



Councillor Sandy Donald

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Dear Mayor and Council,

The recent snowmobile tragedies in our municipalities and others nearby, cause me real concern for our younger snowmobile enthusiasts. I do not believe this Council wishes to tread on the freedoms and enjoyment of our beautiful area, but I think we owe it to our people to try and mitigate the terrible waste of good people's lives. I wonder if we as a Council can adopt a proactive approach in this issue, to see if we can help somehow, in trying to reduce or remove these accidents from our Municipality.

I am not sure if any of this is being done right now, so please excuse me, if I'm going over old ground. I have asked Ron Boulton of the Recreation Board to help out.

I would like to propose the following:

1. Sponsor and fund an education day at each of the major locations with such room.
 - i. Tiverton Arena soccer field area.
 - ii. Kincardine Davidson Centre secondary soccer field.
 - Invite the area snowmobile clubs to organize these events.
 - Invite the O.P.P. snowmobile enforcement people to attend.
 - Invite the snowmobile manufacturers to attend.
 - Invite some guest speakers who have been involved in near misses, who can give first hand accounts of what issues to be aware of.
 - Invite the snowmobile maintainers to attend for tips on keeping the machine properly serviced and safe.
2. Reduce the speed limit on Highway #21, from 80km/hr to 60 km/hr, from the O.P.P. station all the way through to the Do-It Centre.
3. Get a contract with the MTO, regarding minimizing the height of snow banks within the bypass area, to ensure that visibility is maintained. The O.P.P. or a representative of the Snowmobile club, would probably make good monitors of such a contract.

I strongly believe that education is the answer to this problem, as has been proven with drinking and driving. We should not try to be punitive in any of the measures we take, to try and solve this problem. The involvement of all the players in a team approach, would help significantly in getting the message across. If we do this right, then peer pressure will play a large role in snowmobile safety becoming the right thing to do. I think the proposal above might be a good first step in helping keep our younger citizens better informed and in turn safer.

Yours Faithfully,

Sandy Donald.