

Medians on Hwy 20 creating a stir

Storing the Islands

Once again, some poor soul has crashed in to one of our now famous Fonthill traffic islands. Perhaps the real reason that there have been so many accidents is that Fonthill is just not ready for the islands

Vineland has had similar islands for several years, and as far as I know, there have been no crashes there. Of course they have wider roads with which to work and none of their islands involve access to the main shopping area of their town.

If indeed, Fonthill is not ready for the islands yet, like good parents of a child with an unsafe toy, the citizens of Fonthill should put away the islands until the town is older, wiser and ready for them. Perhaps if each household would store (not keep) one brick from an island for a while, or take it home and paint it a fluorescent colour before returning it, motorists passing through the town might be a little safer.

Sheila Langstaff

To the Editor:

There appears so much puzzlement over the problems with the Hwy 20 traffic islands but from the day they were built they struck me as an accident waiting to happen.

It appears that in most instances when the islands have been struck, it was by a westbound vehicle. Why? Probably because the road rising upward toward the west behind the islands causes them to visually disappear into the background. What's required is to make them visually taller so that they project into the skyline and become obvious to approaching drivers. Some fairly tall shrubs (6-8 ft) in the islands should do it. Trees might be even better since the trunks would block less of a driver's view while the tree canopies would provide the necessary visual height. Oh, and replace those dull blinking lights with some brighter LED units to truly draw attention. In daylight, you're currently hard-pressed to even notice the islands have flashing lights.

While I'm not a traffic engineer, observing driver behaviour during some 1.5 million km of everyday driving has taught me which traffic elements tend to catch drivers off-guard.

Harry Van Tuijl
Wellandport

Safety the primary concern

Dear Editor,

Just a quick question about all the problems with the Hwy #20 middle traffic islands.

If the community was so concerned about slowing traffic through this area, why is the speed limit so high?

This is a school zone, where to my knowledge, all school zones should be posted at 40 km/h speed zones.

Take for instance, the very busy, much travelled Victoria Avenue in Vineland.

This regional road has a very high traffic flow, but when you come to the Vineland school, it drops down to 40 km/h, so does Rice Road (now regional) as traffic flows past Alexander Kuska school, the same with Haist street in Fonthill, near E.W. Farr, and South Pelham in front of Glynn A Green.

It still amazes me that people are so unaware when driving that they don't see the flashing light. Locals from the area should know this median exists, especially with all the controversy, and be more attuned to their surroundings.

Even visitors, new to the community, would be more vigilant with a newly travelled street; they would be more careful in the area.

The safety of everyone, especially the children going to St Alexander's, should be the primary concern to get the speed limit reduced to 40 km/h, then maybe people would be travelling at a slower rate and become more aware of the traffic islands and the yellow flashing lights.

C. Botari
Fonthill