

Chris Newson - New Traffic Lights on Hammonds Plains Rd

From: Gordon Gray
To: "Hon. Barry Barnet" <BARNETBE@gov.ns.ca>
Date: 27/12/2006 5:12 PM
Subject: New Traffic Lights on Hammonds Plains Rd
CC: "Meade, Gary" <meadeg@halifax.ca>

Dear Mr. Barnet.

I very much enjoyed the 'chat' session you chaired at the Hammonds Plains firehall a few weeks ago. It was very informative and in spite of a very small attendance, I hope you will plan to continue with similar sessions in the future.

One area of discussion was lumpiness on the new section of highway 103 and you assured us that the matter was being investigated. It was good to see an article in the recent issue of the Masthead News dated 20 Dec., that the Transportation and Public Works Department had taken note of the condition and was investigating.

Among the other topics discussed was the one on traffic lights at the entrance to Glen Arbour on the Hammonds Plains road. You had indicated that, to your knowledge, money was set aside for lights, however, the intersection did not warrant the installation of lights. This conclusion was, I understand, based upon an engineering traffic study by HRM. As I noted to you at the meeting, the traffic counter for this past summer's count was not fixed to the pavement for more than a few days and lay alongside the road for almost all of the entire several weeks that the counter was in position. The HRM traffic count would have been very low indeed.

Also in the latest edition of the Masthead News was an article wherein it talked about the installation of traffic lights at not one but two areas on Hammonds Plains Rd., Fox Hollow intersection and at the new High School. While I do not have any statistics on the traffic volume at the intersection at Fox Hollow, I suspect that the traffic at that corner would not be too much different from that at Glen Arbour.

The High School intersection traffic would, at best, consist of staff vehicles and the busses needed to carry the allotment of students to / from school and this would only be at select times of the day and certainly not everyday throughout the entire year. There would not be any traffic in the early morning, early evening, weekends, non teaching days, school holidays and certainly the 2-3 months of summer. Thus low traffic count would seem not to be an issue in approving their installation.

If SAFETY is the issue, then all the more reason for lights at Glen Arbour. Traffic lights at Glen Arbour would, along with the existing lights at Pockwock Rd intersection, certainly provide an additional opportunity for traffic to access or egress from Hammonds Plains Consolidated School as well as the new Medical Centre that is about to open next to the school. Both are only a stone's throw from Glen Arbour. I would certainly hope that it would not take a serious accident or even worse, a fatality at the Glen Arbour intersection to change the views of HRM decision makers in favour of lights.

The logic for approval for these lights at Fox Hollow and particularly at the High School would seem to me to be no less compelling than for the Glen Arbour lights.

It would be appreciated if you would find the time to look into this matter on behalf of your constituents.

Thank you,
Yours faithfully,

Gordon Gray