

Pedestrian gets out of way of chase

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of the way.

Despite the fact the chase headed through the busy downtown area and right next to a daycare centre on Civic, Ms. Dunbar doesn't blame the police for putting anyone's safety at risk.

"I never really had an opinion about (high speed pursuits) before, but I blame the kids driving the van not the police," she said.

"The police were just doing their job and I'm sure they make the best judgments they can in these situations. I'm just really happy no one was hurt."

Should police have ended the chase sooner for the safety of other drivers and pedestrians?

Public safety is certainly a consideration each time an officer begins a pursuit, York Regional Police Chief Armand LaBarge said.

"There is a combination of public safety factors an officer must consider if they are going to initiate or continue with a pursuit," he explained, however he would not comment on this particular chase

until an internal investigation is completed.

Those factors include the seriousness of the offence and whether the driver or licence plates have already been identified, allowing police to catch up with the culprit through other investigative means.

They also include the way a vehicle is being driven, road and weather conditions and time and place, he said.

"An officer must take into consideration whether they are driving down a lonely deserted highway in the middle of the night or at three in the afternoon down Bloomington Road with pedestrians or other traffic all over the road," he said.

When a chase begins, an officer must be able to explain the reasons over the two-way radio and senior officers listening can stop it any time.

Once the chase is over, successful or not, the officer's actions must be justified. An independent review of each police pursuit is conducted.

Disciplinary action can be taken and training for the officer may be ordered.

There are about 60 pursuits a year in the region.



BARRY MITCHELL PHOTO

A stolen van hit a truck and flipped on Stouffville Road after being chased by police through Stouffville Wednesday.



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The popular HGTV show "designer guys" is taping their 5th season. Designers Allen, Matt and Anwar are back bringing their unique solutions to homeowner's design challenges. The upcoming tv season promises more extensive renovations, bigger projects, and more structural alterations. The designer guys have chosen Fieldstone Windows Ltd. to provide custom windows and doors for several of their projects. Fieldstone windows has a wide variety of custom wood, vinyl, and aluminum clad windows, and specializes in the design and installation process. Fieldstone's owner Ken Simpson credits their excellent trim carpentry and attention to detail as factors in the decision. "Many people spend time researching window or door products without giving any thought as to how they will be installed and finished" says Ken. "We take pride in our design, installation and customer service, so that your windows will look great and work great for years to come". The 5th season will premier in October. Fieldstone Windows is scheduled for 3 of the 26 episodes.

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 Designer Guys, Allen, Matt and Anwar congratulate Fieldstone Windows on another project well done.

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