

Park Drive extension starting

The first phase of the southern extension through Park Drive will start this spring.

The tender for construction of this phase was awarded by Whitchurch-Stouffville council Tuesday evening.

The town received 16 bids for this project.

Todd Brothers Contracting Ltd. will start work on the road leading from Hoover Park Drive to the Lebovic Lei-

sure Centre as soon as ground conditions allow.

It should take about 10 weeks to complete this phase, Mayor Wayne Emmerson said.

The majority of the cost, about 72 per cent, for stage one, which comes to around \$720,000, will be paid for by Lebovic Enterprises Ltd., since much of this phase is in its subdivision.

The town's share, around \$280,000, will be paid by development charges.

Funds for stage two of the Park Drive extension, which will lead through

Memorial Park to Stouffville's Main Street, are included in the town's 2009 capital budget.

The final design includes a centre median with integrated planter boxes, decorative streetlights or lampposts and a combination sidewalk/bike path to integrate with Memorial Park.

Each of the two lanes will be almost four meters wide to accommodate buses and emergency vehicles. Left-turn lanes will be provided at all intersections.

- Hannelore Volpe

Busy intersection getting stop signs thanks to petition

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
Staff Writer

Elementary school students, cyclists and pedestrians will be able to cross the intersection of Hoover Park Drive and James Ratcliff Avenue more safely, thanks to more stop signs to be installed there shortly.

Neighbourhood resident Gus Sarino brought a three-page petition with more than 80 signatures to Tuesday night's Whitchurch-Stouffville council meeting from area residents asking for a four-way stop.

Council voted in favour of installing the stop signs. Two council members voted against the move, because they wanted more information from town staff first.

Mr. Sarino outlined a number of concerns, the major one being the four school buses that pick up and deliver elementary school children to the subdivision every weekday.

Currently, there are two stop signs, stopping traffic travelling north and south on James Ratcliff Avenue. Only two more stop signs have

to be added, Mayor Wayne Emmerson said.

In addition, a pedestrian walkway and bicycle path that goes behind the homes on James Ratcliff Avenue, in the neighbourhood just southeast of the Lebovic Leisure Centre, leads to this intersection.

Heavy volumes of traffic often speed past.

Hoover Park Drive is at its widest in this area with homes close to the road, Mr. Sarino said.

Neighbourhood resident Gus Sarino brought a three-page petition with more than 80 signatures to ... council.

The four-way stop signs will "deter people from speeding through there," Councillor Rob Hargrave said.

Speed signs are better than speed bumps, he said, since stopping at stop signs is enforceable by law.

RON JAMES

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