

Parking, taxi issues on new bylaw officer's radar

BY SANDRA BOLAN
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John Cappelletti is Whitchurch-Stouffville's new senior bylaw officer.

He replaces Nancy Cronsberry, who left the position in January after 18 months on the job.

Ms Cronsberry returned to King Township, where she was prior to Whitchurch-Stouffville, but this time she is its deputy clerk, according to Michele Kennedy, clerk for the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

"It's a great promotion for her," Ms Kennedy said. "It's a great career move for her." Mr. Cappelletti, who started March 19,

is from Oshawa and has 11 years of bylaw experience, Ms Kennedy said.

"We are really happy to have him," she said. "It's nice to have him on board."

Prior to becoming a bylaw officer, first for the City of Toronto in the 1990s, then for Thorold, St. Catharines and Oshawa, Mr. Cappelletti was a military police officer, then a civilian paramedic.

When Mr. Cappelletti and his wife, who are both avid cyclists, moved to Durham's west-end four years ago, while regularly cycling through Whitchurch-Stouffville, he told The Sun-Tribune, he would say: "if anything ever became available, I wouldn't mind

coming up this way".

So when the senior bylaw position opened up, he applied.

"I like the area here," he said.

Although Mr. Cappelletti's last post was in a larger city, he said he anticipates dealing with some similar issues, in particular parking, if not today, sometime in Whitchurch-Stouffville's future.

"Every time you get a higher density population, you get more complaints. (Parking spaces) become a premium," he said.

One program successfully implemented in Oshawa that he may consider bringing here is taxi safety inspections.

However, before instituting any new strategies, Mr. Cappelletti said "I'd like to see where the highest volumes of calls are."

The municipality currently has four bylaw officers, one who is senior, as well as one part-time officer, who works weekends.

Ms Kennedy said the town aims to have one officer for every 8,000 residents, however, with the current population just shy of 40,000, the actual ratio is 9,300 residents per single bylaw officer.

A new hire is not anticipated until the 2016/2017 time frame, Ms Kennedy said.

"But then we'll have to see how growth goes," she said.

Final Oak Ridges Trail link opens

BY DAVID FLEISCHER
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From Mono Mills to Warkworth, you can now walk the entire 275-kilometre length of the Oak Ridges Moraine.

But the work building the Oak Ridges Trail is far from over.

A 40-year dream was realized with the opening of the trail's western gateway in Mono Mills, where it meets the Bruce Trail.

The opening also provided an opportunity to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan and the 20th anniversary of the Oak Ridges Trail Association.

Volunteer members of the association look after sections of trail, produce guidebooks and offer guided hikes.

It was in May 1992 they obtained charitable status and began establishing the trail along unopened road allowances in King and Uxbridge townships.

With the passage of the province's Oak Ridges Moraine Act in 2002 and financial support from the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation, they were able to extend and maintain the trail and side trails.

While the trail is now complete, it traverses land held by many landowners.

More than 40 per cent is on public roads and 20 per cent is on unopened road allowances, meaning more work needs to be done to create a totally connected trail.

Ninety per cent of moraine land remains in private hands.

The foundation, which has worked with the trail association and numerous other groups to protect the moraine, has spent the money given to it by the province in



SUN-TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

Summer hikers set out at start of the 6-km route of the Oak Ridges Trail at Seneca College King campus. A western link to the Bruce Trail has now opened.

2002.

Foundation leaders have said it will close its doors by the end of this year if no more money can be found.

ON THE WEB

For more information, visit oakridgestrail.org or moraineforallife.org

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