



STAFF PHOTO/JIM MASON

York Regional Police officers leave Summitview Public School to knock on doors in east-end Stouffville Sunday. They'll be back in the neighbourhood this weekend looking for information on the beheading of six cats this summer.

Cat case calls pour into police

BY JIM MASON
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Investigators are following up on hundreds of calls made to York Regional Police in the past week related to the discovery of six cat heads in the east-end Stouffville.

"A big thank-you to the community," said Const. Laura Nicolle. "There are some good, good leads investigators are working on."

The heads of the dismembered cats with no blood visible, were discovered by residents on curbsides late this summer, police announced last Thursday. In every case but one, the heads were the only body part discovered.

Residents made more than 250 calls to police as of Saturday night. Many more came in this week, police said.

Investigators were back in the neighbourhood Sunday looking for more information. They'll return this Sunday.

Officers are knocking on 1,400 doors, looking for witnesses and people they haven't already spoken with.

Const. Matt Holden was talking to residents on Manitoba Street last Sunday at noon. One family said it had been keeping its cats and dogs indoors since hearing the news.

Others wished the uniformed officers luck in resolving the case.

A command post was set up in the parking lot of Summitview Public School, at Main and Stouffer streets in the middle of the affected area.

The incidents are not believed to be accidental or a result of a predatory animal, police said.

During a media conference last Thursday, Const. Andy Pattenden said he did not know what the motive could be, but described a number of grisly finds. He said no torsos were located and all six heads were found within one kilometre of one another.

The first case was reported Aug. 12 and the last one Sept. 13 and all have been in the area of Tenth Line and Main Street, with a number being discovered near or on Stouffer.

'A big thank-you to the community. There are some good, good leads investigators are working on.'

Const. Laura Nicolle
York Regional Police

There have been no other heads found, police said yesterday.

If someone has information, he or she is asked to call police at 1-866-876-5423.

Police are urging pet owners to avoid leaving their pets unattended outdoors.

If your pet has gone missing in Stouffville within this time frame, contact Georgina Animal Control at 1-800-898-8606.

- with files from Jeremy Grimaldi

Time for newcomers, outgoing mayor says

BY SANDRA BOLAN
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Whitchurch-Stouffville's future looks bright but it needs new blood, according to Mayor Wayne Emmerson.

Mr. Emmerson made the comments Monday night during the annual Mayor's Dinner, hosted by the Whitchurch-Stouffville Chamber of Commerce.

It was his last appearance as mayor at the dinner, as next year Mr. Emmerson will seek the York regional chairperson's position.

The lifelong Stouffville resident did not elaborate on the need for new people.

Among his accomplishments Mr. Emmerson is most proud of, is his attendance record during a 22-year career in municipal politics.

Whether it be as a councillor or mayor of Whitchurch-Stouffville or member of regional council: "I have yet to miss one of those meetings."

"It is the best job in the world," he told about 80 business people at Sleepy Hollow Country Club.

But it hasn't been all sunshine and roses.

When the indoor pool and library were constructed in Memorial Park more than a decade ago "that was hell when we put it together".

The pool was to be part of the Stouffville Arena, then known as the Whitchurch-Stouffville Recreation Complex. The library, located where the Care and Share Thrift Shop is now, was to be expanded.

MAYORAL CANDIDATES MEET NEXT YEAR

Mr. Emmerson also noted, in order to be in politics, you need to be thick-skinned.

"Social media is going to take a lot of good politicians down," he said.

He's no fan of Internet voting either.

"I'm not a firm believer of it," he said.

He believes people should take 30 minutes out of their day to vote in person.

Internet voting will be on council's agenda again next Tuesday afternoon. It would cost between \$100,000 and \$200,000 to implement, which means a tax hike of about 1 per cent, Mr. Emmerson told the meeting.

Throughout his career, he's had some challenges with councillors and some "real good ones", including the current council, who, along with Mr. Emmerson, retained their seats in the last municipal election.

Mr. Emmerson also reflected on how Whitchurch-Stouffville has changed throughout the years — in some ways good, some bad.

While the Stouffville Country Market will continue to operate for another couple of years "it's not the same as it was when the traffic was backed up all the way (along Main Street) to Hwy. 48".

Mr. Emmerson was "very disappointed" Southwire Canada closed earlier this year and admitted no one will move into the Main Street building. He predicted it will be torn down.

Next year's mayor's dinner will be an all-candidates edition, according to Edward Nelles, executive director of the chamber, who took on the mayor's challenge to run it that way.

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