

DELEGATION FOR SEPT 5th, 2023

Presented By Sue Godfrey

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this presentation is to make the municipality aware of the serious health and safety concerns residents have regarding the portion of road known as Concession 2, SDR, between County Road #3 and Allan Park Road.

Points of Concern:

1. ROAD CONDITION AND SPEED LIMIT
2. SAFETY HAZARDS
3. HEALTH HAZARDS
4. WHO USES THE ROAD
5. POOR DRAINAGE CAUSING EROSION
6. UPCOMING LOCAL CONSTRUCTION IMPACTS to Con, 2 SDR
7. RESIDENTS COMMENTS AND INPUT
8. CONCLUSIONS

NOTE: all of the pictures in this presentation were taken July and August 2023 after the calcium was sprayed on the road, therefore this is considered to be "the best condition the road will ever be". Winter and spring are by far the worst conditions for hazardous driving that are in the "life threatening" category .Most pictures were taken within a day to three days after the grader graded the road.

1. ROAD CONDITIONS:

- POT HOLES;

Small to extremely large pot holes litter the road in all seasons making it difficult, sometimes impossible to find smooth safe road surfaces to drive on to achieve some sense of security. You never know what lies ahead on the road because the road conditions changes on a daily basis depending on traffic, weather, grading and usage.

Figure A



- WASHBOARD TERRAIN;

Washboard terrain is an **EXTREMELY DANGEROUS** situation when approaching the hills, which is created by vehicles accelerating to get up the hills - This situation causes a very **SERIOUS** safety concern when the car gets pulled to the side of the road or into oncoming traffic depending and how the vehicle drifts/skips on top of the washboard grooves. Losing control of the vehicle is a particularly uncomfortable feeling to say the least. We have **NO CHOICE** when approaching hills other than to drive on these washboard areas because there may be oncoming vehicles cresting the hill. Motorists and cyclists are forced to opt for **EITHER** a possible ditch accident **OR** being hit head on by an oncoming vehicle coming over these hills! This is not driving with ease.

- DEEP RUTS; (see Figures1,2)

Deep ruts (several inches deep) are formed from washed out areas of the road -this is **EXTREMELY** dangerous not only for the motorists but also for pedestrians, cyclists and the people coming into this area that don't live here and aren't aware of the ever changing dangerous conditions. Cyclists are in particular danger having to navigate

these deep ruts on the side of the road. If two cars are passing by in the opposite directions there isn't enough road for all of us at the same time so the cyclists are forced into these unsafe ruts.

Figure 1



Figure 2



- INCORRECT SPEED LIMIT;

No legal speed limit has been posted on Concession 2 SDR so the public can legally assume driving on this road at 80km. That is far too fast for this road. Other surrounding roads such as Allan Park Road (see Figure3) is paved, flat and straight and it's posted at 50km. Why is our road still at 80km?

- SPEEDING

Speeding on this road is causing VERY DANGEROUS situations. Excessive speeding over the hills (80 km plus) will cause some vehicles to “catch air” when the tires lose traction by lifting off of the road. This makes the driver lose control of their vehicle momentarily... endangering themselves and other motorists not to mention the residents in this area. Some people do this for fun but I believe most are unsuspected motorists that don't know about the ever changing terrain of the road and the potential dangers it brings. People use this road as a shortcut to save time and tend to speed. Some people with ATV's and motorbikes also like to “see what their toys can do” and speed up and down this stretch of road causing further dangers for the residents, motorist, cyclists and pedestrians.

Figure 3



-EXCESSIVE AMOUNTS OF GRAVEL AND SAND;

Excessive gravel and sand causes many driving hazards, as well as leaving an unmanageable ditch which gets filled with gravel and stones (see Figure 4.1 to 4.2). How are we supposed to cut the grass? And who is responsible to clean this up?

