



Stouffville Sun-Tribune

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STAFF PHOTO/MIKE BARRETT

Roadside tribute

Berna Dare, a resident of Aurora Road in Ballantrae, plants her own memorial where a teenager was killed last week in front of her home.

Ballantrae grieves over fourth fatality

BY JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Writer

When Berna Dare heard the crash, she knew.

It was all too familiar. The sound of a fully loaded gravel truck hitting a car could only mean death or serious injury.

"I sent my son, who is a firefighter, out to see if he could do anything to help. But she was gone when he got there," Mrs. Dare said.

Dead was Ashley Ann Hodgins, 17, of Newmarket. She was killed Nov. 12 when the car she was driving crossed into the west-bound lane on Aurora Road between McCowan Road and Hwy. 48. Her Toyota Corolla had collided head-on with the dump

truck. The teenager was pronounced dead at the scene.

The driver of the truck, a 67-year-old Toronto man, tried to avoid the collision by swerving toward the right shoulder, York Regional Police reported.

DRIVER ERROR

"In this case, it appears as if it was driver error on the part of the girl," York Regional Police Chief Armand La Barge said.

Still, Chief La Barge acknowledged truck traffic is a concern in York Region. "Yes, there are problems with trucks on our highways," he said.

York Regional Police recently carried out a

truck blitz, stopping 154 heavy trucks, he said. A total of 244 charges were laid. Of those, 49 vehicles were put out of service, while three trucks were found to be not properly licensed. The blitz resulted in having 32 per cent of the vehicles stopped being taken out of service, he said. "Yes, that suggests there's a problem with trucks," he added.

Residents living along Aurora Road between McCowan Road and Hwy. 48 can't get used to the fatalities, Mrs. Dare said.

"I've lived in my house for eight years. This is the fourth person who has died in front of my driveway," she said. "It hurts. We're in grief,

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STOUFFVILLE RESIDENTS TELL YORK CHIEF

'We need more police officers'

BY JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Writer

Whitchurch-Stouffville is in desperate need of additional police officers to fight youth crime, York Regional Police Chief Armand La Barge was told Monday.

After Chief La Barge spent an hour giving an overview of police services at the annual meeting of the Stouffville Community Policing Centre, residents launched an emotional appeal, asking for more officers to fight crime on the streets of Stouffville.

Hardest hit is Stouffville's downtown, the police chief was told.

DOWNTOWN DAMAGE LISTED

Chief La Barge listened as residents explained that acts of vandalism by youth include repeated damage to the downtown gazebo, broken signs, smashed Christmas decorations, thrown beer bottles and spray-painted store windows.

The chief was also told young people damage parks, sell drugs on Main Street in full public view and use profane language. They scare pedestrians, especially seniors, and drive vehicles on the sidewalks.

About one per cent of the town's youth is causing 95 per cent of the trouble, Chief La Barge said.

"Most of the young people are good," he added.

A request for additional staffing of one extra police car for Stouffville isn't an easy order to fill, the chief pointed out. Adding a car would require hiring 6.5 police officers, said Chief La Barge. A first-class constable earns \$62,850 a year, the

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