

BY ALI RAZA

aliraza@yrmg.com

York Regional Police is still investigating a report of a man photographing children in Stouffville.

The incident occurred on June 6 at 6:30 p.m. in the area of Weldon Road and Main Street. A resident immediately reported to police and then later posted a summary on Facebook at approximately 11 p.m.

Police have been canvassing neighbouring areas and asking residents if they have any information or video of the suspect.

"I was in the garage getting my bike out when my seven-year-old daughter came in to tell me there was a strange man that had just come up to them and without a word started taking pictures of her and my two sons," the resident posted.

Police later confirmed the incident on June 8.

Police are searching for a white man, 5-foot-10, age 20 to 30, with a medium build, glasses, short spiky hair. At the time of the incident he was wearing black shorts, a T-shirt and running shoes and holding a maroon camera.

"We're looking to speak to this individual and see what he was doing and what was going on there," said Const. Laura Nicolle.

Police appeal for anyone to come forward with any information. They also appeal for the suspect to come forward.

"If they were there for a legitimate reason and it's not what it sounds like, we encourage them to come forward," Nicolle said.

Police ask anyone with video surveillance in the area to check for an individual matching the description.

Anyone with information on the incident is asked to contact YRP No. 5 District at 1-866-876-5423 ext. 7500, or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS, by leaving an anonymous tip online at 1800222tips.com.



STAFF PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE

The inflatable slide was a popular attraction during the annual fun fair at Oscar Peterson Public School in Stouffville.

Town spending \$200,000 to open street during construction

BY ALI RAZA

aliraza@yrmg.com

Main Street reconstruction is set to begin this summer, with the first phase of the four-year project beginning in July.

The section of Main Street between Tenth Line and Stouffer Street will have its road resurfaced, water mains and sanitary sewers replaced, new curbs installed and sidewalks repaired. Work for the first phase is scheduled to be completed by October this year.

Council approved the start of construction at a meeting last week

and decided to keep one lane open after an intense debate.

Regarding traffic management, council discussed two options. The first option involved closing the section of Main between Tenth Line and Stouffer Street, only allowing access for local traffic.

The second option involved keeping one lane open, while construction is conducted on the adjacent lane.

The cost of keeping a lane open is \$200,000.

"I can't see how we can shut a section of the street down," Councillor Rob Hargrave said during the

meeting. "Residential streets aren't built to take the additional flow of traffic."

'SMALL PRICE'

"\$200,000 is a small price. With the other option you save \$200,000 but all that traffic floods into our residential streets and it'll be problematic. What happens if someone gets killed because of the overflow? What's the cost then?"

But Councillor Hugo Kroon disagreed, likening the project to a "bandage you can pull slowly or all at once and get it done and over with".

Kroon continued to explain his position of closing the section of road and getting it done as quickly as possible.

"If this project goes longer, it's going to be far more of an inconvenience," he said. "We seem to be way too easy throwing money around, I don't recommend spending an additional \$200,000."

Kroon's motion to close the section of Main Street, however, was defeated.

But concerns about residents who will be directly affected by construction were raised by Councillor Iain Lovatt. Director of public works

Rob Flindall reassured council that houses would have restricted access for less than a day and will receive ample notice. A town staff member will be on-site with contractors to act as a liaison with residents.

The project's goals are to replace aging infrastructure, accommodate intensification, identify upgrades, enhance aesthetics and improve pedestrian safety.

"Main Street has been in need of reconstruction for many years," said Mayor Justin Altmann in a press release this week. "I know residents and businesses have been looking forward to this for a long time."

We are OPEN
Friday June 17th
10 a.m. til 9 p.m.
For The Markham
Music Festival
See you there
Lots of Fun for
the whole Family
on Main Street

16-6-16 ~10 a.m. til 8 p.m. ONLY ~ PEPPERTREE KLASSICS
Markham's Favorite Women's Fashions, Footwear and Accessories Boutique
PURCHASE ANY SPRING OR SUMMER
FASHION OR FOOTWEAR ITEM*
AND RECEIVE THE SECOND ITEM FOR**

\$16*

See you at
Peppertree Klassics
We have received lots of
fab new items at these
AMAZING Savings

*First Item Regular Price**Second Item Lesser Regular Price*ONE DAY ONLY 16-6-16 *ALL SALES FINAL*Not valid with any previous offers

137 Main Street North, Markham 905.294.3882 • www.peppertree.ca • Open 7 days a week and Holidays