

YORK'S WORST ROADS

Roads nominated for worst in Ontario

Hwy. 7, Markham
 Steeles Avenue, Vaughan
 Woodbine Avenue, north of Newmarket
 Yonge Street, Hwy. 9 to King Road
 McCowan Road, Markham
 Davis Drive, Newmarket
 Bloomington Road, King
 Eglon Mills Road, Richmond Hill
 Keele Street, Maple to King City
 Bathurst Street, Vaughan
 Aurora Heights Drive, Aurora
 Church Street, Keswick
 York Boulevard, Richmond Hill
 St. John's Sideroad, Aurora

'End bickering, start laying asphalt'

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Arsenault of CAA. "There has been much political rhetoric, but little improvement where the rubber hits the road."

GOVERNMENT HELP NEEDED

Tasha Kheiriddin of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation says Ottawa collects some \$2 billion in taxes from Ontario motorists, while Queen's Park collects \$3 billion.

"We want governments to end the bickering and start laying the asphalt. If they keep taking motorists' money, they should use it — or lose it," Ms Kheiriddin said.

The 10 worst roads will be announced in November, but the site had already registered 3,254 votes by Thursday morning, most of them from disgruntled drivers in Windsor and Sudbury.

Last year's worst road was Steeles Avenue and in 10th spot was

another section of Steeles in Vaughan.

Richmond Hill Mayor Bill Bell, the region's transportation chairperson, was on hand for the official opening of the Newmarket bypass and had nothing but praise for thoroughfares in the region.

PRAISE FOR YORK ROADS

"Our road network is extraordinary," Mr. Bell said. "Because most of our roads are newer, we don't have some of the same mainte-

nance problems."

Also at the opening, Mr. Fisch pointed to the region's 2004 capital road budget of \$156.3 million, which includes 77 lane kilometres of roads being resurfaced.

As well, the campaign is using billboards that read 'Tired of Driving on Poor Roads?' to remind of the opportunity.

Motorists can register their nominations online at www.worstroads.ca or call 1-877-967-7873 toll-free.

Drivers get three chances

York Regional Police will be out in full force teaching speeders a lesson when students head back to school next week.

The first component of an autumn traffic safety program, dubbed Operation Fall Safe, begins Tuesday, the first day of school.

Police will be at various locations across the region, including Carrville Road, west of Yonge Street in Richmond Hill, between 7 and 9:30 a.m., monitoring vehicles as they pass three check points.

The first will be an existing speed limit sign. Approximately 200 metres down the road will be a radar speed board displaying the speed at which a vehicle is travelling and 200 metres further down, will be a police officer with a radar gun.

"If drivers are still speed-

ing when they encounter the officer, that's three strikes and they're out. They'll get a ticket," said traffic bureau Sgt. Trevor Hanko.

Police are also reminding residents about the force's Safe Streets, Nice Neighbourhoods philosophy, which encourages drivers to take matters into their own hands and drive responsibly.

Approximately 80 per cent of drivers stopped for speeding or running stop signs live within a five-kilometre radius of where they were pulled over, police say.

The second component of Operation Fall Safe will begin Sept. 8, when traffic bureau officers in unmarked cars will concentrate on drivers speeding through school zones or those who pass stopped school buses with lights flashing.

—Martin Derbyshire

THE LEAVES AREN'T THE ONLY THINGS CHANGING THIS FALL.

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The weekday southbound trip that departs Stouffville GO Station at 9:05 a.m. will now run express from the Markham GO Station and arrive at the Union Station GO Bus Terminal at 10:01 a.m.

A new weekday morning southbound trip will operate between the Markham GO Station and the Union Station GO Bus Terminal.

A new weekday evening southbound trip will operate between the Stouffville GO Station and the Union Station GO Bus Terminal.

Four new weekday evening northbound trips will operate between the Union Station GO Bus Terminal and the Stouffville GO Station and a new weekday evening northbound trip will operate between the Union Station GO Bus Terminal and Uxbridge.

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