

Intersection improvements spark debate between councillors

By Angela Gismondi

A report on a sidewalk streetscaping and improvement project at King Road and Keele Street in King City sparked a debate between two councillors at the Aug. 25 committee of the whole meeting.

When Councillor Peter Grandilli heard about the sidewalk replacement part of the project, he asked if the same could be done in Nobleton.

"You did a super job on this report," Grandilli began, thanking the Township's parks, recreation and culture department for the staff report. "I think it will make happy all the people of King City but what about the poor residents of Nobleton? It seems like we always get left behind."

By aligning with the Region of York's capital program, the Township has the opportunity to leverage a higher level regional funds on a cost sharing basis to complete the streetscaping improvements in King City through the Municipal Streetscape Partnership Program, explained Chris Fasciano, director of parks, recreation and culture for the Township.

The Highway 27 and King Road corridor improvements in Nobleton are listed in the York Region capital budget forecast and the current timing for construction is listed in the 2016-2018 timeframe. Through ongoing discussions with the Region, the Township has been able to confirm that an application for the Nobleton project should be submitted next year to be considered for funding when the project is confirmed by the Region.

The King City projects will cost the Township \$141,818 in 2014 and \$94,359 in 2015. The design for the Nobleton project is still ongoing. The estimate for the municipal contribution based on the current design is about \$1.5 million. This number is subject to change based on change of project scope, Fasciano added.

Mayor Steve Pellegrini pointed out that the project in Nobleton is much more significant than the one in King City.

"I want to make sure Councillor Grandilli understands it's three times the amount of (the) King City (project)," he said.

Councillor Cleve Mortelliti couldn't let Grandilli's comment go.

"I can't stand by and listen to this," said Mortelliti. "You keep saying 'poor Nobleton' but a lot of money has been spent in Nobleton. For you to come out and say that is a smack in the face to other members of council."

He pointed out that this term alone, the floor at the Dr. William Lacey Arena in Nobleton was replaced and Nobleton recently got a state-of-the art baseball diamond.

"The point is money is being spent in Nobleton and this council is supporting that," said Mortelliti.

Grandilli responded he didn't ask for the baseball diamond and the repairs at the arena needed to be done and "should have been done 30 years ago."

Mortelliti explained sidewalk repairs are needed in King City, Schomberg and Nobleton but right now work is being done on Keele Street and it makes sense to replace the sidewalk in the village at the same time.

"It would be ridiculous not to take advantage of this particular opportunity," said Mortelliti, adding council basically endorsed doing the same type of streetscape infrastructure upgrades at the intersection of Highway 27 and King Road in Nobleton in a previous report. "Obviously, everything can't happen all at once. The next one on the slate is Nobleton and there is a lot more work going into that."

In the end, council supported moving ahead with the enhancements on Keele Street in King City.