

# Residents irked about stop sign slowdown

By BRAD REAUME  
The Champion

Residents wanted action. They got a committee.

Recently several people showed up at Town Hall demanding a four-way stop sign at 10 Sideroad and Second Line in Nassagaweya.

They explained that a bend in the road, increased traffic because of a nearby school, and poor sight lines conspired to make it a dangerous corner.

They provided a litany of anecdotal evidence of potential dangers.

Council decided the issue should proceed through regular channels and referred it to the Nassagaweya Community Consultation Committee, a citizen's group that works with police.

John Matthews, Milton's public works director, said he wanted to explore other alternatives to a four-way stop. He explained the intersection, based on traffic counts and accident rates, does not warrant what residents want.

## Rush hour busy

Council heard school buses use the corner, as well as approximately 1,325 vehicles per day on 10 Sideroad. Residents said that volume is very concentrated during the morning and evening rush.

In addition recreational vehicles crowd the area in the summer months, thanks to a nearby campground.

Teresa Patafio was quite emotional, saying council should not wait until there is a fatality before taking action.

She disagreed with the staff report, and said a driver has to be well out into the intersection before being able to see around obstructions at the corner. She begged council to be proactive and at least install a four-way stop while other discussions were being held.

"Do you know the intersection?" she asked, and received a positive response, before raising her voice. "Then what's the issue? I just don't get it."

Ms Patafio excused herself for the outburst and said she was frustrated with the suggestion the issue move to a committee.

Marion Howard, a Nassagaweya councillor and member of the Nassagaweya Community Consultation Committee, said she was unaware of the accompanying petition, which Mr. Matthews said was delivered directly to Town Hall.

## Talk to police

Councillor Barry Lee suggested the issue be referred back to the committee so they could get the participation of the Halton Regional Police.

"I have never heard of the committee," said Mohawk Trail resident Joan Wormald. "I phoned the police three

times on this and have never received a call back."

Ms Wormald said residents would not be happy with anything less than a four-way stop in the short term and realignment of the intersection as the long-term solution. She received a rousing round of applause from the audience.

"I can appreciate you wanting to do this quickly, given this petition was signed in May and it's now October," said Ms Howard. "However there is nothing I can do if nobody asks me."

Ms Wormald said nothing would be accomplished by referring the request to a committee, especially if the committee does not have the power to erect the stop sign. Only council can do that.

The tendency by council to move the request to the committee was increased when Jeff Stewart, who owns a house on the corner in question, told them he had not been approached by local residents on the issue.

He has trees and shrubs on his property which impede sightlines at the intersection.

"I only became aware of the petition yesterday afternoon," he said. "I don't disagree that it's dangerous, and I want to do what's right by local residents. It's nice of everyone to come up with a solution but I'm the one who's got to live with it."

Councillor Colin Best said recent four-way stops installed on Mill Street

did not go through a community consultation committee, nor was there any police involvement.

He also pointed out that Town staff oppose four-way stops on principle, before suggesting one be installed on an interim basis.

However Mr. Best did not follow his suggestion with a formal motion, saying later that he did not feel he had enough support on council to carry a vote on the issue.

"This intersection is much more dangerous than Mill Street, for which we authorized four way stops without committee input, without police input and without traffic warrants," stressed Mr. Best.

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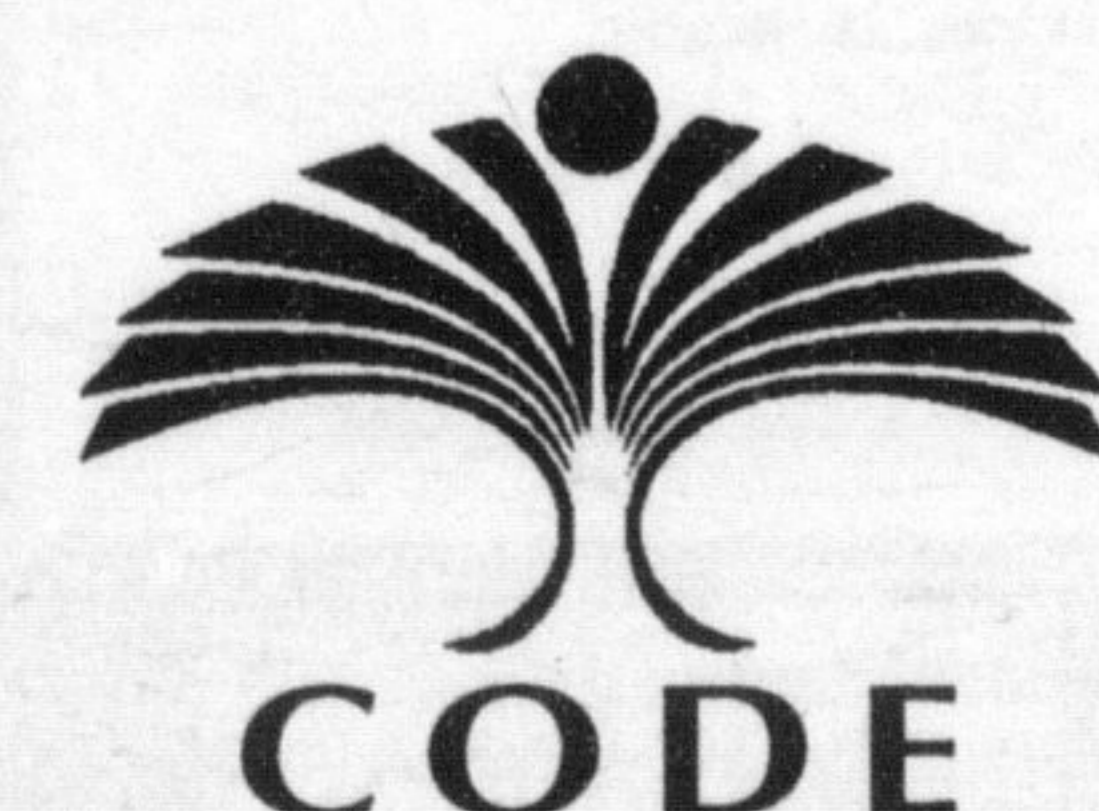
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