



Corporation of the Township of Essa  
5786 County Road 21  
Utopia, Ontario  
L0M 1T0

Telephone: (705) 424-9770  
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July 14, 2010

All Residents on Alessio Drive,  
Michael Street, Christina Court and  
Centre Street Between 5<sup>th</sup> Line and Shelley Place

Dear Resident(s):

Important Notice – Change in Traffic Control at Intersection of  
Alessio Drive and Centre Street

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**Effective August 9, 2010**, the Stop signs on Centre Street at the intersection of Alessio Drive will be removed making Centre Street a through street at this intersection. Motorists will still be required to stop on Alessio Drive when approaching Centre Street.

The reason the all-way stop controls at this intersection are being removed is because this type of traffic control does not meet the criteria established for such purpose, as specified in the Ontario Traffic Manual. Attached is an excerpt from the Ontario Traffic Manual outlining the **“Inappropriate Use of All-Way Stops”**. Additionally, all-way stop controlled intersections can create other safety and maintenance issues, as follows:

- Tends to cause motorists to not obey stop signs when they consider them unnecessary;
- Increases noise and air pollution near the intersection and wastes energy/fuel;
- Leads residents to a false sense of security since they feel sure that they are protected by the signs;
- During the winter season, those intersections where “all-way stop” controls have been installed tend to ice up more frequently causing unsafe driving conditions and increased maintenance. Unfortunately, these intersections may be left in these icy conditions for a few hours before they are sanded due to routing and operational constraints;
- Studies conducted by other road authorities indicate that an “all-way stop” only slows traffic down within a couple of hundred feet each side of the intersection. Frustrated motorists accelerate to a higher rate of speed to make up for the frequent stops;



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- An “all-way stop” may cause pedestrians (particularly children) to be at risk since many motorists, in attempting to make eye contact with other drivers at the intersection in the “who goes next” scenario, fail to notice the pedestrian crossing at the intersection or at the side of the street, who may not be sure who has the right-of-way;
  - “All-way stops” may delay emergency responders unnecessarily.

Please exercise caution at this intersection when the change in traffic control occurs on Monday, August 9, 2010.

Yours truly,

Greg Murphy  
CAO/Manager of Public Works

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