



DEVELOPMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES – ENGINEERING SERVICES  
TOWN OF NEWMARKET  
395 Mulock Drive  
P.O. Box 328  
Newmarket, ON L3Y 4X7  
www.newmarket.ca  
info@newmarket.ca  
905.895.5193

January 13, 2014

**DEVELOPMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES REPORT  
ENGINEERING SERVICES 2013-58**

TO: Committee of the Whole

SUBJECT: Main Street – Prohibiting the use of skateboards, roller blades and bicycles on the sidewalk  
File No.:T08 T.30 Main

ORIGIN: Director, Engineering Services

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**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**THAT Community Services Report – ES2013-58, dated January 13, 2013 regarding Main Street – Prohibiting the Use of skateboards, roller blades and bicycles on the sidewalk, be received and the following recommendation(s) be adopted:**

- 1. THAT this report be forwarded to the Main Street District Business Improvement Area Board of Management for their consideration and recommendations.**

**COMMENTS**

At its regular meeting of September 30, 2013, Town Council adopted a recommendation from the Main Street District Business Improvement Area Board of Management minutes that stated:

*THAT the Town of Newmarket staff investigate the feasibility of posting signage at points of entry to Main Street prohibiting the use of skateboards, roller blades and bicycles on the sidewalks.*

Town staff undertook a review of the feasibility of prohibiting these specific modes of transportation. The Town's Traffic By-law would need to be amended, thereby creating a special section and specific schedule to prohibit those modes of transportation within a certain area. This would require Town Council's approval.

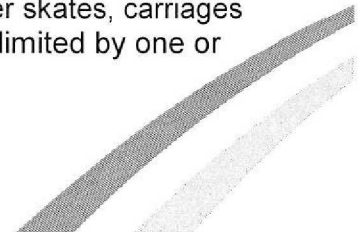
Signage and pavement markings would be for information purposes only (such as "Stoop 'n Scoop" signs) as opposed to regulatory signs (such as "No Parking" signs). Pavement markings could be used to delineate areas where skateboarding, roller blading and cycling are prohibited so that users would be alerted as they enter the downtown area of Main Street.

A review of other municipalities has revealed that similar types of prohibitions do exist. For example:

The City of Oshawa prohibits bicycles, skateboards, roller blades and wheeled skis in its downtown area.

The Town of Perth prohibits bicycles, skateboards, roller blades and in-line skates in its downtown core.

The City of Hamilton prohibits bicycles, skateboards, skis and coasters, but allows roller skates, carriages and authorized users with Segways (those over the age of fourteen whose mobility is limited by one or more disabilities, conditions or functional impairments) on all sidewalks



The City of Peterborough prohibits roller skates, skateboards and bicycles in its downtown area.

It is therefore feasible to prohibit the use of bicycles, roller skates and skateboards on Main Street.

Notwithstanding the above, the prohibition of skateboards, roller blades and bicycles on Main Street is not being recommended at this time for various reasons. Firstly, the Town's draft Active Transportation Plan lists the downtown area as an attraction towards which on-street bicycle lanes and off-street paths will lead. Furthermore, municipalities noted previously have all implemented fines associated with the prohibition. There is a risk that doing so in Newmarket may cause our downtown Main Street to become an enforcement barrier within the Active Transportation Plan.

As an alternative, it is recommended that a courtesy campaign be implemented whereby users would be compelled to dismount their bicycle, skateboard or any other travel mode in favour of the slower and safer pedestrian alternative. The extent of the dismount and walk campaign could be extended to the newly created Heritage Conservation District Plan – Lower Main Street South area.

Looking forward to the future when the Active Transportation Plan becomes better established, mode storage facilities (like bicycle racks, skateboard lockers, Segway lock-ups, etc.) could be established at the perimeter of the "dismount and walk" and the Riverwalk Commons areas. This would encourage alternative transportation users who come to the downtown area to have the ability to park / store or lock up their equipment securely in the designated location(s) and enjoy a walk through the Heritage Conservation District Plan area.

It is therefore recommended that this report be forwarded to the Main Street District Business Improvement Area Board of Management for their consideration and feedback.

## **PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

No public consultation was undertaken for this report.

## **BUSINESS PLAN AND STRATEGIC PLAN LINKAGES**

- Well-planned and connected...strategically planning for the future to improve information access and enhance travel to, from and within Newmarket.

## **HUMAN RESOURCE CONSIDERATIONS**

No impact to current staffing levels.

## **IMPACT ON BUDGET**

Operating Budget (Current and Future)

No impact to the Operating Budget.

