



Shopping Extravaganza 2002

Featuring over 30 vendors with an exciting array of Christmas gift ideas.

Date: Friday, November 15, 2002

Time: 9:00-5:00 p.m.

Place: Markham Stouffville Hospital Auditorium, Main Lobby, below the Spiral of Sharing & The Cornflower Gift Shop



Proceeds to Markham Stouffville Hospital

Traffic study, speed hump petition launched after Raymerville fatality

BY KATHLEEN GRIFFIN
Staff Writer

A trust fund has been set up in memory of Jorge Martinez, the 14-year-old Markham boy fatally struck by a car crossing Raymerville Drive last Friday evening.

It's part of the outpouring of sympathy and support for the Martinez family following their son's death and it's hoped the fund will help defray the expense of burying Jorge in his native Peru.

A memorial mass was held Friday at St. Patrick's Catholic Church after Jorge succumbed to critical injuries at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre last Saturday.

The Grade 9 student at Brother Andre Catholic High School was on his way to pick up his little sister at a friend's house about 5:30 p.m. He was walking just east of Crandall Drive and crossed from the south side of Raymerville to the north when he was hit by an eastbound Pontiac Montana van driven by a 22-year-old Markham man.

The York Regional Police traffic unit is investigating and still seeking witnesses. Call 905-881-1221, ext. 7703 if you can help.

"It has been very hard for the family," said family friend Freddy Young. "They don't have a lot of family here; most of their relatives are in Peru, but they are very grateful for the support from their friends and the people

of Markham."

Mr. Young and another friend, Hernan Castro, opened the Bank of Montreal account in response to many requests from people asking what they could do to help, Mr. Young said.

The need to do something has also prompted long-time

Raymerville

Drive resident

Mario

D'Amico to

start a peti-

t i o n

demanding

the Town of

Markham

install

s p e e d

h u m p s

along the

straight-

away east of

McCowan

Road and a four-way stop at the

Crandall intersection.

He's gathered close to 450 sig-

natures so far and expects about

600 by the time he's done.

Residents can call 905-294-7065

if they are interested in signing

the petition. Ward 4 Councillor

George McKelvey is submitting

the petition to the town clerk

Monday, he said.

"I suspect there is quite a bit of

speeding along there," Mr.

McKelvey said, adding as a result

of Jorge's death he's asked staff for

a speed and traffic count in the

area which will give council some idea of the problem's scope.

"But I think it's clear we very seriously have to look at doing something there," he said.

Installing stop signs can be done within weeks, Councillor McKelvey noted; speed bumps, however, take more time.

Humps require a modified environmental assessment, a waiting period to record objections and a resident vote. Humps are only installed if 60 per cent of residents agree.

"It would be very difficult to get speed humps in less than six months," he said.

Raymerville crossing guard Gloria Trussler, stationed at Cairns Drive, knows how dangerous the area can be.

"Drivers speed, they don't stop or roll to a stop (at stop signs) and they make right turns, even if I'm in the middle of the road. These are their children I'm crossing," said the 11-year veteran.

She was shocked to learn of Jorge's death and often escorted his sister Marie Josee. She's written a letter that the administration at both St. Edwards Catholic Elementary School and Raymer Woods Public School have agreed to send home to parents to raise awareness.

Any Bank of Montreal branch can accept donations to the Jorge Martinez Jr. Fund under account number 00028066562.



JORGE MARTINEZ

Memorial mass held Friday in Markham.

Do you see or do you have vision?

Coming November 12