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Residents may enjoy the sound of silence

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FLAMBOROUGH REVIEW

Residents in east Waterdown may soon get a good night's sleep. It all hinges on whether Flamborough Councillor Margaret McCarthy can convince CP Rail there's no longer any need for its train to blow its whistle at the Parkside Drive crossing, west of Boulding Avenue.

The whistle-blowing has been a controversial topic amongst area residents for the past several years. CP wanted to continue the practice to ensure safety at the crossing, particularly since a driveway to the former Barnes Environmental building was located near the crossing, sometimes causing transport trucks turning left into the site to be caught sitting on the tracks.

But in recent weeks, the driveway outside Opta Minerals, owners of the Barnes Environmental site, has been shifted away from the

tracks. According to Councillor McCarthy, CP Rail officials had said the former Town of Flamborough could apply for anti-whistling relief if the driveway was relocated at a future date. That pledge was made about 1998 before Flamborough became part of Hamilton.

But Councillor McCarthy flagged the issue and when the driveway location was resolved this summer, she set the wheels in motion for an application to CP Rail. Although there are now new criteria to fulfill, the councillor is hopeful the issue can be put to rest.

"Residents, there, want it stopped," she said of the whistle-blowing. "There are armbands (wigwags) and lights at the crossing now," she noted. "It's excessive to have whistles blowing too."

City council has endorsed applying for relief from the whistle-blowing, McCarthy said. She and area residents are now waiting for CP Rail's reply.