### Capital Budget


Each signed location would require approximately \$100.00 to fabricate and install a sign and approximately \$250.00 for pavement markings. For the seven approach areas to the Downtown Main Street and the Heritage Conservation District Plan area, (please see attached map), the total cost would be approximately \$2,450.00.


### CONTACT

For more information on this report, please contact Mark Kryzanowski at 905-895-5193 extension 2508; [mkryzanowski@newmarket.ca](mailto:mkryzanowski@newmarket.ca).

Prepared by:

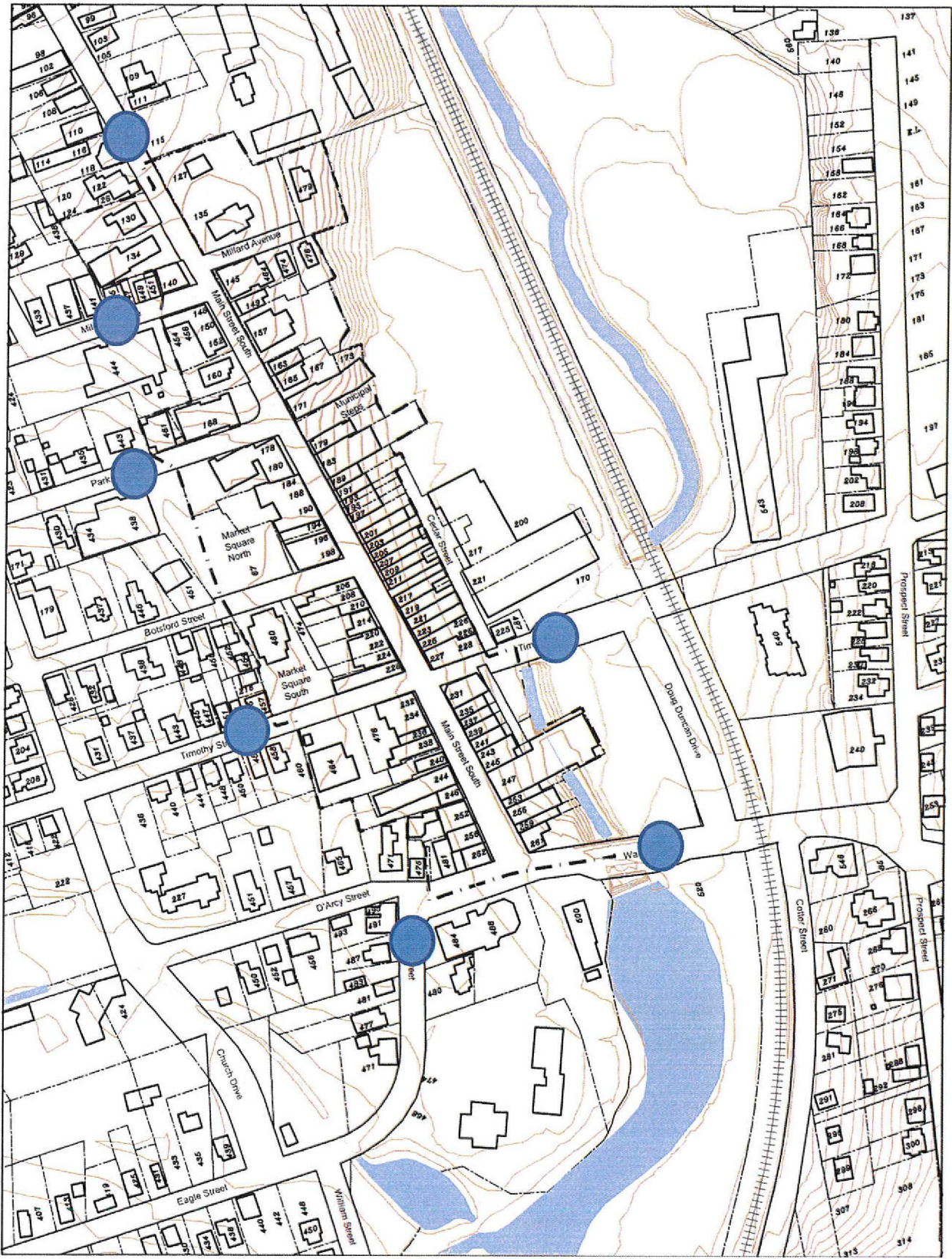
  
M. Kryzanowski, M.C.I.P., R.P.P.  
Senior Transportation Coordinator

  
R. Bingham, C.E.T.,  
Manager, Engineering & Technical Services

  
R. Prudhomme, M.Sc., P. Eng.  
Director, Engineering Services

  
R. Prentice, Commissioner,  
Development & Infrastructure Services





Approach areas recommended for signage and pavement markings