

March 15, 2021

To Mayor Dwight Burley and Georgian Bluffs Council:

I am a resident of Georgian Bluffs and reside at 809 13th St. West. I have resided on this property for 58 years.

In February 2019, I wrote to you with concerns around the speed, traffic volume and lack of proper signage on this stretch of road which extends down from 17B into the city of Owen Sound.

My family was involved in a tragic accident along this stretch of road on the evening of February 3, 2019. We were walking along the road when a vehicle forced us to jump into the snowbank so we would not be struck by it. Tragically, our twelve- year old yellow lab was hit as he was laying beside me in the snowbank. He succumbed to his injuries. The driver was charged with careless driving. You addressed my concerns by putting up two new signs, that were replicas of the old signs you removed. These signs are still ineffective as the speed limit needs to be lowered. Traffic continues to speed past our home and because of that speed, vehicles are often unable to maneuver the bend and end up in the ditch or on a resident's front lawn. There are children who live in this neighbourhood and it has become unsafe for a family to walk down that road because of the speed traffic is travelling heading to and from 17B.

Our understanding is that in a few weeks Grey County will begin construction on Grey Road 17B. The traffic volume is already extremely heavy with tourists and locals using this road as a route in and out of the city. The increased traffic is travelling at excessively high speeds on a road that is used by many cyclists, hikers, walkers and children. The speed limit needs to be lowered to nothing higher than 50km/hr. and increased police presence is required to enforce it.

I hope you will listen to these repeated concerns.

Sincerely,

Susan Frook

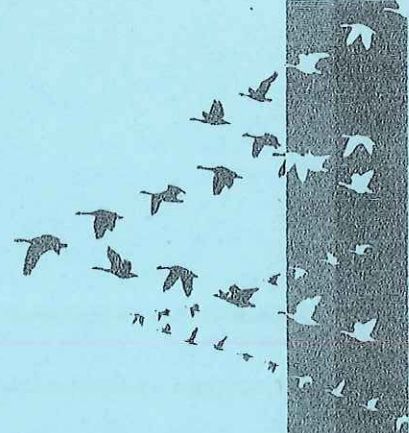


809 13th St. West

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March 17, 2021

To Whom it May Concern,

We are writing to add our support to the petition to reduce the speed limit on Grey Road 17B to 50km/hr between West St. and Somers St. This is a stretch of road with many residences and a significant hill which impedes sight lines for motorists.

We have lived at 223177 Grey Road 17B since 2006 when we moved here from Northern Ontario. Shortly after moving in, we joined a neighbourhood petition to have the speed limit reduced from 80km/hr to 50km/hr. We were very concerned for the safety of our children when getting on and off the school bus since we were told that there had been three serious accidents to that date on the road between West St. and Somers St. Our petition was somewhat successful and Grey County reduced the speed limit on the road to 60km/hr between West St. and Somers St.

Since that time, traffic volume has increased significantly and we have witnessed *three more* serious accidents on the same stretch of road. Each time, emergency services were dispatched. We believe that in total, **there have been at least six serious accidents requiring EMS on the 1km stretch of road between Park St. and Somers St. in the past 20 years.** Clearly, this is a very dangerous section of highway!

This level of risk is unacceptable. Hwy 17 B passes through a residential area. It is regularly used by local pedestrians including children, dog walkers, Bruce Trail hikers, the local running club, cyclists and equestrians. Deer, coyotes and flocks of turkey also frequently cross this road. It is very dangerous for children when school busses stop, particularly at the bottom of the hill in winter. Design Engineers know that the faster you're going, the longer it takes to stop. The faster the impact speed in a collision, the greater the chance of death or severe injury. The present speed limit of 60km/hr is too fast for drivers to safely stop for the many pedestrians and other users of the road.

We would like Grey County and Georgian Bluffs to adopt the Vision Zero approach to highway design. Vision Zero is a strategy to eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe injuries. The goal of Vision Zero is to eliminate fatalities by creating a traffic system that is **as safe as possible for all users, not just motorists.**

In addition to accidents, higher vehicle speeds create significantly more noise and create noise pollution and health problems. We operate a home business. Traffic noise has become a problem for us, affecting our sleep, work productivity, and health. We are seriously considering moving because of the noise. According to research from the United Kingdom, a 10 km/h reduction in vehicle speeds yields a 40% decrease in noise levels. Reducing the speed limit to 50km/hr would greatly reduce the noise pollution in our neighbourhood.

The Sun Times reported on March 1, 2021 that the 17B roads projects came in well under the set budget. These savings should be used to calm traffic on this road. We request that other traffic calming measures, such as signage and flashing lights be erected to warn motorists that they are entering a residential area with a 50km/hr speed limit. Saving lives is not expensive when measured against the costs of EMS services and the major negative impact accidents have on people's lives.

Traffic deaths and severe accidents are avoidable. We would like the speed limit reduced to 50km/hr between West St. and Somers St. to save lives and decrease noise pollution.

Please prioritize your citizen's lives above speed.

Sincerely,



Pauline and Rick MacLeod Farley

