Report to Peterbourgh County Council Aug 28, 2019

Subject: Factors to consider when reviewing a proposal to reduce the speed limit on Selwyn Township Country Road 20 (Selwyn Road).

County Road 20 runs from the intersection with County Road 18 in Bridgenorth in the south to the intersection of Country Road 23 (Buckhorn Road) in the community of Selwyn in the north.

County Road 20 is 9 km in length and 7.3 km of the road is straight. There is 1 S bend, 1 90’ turn and a number of gentle hills. The road is marked by 1 single yellow line and is presently posted for 80 km/hr.

The present proposal is to reduce the speed limit to 60 km/hr.

Before the speed reduction to 60 km/hr is approved by the Council I ask the members to consider the following points:

1. Review the past accident statistics and identify how many were the result of speed alone and not where speed was a contributing factor. For example if an accident occurred because of distracted driving, speed could be listed as a contributing factor. That would be the case since the car was moving at the time of the accident and perhaps if the car had been driving slower that even 60 km/hr the accident may not have happened. I would suggest that the only accidents that should be attributed to excessive speed are those where there are no other factors. Don’t use statistics from accident reports without careful review.

2. A speed reduction to 60km/hr will result in an increase travel time of approximately 4 minutes. That doesn’t seem like much but think of the consequences.
   - All the cars presently using the road will be there for longer periods of time. That alone will increase the probability of more accidents.
   - Start times will have to be earlier. Kids getting on a bus earlier, leaving for work earlier. All of this will clash with already established routines.
   - If people lose 4 minutes on Selwyn Road they’ll be looking to make it up elsewhere. The result, an increase in the number of speeders and the speed they travel after they leave Selwyn Road.
3. There are numerous farm vehicles travelling Selwyn. At present it's possible to pass them and not exceed the speed limit. With a speed limit of 60 km/hr people will be forced to follow the farm vehicle for longer periods of time. A great builder of road rage!

4. There will be people who will abide by the speed limit and drive exactly at 60 km/hr. As a result there will be more cars to pass by those who drive over the speed limit, even if only at 70. This is greatly going to increase the risk of more head on collisions. These have a far greater consequence than a single car accident.

5. The majority of the road is as straight as an arrow. In 11 years of driving the road daily I have never seen anyone walking on the shoulder or riding a bike. There are few houses and major sections where there are only trees on both sides of the road. Now imagine driving at 60km. The frustration of such a drive will drive the majority of people nuts. They’re going to be mad as hell and ready to cut off anyone trying to enter the road and let a school bus get in front of you - forget it !! I’m already late.

6. Speed limits are established with the assumption that some people will exceed the limit by as much as 20kh/hr. That makes the speeds on Selwyn 100 km/hr. I suggest to you that assumption could be incorrect. With being a narrow road with narrow shoulders people the majority of drivers are not doing 100 km/hr. That is beyond the risk that the majority wish to experience.

7. Home owners with driveways entering Selwyn Road may be feeling that people are driving too fast and it's unsafe for them to exit. That issue exits where ever there are driveways entering a road posted at 80 km/hr i.e. Center line, Highway 7, highway 28, highway 507. We can't make then all 60. You've just got to be more patient and a clearing will happen. Imagine if the speed was 60, sure it's slower but now all the cars are bunched up and it may take you even longer to get out.

Why generate such terrible feelings in the population when there are alternates.

Consider the following alternatives:
- Reduce the speed to 70km/hr and observe the results to determine if it should go lower at some future date. If a further reduction is warranted it will be less of a shock to absorb.
- Post no passing signs and paint the road with double lines at key locations. For example at the S bend, the 90° turn, the section of road where Center Line Road meets Selwyn Road and at the approach to any blind hills.
- Consider reducing the speed limit to 60km/hr at those critical locations identified previous.
- Continue to enforce the distracted driver rules.
- Make critical repairs and upgrades to specific sections of Selwyn Road. For example pave an entire section instead of patching a few holes, fix the frost heaving bumps, repair the broken edges.
- Paint the edge of the road with white lines, similar to many other roads in the Country.
- Reduce the load limit for trucks. No more tractor trailers carrying large quantities of Armour stone. They seem to be the ones wrecking the road. Force them to use Center Line or Buckhorn Road.

Conclusion:
Don’t punish the majority of people using Selwyn Road as a result of the actions of a few who are not following the rules of the road to begin with.
Don’t make the easy decision, make the right and the best one.