



News from the  
York Regional Police  
Whitchurch Stouffville  
Community Sub-Station

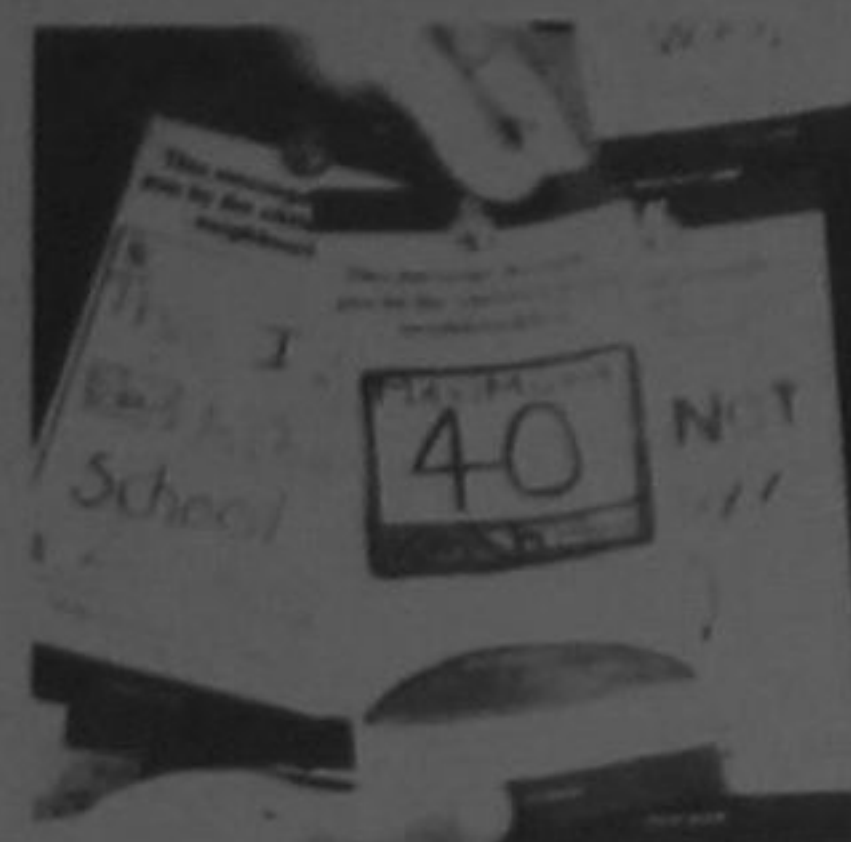
# YRP COMMUNITY CONNECTION



## 'Primary Traveller' Initiative Targets Poor Driving in School Zones

The Whitchurch Stouffville Community Sub-station, located at 111 Sandiford Drive, was launched during Police Week in May 2014. The substation enhances YRP's capacity to respond quickly and effectively to calls in the rapidly expanding Whitchurch Stouffville area, and to provide local access to document services such as police checks. This column

will highlight community-specific projects undertaken by the officers of the substation, beginning with 'Primary Traveller', a traffic-related initiative engaging the school community



Speeding. Distracted driving. Disobeying signs. Aggressive driving. These are all too common poor driving behaviours taking place on the busy streets of our growing community. The increasing incidence of these driving behaviours in school zones led to the YRP Community Sub-Station's development of the 'Primary Traveller Initiative', designed to raise awareness of the danger of this type of driving in areas around schools where young children will be walking or biking on the roads.

YRP Constables Konstantin Orshansky and Jennifer Piper authored the initiative. "It was developed over about a six month period," says Constable Orshansky, "after much consultation and discussions with the York Region Public and Catholic School Boards. Basically, the concept was to have students at the school prepare large poster signs with messages to drivers such as 'Don't Speed!', 'I ride my bike here!', 'Children play here!' and along with school personnel, be present waving the signs while YRP officers flagged down drivers exhibiting unsafe driving behaviours."

"St. Brendan CES was chosen as the first school to take part in this initiative. On June 1st 2015, members of York Regional Police were joined outside the school by 28 grade five students and several staff members. Officers monitored traffic in front of the school and stopped motorists

committing violations under the Highway Traffic Act, while students held up the posters they had created. After officers made the initial approach and spoke with the driver, students had the opportunity to speak with the driver as well to deliver the message of safe driving directly to them. After speaking with the driver, the students provided the driver a "fake" ticket as a reminder to be careful when driving in a school zone."

"York Regional Police created 'fake' Careless Driving tickets," says Constable Orshansky. "On the back of the 'fake' tickets, students wrote messages pertaining to traffic safety under the heading 'This message brought to you by the children in your neighbourhood.' Response from the school community has been positive and the kids had a great time."

In September Wendat Village Public School held a similar event and in November the initiative will take place at Oscar Peterson Public School. YRP's goal is to rotate the program throughout the primary schools in Stouffville, involving students in grades 5 and/or 6. In addition to engaging the students and educating the public about the importance of safe driving in and around school zones, the Primary Traveller Initiative will help forge a relationship between the police and the local school community.



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## Viewed in Vienna

Stouffville globe trotters David and June Probert encountered Bill and Johann McGee of Unionville catching up on Stouffville happenings at the Vienna Airport during a recent trip to Austria. David was quick to unload his camera and take a picture for posterity.

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