

I apologize I cannot attend today

Re: Bylaw number 012-2016 amendment

I have noticed recently that there seem to be a proliferation of electric scooters on our streets in Cobourg. It is understandable as they are an eco friendly, convenient and affordable mode of transportation.

Everybody seems to be taken by surprise at the popularity of these devices. Statistics are hard to come by as accidents and emergency room visits from accidents when operating these devices are classified as Cycling Incidents. Sick Kids is the only website I can find stats June and July 2023 they saw 5 cases in their emergency room. The same period in 2024 saw 16 incidents, 3 times the previous rates.

Ontario regulations state they are banned and basically not allowed anywhere. Ontario's pilot program for e-scooters does require helmets for riders under 18, but there's no specific mention of additional safety gear for higher speeds

Our Bylaws in Cobourg clearly regulate where they are allowed and the proper behaviours when riding.

However, bylaw 012-2016 does not state anything about the safety gear worn when operating an electric scooter. These devices can reach speeds up to 55km/h (Amazon). A simple bicycle helmet is not enough protection at these speeds, but it is better than not wearing anything.

Possibly for further protection include provisions for additional safety gear, such as knee and elbow pads, especially for high-speed models.

Does this committee not agree that everybody who operates an electric scooter should at least wear a helmet, and this should be added to our Bylaw in Cobourg? If so what are the next steps to strengthen this bylaw?