

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - APRIL 3, 2006

### VELLORE WOODS COMMUNITY LOCAL SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

#### Recommendation

Councillor Bernie DiVona, in consultation with Councillor Peter Meffe recommends:

1. That the City of Vaughan approves of the installation of an all way stop control at Starling Blvd. and Foxhound Crescent as requested by the Vellore Woods School Council memo dated February 26, 2006 attached.
2. That the City of Vaughan Engineering Department review the request for additional stop controls as outlined in letter dated February 15, 2005 from the St. Emily Catholic School Parent Council and the letter dated March 13, 2006 from the Vellore Woods Ratepayers Association and report back to a future Committee of the Whole within the next 30 days.
3. That the City of Vaughan reviews the request from the Vellore Woods School Council to remove the fence from the perimeter of the Vellore Woods Public School grounds adjacent to the ravine and the walkway and take the appropriate action.
4. That the City of Vaughan directs staff to install garbage containers along the length of the walkway of the pathway to Vellore Woods Public School.
5. The City of Vaughan Council receives the request from the Vellore Woods School Council for walkway lighting in the vicinity of Vellore Woods Public School and directs staff to give consideration within the 2007 capital budget consistent with that of other walkway/path lighting projects.
6. That the request for the installation of either a stop control or traffic calming measures (speed hump) in the vicinity of Comdel Blvd. and Plover Heights in the Vellore Woods community be referred to the established traffic calming committee for review and consideration in accordance with the City of Vaughan traffic calming policy.
7. That the City of Vaughan Parks Department meets with the Vellore Woods Ratepayers Association to review their interest with "Adopt-A-Park".
8. That the City of Vaughan Parks Department review the budget vs. actual funding to date for Vellore Woods Park, to determine the availability of funding, if any, for the additional work requested by the Vellore Woods Ratepayers Association.

#### Economic Impact

The requests and recommendations (1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7) are in keeping with the limitations contained within the existing operating budget for 2006. They reflect the normal costs for installation of stop signs, installation of waste receptacles, or removal of fencing. No further operating budget implication exists.

The requests and recommendations related to capital budgeting implications (item 5 and 8) are either to be included in the budget review process for 2007, or having already been included in previous capital budget approvals and monies may remain outstanding (item 8). The request for additional capital funding would be subject to the budget review process and approval consistent with other capital funding requests. No further capital funding increases are requested.

#### Purpose

Road and traffic safety is a significant concern by residents and representatives of the Vellore Woods community. The Vellore Woods community is a relatively new, dynamic and caring community interested in enhancing the quality of life we all seek through community safety improvements normally found in older or established communities, e.g. stop signs or traffic control, garbage containers, walkway lighting, and park improvements. The Vellore Woods community is developing and large amounts of construction have both taken place and are near

completion. As a result, existing residents now for the first time are seeing the influx of high traffic, speeding, and other concerns that are of concern to them and their families.

### **Background - Analysis and Options**

The recommendation and requests originate from the community service organizations within the Vellore Woods community. This item is a consolidation of the recent requests from:

1. The Vellore Woods Public School Council on February 26, 2006 met to discuss matters of local interest for the benefit and interest of their children and community. They have reviewed the crossing of children in the vicinity of the school and have determined that there must exist a means to facilitate the lowering of speed limits and crossing in a school zone.
2. St. Emily Catholic School Parent Council has expressed a concern with the implication of volume, cut through traffic, and speed as it relates to the commercial development along Rutherford Road and abutting Hawkview Blvd. opening the block from Rutherford Road to Major Mackenzie Drive.
3. Vellore Woods Ratepayers Association has been proactive and has worked with the school councils and other groups and individuals to review those matters of concern and importance to the overall community. The attached recommendations and concerns are outlined and need no further repetition.

### **Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007**

The Vaughan Vision speaks to the need and importance to build a safer community and to consult with the residents, stakeholders, and generally those that have direct knowledge and direct interest in their community. This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have been allocated and approved.

### **Conclusion**

To review and implement those matters of a local interest to enhance the community safety of the residents

### **Attachments**

Letters as outlined above are attached.

