

## West-end residents getting help with 'ridiculous' traffic

BY HANNELORE VOLPE  
Staff Writer

The first step in slowing vehicles that cut through west-end residential streets to avoid Main Street traffic got the approval of Whitchurch-Stouffville council.

Several residents armed with an 85-signature petition at a June 26 meeting convinced council to consider traffic calming measures to steer vehicles away from their neighbourhood.

Pat O'Leary has seen traffic go from heavy to "absolutely ridiculous" during the 12 years he's lived in the area. About 400 vehicles come through each hour during peak times, with about 100 an hour on average, Mr. O'Leary said.

Mr. O'Leary said he stands at the end of his driveway, "like a goal-tender" whenever his two small children are outside playing.

Residents anticipate even more vehicles slicing through their neighbourhood bordered by Sandale Road, Main Street, Elm Road and Ninth Line once construction to widen Main Street begins.

Traffic calming measures, be they speed bumps or lane restrictions, would be removed once three collector roads are completed in the area, Councillor Susanne Hilton said.

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The collector roads include a widened Main Street from Ninth Line to Hwy. 48, which should begin next summer and the extension of Millard Street and Hoover Park Drive in the south end of Stouffville out to Hwy. 48.

Council will take comments from the public for the next 25 days before deciding Aug. 23 if the traffic calming measures should be put in place. If the project is approved, the



**SUSANNE HILTON:** Speed bumps or lane restrictions could help calm traffic.

measures could be in place by September.

Traffic could be discouraged from coming into the residential areas by full closures on Glad Park Avenue north of Elm Road and on Fairview Avenue just north of the business area on Main Street.

There may also be an eastbound lane obstruction on Rupert Avenue at Winona Drive and another at the north end of Fairview Avenue just south of Elm Road.

"I don't see how we can reroute through traffic without inconveniencing local residents," Mrs. Hilton said. "But it is an inconvenience I am willing to take because it is for a short time."

Councillor Phil Bannon noted there wasn't a clear consensus on what needs to be done.

However, doing nothing is not an option, local resident Jill McWhinnie said.

Paul Whitehouse, the director of public works, had presented residents with several possible scenarios for reducing cut-through traffic.

According to surveys of residents in the area, about one-third were in favour of speed humps, another third wanted lane obstructions and the remainder didn't want either.

"The safety of pedestrians and the quality of life for neighbours outweighs the inconveniences caused by taking five minutes more to where you have to go," Mrs. Hilton said.

The three collector roads likely won't be completed for four or five years and "it is a long time for Rupert Street residents to live with high traffic volume and speed", resident Martha Robertson said.

"Install whatever number of speed humps are required to slow or detour traffic from our neighbourhood," resident Mike McLean added.

## Rifle, ammo found in raid on home

Police found an arsenal of weapons and ammunition inside an east-end Stouffville home while executing a search warrant Canada Day.

Emergency Response Unit officers descended on the Geoffrey Crescent home Friday morning after concluding the homeowner might be in possession of weapons.

The investigation began when the man was arrested during a traffic stop the night before at Main Street and the Ninth Line. Two 18-year-old passengers from Durham

Region were arrested on unrelated probation offences.

The 29-year-old man is under a court order not to have any weapons following a 2003 conviction on weapons charges in Durham Region, police said.

Once inside, officers found a rifle, a large amount of ammunition for rifles, handguns and shotguns, firearm accessories including holsters and rifle scopes, a switchblade knife, hunting bow and throwing stars.

Drug paraphernalia was also dis-

covered, including syringes, rolling papers, scales and what is believed to be the leftover butts of marijuana joints.

A police dog was used during the search.

A man faces a number of weapons and breach of probation charges.

It is standard procedure for police to bring in emergency response officers in cases involving a quantity of weapons, a police spokesperson said.

—Martin Derbyshire

Pine Ridge

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