Figure 4.1



Figure 4.2

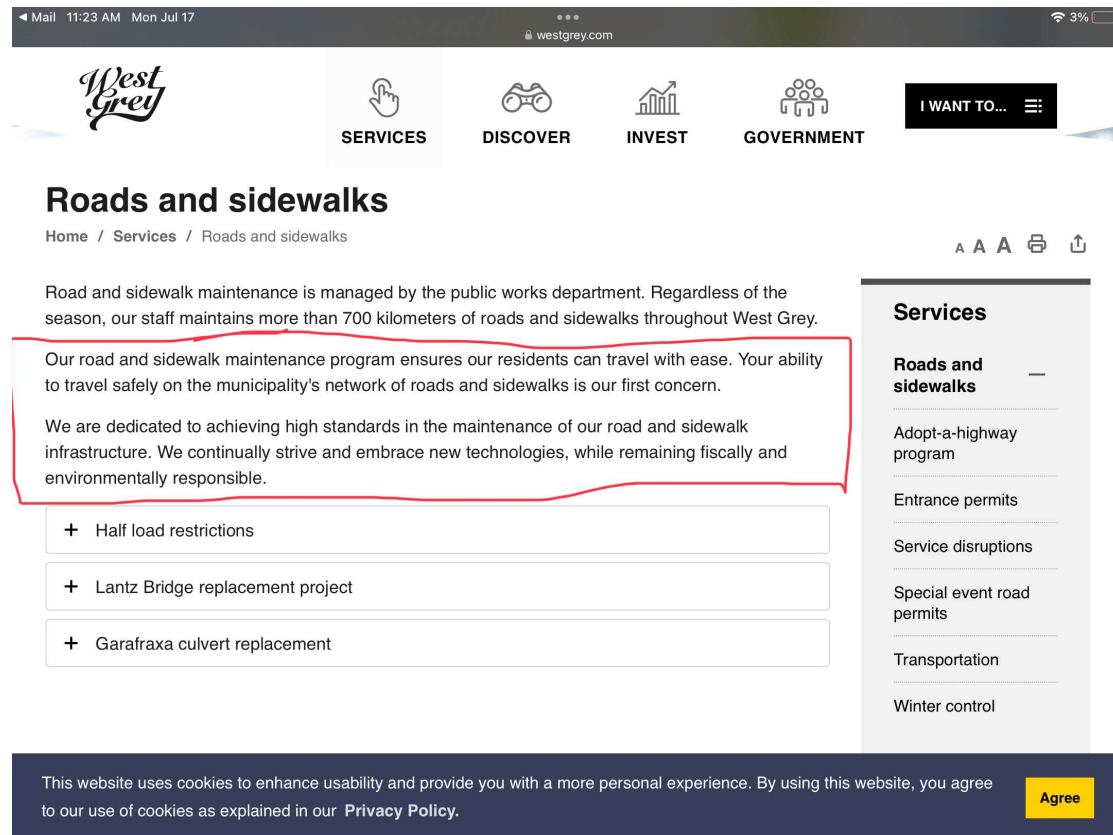


- CONSTANT GRADING

Between the dates of July 21 and August 4 (14 days) the road was graded FOUR times in the same spots, averaging one grading every 3.5 days. Is this an effective way to keep our road safe, by constant grading? Constant grading and the grading machinery on the road it is causing its own set of safety hazards! Especially when the operator of the machinery tries to do a three point turn in my driveway which is located just over the top of a big hill where motorists can't see what's on the other side. They wouldn't have been able to see the grader until they were practically right on top of it, especially if they had been speeding!

Contrast this with how West Grey treats roads (see Figure 5)

Figure 5



- POOR DRAINAGE; (see Figures 6A through 10)

Poor drainage is causing flooding and washouts. This is a VERY SERIOUS and constant safety issue we face. Water draining off of the road is causing deep weaving ruts, washboard surfaces and pot holes on the road. Cyclists and motorists have to drive on the wrong side of the road at times to avoid these deep ruts that can NOT be driven on safely. This creates undue safety hazards for residents and other users of the road. At times there isn't even enough room for two vehicles to pass each other in some areas. And may god help any pedestrians or cyclists that happen to be in the same spot where those two vehicles are trying to pass each other, because they will be forced onto very dangerous terrain!

