

Councillors agree to push for return of photo radar

By BRAD REAUME
The Champion

Halton will petition the provincial government to consider the use of photo radar on local roads.

Burlington Councillor Barry Quinn, defeated in a run at the Burlington mayor's job, took one last stab at a pet project, by calling for photo radar in Halton.

After some debate, he succeeded in getting regional council's backing recently.

The current Ontario government killed photo radar on provincial highways shortly after it was elected in June 1995.

Mr. Quinn was spurred on by a report regarding speeds on Hornby Road, which suggest many people are traveling the short stretch between Trafalgar Road and Steeles Avenue at more than 27 km/h over the posted limit.

"I'm concerned about speeds on all roads in Halton. Many roads are traveled at 20 km/h over the limit," he told members of the planning and public works committee. "We need photo radar."

Oakville Councillor Steven Sparling said Mississauga is setting up a program where photo radar is used to send letters to offending drivers detailing their speeding and giving a warning. There is no legislation which allows for tickets to be issued through photo radar.

"There are not enough police to stop this type of thing," said Mr. Quinn. "People begin to think that the law is a farce. There has to be a hammer."

Burlington Councillor Bob Brechin, who retired effective Wednesday, provided input on one of the last issues he faced prior to leaving council. He said many Halton roads are posted with speeds which are too low. He suggested that many roads could be bumped to 70 km/h.

He said he did not know if drivers would constantly travel 20 km/h over the posted limit or if Halton roads were chronically under-posted for speed.

Bruce Kitchen, Halton's director of design and construction services, said that drivers tend to travel at a speed they deem appropriate and safe for the conditions they are driving.

Mr. Brechin said with increased enforcement Halton has a corresponding responsibility to post realistic speeds.

Milton Councillor Barry Lee suggested committee members drive rural roads to see the speed postings and the hazards which exist.

Mr. Quinn recommended reports linked with speeding problems be forwarded to the ministry along with the request to allow photo radar.



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