

Trustee Di Cosola is worried about kids crossing Coleraine

By Bill Rea

Road improvements around King Street and Coleraine Drive in Bolton are creating some complications, and that worries the local school trustee.

Trustee Frank Di Cosola, local representative on the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board, said he plans to approach the municipality to have the speed limit on Coleraine reduced from the current 60 km-h.

"I believe 60 is still too high," he remarked, adding the reduced limit could possibly be in effect during certain periods of the day, signified by flashing lights (similar to arrangements outside Herb Campbell or Palgrave Public Schools).

Di Cosola explained the issue is one involving students who are eligible to be bused to school, in this case, St. Nicholas Elementary School on Harvest Moon Drive. The major impact is for students living southeast of the Coleraine and King intersection.

Student Transportation of Peel Region (STOPR) has reviewed the transportation eligibility for students at the school, and concluded that the completion of the widening of Coleraine and the installation of sidewalks means the STOPR will be cancelling bus transportation or many of these students, starting in September.

"I knew this was going to happen," Di Cosola said, adding there were provisions already installed to help mitigate the situation.

Coleraine and Emil Kolb Parkway to the north are both part of the Bolton Arterial Road (BAR), and the plan is for that to take on most of the truck traffic in the area. Di Cosola pointed out Councillor Rob Mezzapelli and former councillor Patti Foley were instrumental in getting guard rails put in on the east side of Coleraine, just south of King. He said that's an additional safety factor to help keep rigs from mounting the curb.

He also said there have been calls for crossing guards at the intersection, as kids will have to cross five lanes of traffic to get across Coleraine to Harvest Moon. Di Cosola said he's been informed the Town will be conducting a crossing guard study next week to consider the criteria in light of the completion of the BAR.

There is a walkway from the cul-de-sac on Grapevine Road to the west (right across Coleraine from Ellwood Drive). Di Cosola said he will propose that be closed. His concern is with young people sprinting across Coleraine and getting into the development that way, rather than walking north to King.

He added he expects there will be opposition to that. "I may not be liked by the Grapevine community," he commented, adding that kids in the higher elementary grades are "courageous at that time."

He added he's seen cases of both youngsters and adults riding their bikes across that road.



Trustee Frank Di Cosola is concerned about youngsters walking across Coleraine Drive at King Street to get to St. Nicholas Elementary School on Harvest Moon Drive.