
HALDIMAND COUNTY

Report ENG-03-2021 Port Maitland Speed Limit Reduction

For Consideration by Council in Committee on May 11, 2021



OBJECTIVE:

To obtain Council approval to reduce the posted speed limit to 30 km/h on all County owned roads in the hamlet of Port Maitland.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT Report ENG-03-2021 Port Maitland Speed Limit Reduction be received;
2. AND THAT a by-law be enacted to prescribe the posted speed limits in Port Maitland as follows:

Street	From	To	Speed Limit
Dover Street	Kings Row	The Esplanade	30 km/h
The Esplanade	South End	North End	30 km/h
Port Maitland Road	Kings Row	The Esplanade	30 km/h

Prepared by: Kristopher R. Franklin, Manager, Engineering Services

Respectfully submitted: Tyson Haedrich, M. Eng., P. Eng., General Manager of Engineering & Capital Works

Approved: Craig Manley, MCIP, RPP, Chief Administrative Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Port Maitland is a relatively densely populated area on Lake Erie with a mix of both seasonal and permanent residents and is home to a park, public boat launch, sailing club, pier and associated amenities that are popular destinations for visitors.

The current speed limit in Port Maitland is 50 km/h and given the high number of people that visit and walk along the narrow surface treated roads as well as the lack of shoulders and close proximity of many cottages to the road, a petition has come forward from the community to lower the speed limit to 30 km/h on all County owned roads within Port Maitland.

Based on the evaluation criteria for speed limits other than those standardly designated in the Speed Limit Policy, enacting 30 km/h speed limits within the community of Port Maitland is recommended.

BACKGROUND:

The hamlet of Port Maitland is a relatively densely populated area with a number of narrow surface treated roads. The dwellings in Port Maitland are a mix of year round residences, seasonal cottages and rentals and many of the buildings are built relatively close to the edge of the road.

Port Maitland is also home to a park, public boat launch, sailing club, pier and associated amenities that are popular destinations for visitors. During the summer months there is a high volume of pedestrian traffic and other types of slow moving transportation including bicycles and boat trailers using the roads.

The road system in Port Maitland (see Attachment 1) is a mix of County owned and private roads. Council has the authority to set the speed limits for the County owned roads but no jurisdiction over the private roads. The current speed limit in Port Maitland on the County owned roads is 50 km/h.

It should be noted that the speed limit on Lighthouse Drive is set at 30 km/h and at the gateway to the community there is an all way stop at the Port Maitland Road/Dover Street/Kings Row intersection.

The local councillor has brought forward a petition with forty-two signatures from local residents requesting that the speed limit be lowered to 30 km/h on all County owned roads within the community due to the high number of people that visit and walk along the roads as well as the lack of shoulders and close proximity of many cottages to the road.

ANALYSIS:

The County's Speed Limit Policy No. 2007-02 (see Attachment 2) provides the recommended speed limits for urban and rural cross sections based on the road classification. Based on their intended usage and traffic volumes the roads within Port Maitland are classified as local roads and, as shown in Table 1 of the policy, the recommended speed limit for semi-urban sections should be 50 km/h.

To evaluate the current posted speed limits, staff conducted a visual review of the existing conditions within the hamlet of Port Maitland as the policy also provides for the evaluation of criteria to determine if a posted speed limit other than those recommended in Table 1 should be considered. Using these criteria staff have evaluated the posted speed as follows:

Constrained by physical characteristics <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Narrow roads with no shoulders	Yes
Constrained by adjacent land uses and associated activities <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approximately 90 cottages and homes along county owned roads• Approximately ¼ of the homes and cottages are located within 5 metres of the edge of the road• High volume of pedestrian traffic during the summer months• Adjacent to park, public boat launch and pier	Yes
Required for heightened safety in sensitive areas such as school zones	No
Required for safe operation temporarily in a construction zone	No
Evidenced by a significantly higher than normal frequency or severity of accidents attributable to excessive speeds	No
The recommended level in Table 1 (Haldimand Policy 2007-02) is shown to be higher than the inferred design speed	No

Based on the rationale for the two “Yes” evaluation criteria in the Speed Limit Policy and the Ontario Traffic Manual (OTM) Book 5 speed control sign standards, a reduction to 30 km/h is appropriate for the County owned roads within the hamlet of Port Maitland (see Attachment 3).

FINANCIAL/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

Roads Operations will be responsible for installing the required signage. The estimated cost is approximately \$4,000 and will be funded from the Road Operations regulatory/warning signage maintenance account.

STAKEHOLDER IMPACTS:

Not applicable.

REPORT IMPACTS:

Agreement: No

By-law: Yes

Budget Amendment: No

Policy: No

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Map of road ownership in Port Maitland
2. Speed Limit Policy 2007-02
3. Map of proposed 30 km/h speed limit roads