



Township of Wainfleet

"Wainfleet - find your country side!"

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release – July 27, 2020

Traffic Calming Measures Increase Safety in Wainfleet

Wainfleet, ON – The Township of Wainfleet is achieving some success with traffic calming measures along its popular Lakeshore and Quarry Road thoroughfares.

Lakeshore Road serves many purposes within the Township and is travelled by locals and visitors alike, with many picturesque views and vistas. The road, however, is also narrow, curvy and home to many blind corners and hidden intersections that make travel more hazardous, especially when excess speed and driver inattention is involved. Likewise Quarry Road is home to the popular NPCA Wetlands Conservation Area, frequented by visitors from as far away as the GTA.

"We've got homeowners, cottagers and visitors walking along the roadside, as well as children playing in many areas and we are taking steps to increase safety for everyone by slowing things down," said Wainfleet Mayor Kevin Gibson.

Wainfleet Council began considering its options at their June 23rd meeting after being contacted about speeding on multiple occasions by local residents in the area and after receiving correspondence on the matter at their June 2nd meeting. At that time, Council directed staff to undertake research into best practices being used successfully in other municipalities in areas such as school zones, long term care facilities, playgrounds, pedestrian crossings.

The result was a decision by to initiate a pilot Traffic Calming Program in Wainfleet using a combination of "Centreline PedZone" signs and portable radar detection signs. The Centreline PedZone signs have now been received and installed in key target areas on Lakeshore Road.

The signage is designed to be used in roads that meet very specific parameters:

1. speed (50 km/h or under)
2. road surface type (must be asphalt or concrete pavement)
3. width of road surface (minimum 6.5 meters)
4. design of road to be installed (not near curves, hills, intersections)

In most cases, the signs are effective in reducing the speed for a 100 meter stretch of road, with multiple signage being deployed for longer stretches.

Far from simply providing a visual reminder to slow down, the signs, along with the edge bollards, effectively restrict the each lane to between 3 and 4 metres, requiring drivers to slow and navigate more carefully.

While the Township has about 15km of paved asphalt surface roads, much of that would not meet the criteria for the traffic calming signage, due to width and design considerations.

The pilot project, which has seen the installation of two sets of signs last week, has met with success and resulted in positive feedback from residents.

“Several Members of Council have driven through the areas and reported these signs are an effective measure,” said Mayor Gibson. “The feedback we’ve been getting from residents suggests we are already seeing a significant reduction in speed in the pilot project areas”

The Township expects to take delivery of the new radar detection signs, as another key part of it’s traffic calming efforts, in the weeks to come.

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Contact:

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