

POLICE: Fantino gets funding to hire 15 officers and outfit them with cruisers, motorcycles and high tech radar detectors

Traffic safety gets \$1.3 million boost

BY KATHLEEN GRIFFIN
STAFF WRITER

Collision reporting centres will bite the dust, 15 new officers will be hired and five new cruisers on the streets will form the basis for the York Regional Police new traffic strategy.

Chief Julian Fantino got the green light for his new comprehensive traffic safety proposal from the police services board Wednesday.

And while the program carries a \$1.3 million price tag, Fantino couldn't be more pleased.

"We have to develop priorities to spend the taxpayer's dollars wisely," Fantino said. "The question is not can we afford it, the question is can we afford not to?"



JULIAN FANTINO
Focus is on education and enforcement

More than 230 people died in those accidents; 24,405 were injured. YRP currently patrols 3,454 kilometres of roadway.

Fantino gave the board dramatic statistics to back up his proposal. In the last five years, there have been 71,655 collisions reported to both YRP and the Ontario Provincial Police on York Region roads.

"The foregoing data represents an extraordinary toll of human tragedy, trauma and economic loss," states the proposal report, adding more than 80 per cent of these collisions were the direct result of driver error.

Fantino also pointed out 44.2 per cent of respondents to the force's 1996 community needs survey rated traffic enforcement as first, second or third in importance over other policing areas.

Municipal open forums on transportation also have shown the majority of the public's concern is centered on increasing traffic, speeders, red-light runners and aggressive drivers.

Fantino told the board the

force's current approach to traffic management is not working.

Traffic unit officers have, by necessity, become reconstruction experts. The bulk of their time is taken up investigating accidents rather than enforcing the rules of the road. Officers in the districts patrol areas on a random basis, but only when they are not involved in more urgent calls.

Collision reporting centres were supposed to free up officers, but actually have resulted in many accidents going unreported.

The thrust of the new strategy is awareness, education and enforcement, and will see 14 new constables hired as well as a traffic analyst, at a cost of \$967,000.

Fantino also pitched for five new cruisers, five moving radar sets, four fully-equipped Harley Davidson motorcycles, five hand-held radar sets, five laser speed timing devices and five roadside screening devices. With additional speed warning signs and brochures or handouts, that cost is estimated at \$333,150.

A toll-free phone line, dubbed "Citizens on Patrol," is being looked at to allow drivers to report offenders.

Co-operation between the police and the regional roads department has already begun. A powerful video called Impact will be used by Street Beat officers in high schools.



Pat Robinson CIP

Trustee in Bankruptcy

Call for a free personal discussion

- Help with creditor problems
- Proposal to creditors
- Personal & Business Bankruptcy
- Financial counselling

9555 Yonge St. #401
(at Weldrick) Richmond Hill
(905) 508-9493
Email: pat@patrobinson.com

15139 Yonge St.
(at Church) Aurora
(905) 727-2577
Web: www.patrobinson.com

LOWEST PRICES FACTORY DIRECT VINYL REPLACEMENT WINDOWS

Slider, Double Hung, Casement & Fixed

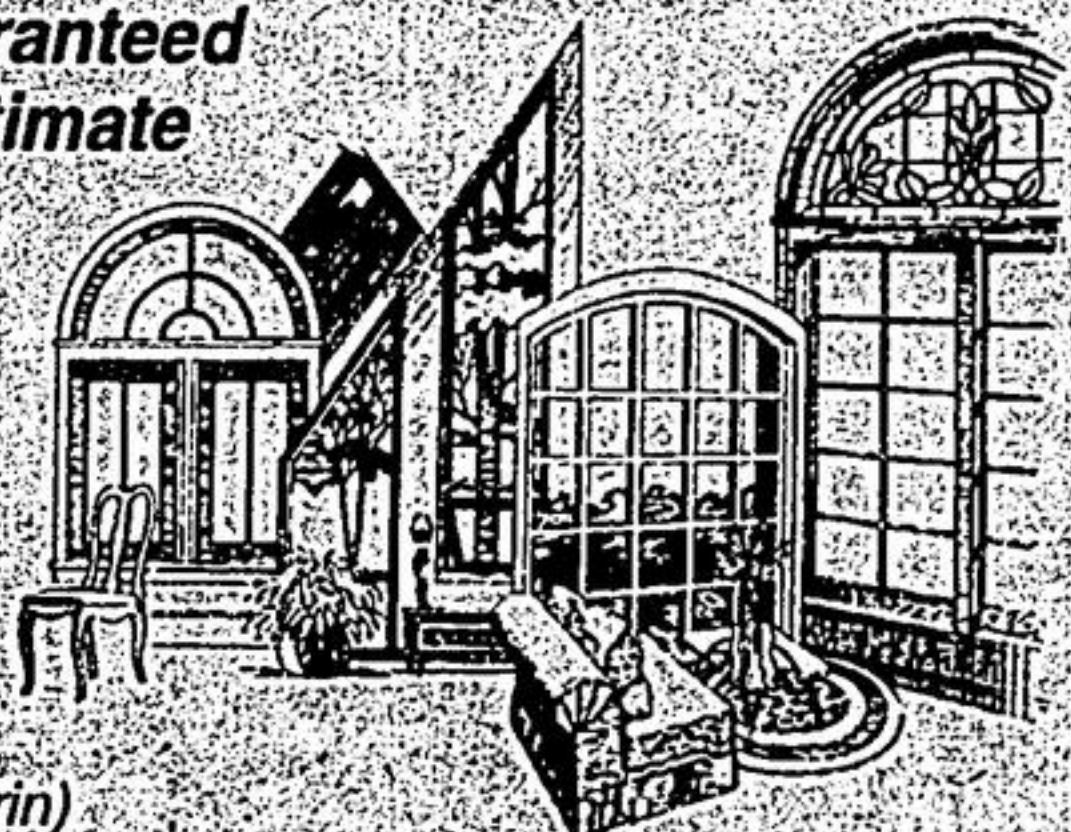
Ask about special prices on cash & carry
All work fully guaranteed
FREE in-home estimate

GREENVIEW WINDOWS

MANUFACTURING LTD.

1950 Hwy. #7
Unit 16, Concord
(between Keele & Dufferin)

(905) 669-8208



The Richmond Hill Adult Community Learning Centre

11160 Yonge St.
(just north of Elgin Mills)

ADULT DAY SCHOOL

GRADES 10 THROUGH O.A.C.
AND E.S.L. CREDITS

REGISTRATION

for

November 16, 1998 Classes
will be held

Nov. 4 to Nov. 7 • 9 am - 1 pm

- Advanced and General level courses
- Grade 10 to O.A.C.
- Business/Computer Courses
- English as a second language



905-884-2046

Fashion Fair 7-piece bonus

Your Fall '98

Soft & Sensuous bonus includes:

- Red Silk Lipstick 4 g
- Midnight Eye Liner Pencil 1.15 g
- Smoke Eye Shadow 2 g
- Bark Black Mascara 2.8 g
- Botanical Cleansing Gel 31 ml
- Zahra Perfumed Body Creme 21 g
- Facial Sponge

This bonus is yours
with any Fashion Fair
purchase of \$23 or more.

One bonus per customer.
Offer good until November 14, 1998
or while quantities last.



All Purpose Protein Creme 54 g, \$34

A very rich but light creme for face, throat, hands and body.
Helps to renew appearance and restore firmness
and tone, while it relieves all forms of dryness.



EATON'S

Times have changed.

www.eatons.com

Beauty buyline: 1-800-268-9175