

Council agrees to lower speed limits on Vandorf Road

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

Local officials supported a resident's request last week to lower the speed limits on Vandorf Road. Betty Van Nostrand, of R.R. 1 Gormley, urged officials to lower the limits from 80 km per hour to

70 km per hour because of motorists using excessive speed on the gravel road.

"Eighty kilometres per hour is too great a speed for an unpaved road with no centre lines - it's not as wide as Woodbine and has soft shoulders," Van Nostrand pointed out.

She said as an experiment one day she followed a driver, and found in order to keep up with his pace, ended up travelling at more than 110 km per hour.

Van Nostrand, representing residents from the area, said the two-kilometre stretch of road is a "walking and bicycling favorite,"

with 17 exits, sharp turns and abrupt stopping points. She added there is also an abundance of farm traffic and is often used as a cattle crossing for local farmers.

"I don't feel at all safe bicycling on this road," she said.

Town public works director Paul Whitehouse said the signs were

posted as a motorist guideline because people were complaining of excessive speed. He said the 80 km per hour limit is in keeping with provincial guidelines.

"The ideal enforcement is radar control, but that is unrealistic," Whitehouse said. He added the lowering of sign limits would not "guarantee compliance" by motorists.

Council voted to have the speed limits reduced to 70 km per hour within Stouffville boundaries and will instruct staff to investigate posting a cattle crossing sign and 'stop ahead' signs where necessary to warn motorists of hidden, approaching intersections.

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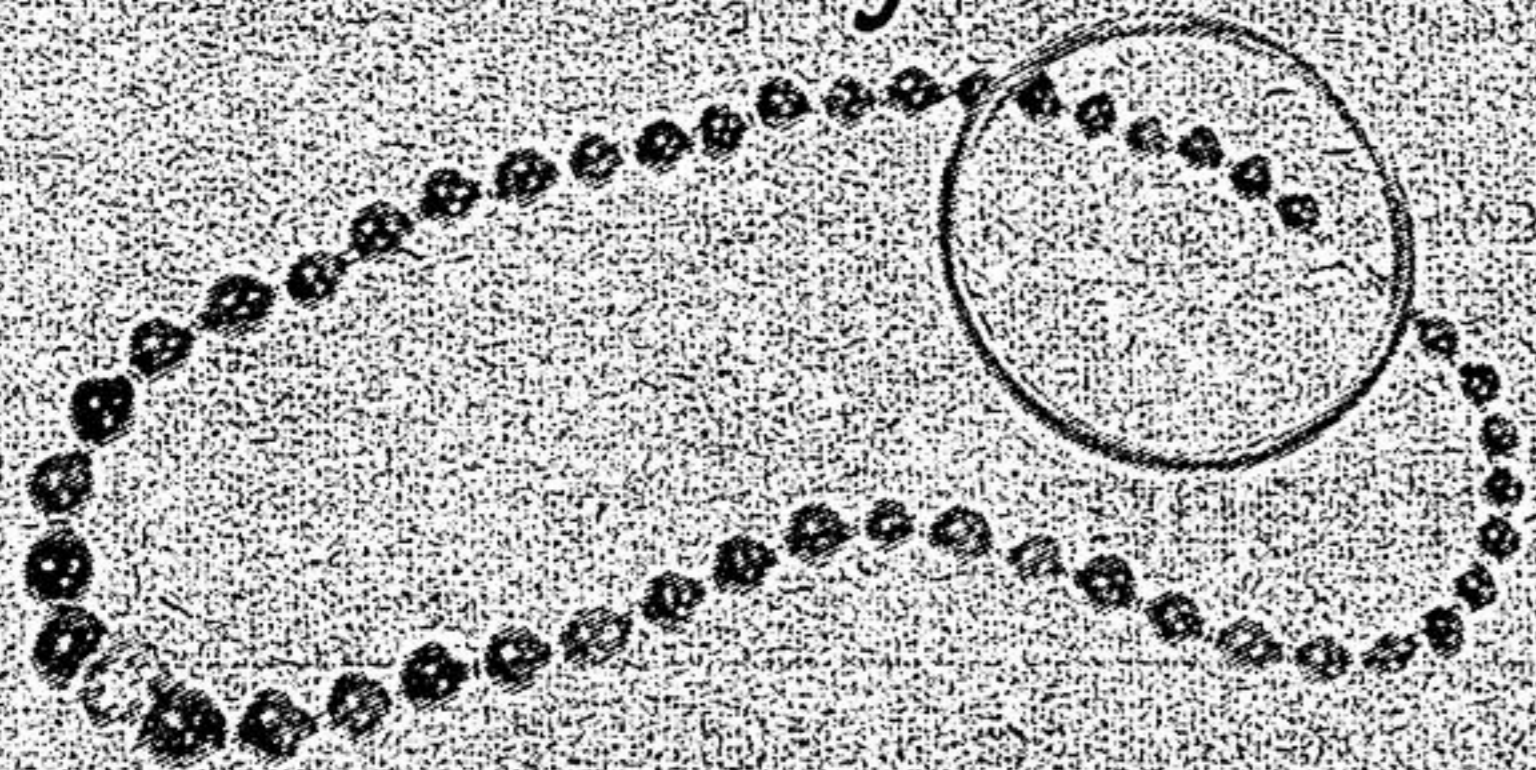
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