

**Pilon, Janet**

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**Subject:** Hamilton Traffic FEEDBACK

**Importance:** High

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As an elderly Hamiltonian born in the Netherlands; I am appalled at how bike lanes, have impacted the flow of traffic here. In Holland [the world's cycling capital] the plan for traffic is equalized; all pedestrians, cyclists, buses, & cars share the road fairly; "each must care for the other" -the responsibility for safety is in EVERYONE's hands; this is called "the Naked Roads Plan" because instead of using ramps, guardrails, poles, edges, traffic signals, stop signs; which imparts a false sense of reliance on physical barriers people are expected to think & act responsibly ALL THE TIME for themselves and others !

Hamilton has a ridiculous plethora of stupid **4-way Stops**, something that confuses many drivers, and is unheard of in most of Europe. Hamilton even has 3-way Stops at T-intersections; in who's mind is this even a good idea???

Hamilton / Ancaster use **Roundabouts** for intersections; another completely stupid idea; Roundabouts were specifically invented for entrances to cities [or densely populated areas to help direct traffic efficiently & help drivers plan their navigation.

Hamilton has a long winter climate, yet has decided to place **poles** around many of the downtown core corners..... -this is actually too funny for words..... -just ask a snowplough driver trying to clear a road in the winter.... -or simply watch the debris pile up daily in other seasons because the street sweepers also can't get in there.....yup; too funny!!

But I save the best for last; Hamilton, in it's rush for "**Bike Lanes**" has reduced Bay Street S [when travelling North-bound] to one lane at the Main Street traffic signal.....-if you don't move to the most easterly lane before the light; you will sit behind Left-Turners who are waiting for all the "cyclists" [except there rarely are any there] light to change.....-I love it....

-oh wait; while I'm ranting; can we also talk about the Herkimer **parking** in the middle of the street situation; no, I have absolutely no words for that..... -let it speak for itself while visitors to the city sit quietly in their cars behind the parked vehicles; waiting for the "traffic" to move.....lovely welcome that is!

--oh and one more, please..... travelling on Queen Street there's a lovely spot, where in the middle of the road; there are actually 5 [I counted them] large blinking **pedestrian warning signs** in the physical space of less than 12 feet..... -yes; in the middle of the road ! -I couldn't hold myself back from photographing this travesty of saneness & posting it; people all over the world are seriously laughing at us..... -they mostly believe it's a joke by the city on it's citizens!

I do love my city; but whomever is in charge of all this nonsense needs to travel more .....-there are far better ways of planning traffic flow; like using the European [after all; they do know population density] concept of "**Through**" **Traffic vs**

**"Yield" Traffic**..... [would save us \$\$\$\$ on signs] & **Smart Traffic Signals**; which only activate when vehicles are actually in the area, and changing the suburban Traffic Signals to **blinking Red/Amber** during night hours; to avoid the hassle of drivers sitting at empty intersections at 2am.....

--Visitors to Hamilton do get a nice laugh when traveling around here though; maybe that was the point all along...???

-next RANT will be about the new "Construction Plan" Hamilton has enacted on it's citizens this year; we don't move traffic around a construction zone anymore; NO! -in Hamilton we CLOSE the entire street; let the people suffer, let the businesses die..... we know what we're doing .....lol

*Yolanda vdWeerd  
Hamilton ON*