

April 23, 2021

To Council, Town of the Blue Mountains

Re: Speed Reduction on Highway 26

Further to the recent deputation of E. Button to Council on April 6th, the Collingwood Today article of April 11, the social media criticisms and other recent correspondence to Council since then on the matter of Highway 26 speed reduction, please consider the following.

Mr. Button's deputation of April 6th clearly states that the concerns of the Georgian Shores Drive Preservation Association were with the area of Craigleith between Grey Road 21 to the Craigleith Provincial Park - only. Currently this area has a 60km speed limit from east of Grey Rd 21 that changes to 80km at the east part of Fraser Crescent. Mr. Button's position was that this 80km speed is not safe due to the dangerous bend at the west entrance of Fraser Crescent, the multiple driveways for residents and businesses along this stretch or for the residents and visitors using the commercial and recreational offerings of this area.

Craigleith is a built-up area. Currently along the highway there are roughly 700 homes between Grey Rd 21 and the park, approx. 20 businesses, a public beach, the provincial park, public recreation trail, a library and community center and busses travel part of this route. This area has no sidewalks, no cross walks and only 1 traffic light at Grey Rd 19. Changes are imminent, and this area will become more populated and built-up with approved plans for about 700+ new homes and businesses. Many of us who have lived here 25-35 years don't enjoy these changes, but they seem inevitable.

Highway 26, at a minimum, runs from Barrie to Owen Sound. When the highway passes thorough built-up areas the speed changes. Traffic is slowed in residential or commercial areas for the inhabitants to be safe. Thornbury and Collingwood enjoy these lower speeds as well as safe spacing, sidewalks, crosswalks and traffic lights. Craigleith has none of that but is considered a village or "settlement area" by the Town. As a built-up area Craigleith residents and businesses ask for the same consideration and safety afforded other settlement areas.

The request by Mr. Button and others in Craigleith was for Council to support a speed reduction on the 1.5 km section from east of Lakeshore Rd to Grey Rd 19 and continue the reduced speed on the 2 km section from Grey Rd. 19 past the built-up commercial and residential area to the provincial park. Reducing the speed on these two sections, which total 3.5km, from 80 km down to 60 km per hour would add 1.5 minutes to ones driving time.

The Craigleith area is considered a settlement area by the Town. As such we ask that it be given the respect and safety afforded other built-up areas for current and future Craigleith visitors and residents.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Pamela Spence

████████ Highway 26, Craigleith

cc. E. Button – Georgian Shores Drive Preservation Association
J. Hinds – The Forum, Thornbury