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York Region

NOTICE OF STUDY COMMENCEMENT
9TH LINE (Y.R. 69) IMPROVEMENTS FROM HIGHWAY 407 TO MAIN STREET (STOUFFVILLE) CLASS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PUBLIC COMMENT INVITED

Cole, Sherman & Associates Ltd. has been retained by the Region of York to undertake a study to improve 9th Line from Highway 407 to Main Street in Whitchurch-Stouffville to Regional standards. As part of this study, the elimination of road jogs at bisecting east-west roads will be considered as well as investigating the improvement options of the existing jog at Main Street. The purpose of this project is to alleviate existing and anticipated future traffic problems associated with development in the Towns of Markham and Whitchurch-Stouffville.

This project is classified as a Schedule "C" undertaking by the Class Environmental Assessment for Municipal Road Projects (Class EA). Two Public Information Centres are scheduled for this project. The first is tentatively scheduled for Fall 1998. The second is tentatively scheduled for Winter 1998. Once this study is complete, an Environmental Assessment Report will be compiled and placed on the public record. Additional newspaper advertisements will be placed in advance of these activities to notify potential stakeholders.

Should you require additional information about this project or have any questions or comments please feel free to contact:

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COMMUNITY: They've taken away my animals, woman claims

Pet graves dug up and moved

BY DAWN LIERSCH
STAFF WRITER

For Mary Broome, there will be no more sentimental trips down Memory Lane.

The local pet cemetery has been dug up and the remains of Broome's long-buried furry friends were carried off to Midland. And she didn't know.

"I'm scared to go down and see what they did to Memory Lane. I think it was a miserable thing for them to do," she

said. "It annoys me because they did it so secretly. I didn't even get to say good-bye."

In 1987, Broome had purchased eight plots in the Yonge Street pet cemetery, located behind the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (OSPCA) shelter in Newmarket.

To date, the East Gwillimbury woman has buried four of her pets. The other four plots were reserved for her

16-year-old cats, the kittens of a beloved stray, Fluffy, which was already buried at Memory Lane.

The 78-year-old said she won't be able to travel two hours to Midland to bury the remaining cats with their mother when the time comes.

And she wasn't able to do anything about the situation beforehand because she received the letter after the deed was done.

"Maybe I'm more sentimental

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STAFF PHOTO/ROB ALARY

Mary Broome buried her pets in a Newmarket cemetery. She was dismayed to discover the remains of four of her pets had been moved to Midland.

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Produced by special arrangement with Orsmund Play Service Inc.

because I didn't have any children. These animals were my children."

"I also paid \$410 for that piece of land and it was mine, so I don't know how they could sell it. If this had been a cemetery for people, I don't think it would have happened the same way."

But Vicky Earle, chief executive officer of the OSPCA, said the society's board of directors tried to be as sensitive as possible when making the move. "We did our best to treat the animals with dignity and respect. We knew it was a very sensitive issue," Earle said.

"We didn't give much notice because we thought people would be distressed seeing the animals moved — it can be very unpleasant. People could argue it wasn't the right thing to do, but we were acting out of concern for them."

Earle explained a deal is about to close to have the OSPCA's land sold to allow for construction of a school and houses. A road is scheduled to be built through the pet cemetery site.

She added the cemetery had to be relocated before the shelter because it was on land to the rear which is earmarked for residential use in a deal that could close sooner.

Although the cemetery had to be moved by October, the board felt it would be easier to relocate in the drier weather. The animals were transferred to Midland in late August and early September.

Earle explained the board had been looking to sell the land to fund a larger shelter and educational programs.

"We contacted people quite a few years ago because the land had been for sale, but the deal fell through. But people knew it would be developed eventually."

Meanwhile, Earle encourages people to visit the Midland site.

"Some might find the distance difficult, but we think they'll like the environment," she said.

But Broome doesn't share Earle's enthusiasm. "I couldn't give a care about how beautiful it is. They've taken away my animals."