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A car parked illegally overnight picked up two tickets before being towed. In the same south Stouffville neighbourhood, few people are parking legally in overnight zones being tried by the town.



TOWN OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE

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## Few vehicles using new overnight zones

BY SANDRA BOLAN  
Staff Writer

Residents asked for it, they got it, but for the most part they don't use it.

It's the overnight parking provisions instituted earlier this year in four Whitchurch-Stouffville locations by the municipality as part of a pilot project to test the safety and viability of overnight street parking.

### SHOPKEEPERS SNITCH

The worst offenders appear to be on Dougherty Crescent, according to Keith Saunders, Whitchurch-Stouffville's senior bylaw officer.

Dougherty residents were given permission to park overnight on the east side of the street. All vehicles had to be removed by 9 a.m. and could return after 4 p.m. daily to allow for plowing.

However, there are seven or eight residents who insist on parking in front of their homes, which are on the west side of the street.

One resident even failed to move his or

her vehicle by 9 a.m. two days in a row last week, which has resulted in two \$50 parking tickets. On Sunday, the driver was left searching for the Honda at the impound yard as the town towed it.

"It's very frustrating. We never asked for this and they're not taking advantage of (these parking provisions)," Mr. Saunders said.

Some shopkeepers in downtown Stouffville have had enough of GO train riders parking on the street and have been blowing the whistle on them.

"They're there all day, right in front of (their) stores and their customers can't get in," Mr. Saunders noted. "They're saying this isn't right; they shouldn't be allowed to leave their vehicles on the street and go into work in Toronto all day."

The fire department has also been going out on patrol to check for clogged streets that may impede their ability to respond to a call in a timely manner.

"We have to make them think about what they're doing when they park," Mr. Saunders said of residents. "The difference

of two minutes can be horrendous to a house fire. It's not just property damage, but someone's life can be at risk."

About 70 per cent of all parking tickets handed out in Whitchurch-Stouffville occur during the winter parking season, which goes from Dec. 1 to March 31.

"We issue a lot more tickets in the winter than we do in the summer and they have to do with parking and safety for fire trucks," Mr. Saunders said.

### BUSY SEASON

So far in 2009, 408 tickets have been issued, of which 205 were for overnight parking infractions.

In 2008, 1,468 tickets were issued, with 478 for overnight winter parking violations. In 2007, 1,250 tickets were handed out, with 429 being for illegal overnight winter parking.

Getting caught parking on the street between 2 and 6 a.m. from Dec. 1 to March 31 will cost \$50, while parking in such a manner that interferes with snow removal will net you a \$50 fine.

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