



CENTENNIAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

10 CONSTANCE STREET, SAINT JOHN, NB E2J 2P8 Phone: 506-658-334

<http://centennial.nbed.nb.ca>

City of Saint John- Municipal Services

15 Market Square
Saint John, NB E2L 1E8
service@saintjohn.ca

Attn: John MacKenzie, Deputy Mayor-Ward 2 and Barry Ogden, City Councilor-Ward 2

October 24th, 2023

Dear Mr. MacKenzie and Mr. Ogden,

The PSSC (Parent School Support Committee), staff, and families of Centennial Elementary School in the Old North End have identified several concerns relating to streets and sidewalks in our school zone.

Regarding the school zone speed limits, as indicated in the changes to the city's traffic by-law posted on June 16, 2022, the marked speed limit should be 30KM/H. For Centennial School, the 30KM/H signage begins around Sussex Drive, and ends along the vacant lot on Adelaide. This signage covers the Constance Street area, which is accurate on paper for the city as Constance (via Valerie Street) is the official mailing/civic address for the school. However, only staff are entering and exiting at this location. All bus and drop off traffic is at the back of the building via Visart/Natalie Street.

There is, additionally, a crossing guard positioned at Valerie/Constance (at the crosswalk entering Portland United Church) at the peak drop off time.

The concern is that all families (walking or driving), school buses, and other buses (Boys & Girls Club, Kids on the Go, etc.) are mandated to enter and exit via Visart Street (or Natalie Street, which leads to Visart Street). However, the school zone signage and speed limits are not posted in these areas

Ideally, the reduced speed limit signage should be extended from the site of the old Baxter Dairy Factory to the City Parks and Recreation building on Adelaide to maintain the safety of the children and their families as they walk to and from school grounds.

We have many families who cross the road at Visart to walk to the Rifle Range, Inspire daycare, and other homes nearby. This is an ongoing safety concern for our community, especially at school arrival and dismissal time. School zone signage, with reduced speed limits posted,

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Vice Principal: Willow Briggs

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combined with a crosswalk light at this location would alleviate many concerns, plus draw more attention to the crosswalk for drivers.

Our families have also reported concerns pertaining to the enforcement of the alternate side parking on Visart Street. Visart Street, going towards Centennial School and Shamrock Park has alternate side parking (I believe from Nov. 1 or Dec. 1 to May 31). This is a very narrow street, but when combined with winter weather, no sidewalks, parking on both sides and cars and buses entering and exiting, this street becomes a serious safety concern for our students and families. We request ongoing enforcement of the posted parking expectations in this area to ensure our students have safe access to school grounds.

Regarding snow removal, we have had ongoing concerns each winter with ensuring the proper priority status is placed on the lower (Shamrock) side of Visart. The disconnect could be related to the fact the city has the school zoned at Constance and not Visart, but this really requires an immediate change.

The PSSC, on behalf of all Centennial School families request the councils support with the above-mentioned concerns. We respectfully request that a member of the council follow up with our committee to collaborate on how we can best address these concerns to ensure our students and families have safe passage to and from our school each day.

Respectfully,

Stephanie McGarrigle
Parent School Support Committee-Chair

Amy McClure
Principal (Acting)
Amy.mcclure@nbed.nb.ca

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