

November 27th, 2024

Dear Mayor Solonen and Council Members of Wilmot Township,

I am writing to issue a complaint regarding the excessive speed used by drivers on residential streets in Baden. I live on McFadyen Street and frequently walk down the surrounding streets in my neighbourhood. Last October, I witnessed a dog who was run over on Isaac Shantz Drive. A few weeks ago, I heard about another dog who was run over on Livingston Boulevard. Both incidents were caused, in part, by drivers who were speeding on these residential roads. In both of these cases, the dogs were on the road where they shouldn't have been. However, it must be stated that these dogs could have easily been children running after a wayward ball, losing control of their bike, or running during a game of tag. These two deaths could have been the deaths of children and they could have been avoided if speed limits were lowered and enforced.

Eight years ago, before the birth of our oldest daughter, my husband and I moved to Baden from Waterloo in large part because we considered Baden to be a safe and quiet neighbourhood. We loved the idea of our children playing outside without having to worry about their safety. Given these two incidents, and the excessive speed regularly used by motorists in our neighbourhood, I no longer feel safe letting my children play on the front lawn of our property.

Furthermore, Baden Public School is a walking school, which means that none of the students are bussed and the vast majority of the students walk to school. As a result, before and after school, the sidewalks around Baden Public School are congested. In addition, students from Waterloo Oxford Secondary School walk through our neighbourhood at the same times as the students from Baden Public School. Students often walk on the boulevard between the sidewalk and the road, or on the street itself, when passing other pedestrians. I shudder to think what could happen if a motorist drove too quickly as a student was passing another on the sidewalk.

To solve this problem, speed limits in these areas should be lowered inline with other school and community zones within the Region of Waterloo. The speed limit along Gingerich Road near the Wilmot Recreation Centre is 30 km/hour and some school zones in the cities of Waterloo and Kitchener are 30 km/hour as well. Currently, the set limit is 40 km/hour on the streets surrounding Baden Public School.

Please consider implementing a reduced speed on residential streets in Baden, enhanced enforcement measures, speed bumps, a radar speed display board, or a speed camera in our neighbourhood, in order to keep everyone safe.

I ask: how many dogs - or children - must die from being hit by a car, before council addresses the excessive speed motorists use in our neighbourhood?

A concerned citizen,  
Amber Grant

