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"(This is) rural land within (the) community of Stouffville boundary for which urban growth was not planned," Mr. Drozd told The Sun-Tribune.

If council does decide to release these lands, it will accommodate 90 to 95 per cent of the targeted 60,800 residents, according to the report.

"I believe the target will be met," said Mayor Wayne Emmerson in an interview with The Sun-Tribune.

If the plan is given approval, it will be another five years before development starts, according to Mr. Drozd.

"Easily. Sometimes it can be longer," he said.

Assessing the need to amend the secondary plan's extension of the towns and villages urban serviced boundary coincides with a Municipal Act mandate that states official plans must be revised every five years to address provincial policy.

"The exercise here is one of investigating the whole growth management of it," Mr. Drozd said. "What should be the land uses for the remaining portions of the community of Stouffville that are currently designated for rural uses."

Tweeters 'enabling' drunk drivers: cops

BY JOE FANTAUZZI ifantauzzi@yrmg.com

York Regional Police is weighing in on an online controversy swirling around the tweeting of spot check locations.

The issue became a flashpoint of online discussion during the Christmas break when some Twitter users began tweeting RIDE locations in the GTA, claiming they were helping sober drivers avoid traffic congestion. However, others, including police officers, began chastising them for doing so and media outlets have published stories about the online battle and the legality of tweeting spot checks sites.

The reported legal consensus appears to be that tweeting RIDE locations is not illegal per se, but York police spokesperson Const. Rebecca Boyd called it "irresponsible" because it allows impaired drivers to bypass police efforts to make the region's road safer.

"If people stop for a moment to think about what they're doing when they tweet a RIDE location, they would see they're enabling drunk drivers," Const. Boyd said in an e-mail.

"A change in perspective might be what's needed. As much as it may seem like a hassle or inconvenience to be stopped and investigated for having a drink, people need to look at it from the perspective that if they share this location, they may be inadvertently contributing to someone's death — this could even be your own loved one."

For the first time this year, the force began harnessing social media to raise awareness about its annual RIDE campaign and also used its Twitter account this week to thank a user for calling for a more visible RIDE presence.

The most recent numbers show seven people have been arrested for driving drunk during this year's York festive RIDE, compared to six last year.



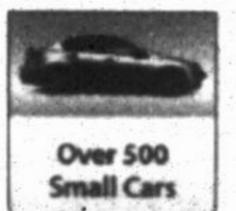
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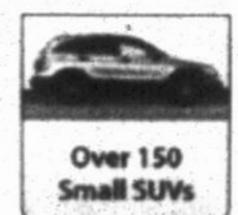
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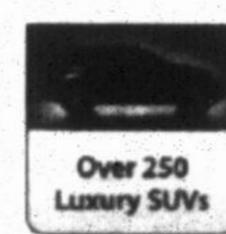
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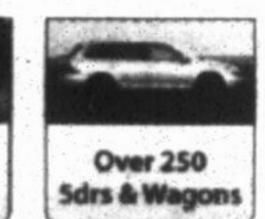
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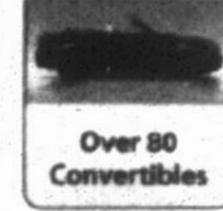
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