### **Report prepared by:**

Councillor Bernie DiVona, 905-832-8585 extension 8339.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Bernie DiVona  
Moved

Councillor Peter Meffe  
Seconded

Elvira Caria  
Chair of Vellore Woods  
Ratepayers Association

Vellore Woods Public  
School

February 26, 2006

Dear Ms. Caria,

The Vellore Woods Public School Council is in support of the following Vellore Woods Ratepayers' Initiatives:

An all-way stop at Starling Blvd. and Foxhound Crescent.

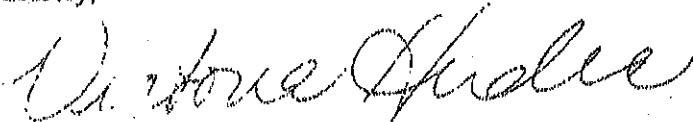
- This will make conditions safer for students at this intersection. It will facilitate crossing of our students and will reduce the speeds of vehicles on Starling Blvd. in the vicinity of the school.

2. Removal of fence from the perimeter of the Vellore Woods Public School grounds adjacent to the ravine and the walking paths, and the addition of lamp-posts and garbage cans along the length of the walkway.

- Many students utilize the walking path as part of their route to school. The lighting would make the paths safer for students, especially in the dark winter months.
- The presence of the fence around the perimeter of the schoolyard impedes students from entering the school property from the walkway. Students are currently making a hole in the fence and climbing through it or climbing over the fence to enter the school property. The fence poses a safety risk and we would like to see it removed as soon as possible.

Thank you for your support to the Vellore Woods Public School Community.

Sincerely,



Victoria Huac  
Vellore Woods School Council

Reply Reply to all Forward Close Help

From: Alan A [alan\_cca@yahoo.ca]

Sent: Thu 10/13/2005 11:48 PM

To: Naccarato, Sabrina

Comdel + Plover Heights

Cc:

Subject: Traffic Calming

Attachments:

View As Web Page

Dear Miss Naccarato,

My name is Alan Albino. I live at the corner of Comdel Blvd and Plover Heights in the Vellore Woods community. I wanted to call the city about this matter for a long time but did not know who to contact and I'm glad that there is a committee addressing traffic in this area.

Over the past couple of years I've observed many dangerous driving along Comdel Blvd with cars speeding up while kids eagerly cross the street to go to the playground in Comdel Park. This particular playground is very popular in the Vellore Woods area because of the beautiful landscape and particularly the fine sand on the playground that's rarely found anywhere. Kids tend to get overly excited when coming to this park. What really troubles me is the fact that there are no stop signs or speed bumps to slow traffic in this street when there are many kids crossing the street specially in the summer time.

Also, during summer nights, young adults gather at the parking lot along Comdel Blvd near the park and race their cars back and forth. Because there are no stop signs and or speed bumps, they are able to do this. In a residential neighborhood, this is unacceptable. On several occasions I had to call the police.

There is only one solution to prevent dangerous driving that can potential hurt children in this street, and that is to put speed bumps along Comdel Blvd. Stop signs will not stop young unruly racers from racing. I believe this is a matter of utmost importance and urgency.

Sincerely,

Alan A. Albino  
(905) 303-2446

Find your next car at Yahoo! Canada Autos

March 13, 2006

***VELLORE WOODS RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION***

**To: Ward 3 Councillor Bernie DiVona  
Ward 1 Councillor Peter Meffe**

**Re: Request for stop signs in Vellore Woods Block 32 West**

**On behalf of the Vellore Woods Ratepayers Association, we kindly request stop signs at the following intersections in Vellore Woods:**

- Vellore Woods Blvd and Foxhunt
- Comdel and Plover Heights
- Starling Blvd and Foxhound (turn in to an all way stop)
- Starling Blvd and Robin's Nest (turn in to an all way stop)
- Vellore Woods Blvd and Robin's Nest (turn in to an all way stop)
- Timberwolf at lot #45 (at the L-curb)

**With the exception of perhaps 1 of the above requests, ALL of these intersections DIRECTLY affect the elementary schools in our community and directly affect the SAFETY of our children attending these schools. You will find attached support from both St. Emily Catholic School and Vellore Woods Public School.**

