

Parking – Henderson Drive

Henderson Drive is a short, north-south street in West Park Village. Beginning November 2020, an attempt has been made by a delegation of west side residents to curb east side residents from using Henderson Drive as a parking lot. We have been working with Councillors and the Deputy Mayor, the Road Safety Committee, the Municipal Clerk and the By-law Officer to consider different avenues. An on-street meeting with Mayor Henderson and Councillors Burchat and Darling is currently on hold due to Covid-19 restrictions.

71% of west side residents want parking enforced on the east side and No Parking signs installed on the west side. The delegation believes its proposal is equitable to all residents of Henderson Drive. As well, the delegation believes it would improve the safety, congestion, esthetics, and access for emergency and service vehicles on Henderson Drive. Equally important, this proposal would boost the morale of our community which, over the past 6 months, has slowly deteriorated. With no by-law in effect for at least 7 years, it seems many east side residents have become complacent, using the street as a parking lot. Vehicles left on the street and not moved, often for days and nights at a time, affects the curb appeal of a village-like neighbourhood and the pride taken in our properties.

Points for Consideration

- Both east and west side residents have sufficient parking to accommodate 3 vehicles.
- Henderson Drive is unique in that it has street-facing garages and driveways for the semis on the east side, and back-lane garages and driveways for the townhouses on the west side.
- West side residents do not require parking on the street.
- In a Feb. 23 email, a week **before** our proposal was presented to the Road Safety Committee, Laurie Wills notified us of the Committee's decision to enforce parking on the west side for the following reasons:

...street light and transformers that require maintenance access...

Rebuttal – If access to street lights and transformers is a reason to enforce parking on the west side, how is this justified when, in reality, there are actually 3 street lights and 2 transformers on the west side versus 2 lights and only 1 transformer on the east side. Would it not make sense to enforce parking on the side that has **fewer** street lights and transformers versus more? Therefore, east side parking would make the most sense since it has fewer street lights and transformers.

...driveways...impede parking

Rebuttal - in fact, driveways **provide** parking and allow access for emergency vehicles.

....there is more parking available on private property on the east side

Rebuttal – if so, then why are east side residents constantly leaving their driveways empty and choosing, instead, to park on the street (often for days and nights at a time).

...west side residents would typically require more on-street parking opportunities than east side residents...

Rebuttal – This is pure speculation. In the 7 years of living on this street, west side residents have not required street parking; they actually make full use of their garages and 2-car driveways, unlike east side residents.

...The Town should be fair and consistent when creating new by-laws and they must be justified and enforceable. (March 2 email from Laurie Wills)

Rebuttal – If west side parking on Henderson becomes enforced it would, in fact, be *inconsistent* with east side parking that is currently enforced at the north end of Prince of Wales. *Note, the layout at the north end of Prince of Wales is identical to Henderson Drive, i.e., driveways on east side, and back lane parking on west side.*

Reference the Town of Cobourg Public Notice issued March 23, 2021 (L. Wills & A. Purdy)

Note: 3rd paragraph -so that everyone can utilize the street safely and appropriately...

East side residents who use the street as a parking lot are not using the street appropriately. Parking on the west side would create a problem for snow removal, in turn, would inhibit access to our front entrance. (keeping in mind that west side residents do not have driveways to their front entrance). In addition, would safety not be compromised if east side residents were made to park on the west side, having to cross the street to get to their homes (trekking groceries, carrying children, etc.)

Note: last paragraph - ...ensure on-street parking.....is a temporary option.....

There is nothing temporary about on-street parking when east side residents use the street as a parking lot, leaving vehicles unattended for days and nights at a time – all the while leaving their driveways empty.

Suggested Resolutions

Enforce parking on east side and install No Parking signs on the west side
We are open to Council's suggestions to improve the current situation.

Summary

Note: 3rd paragraph of the Town of Cobourg Public Notice, March 23, 2021....the main function of a street.....best for a street to be free and clear of obstacles including parked vehicles...

Please keep in mind that both east and west side residents have equivalent parking spaces: 1 in the garage and 2 in the driveway; the difference being that west side residents use their available parking in the back of their homes thereby eliminating the need for on-street parking. We understand it was the intent of the builder, Van Dyke, and the Town Planning Department that garages and driveways would eliminate unnecessary on-street parking.

As west side residents of Henderson Drive, we have always endeavoured to adhere to the recommendations in the Public Notice. We ask that you consider this in your final decision.

We thank you for your consideration.

West side delegates (comprised of 16 residents in 10 out of 14 households, equal to 71% representation).