



TOWNSHIP OF NORTH HURON

REPORT

Item No.

REPORT TO: Reeve Vincent and Council
PREPARED BY: Chief Tim Poole
DATE: 21 October 2016
SUBJECT: Speed Limits – Community Safety Zones
ATTACHMENTS:

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Council of the Township of North Huron hereby consider amendments to the North Huron bylaw regulating traffic on the streets of the municipality to lower the maximum speed limits in “Community Safety Zones” to reduce injuries and save lives in the event of car/pedestrian collisions;

AND FURTHER THAT the matter be referred to the Director of Public Works for investigation and follow up.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Several years ago, the Province of Ontario authorized the introduction of “Community Safety Zones” in an effort to make communities safer regarding the use of our roads. At the time, the Town of Wingham introduced “Community Safety Zones” on John Street and Carling Terrace which both had a high volume of traffic and child pedestrians because of our schools. In addition to these, shortly after becoming North Huron, another “Community Safety Zone” was created near the splash pad. All of these “Community Safety Zones” have a 40 km/h. After receiving several complaints about the speed on Summit Drive, a “Community Safety Zone” was created there however the speed was set at 30 km/h because there were no sidewalks.

I have recently attended the Not by Accident Conference which focuses on injury prevention and at this conference I learned some amazing statistics regarding injury and death and speeds. Upon returning from the conference, I have conducted additional research and have learned that the chance of serious injury or death more than doubles between 30 and 40 km/h. At 30 km/h the chance of serious injury is 25% while at 40 km/h that goes up to 50% and 75% at 50 km/h.

DISCUSSION

Since the safety of our community’s children is paramount in our minds, I recommend that all “Community Safety Zones” in Wingham be set at 30 km/h which would decrease the chance of serious injury or death by half in the event of a collision. To date, we have been very fortunate and have not had any such collisions but I believe it is prudent to take steps before anything happens.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

This will be minimal as all that will have to be done is change the signs that are in place from 40 to 30. This can be done either by changing the sign or the purchase of number stickers to go over the four.

FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

That all future “Community Safety Zones” speed be set at 30 km/h.

RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Provides for a safer community.



Timothy Poole, Chief of Police

Sharon Chambers, CAO