**The installation of these additional /new stop signs will significantly improve community safety and control speeding in our community.**

**We are confident that Council will approve this request and we sincerely thank you for putting our children first. Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.**



**ELVIRA CARIA  
Chair- Vellore Woods Ratepayers Association**

From Vellore Woods P.S.  
School Council

Elvira Caria  
Chair of Vellore Woods  
Ratepayers Association

February 26, 2006

Dear Ms. Caria,

The Vellore Woods Public School Council is in support of the following Vellore Woods Ratepayers' initiatives:

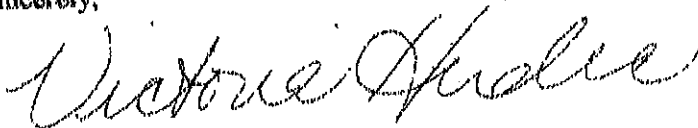
1. An all-way stop at Starling Blvd. and Foxhound Crescent.
  - This will make conditions safer for students at this intersection. It will facilitate crossing of our students and will reduce the speeds of vehicles on Starling Blvd. in the vicinity of the school.

Starling + Foxhound

2. Removal of fence from the perimeter of the Vellore Woods Public School grounds adjacent to the ravine and the walking path, and the addition of lamp posts and garbage cans along the length of the walkway.
  - Many students utilize the walking path as part of their route to school. The lighting would make the paths safer for students, especially in the dark winter months.
  - The presence of the fence around the perimeter of the schoolyard impedes students from entering the school property from the walkway. Students are currently making a hole in the fence and climbing through it or climbing over the fence to enter the school property. The fence poses a safety risk and we would like to see it removed as soon as possible.

Thank you for your support to the Vellore Woods Public School Community.

Sincerely,



Victoria Hudec  
Vellore Woods School Council

**St. Emily Catholic School  
Parent Council**

February 15, 2006

Mr. Michael Dockman  
Public Works  
City Planning/Engineering Department  
2141 Major Mackenzie Drive  
Vaughan, Ontario  
L6A 1T1

**RE: FURTHER TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES FOR VELLORE WOODS AND COMDEL  
BOULEVARD**

Dear Sir:

This letter comes on behalf the Parent Council of St. Emily Catholic Elementary School. Our parent community continues to harbor concerns regarding the safety of our children crossing Vellore Woods Boulevard and Comdel Boulevard on their way to and from school.

As stated in previous correspondence commencing January 12, 2005, the City's initial assessment for traffic control did not accurately reflect the need within our quickly growing community. Several factors contribute to this. First, the volume of traffic has increased considerably. Second, the speed at which this traffic travels is also disconcerting. This issue is sure to be compounded by completion of both the retail strip mall located at Hawkview Blvd. & Vellore Woods and the stop light that will create access to Vellore Woods from Rutherford Rd. opening Vellore from Rutherford right up to Major Mackenzie.

While we appreciate the City's attempt to correct the initial oversight, we feel the addition of stop signs at two intersections will help us greatly. The first one is at Comdel and Plover Hts. The second one is at Vellore Woods and Foxhunt Dr.

We believe that our concerns are well founded and based solidly on the above noted facts.

Sincerely,

Sandra Arruda

Pina Scola

Co-Chairs

St. Emily Catholic School Council

- ① " Comdel v Plover Heights
- ② " Vellore Woods v Foxhunt Dr.

March 13, 2006

## VELLORE WOODS RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

On behalf of the Vellore Woods Ratepayers Association, we kindly request the following:

- Removal of fence from the perimeter of the Vellore Woods Public School grounds adjacent to the ravine and the walking paths.
- The addition of lamp-posts (lighting) and garbage cans along the length of the walkway.

Please see the attached letter of support from the Vellore Woods Public School :

Also, the walking trails in our community are utilized by students walking to and from school. There has been a series of concerns with SAFETY regarding these walking trails, since there is NO lighting along the path, posing obvious concerns for safety. The paths have been paved and really need lamp posts. We urge you to please add lighting to these paths so that our children and ALL residents in the community feel safe when utilizing these paths.

We thank you in advance for your continued support and representation.

Sincerely,

  
Elvira Caria

Chair-Vellore Woods Ratepayers Association