

Pilon, Janet

Subject: E-bikes and Hamilton Conservation

From: Walter Cairns

Sent: November 8, 2020 11:54 AM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca; Mike Pearson <mpearson@hamiltonnews.com>

Subject: E-bikes and Hamilton Conservation

Your assistance is required on the issue of banning e bikes in the Hamilton Conservation areas.

This is the email I sent to Lakewood Concerned Citizens regarding this issue. They suggested I contact you both for inclusion at council discussions and publishing in the Stoney Creek News.

Hi my name as you see is Walter Cairns I am a senior citizen 72 years of age I live in I live in the Bayliner condo on Frances Ave. I've been riding a bicycle in confederation Park for many years. This year my wife and I decided to purchase 2 e bikes so we could ride together and enjoy the beautiful lake and trails which we couldn't do before. Now I have noticed there are signs banning e bikes. I've called park and recreation and was told one of the issues was the speed that e bikes are capable of. Meantime there are people on roller blades, skateboards passing us not to mention the racers on bicycles going at speeds over 30 kilometres in groups up to 8 to 10. I feel this is an unfair rule that should be challenged as the majority of people I observe on e bike's are senior's. I got your website from a friend who thought you may be able to help with this.

I have also contacted Maria Pearson, our councillor for ward 10, who has informed me this is a provincial matter. I'm not sure how to continue my plight.

This is the email response I received from Maria Pearson:

Good afternoon Walter. Thank you for your email. I have investigated the E-Bike regulations and no restrictions in place are Provincial. Attached is the excerpt I have been able to pull from the Provincial website:

Electric bikes or e-bikes, both those resembling conventional bicycles and those resembling motor scooters, are allowed on roads and highways where conventional bicycles are currently permitted. They must follow the same rules of the road as set out in the Highway Traffic Act (HTA) that currently apply to cyclists, with some exceptions.

In order to operate an e-bike:

- Operators must be 16 years of age or older;
- All operators must wear an approved bicycle or motorcycle helmet at all times.

Where to ride an e-bike

You can ride your e-bike on most roads and highways where conventional bikes are permitted, with some exceptions.

You **can't** ride your e-bike:

- on certain provincial controlled access highways, such as the

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- Operators must be 16 years of age or older;
- All operators must wear an approved bicycle or motorcycle helmet at all times

Also, I have reviewed the Hamilton Conservation Authority website and confirm that they also ban e-bikes on their trails.●

Your help would be appreciated.

Walter Cairns