

ANNUAL WINTER CARNIVAL

Thank You **2013**

Chair of the **Stouffville Winter Carnival Councillor Phil Bannon**

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Couple wants changes at intersection

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Mrs. Flynn also sustained whiplash to her right side.

Mr. Flynn, a retired Toronto police officer, was unharmed.

The effects of that accident linger today, despite months of physiotherapy. Mrs. Flynn suffers from arthritis on her right side, she has trouble sleeping and she can longer sit for long periods of time, so the couple no longer travels down south.

She also continued to have a phobia of that intersection.

After the collision, Mrs. Flynn became "the passenger from hell because I would grab the dashboard" whenever another vehicle approached theirs from the right.

In order to get behind the wheel again, Mrs. Flynn enrolled in driving rehab.

"I have to drive again," Mrs. Flynn said, noting she was and remains an active volunteer.

Five years and two weeks later, while Mrs. Flynn was heading home on Reesor Road, she was again hit by a driver, who ran the stop sign at Elgin Mills Road.

"I swerved to my right hoping to get out of her way but she got me," Mrs. Flynn said.

The eastbound vehicle hit the driver's side of Mrs. Flynn's Ford Taurus. When the sedan came to a stop, it was in the southbound lane of Reesor Road facing west. The crushed trunk was up against a pole. She had to be cut out of the vehicle by emergency workers.

Mrs. Flynn temporarily lost consciousness following the collision, but she can still hear the "screaming of the tires and crumpling of

the metal".

This time, she suffered stage 2 whiplash to her left side.

"Enough is enough," Mr. Flynn said.

He wants something done at the intersection. He's contacted local politicians and police officials.

"It's supposed to be a nice, quiet country road," he said.

"Yes, you have the right of way, but you do need to look around and be defensive," said Sgt. Sarah Riddell, traffic education safety supervisor for York Regional Police.

Between January 2012 and Feb. 12, 2013 there have been three collisions at this particular intersection, according to York police's unofficial data.

Two incidents involved injuries to people. The third was vehicular only, according to Const. Blair McQuillan.

Like Mayor Wayne Emmerson, Mr. Flynn is in favour of roundabouts.

"They force cars to slow down. If there is going to be an impact, it's going to be a fender bender," Mr. Flynn said.

Mrs. Flynn wants a stop light.

The intersection is controlled by the City of Markham.

Mayor Frank Scarpitti, who is also the chairperson of the police services board, was unavailable for comment.

Mayor Emmerson thinks a roundabout may help the intersection or perhaps a flashing red light for east and westbound drivers, to bring more attention to it.

"I can't tell Markham what to do," he said.

"Stop signs are there for a reason, stopping. Stop lights, you stop on red, go on green," Mr. Emmerson said.

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