The current road surface (being gravel sand and stone) CAN NOT HOLD UP to the elements/weather. Rain ALWAYS washes the road surface away to some extent, the heavier the rain the deeper the ruts and the deeper the washed out areas will be. Slush and snow will also undoubtedly wash away the road making it difficult if not impossible to navigate the road safely. If the road was paved the water would run off without

continually damaging the road. The constant “fixing” of the road is a futile way of “maintaining” it that just seems to be wasting tax payers dollars year after year. If the problem was fixed constant grading wouldn’t be needed and our road would be safe!

Figure 6A



Figure 6B



Figure 6C



Figure 7



Figure 8



Figure 9



Figure 10



- FLYING ROCK COMING OFF OF THE ROAD;

This is endangering residents, cyclists, pedestrians and motorists by being hit by flying rocks, causing damage to cars and people have incurred bodily injuries to more than one resident. This is not acceptable and is not allowing people to use the road with ease and or feel safe

2. SAFETY HAZARDS:

The hazards on this stretch of road are abundant. From jockeying with other motorists for safe solid road surfaces to drive on, or trying to find the least dangerous washed out pot holes and ruts to drive on, to the white knuckled driving on the rippled washboard areas approaching the big hills (that will pull your car either towards the ditch or towards oncoming traffic) is a terrifying ordeal to navigate on a daily basis! We never know what the condition of the road will be. People in this neighbourhood including myself feel we are putting our lives in danger when we drive on this stretch of road. The amount of near misses and the reminiscing of accidents that residents have either been involved in or have witnessed on this road is shocking! There have been many single car accidents on or close to hills, which likely never get reported.

3. HEALTH HAZARD (see Figures 11, 12)

The constant grading of concession 2 SDR causes excessive dust gravel and stones which collects in our ditches, on our homes, our trees, vegetation and cars etc. The amount of dust that is picked up by the wind or kicked up by passing cars is unbelievable for a least nine months out of the year. With this amount of dust we see on a daily basis it could possibly have a negative impact on our health seeing as we breath it in all day and night... even in the winter! Has there ever been testing done? We need to be assured we are not being exposed to a higher than acceptable level with all the grading that's done on this road?? Or is this something that you are not even concerned about?. Are you putting the residents at risk by not doing or neglecting to do dust level testing?

Figure 11



Figure 12



4. WHO USES THE ROAD

NOTE: Allan Park Conservation (on Con 2 SDR) is one of the most popular properties owned by Saugeen Conservation. This stunning 162 acre park attracts many enthusiasts of diverse interests. It's open all year long, is heavily promoted and enjoyed by many!

WHO USES Concession 2 SDR between #3 and Allan Park Rd.

- Residents, their family and friends
- the general population going to the nearby attractions
- School buses
- Farmers
- Rerouted traffic due to closures on #3 and #4
- Police and ambulance services
- Equestrian lovers with horses and horse trailers (going to the park)
- fishing enthusiasts- going to one of the trout ponds
- 4 wheelers and their trailers (park at the park and drive on the road)
- Large RV vehicles - spend the day at the park
- hikers
- cyclists
- motorists
- Joggers
- Bird watchers
- groups and/or club gatherings or fundraisers etc
- usual garbage and mail and delivery services
- Home service company's etc.
- People taking a shortcut to avoid #3 and #4

LOTS and LOTS OF PEOPLE USE THIS ROAD... ALL YEAR LONG!

6. POTENTIAL IMPACT FROM UPCOMING CONSTRUCTION OF THE ROUNDABOUT at County Roads #3 and #4:

According to the municipality of Grey County's website (also under the municipality of West Grey) in regards to the planned roundabout (at #3 and #4) there WILL BE UNAVOIDABLE ROAD CLOSURES throughout the construction period. These closures will force 100% of #4 westbound traffic southbound onto Allan park road or alternatively south onto Mulock road, both lead directly into Concession 2 SDR due to a bridge closure north of #4 on Concession 2 NDR. All of this extra traffic will in turn increase the traffic on concession 2 SDR SIGNIFICANTLY, which will undoubtedly cause further safety issues, further erosion, more dust and traffic and over usage of the road, which in turn will result in more grading causing more dust more gravel and just overall more dangers and a lower quality of life for the residents. More traffic will equate to more speeding cars, which will create even more dangers for residents pulling out from their driveways due to poor visibility. Heavier trucks and vehicles including transport trucks will decimate our road very quickly causing more issues than normal. Are there any

studies available showing the possible impacts to the surrounding roads?

