

From: Sherry Rowley
Sent: Monday, May 25, 2020 3:16 PM
To: Clerks Richmondhill <clerks@richmondhill.ca>; Sherry Rowley
Subject: Submission for May 27 meeting

Hello

I understand that there will be a discussion about parking at, and around, the parking lots at Lake Wilcox Park. I completely **support** a move to paid parking. Moreover, I sincerely hope that something is done in addition to this. I hope that the revenue from paid parking will be used to cover the salaries of more bylaw officers or other staff to direct traffic and enforce traffic and parking regulations on our side streets. However, even paid parking will not fix the serious problems that arise when hundreds and hundreds of cars get funneled onto residential streets in a relatively short amount of time.

I live on the corner of North Lake Road and Olde Bayview at 120 Olde Bayview Avenue, across the street from the lot on Old Bayview, and it has been a nightmare since the park was completed. There are hundreds and hundreds of cars every nice weekend that attempt to get into the parking lot. Cars coming from Bayview cannot see, until it is too late, the long lineup of cars that are, essentially, trapped on Olde Bayview trying to get into the lot. Once the lot is full, cars that are lined up have no place to go. As a result, cars trying to make the turn from Bayview get jammed up, sometimes having to stop in the oncoming southbound lane. Cars that are unable to get into the lot are forced to turn around, often making u-turns in front of oncoming traffic. Pedestrian lives are put at risk as cars on Olde Bayview blare their horns and make dangerous and illegal maneuvers in an attempt to overtake those in front of them, or they try to back up in the oncoming lane so that they can get back to North Lake Road. Those who cannot find a spot then drive up Olde Bayview north of North Lake Road and park there. Or, if this is full, they park on other side streets. All of which creates more pedestrians who need to cross North Lake to get to the sidewalk leading to the park on Olde Bayview. The mix of pedestrians trying to cross North Lake and cars trying to get to (or away from) the parking lot is a deadly one and it is only a matter of time before someone is seriously injured or killed.

Thus far this year, the word nightmare doesn't even come close. People either don't know that the lots are closed or are hopeful that they might have been reopened so that there are still hundreds of cars trying to get to parking. This is now not just on the weekends but during the week. Now, they are parking on both sides of the road, even in places where there are no parking signs, and drivers continue to make dangerous/illegal maneuvers in an attempt to get into a spot when they see that a car is leaving. All the while, families are having to make their way in between vehicles so that they can get to the park. The signage is largely ineffective. Once a car parks illegally drivers stop looking for signs and simply pull in behind. Something needs to be done to enforce the traffic and parking regulations that do exist. In addition, temporary signs on Bayview and North Lake are needed so that people know well in advance that the parking lot is closed.

Why the entrance to the parking lot is on a residential street that is ultimately a dead end, and why people who are parking illegally are not being ticketed and/or towed, is beyond my ken. Implementing paid parking will do nothing to solve these problems. Some of the problems might be remedied if the entrance was from Bayview, where a lane can be dedicated to those wishing to turn into the lot. This would, at least, move some of the traffic away from pedestrians and keep them a bit safer. Swift enforcement of parking regulations on side streets and an increased visibility of staff who are enforcing these regulations would also help in this regard. Paid parking will only be useful if the monies are used for increased enforcement.

I understand that the Bylaw officers are doing their best to keep some semblance of order. I recognize that it is particularly difficult given the circumstances as a result of the pandemic. I do not have an issue about people using the park. I have issues about this increase in traffic on residential streets and the danger to everyone -- which includes those of us who live in this area and wish to walk or bike here. I don't take walks on the weekend. I am finding it increasingly difficult to enjoy being outside in my yard. The traffic is non-stop and becomes especially loud as the afternoon unfolds and the number of frustrated drivers who feel that blaring their horns or screaming at drivers and pedestrians will bring about a solution, increases. Pulling in and out of my driveway is also difficult and sometimes quite dangerous because of traffic. Many of us in this area have raised these problems with council members over the years, to no avail. It is discouraging to feel that the concerns of those of us who pay taxes and are directly affected by these issues are continuously ignored.

I hope that a substantive discussion will take place at council so that solutions to these problems, beyond paid parking and more signage, will be implemented.

Regards

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