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OldeTyme Christmas

Truck routes in place in Whitchurch-Stouffville, Newmarket

Region has set truck-ban precedent: Cousins

BY PATRICK CASEY
Staff Writer

York Region will study traffic patterns to determine if heavy trucks should be banned on some regional roads.

But Markham Mayor Don Cousins admits the region already set a precedent last month by endorsing a truck ban on Markham's Ninth Line, a two-lane stretch of road between Hwy. 7 and 16th Avenue.

"The region has to be responsible to maintain traffic of all kind on regional roads to meet the needs of the community," Cousins said. "It's unrealistic for people to believe they will solve problems by changing regional policy."

"If you live near or on regional roads, then this is a price you have to pay. Truck bans are not in the best interest of everybody."

On Thursday, regional council agreed to analyse the truck patterns

travelling on Langstaff Road between Hwy. 7 and Dufferin Street in Vaughan and Richmond Hill's Elgin Mills Road between Yonge and Bathurst streets.

Staff will collect the company names and truck types using the two roadways and contact the firms to suggest alternative routes they could use.

Signs can also be installed advising drivers to avoid sensitive areas and communities, while notices

can be distributed to area industries and businesses to inform their trucking companies of possible restrictions.

But non-enforceable solutions are little consequence to 130 Richmond Hill residents fronting on to Elgin Mills, worried their safety and quality of life in the neighbourhood are affected.

The region has rescinded a truck ban on the road following a lengthy reconstruction project.

The notion of truck bans is an issue every year, with requests often from residents in new developments backing on to regional roads.

The region has posted alternative truck route signs in Newmarket and the east-west corridor through Whitchurch-Stouffville, providing guidance for drivers around sensitive areas.

The Highway Traffic Act allows the region to limit the weight of trucks for a specific period of time.

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