

Community and Protective Services Committee

Councillor D. Brown (Chair)
Mayor Fontana (ex-officio)
Councillor Armstrong
Councillor Baechler
Councillor Bryant
Councillor Usher
Barb Westlake-Power, Committee Secretary

There is a problem in our city with stray and abandoned shopping carts. I'm enclosing pictures from across the city, (included here,) but also sets from my neighbourhood, in an other email. It's gone from a mild nuisance to a major issue. It's making the city look terrible, it's creating dangers for pedestrians and vehicles, and this is all happening with the full knowledge of the stores that let their carts leave their lots.

I live on Genevive Crescent in the North East. There is a walkway from the mall to my street. Shopping carts go down my street at all hours of the day, but mostly between 9am-9pm, and they come from the No Frills store. They end up on the streets, sidewalks, and apartment complexes. Not only are they a nuisance, when night comes, kids race with them, break glass, and in my case, bashed a cart against my back fence. It cost \$300 to repair last summer.

We very much need a by-law to attempt to rein in people that feel they are entitled to simply take them away. This is not a new phenomenon. Guelph, Mississauga, and Markham already have by-laws in place to deal with this issue.

<http://guelph.ca/wp-content/uploads/ShoppingCartsBylaw.pdf>

<http://www.mississauga.ca/file/COM/shoppingcartnew.pdf>

http://www.markham.ca/wps/wcm/connect/692c260045aade3389a79937ad237556/bylaw_200837.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CACHEID=692c260045aade3389a79937ad237556

We can solve this problem. I recently heard by-law enforcement manager Orest Katolyk say he wanted to crack down on litter and start issuing tickets. This is a great place to start.

Some have said to me that not letting city residents take shopping carts would hurt the poor, as they would have no way to get groceries home. I reject this notion. First, most of the shopping carts leaving store property are dropped at bus stops. I does not make sense that a person needs a cart to take groceries to the bus stop, but somehow magically can carry them on the bus and to their homes. Second, one can purchase a cart of their own for \$15-20 at a Home Hardware. If people made this investment, I think it's safe to say they wouldn't throw it in a ditch or leave it on the street!

Back in my neighbourhood, Wal Mart has opened a new store. The have installed a cart management system that stops them from leaving the property. If the worlds largest and most profitable retailer has concluded that it's cheaper and better to keep carts around, then surely others come to the same conclusion. However, the best No Frills is willing to do is pick them up every day of the week. This is a huge expense, and is only happening because the District Manager ordered the owner of No Frills to do it. Otherwise, it would be twice a week.

I'm forwarding, in another email, pictures of what my neighbourhood looks like on any given day. You have to see it for yourself. These were just normal days, nothing special. All of the pictures are from a one block radius around my house. Highbury on the east, McNay on the West, Huron on the north, and Cheapside on the south.

Respectfully,

Mike Sloan.
11 Genevive Crescent