

# Residents fed up with 'vicious intimidation'

## Eighth Line homeowners want drivers to slow down

Cursing, expressive fingers and honking horns have become everyday occurrences faced by Georgetown homeowners trying to back out of their Eighth Line (Main St. S.) driveways.

"It's vicious intimidation," said homeowner Kathy Madarasz, part of a neighbourhood delegation at a recent council meeting, "and it's not fair and it's not right."

Their homes, which face towards Cedarvale Park, are on a hill and homeowners are finding safety is becoming impossible when entering and exiting their driveways due to excessive speeds of other drivers using the road.

Attempts to slow down traffic and warn of hidden driveways through signs have failed.

The residents asked for more police enforcement, amber flashing lights

and town help to pass the message on to the community to slow down.

While the speed limit along that stretch is 40 km/h, the residents showed a videotape of a radar message board that clocked speeds upwards to 70 km/h and 80 km/h, with the average about 65 km/h.

Even the presence of the radar sign failed to slow down the drivers, said Gabor Madarasz.

"There is very little regard for that 40 km/h sign, so that's why we want to bring this to your attention," he told council members. "We're looking forward to working with the town to control speeds on the road."

He presented a petition, signed by many Eighth Line residents, which asked for some type of traffic control. Traffic volumes, speeds and accidents



BOB INGLIS

have increased as a result of new development in Georgetown South, he said. "While we support those developments, we feel we should be protected from the traffic moving at excessive speeds."

"We can certainly send a letter (to the police services board) asking for enforcement, but I think you have to realize that people will slow down when the police are there, but the minute they're gone, well it's human nature," said Councillor Ron Chatten.

Reconstruction of the Eighth Line is not scheduled until 2004, and in the meantime town manager of design and development Rick Henry will look into the cost of installing an amber light. Council will consider installation during the 2003 budget deliberations.

Councillor Bob Inglis wondered whether speed bumps would be an effective measure. But Henry said the bumps could cause cars to lose control and are an impediment to responding emergency vehicles, both creating a liability issue for the town.

Chatten suggested the possibility of installing turnaround spaces at the end of the driveways, if the residents would guarantee they wouldn't use them as an extra parking spot. The Madaraszs did create a turnaround this summer on the town boulevard, but were told by the town to remove it after a neighbour complained.

Henry said town staff and road safety consultants for the reconstruction project will meet with the residents within the next couple of weeks to come up with other possible solutions.

—By Cynthia Gamble, staff writer

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