

From: Scott Armstrong [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, September 23, 2024 11:47 AM

To: Agenda <agenda@caledon.ca>

Subject: submission re: agenda item 15.2.2 Illegal Truck Yards

Good morning, please consider this email as my opinion on Agenda Item 15.2.2 re: Illegal Truck Yards.

I've lived in Bolton since spring of 2008, and unfortunately I have seen the impact of increased truck activity and illegal truck yards over the years.

When my children were eliminated from bus eligibility and had to cross Coleraine at King, my family's concern about truck safety was ratcheted up significantly.

The Town, lead by then-councilor Groves, recognized that the intersection was unsafe for pedestrians, and helped to put crossing guards in place for the year.

During that year, my wife and I were scared out of our minds on every school day, for the safety of our son and daughter. But we could not drive them to and from school ourselves, so we were left in a horrible situation.

Thankfully, the bus was reinstated the following year.

Sure enough, over the years, that intersection has become worse and worse, in large part due to trucks travelling unsafely and at high rates of speed.

10 years ago, residents were wondering if it would take someone getting killed by a truck so that the town would make meaningful change.

Will the September 10th death by truck of [REDACTED] will be enough for the town to work with OPP, Region of Peel and MTO to start showing progress in terms of truck yards and road safety?

The amount of increased truck yards in Caledon is an embarrassment.

Clearly some are operating within legal requirements, but it is hard to tell what is legal and what is illegal.

Why not institute a signage program, akin to restaurant inspections, that yards have to display prominently that shows they have met all requirements?

This would at least let residents know that a given yard is operating within the law.

While I understand that the Town has limits on what they can do with illegal yards, it is beyond comprehension that other municipalities seem to have figured this out and we cannot.

In addition to noise and light pollution concerns, as well as wear and tear on the roads not built to support truck yards, SAFETY is the number one concern that I have with trucks.

Development that has been allowed in Caledon has necessitated more trucks, but again, how was this not factored in to municipal planning? Perhaps creating kilometres upon kilometres of warehouses

wasn't the best idea. I understand jobs are important, but we the people have been backed into a corner. Caledon has grown too fast and there is no sign of that growth slowing down.

While the illegal truck yards continue to operate, the people who live in Caledon and especially in Bolton suffer.

When my kids started to learn to drive, the number one thing I taught them was to be extra vigilant around trucks, especially in Caledon.

Traffic has become worse, accidents more frequent and the blatant disregard for the basic rules of the road are ignored by a large number of "professional" drivers.

The time has come for the Town to say that enough is enough.

Install red light cameras, install speed cameras, clean up road signage - most importantly, convince/embarrass/demand/legislate/beg the OPP and MTO to enforce the rules of the road in Caledon - both for commercial and the average passenger vehicle.

As for the illegal truck yards - enough is enough. It is time for a "nuclear option". Again, beg/convince/demand/embarrass whoever needs to be convinced so that the Town has the tools to make a meaningful and immediate impact on the illegal yards. It is clearly not enough to work with them and hope that the understaffed bylaw enforcement team can get this done. Spend money! Block yards! Get taken to court because the bad actors are mad. Maybe that will drive them out.

More than anything, please sort out how to enforce existing laws and bylaws.

I am confident that if I opened a business in town without inspections, permits and a license, I would be shut down quickly. Why should a truck yard be any different?

Start at one end of town and close down a yard, then keep doing it until they are all gone. Easier said than done, but not impossible.

Thank you for your help.

I recognize this is a huge issue, but it is not insurmountable. It will take money and political will to fight, but that fight is essential to the safety of our community.

Scott Armstrong

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Bolton, ON, [REDACTED]