Over the past year the residents along Fenton Drive have been working with Town Staff to discuss alternatives to a standard road design for Fenton Drive. Historically, this road was a graveled, private laneway and was only recently assumed by the Municipality. In the spring of 2007 the roadway was excavated for the installation of the Town sewers and the discussion of the finished treatment for Fenton Drive was resurrected.

Previously, a presentation had been made to Town Staff on different initiatives and alternatives that are occurring in other jurisdictions. These initiatives have been called Street Edge Alternatives (SEA) or Natural Drainage Systems (NDS) and provide alternative engineering standards to residential roadway designs that incorporate environmental stewardship, traffic calming and cost savings into the roadway design.

The NDS approach mimics nature by increasing the ability of the landscape to absorb rainwater with shallow depressions, amended soils, and plants – improving water quality and quantity, and reducing pollution and runoff speed. Additionally, the design of the street helps slow traffic. The narrower driving lanes and meandering shape of the roadway create visual interest and cause traffic to move at a slower pace. This makes it the ideal location for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Since the installation of the Town sewers widened the previous road footprint, the residents have been discussing alternatives with Town Staff to limit the further widening of the roadway. Town Staff provided the residents with a number of options that were presented to the homeowners along Fenton Drive over the previous few months. The preferred option is a 4.5 m wide asphalt roadway with a 1 m shoulder on both sides.
This would provide a serviced road to the area (i.e. accommodate garbage pick-up, 911 emergency vehicle access) while meeting the residents’ needs of a traffic-calmed roadway. Additionally, the reduced roadway saves the Municipality the costs of installing a full two-lane right-of-way (ROW) with curb and gutter. As has been proven through the research on the Street Edge Alternatives, these natural drainage systems meet multiple goals:

- They help to manage flooding in neighborhoods;
- They improve the appearance and function of the street ROW;
- They help the Municipality meet environmental priorities while saving the expense of a full two-lane ROW.

To summarize, the residents of Fenton Drive would like Council to endorse the further design development of an alternative street design for Fenton Drive that represents a single lane alternative. This alternative roadway accommodates:

- the limited space available on Fenton Drive;
- the grading and drainage challenges to a full ROW;
- the natural environmental setting of Fenton Drive;
- an alternative to North Shore Road for bikers, walkers, etc.
- traffic calming measures.

Additionally, the residents would like Council to consider the posting of a speed limit on the roadway and the planting of as many trees as possible (funded through the cost savings) to re-instate those removed with the installation of the sewers.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

*The Residents of Fenton Drive*
4.5 m Design Option of Fenton Drive