

LOCAL

Skateboard park great by day, too noisy at night, neighbours say

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The new skateboard park at Cobourg's Donegan Park is a hit since opening recently, but not quite everyone is raving about it.

A number of area residents have voiced their concerns to the police and Mayor Peter Delanty about the noise from skateboarders using the metal ramps late in the evening.

Mr. Delanty has spoken to police and asked for increased patrols in the area during late-evening hours.

There are also plans for meetings with the town administrator and engineering department to look into ways of cutting down the noise from the ramps.

Mr. Delanty said ideas include spraying foam on the undersides of the ramps, or putting sand bags underneath the ramps to muffle the sound.

The town is also looking at ordering signs to let people know the park's rules and hours it can be used.

"We're not anti-skateboard parks," he said. "We will deal with it."

He says 99 per cent of the calls he has received are in favour of the skateboard park — they would just like to see the noise toned down.

In the past two weeks, an 11-year-old Cobourg boy broke his arm and at least one person has been hit on the head with a foul ball from the nearby baseball diamond — luckily, he was wearing a helmet.

"It's a sport where there is a possibility of injury," Mr. Delanty pointed out.

Those using the park are impressed with the facility.

"I love it," 15-year-old BMX rider Buddy Skillen, of Cobourg, said one morning recently. "It's big and the ramps are nice."

But "it would be pretty cool if they put dirt jumps around (the skateboard park)," he added.

He has been using the skateboard park almost every day and said he can understand why neighbours would be upset with late-night noise.

"Maybe there should be a curfew," he said.

Fourteen-year-old Matt Lambert, of Cobourg, also gives thumbs up to the park.

"It's really good and it keeps kids out of trouble," he said. "It's a perfect place to have it because the washrooms are always open, but they should have a pop machine."

Matt said he wouldn't mind seeing an age limit for people who use the park, as younger, inexperienced children get in the way.

Buddy suggested having specific times for beginners only to use the facility.

Scott Berry lives on Water Street, just four houses from D'Arcy Street, and said he can hear the noise after 11 p.m.

"The kids have shown a lot of leadership getting this and I have confidence they'll come to an agreement of the operation," he said.

With his nine-year-old twin



Buddy Skillen executes a 180-degree turn on the skateboard ramps at Donegan Park on Sept. 6 while Jay Ainsworth, left, and Matt Lambert wait for their turn.

PHOTO BY PETE FISHER

sons, Fraser and Dawson, using the skateboard park, Mr. Berry said he is more concerned about the safety with regards to hel-

ments. "Kids have to understand there are a lot of hazards." But, he added, "I think it's

wonderful for the kids. "We're a competitive sports town and this is what the kids have wanted. It's a perfect spot."