

Wadelius Drive Drainage Review

The return of warmer weather may also see the return of the drainage issues on Wadelius Drive. A joint committee of Kelsey School Division and the Town of The Pas has had some fruitful meetings to address this issue.

The first objective was to clarify the causes of the water problem between Margaret Barbour Collegiate Institute and Scott Bateman Middle School. In addition, the previous efforts to resolve this situation were reviewed and the possible solutions that had been identified earlier were considered. It was noted that for environmental and infrastructure reasons there were few solutions readily available. It was felt that it was necessary to involve expertise from a civil engineer specializing in water drainage issues in the development of a plan to rectify the problem in the long term. Discussions have begun for this step to take place, though it is recognized that it is too late for any major construction that might be involved to occur this summer.

In the short term, two responses to the problem have been agreed upon. With the hope that this summer will not see major rainfall as has been the case in recent years, a first effort will be made to gravel and grade the north portion of the roadway off Grace Lake Road, with an effort made to shape it to allow for runoff water to drain along the curbs towards Grace Lake Road. It was noted that this portion of the Wadelius Drive roadway has suffered considerable deterioration to date, and if the extensive rains return, this short-term “solution” cannot be maintained.

Should excessive water run-off problems return, another option is to allow for restricted entry to the Winton Pool entrance and access for deliveries to MBCI and SBMS by reorganizing the barriers now in place. The access from Grace Lake Road would be closed off, but limited access would be allowed from the south roadway to the Winton Pool parking lot.

A major concern in the past has been private vehicle traffic avoiding the roadway and instead travelling on sidewalks and lawns alongside Wadelius Drive, a significant safety hazard to students. In addition, some vehicles have stopped at or near the SBMS parking areas, or on the roadway, impeding school bus traffic. Parents picking up or dropping off SBMS students are encouraged to do so on Grace Lake Road.