

Less than Half the Picture *By Richard Bercuson*



Around a Roundabout

There are a few distinguishing characteristics separating adults from elementary school-age children which researchers and engineers sometimes overlook.

- Children have no money. If they weren't owned by adults, they'd be homeless.
- While adults are left to fend for themselves, children have an endless array of groups, laws, and policies to protect them. For instance, shouting at a child in hockey practice is construed by some as being abusive. However, shouting at a parent in a rink to keep quiet is acceptable even if it leads to a "settling of accounts."
- Adult decisions aren't often questioned; children's decisions are always so.

Unpredictable kids
As we sage adults know, children

are unpredictable and fallible in ways that baffle us. While parents teach them basic rules of crossing streets, no one can account for judgements which can be interrupted by...squirrel!...just about anything. Children, as a rule, cannot be trusted all the time. It's why they're too young to drive, to vote, to quit school or legally buy tickets to a Rod Stewart concert.

This brings me to the roundabout suggestion for the intersection of Watford St. and Nathan Avenue, one of the Town of Whitby staff proposals for traffic control. (Note: Oddly, a survey about the issue has only gone to residents in the immediate area even though affected students come from over a kilometre away.) Drivers don't get roundabouts for the longest while. Pedestrians are puzzled by them. Most importantly, young children will be miffed. Some may find the island in the middle a tempting challenge too good to

pass up even though crosswalks tell them otherwise.

Twice daily, Watford and its surrounding streets are parades of youngsters, trekking to or from either Winchester Public or St. Leo's Catholic school, unaccompanied by adults, which is called independence, a good thing.

Notorious intersection
Various studies state roundabouts are safer for vehicles and even for pedestrians. One American site points out, "A roundabout near a school zone may be a form of traffic calming since vehicles are forced to slow down and yield to traffic. With proper design...a roundabout allows school buses, passenger cars, pedestrians such as school children, and bicycles to share the road safely." It provides a youtube

video of a roundabout near Kitchener's St. Mary's High School, citing it as an example of one that works. The video shows high schoolers marching across the crosswalks while vehicles stop. Yet a March, 2017, Kitchener newspaper report calls it "a notorious roundabout" and one of the region's most dangerous intersections.

Before they become teens, children are well dressed waifs, darling little humans who, as pedestrians, put their trust in crossing guards and the patience and courtesy of drivers. Nearly always, this works out just fine. Nearly. Always.

A roundabout may very well be a suitable traffic calmer for vehicles and older pedestrians. Is it worth nearly a half million bucks to wonder if it will work with little kids?



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Rotary Club of Whitby - Brooklin Satellite
invites you to:

Pasta Night

Saturday, February 10 • Cocktails at 5 • Dinner at 6 • Cash Bar
All net proceeds to go to Shelterbox
Beat the February Blahs with a fun night of great conversation and some home made pasta!

Limited Seating
For tickets contact Sebastian at 416.995.2656



Town of Whitby

January 19, 2018

UPCOMING EVENTS

Whitby Youth Rooms

Youth ages 12 to 18 years are invited to drop in to any Youth Room on Saturday, January 19, at 5 p.m. to celebrate National Popcorn Day and Wednesday, January 24, at 4:30 p.m. for Board Game Day. For more upcoming events, visit whitby.ca/youthrooms

Family Multi-sport

Drop-in sports every Saturday, starting at noon. Brooklin Community Centre and Library. whitby.ca/schedules

Station Gallery P.A. Day Camp

Friday, January 19, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Station Gallery Register at stationgallery.ca

whitby.ca/calendar

Council Meetings

Operations Committee
January 22 at 7 p.m.
Council
January 29 at 7 p.m.
Planning and Development Committee
February 5 at 7 p.m.
These meetings take place at Town Hall, 575 Rossland Road East. whitby.ca/civicweb

News

All 2018 Community Development Fund Applications Due by March 31
Community groups in need of financial support for initiatives and projects this year are encouraged to apply to the Mayor's Community Development Fund and Performing Arts Community Development Fund. The deadline for all applications in 2018, including Lead Cause applications for the 2018 Mayor's Golf Tournament, is March 31. whitby.ca/communityfunds

Notices

Whitby Identified for Cannabis Store Location
The Ministry of Finance and the Liquor Control Board of Ontario (LCBO) have identified Whitby as one of several municipalities set to have a cannabis retail store open in July 2018. The Town will continue to work with the Ministry and the LCBO to proactively enforce guidelines for selecting a store location in addition to the fair revenue sharing. lcbocannabisupdates.com

Job Opportunities

Summer Student Recruitment
The Town's Summer Student recruitment is now underway. Applications are now being accepted for positions in a number of areas including Parks, Events and Planning. For a complete list of the opportunities currently available, visit whitby.ca/employment

Health Club Membership

For 3 Months at the Whitby Civic Recreation Complex



Valid for new members only



Offer expires 01/31/2018
whitby.ca/fitness