

# ROBERT & MONIKA MARIC

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Good Day Ms. Wolsey,

We are writing to you today in order to request that two stop signs be placed on Jones Road in Stoney Creek. We have read the information provided on Hamilton's website regarding the Speed Watch program, and the importance of utilizing stop signs to indicate right of way. In our neighbourhood, there are many children. In fact, within the four homes located directly and diagonally across from ours, we have a combined number of 11 children between the ages of 1 and 8. Our request for two stop signs is being made for many reasons.

Firstly, at present, there is no current safe location for the children in the neighbourhood to cross Jones Road. The nearest location for crossing the road is at the stop sign at the intersection of Jones Road and the North Service Road. With the speed limit of the Service Road posted at 80km per hour, this is not an appropriate location for young children to be crossing the road on the way to the closest park- located on Waterford Crescent, nor to reach the school bus stop in the morning- which is located on the intersection of Cove Crescent and Waterbeach Drive. As Jones Road only has sidewalks on the west side of the street, children from the east side of the street must cross the road in order to utilize the sidewalk for learning to ride a bike, chalking with friends, or using their scooters. As parents, it is imperative that children are taught the safest way to cross the road from a young age in order to instill lifelong habits and safety for all. *An all-way stop sign at the intersection of Jones Road and Waterbeach Drive* will allow the children to safely cross the road to reach their school bus stop in the morning, take a safer, residential route to the park, and to reach a sidewalk on which to play.

Secondly, although the end of Jones Road between Galileo Drive and Lake Ontario was once a quiet area with relatively little traffic- that travelling to the private drives of Lakeside Drive and Copes Lane, each of those without exits, it has changed significantly over the past year. Copes Lane has been converted into a through street. Significant new residential building is underway in our neighbourhood. Currently, 18 new residential homes are being built on Copes Lane itself, and 90 duplexes and townhomes are being built between Galileo Drive and Copes Lane. Traffic has already increased on Jones Road with the conversion to a through street, and an additional 108 family homes could easily add an additional 200 cars driving up and down Jones Road. In addition to this development, *one* lakeside property at the end of Jones Road has been sold and been divided into **20 lots**. That will likely result in the addition of 40 more vehicles travelling Jones Road. These two new developments combined will potentially increase the daily volume of traffic on this formerly quiet residential community road by 240 vehicles, passing through a neighbourhood with a very high number of young children. *A second all-way stop is therefore requested for the intersection of Jones Road and Copes Lane* in order to provide another a place for the children to safely cross the road, as the traffic flow has increased, and will increase to a much greater level as the new homes are completed.

Thirdly, the issue of inappropriate driving must be taken into consideration. Jones road intersects with the North Service Road, which as stated, posts its speed limit at 80 km per hour. Once a vehicle travelling along the Service Road turns on Jones Road, there is absolutely no manner in which traffic is halted in order to allow drivers to take significant note of their surroundings, and recognize that they have entered a community area. Stop signs at the intersections noted will assist drivers in watching for children more cautiously.

Our community has attempted in the past to have the city agree to place stop signs on Jones road in order to control speeding. A radar board was posted on Jones Road for over a week in the fall of 2011. The conclusions drawn from that particular board indicate that speeding is not overall a large concern on our Road, and on that point I would agree. Much of the traffic on the road does follow posted speed limits, but it is the few cars who do not follow the speed limits posted that pose a tremendous risk to our children. We have purchased, and place 'Watch for Children' signs at the road when the children are in the front yard, but the drivers who are causing problems do not slow down to read the signs. These drivers are literally flying down our road. Most often, these drivers travelling at excessive speeds are going to the lake-end of Jones Road where they park their cars for a few minutes, meet with another vehicle which has been waiting at the same location, commonly in the driveway of the abandoned house (which is on the lot being converted into 20 lots

mentioned earlier), stay a few minutes, and then speed down Jones Road again, heading toward the North Service Road. Several vehicles will be seen making these quick stops at the lake-end of Jones Road in an evening- but not on every evening. Some will make a loop around the block a few times- while driving very fast, prior to stopping at the location noted. These speeders have been reported to the Aggressive Driver hotline, but they travel at such speeds that it is not possible to read the licence plates. My 3 year old daughter was nearly run down this evening by one of these drivers- my daughter was walking down the driveway beside me, looking across to her sibling and friends when a black car flashed past. One adult neighbour only had time to scream to draw my daughter's attention away from stepping on the road. My daughter cried and told me she didn't even see the car coming. She was right, neither did I. Our Neighbours and I have attempted flagging down the drivers to point out that there are children playing and their safety is paramount, but some just ignore us, others stop to listen, but then respond with profane language and speed away. We really do not know how reduce the speed of these particular drivers by ourselves. We have bought and posted, 'Watch for Children' signs for use when we are in the front yard, have requested stop signs, have utilized the speed board, and have spoken with drivers individually to slow down. None of these measures are working. Our children have a right to a safe street to live on. *Placing stop signs both at Jones Road and Galileo Drive and Jones and Copes Lane* will ensure all drivers are slowing down on Jones Road, and that pedestrians do have a place where they have the right-of-way. This request is being made now, before one of the children in the neighbourhood are hit by a car and suffer from the inappropriate actions of these drivers.

Stop signs are needed on Jones Road. The stop signs will provide the children in the area with an appropriate place to cross to the sidewalk, to get to the park, and reach the school bus stop. With the increase in traffic we are seeing with the conversion of Copes Lane to a through street, and the addition of 128 new homes from an area that was previously relatively quiet and without exits, it is imperative that some space be designated for safe right of way for the children and other pedestrians. In addition, it will slow the absolutely horrendous speed of some vehicles meeting at Jones Road and the lake. Pedestrians do require the right-of-way to cross the street, and at present, there are no such allowances on Jones Road.

I look forward to hearing from you with regard to this request. As it happens, representatives from Brenda Johnson's office were about our neighbourhood recently surveying the residents with regard to current concerns. For this reason, I am also sending her a copy of this letter. If there are costs involved in the purchase and installation of the stop signs at both Jones Road and Galileo Drive and Jones and Copes Lane, we are most willing to pay. We would not write to you today if this was not an urgent matter. Safety comes first- nothing else matters.

Sincerely,

Robert and Monika Maric