NOTE: more grading will not fix our road or solve the issues that this detour will create. We have a very serious safety issues as it is now, so increased traffic will only increase the dangers.

It goes without saying that lowering the driving dangers on one road, that in turn inadvertently causes more dangers on another road, is clearly not an acceptable solution and should not be tolerated by the community being less valued.

7. RESIDENTS COMMENTS AND CONCERNS;

Note: these quotes are from real people that live on Con. 2 SDR

- I pull out of my driveway on the wrong side of the road because I'm afraid that someone coming over the hill will hit me
- I have personally witnessed 4 accidents in front of my house... that hill is dangerous when people speed along here, I don't feel safe
- I've been given excuses for years why they won't or can't pave the road, and at times been given false hope when I was told "your road will be considered for a road resurfacing next year"... next year never came. They have forgotten about us
- I've called and talked to people at West Grey for years now only to be met with condescension and basically just ignored and not taken seriously
- I'm very concerned about the lack of safety on this road. Just two days ago I almost got hit by a school bus. They drive really fast on this road. It was a very close call
- Sorry I didn't call you last week ... my husband passed away a couple of days ago but I wanted to make a point of calling you to respond to your questionnaire about the road. I'm very concerned about it and I wanted to make sure that I spoke up and shared my concerns and experiences with you so you can help us to make this road safer
- I was cutting my grass yesterday and I got pelted by rocks flying off the road by a passing car. This is the second time this has happened to me, look at the bruises
- I went for a walk last winter and was almost hit by a school bus that didn't move over. It was going really fast. I was shocked to see it full of children! When it passed me it completely covered me in ice and slush
- when I called the town about it they guy basically laughed at me. He told me why

it can't be done, he didn't care how dangerous it was out there

CONCLUSION:

The number of stories about “really close calls”, near misses” and terrifying experiences that have been exchanged between neighbours is astounding! How has this situation gone on for so long without being addressed? Most people that live on this street have a very compelling reasoning as to WHY they NEED to be heard. We want to see this road properly addressed and resurfaced to the same standards as the surrounding roads are. Concession 2 SDR east of Allan Park road is paved up the big hill, so it CAN be done contrary to what residents have been told for years. Concession 2 SDR residents want answers, and we want to see action taken for our personal safety!. This road needs to be paved once and for all as well as lowering the speed limit to what it should be for our safety. Again, Allan Park road [around the corner] is a flat straight and paved road and it is “posted” at 50 km ... why on earth is our gravel road that has big hills that always has washed out areas on it still assumed at 80km?

This road cannot be enforced by law until a proper sign is posted unless motorists exceed 80km.. The “suggested” speed limit signs that have been erected recently mean absolutely nothing and can NOT be enforced. It appears that once WEST Grey was alerted to the fact (by me) that there were NO speed limits posted on Concession 2 SDR, and then they all suddenly popped up, makes one think that you may be trying to deflect the responsibility and liability off of West Grey onto the public by posting BOGUS suggested speed signs? At this point in time, because of all the calls for help from residents over many years, that any future accidents and or deaths due to the neglect on this road should (and will) fall squarely on the shoulders of WEST GREY. By receiving these pleas for help from residents for many years and West Grey doing nothing about it, this could be construed as either “intentional neglect” or just a complete lack of caring about the residents and their safety. We have been placated enough, WE NEED YOUR HELP!

I trust we can work together as a community to achieve the standards of living on this road that is to be expected from our municipalities in regards to keeping it/us safe and hazard free so we can drive with ease.

Finally, and just in case nothing else presented here today has motivated you to want to take action I would simply ask you the following question. How do you think the municipality would make out with a negligence law suit filed against the municipality because a resident was killed or injured on the road, after the community had brought their serious health and safety concerns to you? Food for thought, indeed.

Your time is much appreciated, thank you.
Sue Godfrey