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Stouffville 911 signs still pose problems

Whitchurch-Stouffville residents are not reading instructions when posting their 911 signs, says a local resident.

Edwin Raymer, a Whitchurch-Stouffville resident and volunteer driver for Home Support Services (CHATS) says he drives senior citizens to and from appointments every day and has noticed many 911 signs are not posted properly.

"I agree with Mayor (Fran) Sainsbury. You can't see 90 per cent of the 911 signs on Bloomington Sideroad," Mr. Raymer says.

He is referring to a recent statement Mayor Sainsbury, when she said many of the 911 signs are not visible from the roadways and are splashed with mud and snow from trucks.

She added at a recent meeting that the signs would not be clearly visible at night when York Region's 911 emergency service is in place.

Council had debated before the signs were available for pick up by residents whether or not to let them erect their own signs, as opposed to hiring someone to erect them.

Local officials now regret the decision and may hire someone to properly erect all signs.

Mr. Raymer says he picked up a sign for one CHATS client, and adds instructions come with the numbers, which are easy and clear to understand.

"They have to be a certain height and a certain distance from the road. Some I've seen don't meet these specifications," Mr. Raymer adds.

Mr. Raymer told the Tribune that Markham's 911 signs are uniformly posted, but are more expensive to obtain because the Town hired a contractor to erect the green reflective signs.

According to Markham public works officials, residents don't have to pick up their signs - the department posts them.

Meanwhile, Whitchurch-Stouffville fire department officials confirmed last week that 30 per cent of residents have still not even picked up their signs.

Each municipality must have the signs in place by the end of the year, before the region is eligible for provincial funding to bring the 911 system into effect.

Whitchurch-Stouffville Deputy Fire Chief Murray Emmerson says people may not realize that it is to their benefit the signs are posted properly. He urged people to pick up their signs before last Friday's deadline.

Here are some of the specifications to follow if you have not posted your sign, or if you fear your posted sign is not properly erected:

For rural residents:

- The post must be erected no more than six metres (about 10 feet) from the centre of the driveway.
- The number must be seen from the highway and be visible at all times.
- The post must not be erected more than five metres away from the roadway, to ensure emergency crews can easily see the number.

Stouffville fire chief confronts local man armed with shotgun

Whitchurch-Stouffville Fire Chief Bill Brown was faced with the wrong end of a shotgun when he tried to calm a "distraught" man Sunday.

At 2 a.m. Dec. 2, a Stouffville man called his father in Minden. According to York Region Police the man sounded "distraught" and the father phoned Chief Brown, a friend, to drive over and visit the son.

Chief Brown, along with Wayne Morrison and Alan Sisco, arrived at a Dorman Drive address and were greeted by a man armed with a 12-gauge shotgun.

Chief Brown remained calm

and showed a lot of poise," York Region Police Sgt. Norn Miles said Monday.

He said Chief Brown succeeded in convincing the man to point the gun away, but not in turning over the weapon.

When the man loaded a shell into the shotgun, Chief Brown and his friends quickly left the scene. Police arrived and surrounded the house.

A Stouffville man, 20, was arrested at 5 a.m. and charged with pointing a firearm.

Chief Brown was unavailable for comment on Monday at press time.



FESTIVAL



SPORTS

Pee wee
Clippers win
consolation
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CAREER

