

TOWN OF ERIN

5684 Trafalgar Rd.
Hillsburgh, ON
N0B 1T0
www.erin.ca
council@erin.ca



Office of the Mayor

Telephone: (519) 855-4407 Ext 232

Fax: (519) 855-4281

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An Open Letter to the Residents of the Town of Erin

The Council of the Town of Erin fully believes in creating a strong, vibrant and safe community in which all residents are proud to live, work and raise our families. It is our collective goal as your Council to continuously enhance the quality of life for all of Erin's residents.

A component of what makes our community a healthy and vibrant place is the level of public safety that is provided within our borders and beyond. Recently, the warm summer evenings have emboldened some within our community to commit acts of vandalism and disturb public peace. These acts are not merely pranks. They negatively impact public safety and have a deleterious effect on how our Town is perceived by residents, our neighbours, and even potential business investors.

Although this is a largely policing enforcement issue, it is important for the public to know that your Council has and will continue to take positive steps to ensure the safety of our residents and our community to the best of our ability. This morning I had the opportunity to meet with our local OPP Detachment Commander to share my concerns directly with him about the recent escalation in acts of vandalism. We have invited Inspector Lawson to delegate to Council in September to discuss the OPP's enforcement efforts and measures within our community, which has been quite substantial. I have also spoken to our CAO about the possibility of re-establishing a Community Policing Committee within the Town in the hopes that this new group will make recommendations and take action to help mitigate future criminal acts like vandalism and mischief. I have also directed Town staff to explore the possibility of working more closely with 'Crime Stoppers' as a means to engage the community in helping to collect tips in order to solve crimes.

Engaging members of the public is an essential part of good governance, and this is also true when it comes to making our community safe. The value of engaged and vigilant residents is immeasurable – as we all have shared ownership in the safety of the place we choose to call home. Our policing agencies can do their job more effectively with the assistance of the public – and I encourage residents to report crimes or suspicious activities to the OPP proactively, instead of merely referencing what took place afterwards on social media. It is the desire of this Council to work with the public to be part of the solution, not just be a witness to the problem. Together – as a united Council and community we can continue to make Erin great.

Sincerely,

Mayor Allan Alls