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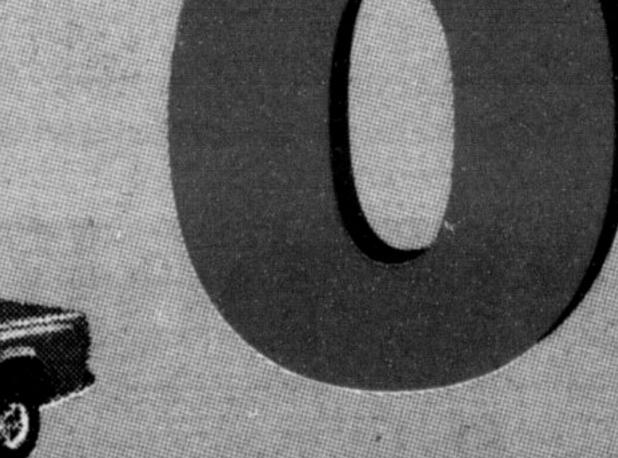


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## Speed limit on Lower Base Line dropped for now

By IRENE GENTLE

The Champion

Residents of Lower Base Line recently waged a successful battle against noisy trucks.

And earlier this week they scored a victory against lead-footed commuters as well.

Special circumstances in the form of the closed Hwy. 403 access on Trafalgar Road prompted town council to temporarily drop the posted speed from 70 kms/h to 60 kms/h on Lower Base Line August 28.

The speed will be reviewed when the new Hwy. 407 opens, returning traffic to the highway system.

The Hwy. 403 ramp closure turned the once quiet Lower Base Line into an embattled neighbourhood, with the disturbance being double-barreled.

Initially, noisy gravel trucks supplying the construction began using the road at all hours of the day. A truck ban instated by the Town managed to ease that situation.

But now commuters flying down the road in an attempt to reach Trafalgar Road are creating a whole new hazard, resident Roger Beck told council.

He asked that the posted speed be reduced to 60 km/h until the highway access resumes.

"I'm not saying the commuters along Lower Base Line are doing wicked, evil things. They're just driving in the manner Ontario drivers do," he said. "But by lowering the speed limit, the incentive to drive at the extreme outer end of the speed limit will be lowered."

## Measurements disputed

Speed measurements taken by the Town, which clocked the average driver at a tortoise-like 52 kms/h, were disputed by Mr. Beck. Those measurements showed a 75 per cent compliance with the posted speed, which had been reduced from 80 kms/h in 1991.

"We have reason to believe the counter was placed relatively close to the lights at Trafalgar Road," said Mr. Beck. "Most of the traffic would be slowing down for the lights, or making a turn, or accelerating after having made a turn. I'm afraid the staff data is just not credible, not reliable."

For comparison, residents recently gathered their own data with a radar gun. It measured eastbound traffic on one day between 7 to 7:30 a.m., and westbound traffic between 4:30 to 5 p.m.

The results put the median speed at 76.5 km/h in the morning, and 80.5 km/h in the afternoon. Compliance with the posted speed was found to be at 8 and 9 per cent respectively.

"This is a death trap. It's an accident waiting to happen," said Mr. Beck. "I can assure you this is a very ugly situation waiting to happen."

His claims were backed up by fellow resident Stan Jaikaitis.

"Safety is a genuine concern," he said. "You simply cannot walk on that road anymore. You're taking your life in your hands."

A vote to drop the speed limit passed unanimously.