

RESIDENT CALLS FOR ACTION TO CURB DANGEROUS DRIVING

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Following a string of traffic accidents that happened this summer in the busy intersection near his home, the last one being in early September, a Milton resident is urging council members and the Town to take more action to curb dangerous and reckless driving behaviour.

"I anticipate one day waking up in the morning and finding a car rolled over on my front lawn because that's just how dangerously people are driving," said Scott Gillard, who has been living in the Thompson Road and Woodward Avenue area for 19 years.

His concern isn't unwarranted.

Back in July, a "substantial collision" caused by someone running a red light left some car parts flying onto his yard. Gillard, who was home at the time, even helped some of the victims get out of their "T-boned" car.

Calling it an unfortunate situation that need not have happened in the first place, the business owner notices a trend of more drivers "accelerating at dangerous speeds" and "breaking a lot of road rules."

"It's not just particular to this intersection. It happens all around town," he said.

For Coun. John Challinor, the issue has been "a great frustration" for him for quite a while.

"There's a whole bunch of safety issues in our community that need to be addressed. And I'd say the major issue is speeding," Challinor told the Milton Champion, mentioning the "dozens and dozens of complaints" he received about motorists speeding through red lights, making illegal U-turns, and more.

The problems require



Bambang Sadewo/Torstar Resident Scott Gillard says there has been a couple of traffic accidents near the Thompson Road and Woodward Avenue intersection this summer.

THE ISSUE: DANGEROUS DRIVING BEHAVIOUR IN TOWN.

LOCAL IMPACT: TOUGHER ENFORCEMENT, MORE RED LIGHT CAMERAS, AND TRAFFIC SAFETY CAMPAIGN ARE NEEDED TO CURB SPEEDER AND RECKLESS DRIVER.

more than just reactionary solutions. He said he had spoken to Town staff to look at a continuous education program on public safety, which would include safety tips for all road users - such as cyclists, drivers, and pedestrians. The program can be communicated through the Town's website and signage in Town-owned properties, including libraries, arenas, parks, and more.

"There's all sorts of media out there ... an inventory of media that the Town owns that could be used to send messages at various times to the travelling public about what the expectations are in our community for being safe on the roads," he said.

According to Challinor, regular and memorable

communication is the basis of an effective campaign.

Gillard said an education program certainly "can't hurt" in getting people to understand what they shouldn't do on the roads, but as far as aggressive drivers go, it's "probably not going to change" their behaviour.

"That would require actual enforcement," he argued. "We need more police on the roads."

Challinor agrees that more visible and tougher enforcement is required, but the Ward 2 councillor said the reality is they can't afford to have police officers sitting in their cars 24 hours a day at every stop light.

In lieu of that, Gillard wants the Town to consider installing more red light cameras at signalized intersections. There are currently five red light camera locations in Milton operated by the Halton region. He'd also like to see the use of photo radar and decibel monitor to capture speeders, saying it's a big problem when people "aren't being held accountable for how they're driving."

His message to motorists is to "slow down" and "be responsible."

"You're driving a very large, very heavy vehicle that has a potential to kill people," he said. "Be aware of how you're supposed to drive and give some consideration for not only the people that are driving near you, but (also) the people that live in the neighbourhood."

STORY BEHIND THE STORY

I reached out to a resident who is worried about the increasing number of traffic accidents in his neighbourhood and across town. I also spoke to a local councillor on his public safety education program initiative.

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