



COUNTY OF WELLINGTON

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July 5, 2018

Sent via email: scott.lawson@opp.ca

Inspector Scott Lawson, Detachment Commander
Wellington County OPP
470 Wellington Road 18
Fergus, ON
N1M 2W3

Dear Inspector Lawson,

At its meeting held on June 28, 2018, Wellington County Council approved the following recommendation from the Police Services Board:

That Wellington County OPP recommends that member municipalities remove all currently erected Road Watch signage, as the Road Watch programme has disbanded.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kim Courts".

Kim Courts
Deputy Clerk

Ontario
Provincial
Police

Police
provinciale
de l'Ontario



County of Wellington Detachment
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May 28, 2018

Wellington County Police Service Board

RE: ROAD WATCH PROGRAM IN WELLINGTON COUNTY

Dear Madam Chair White and Secretary Wilson:

ROAD WATCH was instigated by a group of concerned citizens in the community of Caledon due to the number of fatal collisions occurring. A committee was formed consisting of six concerned private citizens. The committee approached the local Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), municipal politicians, as well as the municipality seeking support. ROAD WATCH was launched in January 1995.

The ROAD WATCH program was a community-based initiative that dealt with the high number of vehicle collisions and unsafe driving practices occurring in communities. The program gave residents an opportunity to participate and report aggressive and unsafe driving.



Public awareness of safety on the roads through ROAD WATCH assisted police services to identify dangerous, aggressive driving behaviors and the "hot spots" in the community where unsafe driving habits were commonly occurring.

In its infancy ROAD WATCH complaint forms were faxed to the police or placed in secure drop boxes that were conveniently located throughout the community. The completed forms were then collected on a regular basis and given to the police to action. The later iteration involved an electronic complaint submission from the ROAD WATCH website to the OPP Detachment of jurisdiction where a letter would be sent to the vehicle's registered owner identifying the problem.

Unfortunately in recent months, ROAD WATCH and its civilian Board of Directors (BoD) have disbanded. Attempts to establish a new BoD have failed. The result has been the removal of the ROAD WATCH website and the ceasing of its operations, thus the OPP are no longer in a position to advocate for this reporting tool.

The County of Wellington OPP supported and championed the ROAD WATCH Program over the years however local OPP officials were also aware that other more technologically advanced options were being developed.

To that end, the OPP in Wellington County have always consistently monitored, tracked and managed traffic complaints received by its citizens and municipalities alike. They continue to work closely with every complainant, the municipality and those identified offenders. Despite the ROAD WATCH option now being defunct, OPP have many modern and strategic tools available to address traffic complaints such as; Speed Spy, Mobile Speed sign deployment, dedicated Traffic Team, Award winning Crime Stoppers Program, Automated License Plate Reader cruiser and a new province-wide online OPP Citizens Self Reporting system.

Recommendation

With the ceasing of the ROAD WATCH program, Wellington County OPP recommends municipalities in the County remove all currently-erected ROAD WATCH signage (as pictured above).

Taking down any existing ROAD WATCH signage will eliminate any ambiguity of reporting and police follow-up, while ensuring that timely information is provided directly to the OPP through the new web-based Citizen Self Reporting tool (opp.ca) or by telephone as has always been the encouraged method.

Respectfully,



Scott Lawson
Inspector, # 7766
Detachment Commander