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Council fed up with Ninth Line

TRACY KIBBLE
 Staff Reporter

Council believes nothing will satisfy some homeowners on the Ninth Line South and councillors decided last week that they aren't about to try.

Ward 4 councillor Cliff Dunkeld said he doesn't want to see anything else to do with Ninth Line concerns on the agenda because "it doesn't call for the consideration we're giving it."

Dunkeld, who served as chairman at last week's meeting, said he is angry with himself because he didn't stop Ninth Line resident, Jennie Bangay when she unnecessarily attacked one of the town's senior staff on a report he penned regarding residents' concerns about safety issues on the roadway.

"I didn't carry out my duty last week. I should have told (Bangay) that names should not be mentioned and her speech was not called for," Dunkeld said.



DUNKELD

He added that the Ninth Line safety concerns are no different and no more important than every other concern of homeowners living on arterial roads throughout the municipality, including all roads running through local hamlets.

Dunkeld said if any residents deserve stepped-up safety considerations it's residents the Ninth Line North.

"If anyone has complaints it should be the Ninth Line North there is faster traffic there, there's a school there and no sidewalk," Dunkeld said.

Mayor Fran Sainsbury said council shouldn't be misled in believing that all residents on the Ninth Line South are upset

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Downtown

Offering service, best products key to success

Editor's Note: This is the second in our special series on the revitalization of the downtown core of Stouffville.

BRUCE STAPLEY
 Correspondent

The key to the success of the downtown business core lies in

offering service as well as products, while providing side-line attractions for would be shoppers.

That's the opinion of David Barthau, who for 15 years has operated Barthau's Jewelers on Stouffville's Main St.

Barthau, a certified jeweller and watchmaker, feels it's not enough to simply stock the shelves and wait for customers to come in. "The businesses that are surviving on Main St. are the unique ones, like John Lord's Books and Ann's Fabrics, businesses that are offering a service as well as a product," Barthau told *The Tribune* recently. "For instance, we repair and manufacture watches right on the premises. You've got to specialize. We've got to remember we're here for the customer."

It's also essential to present an impression of constant change, said Barthau.

"You have to be constantly changing. That's why we have our window displays, and why we changed our store front a little while back. It's got to be a positive experience for shoppers."

Barthau, a founder and former chairman with the Business Improvement Area (BIA) organization, said it's essential that downtown merchants compete with the popular Flea Market for the traffic going through town on weekends. "The market is seen as a positive thing by some, and a negative one by others. You've got to be able to stop the people driving by."

This could be done by adopt-

Licence cats: Prentice

One local politician wants Stouffville cat owners to buy licenses for their feline companions because far too many are running loose in neighborhoods, said Ward 6 councillor Ken Prentice last week.

Prentice wants staff to investigate a cat licensing program, which would be a first in all of York Region.

Prentice said he has received many calls in the past few months from constituents complaining about roaming felines in and around their properties.

Cat owners should have to buy a licence the same as dog owners, Prentice said - a move which could raise a substantial amount of revenue for the town, he said.

But Mayor Fran Sainsbury is skeptical the system would be effective because "it's a lot harder to catch a cat than a dog."

Town clerk Michele Skinner will investigate the matter and report back to staff in the new year.

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