

April 15, 2021 11:21 a.m.

Dear Jamie, Dwayne, Mayor and Councillors,

It has come to my attention that the Town of Sackville is considering allowing skateboarders on roads. While perhaps well-intentioned, it is ill-advised. It is also deeply troubling from two perspectives: safety and liability.

On safety, the issue boils down to the fact that we will have a 75lb to 175lb person on a skateboard versus a 1-2 ton (or more) car/truck/dump truck/tractor trailer etc. It is quite easy to see who would win that confrontation if an accident were to occur. While the vehicle driver may face increased insurance costs after an accident, the skateboarder would be seriously injured if lucky, disabled for their life, or worse yet, die from the accident. This is not a fair confrontation between the two and one where the skateboarder will always lose. This is even more so the case given speed differentials between the two: a skateboarder pattering away versus a vehicle going at 50km/h or greater. Not good.

On liability, serious issues are also raised and one for which I have done research on and recently published an article called "Suing Canadian Governments". I have attached it to this e-mail for you to review. The oversight and inspection protocols needed to avoid liability are significant and should not be minimized. This is explained in the attached article and should be carefully considered. Essentially, allowing skateboarders on Town roads introduces serious and significant risk and liability issues for the community for which we should work hard to avoid. I am happy to discuss this research and the implications if you so wish.

That's why, given the above reasons, skateboarding on Town streets should not be allowed. Instead, the Town should work with community groups to expand other recreational possibilities.

Sincerely,
Mario

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