

Crusade to have sidewalk on 9th Line returns



Photo/KATE GILDERDALE

This sign attracts attention south of Main St. to pedestrians and motorists alike.

KATE GILDERDALE
Correspondent

Coming Soon! Ninth Line Sidewalk.

Anyone travelling south on Ninth Line from Main St. recently may have noticed this sign, with its jauntily illustrated pedestrian, prominently adorning a local front lawn.

The sign is the handiwork of Lorraine Steckley, who hopes that the power of positive thinking will encourage the municipality to build a long-promised sidewalk on one side of the busy residential portion of the street.

"When we first moved here, they said that within five years we would have a sidewalk," noted Steckley, who was satisfied with that response at the time. The problem? "We moved here 30 years ago last December." With an increasing volume of traffic and a large popu-

lation of seniors now living in Parkview Village apartments and cluster homes, the issue surfaced again last summer.

Steckley, one-time activities co-ordinator for the village, said that residents from the facility had approached her about the problem. "I called Ken Prentice, who's our councillor, and he told me to write a letter."

The letter appeared in local media last summer, and Steckley and other concerned residents canvassed the area to get signatures on a petition requesting a sidewalk.

Prentice said his major concern is for seniors at the village. "Many of those who are using walking assisted devices are travelling to the Main S. and walking north in the south-bound lanes of the Ninth Line," he pointed out.

"There's no doubt in my mind that a sidewalk is justified,

because it's an arterial road. The ideal situation would see two sidewalks, one on either side of the Ninth Line."

Last fall, residents living on Ninth Line, including representatives from Parkview Village, presented their petition to council. "Council undertook at that time to refer it to budget deliberations for the '93 budget year," Prentice said.

However, Mayor Fran Sainsbury told *The Tribune* she believed the proposal has now been removed from the 1993 budget. "As you know, the SOS group is trying to have taxes remain at zero increase if possible. "Rather than fight over whether we're putting (a sidewalk) on the Ninth or 10th or the back street or wherever, we figured we would not have anyone upset if we just don't do any in this recession."

At the present time, priority must be given to fixing damage on existing sidewalks, "for lia-

bility reasons," she said. The estimated cost for a single sidewalk on Ninth Line is \$16,000.



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