeting to order. We opened with the Mary Stewart Collect and the Institute Ode. The roll call was answered by telling a sign farmers use to predict weather. Members turned in craft items that were donated to the Erland Lee Home for sale.

Isabel Carney gave a reading on "Weather". It was from an address by Henry Hengeveld at the Wellington Federation of Agriculture. He had used graphs and statistics to explain the effects of global warming. He touched on El Nino and its effects on ocean currents and North American weather.

Muriel McClure introduced the guest speaker, Austin Carpenter. He is the 4-H coordinator for Halton. His topic was "Agricultural Education in the Classroom".

Austin spent considerable time on a farm in his childhood. After graduating from McGill University with B.S.C Agriculture, he worked for a feed company. In 1970 he was asked to teach a high school science course at Mayfield Secondary School. He was disturbed when he realized how little understanding many students have about where their food comes from.

Part of teaching training does not involve specific subject matter, and as a result some teachers may not feel

fully qualified to teach a subject matter such as agriculture.

Austin told us how he had taken a group of eighteen teachers, one Professional Development Day, on an all day tour of farms in Peel County. These farms included a one man dairy operation, an incorporated family dairy farm and Maple Lodge Farms Ltd., where the group toured the whole processing procedure. It was quite a learning experience for them.

Georgetown Fair started an Agricultural Awareness Program for grade three students in Georgetown. It began in a tent 40 ft. by 30 ft. and in 1998 it will be housed in a tent 60 ft. by 120 ft. This program is operated as a classroom setting. Each student spends two hours, with 15 minutes allotted to each of eight stations. These include for example a working bee hive enclosed in glass. There is a dairy cow which includes teaching about good food for her and also a milking demonstration. A sheep is there and raw wool for the children to handle and also carding and spinning demonstrations. There are also knowledgeable people on hand at each station to answer questions and talk to them about farm livestock and about farm products.

Austin's address was very, very interesting and informative. For more information you may call him at: 905-877-5537 or fax: 905-873-6888.

After the business part of the meeting we closed by singing "When Irish Eyes are Smiling".

CONSERVATION REVIEW BOARD

Ministry of Citizenship,
Culture and Recreation

RE: TOWNSHIP OF ERAMOSIA - INTENTION TO REPEAL A BY-LAW DESIGNATING THE BOW STRING BRIDGE, EDEN MILLS, ONTARIO

FINDINGS

The Board finds the Bow String Bridge, Eden Mills, Ontario, to continue to be of sufficient architectural and historical interest and value to merit designation for an abundance of reasons and therefore this Board recommends to the Township of Eramosa that it reconsider and withdraw its intention to repeal the original designating By-Law. This Board reaffirms its own decision rendered on February 26, 1991.

Reasons for the continued meriting of designation include:

The structure was constructed by a notable Bridge Engineer of the time and his use of the Bow String style of trussing complemented the innovative and unique building material.

The bridge is of Provincial, National and International interest as a unique remnant, early example and rare survivor of this type of construction and material.

Its placement in the landscape of the Village of Eden Mills is of paramount importance; It is a landmark within community and serves as a focal point for social discourse and events.

The Board shares the concern that the speedier traffic and possibly higher volume of traffic that a two-lane bridge would bring could conceivably destroy the very fabric of the Village proper. The Board finds that the bridge has not been well cared for by the Township over the years but rather has been allowed to deteriorate through neglect. It is also the Board's opinion that the Township has not pursued meaningful consultation with its LACAC on the matter of de-designation, as is required by the Ontario Heritage Act. The past lack of interest of the Township in rehabilitation is evidenced by its unwillingness to do a condition survey for such a long period of time. The Township's suggestion that a new bridge could have decorative arches, in keeping with the style of the old structure, was met with derision by the majority of the objector's witnesses and is not an acceptable heritage conservation practice. Because of the significant heritage value of the bridge, its de-designation and subsequent demolition in the opinion of this Board, would not be in conformity with the Official Plan or the Grand Strategy. Any consideration of changes to the structure under the Environmental Assessment Act should involve a thorough review of the heritage value of the bridge, such as would occur with a Schedule "C" project. Notwithstanding the conflicts of the past, the Board is of the hope that the numerous issues that were put into sharper focus at the Hearing should be of interest to all parties. The Board finds that there is an overwhelming preponderance of evidence to support the preservation, rehabilitation and maintenance of the bridge. Perhaps the most significant evidence adduced at the hearing was the Cuming Report which indicates that the bridge is a piece of our architectural and heritage and is of Provincial, National and International significance. Also of valuable input was the testimony, principally by Mr. Gregg, on the process of rehabilitation which provided precedents and showed that it was possible to rejuvenate and at the same time address concerns about strength, safety, insurance, certification and life-cycle costs. The testimony of Mr. Simon, in relationship to Village enhancement, and the Bosselmann and Gahl assessment both concluded that future safety and traffic volume concerns would be best addressed by the preservation of this one-lane bridge. It is notable that the condition survey, unavailable for much of the debate that has raged over this matter for the last several years, shows that the bridge has surprising strength and can unquestionably be rehabilitated. The Board finds a high level of support in the community for the preservation of this bridge and a willingness to work towards that end. Most see it as integral to the lifestyle and character of the Village, its heart and soul.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is the recommendation of the Board that the Bow String Bridge, Eden Mills, Ontario, not be de-designated by By-Law under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act. Due to its considerable significance to the residents of the community, the bridge is an asset to the Township of Eramosa as a whole and the Board encourages the residents of Eden Mills and the Township Council to work together, to their mutual benefit, on its stabilization and eventual rehabilitation. In doing so they should take full advantage of the high rating of the bridge in the Ontario Heritage Bridges Program and make use of the experience of the Ministry of Transportation and the Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation in this field. The Board urges all parties to work towards a result which identifies and respects the inherent heritage components and value of this structure. The Board also encourages the Township to investigate Heritage Conservation District status for this unique Village and area, given the unusually high percentage of heritage structures located in Eden Mills. In doing this, the Township may well wish to consider the review and implementation of area-specific statutory legislation, such as is found in London, Oakville and several other communities around Ontario which can buttress and strengthen the Ontario Heritage Act.



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