

Pavement-marking worker struck and killed on Hwy. 7

BY MIKE ADLER
Staff Writer

A worker painting traffic markings across part of Hwy. 7 early yesterday morning was struck by a car and killed.

Murray Glen McLeod, 49, of Whitby, who was painting stop blocks in the westbound lanes of the highway at Town Centre Boulevard, was standing near the centre of the road when he was struck by a Chevrolet Corsica at around 2:15 a.m., York Region Police said.

The car's driver, a 29-year-old Markham man, failed to see McLeod until it was too late, police said.

The injured man was taken to Markham Stouffville Hospital by ambulance and later pronounced dead.

McLeod, who was working for a company under contract to the region, was painting stop blocks, a task for which workers usually use a hand-operated sprayer that rolls on the ground, rather than a truck-

mounted device, said Brian Harrison, operations manager for York Region's transportation department.

"It's a regrettable accident and we certainly express our sympathies to the family," he said.

Damage was visible on the driver's side of the Corsica's front fender and on the windshield.

Traffic on the highway was rerouted north along Rodick Road and Warden Avenue to 16th Avenue until mid-afternoon, while police and the Ontario Ministry of Labour continued investigations at the scene.

"It's not uncommon that traffic work is done at night to prevent traffic chaos. It's just you have to do it in a way to ensure safety," YRP Sgt. John Sheldon said.

McLeod's employer, Woodbine Pavement Markings Ltd. of Scarborough, has a two-year pavement-marking contract with the region. The company would not comment on the accident yesterday.

Harrison said companies contracted by the region are responsible for their workers' health and safety on the job. The Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices, a provincial manual used by all authorities that work on roads, sets out the proper placement for safety cones and a safety truck that blocks a lane for the worker, he said.

Anyone who witnessed the acci-

dent or the line-painting operation prior to it is asked to call York police at 881-1221, ext. 7703.

McLeod, the married father of a 13-year-old daughter, had been employed in the pavement marking business for 20 years, his brother George said yesterday.

"He was a loving father. He thought it was the most important thing in his life," he said, calling his

brother a free-spirit who also had a black belt in karate.

So far this year, York Region's traffic unit has investigated 14 fatal motor vehicle collisions resulting in 14 deaths, compared to the same number of fatal accidents and 17 deaths by this date in 1999.

—with files from Cindy Upshall,
Metroland staff




STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

York Regional Police and Ministry of Labour investigators surveyed the scene where a worker, painting traffic markings on the road, was struck and killed by a vehicle early yesterday morning.

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