

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - MAY 15, 2006

ENSURING THE SAFETY OF ELDERLY PEDESTRIANS AT VILLA AMICA/VILLA GIARDINO

Recommendation

Councillor Carella recommends that staff be directed to confirm the advisability of placing a speed hump or humps, or any other appropriate traffic calming measure, along the roadway linking Martin Grove Road to Vaughan Grove Sport Park in the vicinity of Villa Amica/Villa Giardino.

Economic Impact

Nil

Purpose

To address concerns respecting the safety of elderly pedestrians in and around Villa Amica and Villa Giardino.

Background - Analysis and Options

The public has access to the southern portion of the Vaughan Grove Sport Park (WR1) via a private roadway which the City is obliged to maintain for the foreseeable future. The roadway is paved, with grassed shoulders. Due to the shortage of parking in the area, vehicles are frequently parked on the north side of this roadway, and along that portion of the south side closest to Martin Grove Road. As a result, much of the grass has disappeared, and the area has the character of a narrow, unpaved parking lot.

The Director of Public Works and Ward Councillor Carella recently met with the General Manager of Villa Amica (in fact, Amica at Villa da Vinci), Ms. Sara Tripodi, to discuss her concerns about the state of the private roadway and related safety issues. The latter have to do with the fact that once the warmer weather arrives many ambulatory residents of Villa Amica enjoy attending soccer matches and baseball games at Vaughan Grove Sports Park, which is a brief walk to the north from the Villa. To reach the park, however, they must cross a busy roadway which is the principal means of public access to the baseball diamonds and soccer fields, both natural and artificial, which comprise the park. Traffic can be quite heavy at times, and there is a tendency of motorists to travel at speeds which any reasonable individual would agree could be dangerous to slow-moving seniors, many of whom use walkers or canes.

As Villa Amica is prepared to address some of the aesthetic issues (e.g., resodding the south side of the roadway and placing low-rise cement strips, to prevent parking on that side), and as the Public Works Department is prepared to lay gravel along the north side, to prevent the shoulders turning into mud as a result of rain, it is appropriate that the City address the speeding/pedestrian safety issue by considering what traffic calming measures (not necessarily the speed humps suggested, but speed humps if necessary) might best serve this situation.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have been allocated and approved.

Conclusion

Given the expected increase in local traffic consequent on the near-future opening of another artificial field at Vaughan Grove Sports Park, it is appropriate that staff consider ways to reduce any threat offered by such traffic to the safety of nearby residents---all of whom generally access the Sports Park by crossing this roadway on foot.

Attachments

E-mail of Ms Sara Tripodi, to Councillor Tony Carella, May 8, 2006

Report prepared by:

Councillor Tony Carella

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Carella
Councillor – Ward 2

Cardile, Lucy

From: Sara Tripodi - Amica at Villa Da Vinci [s.tripodi@amica.ca]
Sent: Monday, May 08, 2006 2:47 PM
To: Carella, Tony
Subject: Hazardous Roadway

Dear Michael Di Biase and Tony Carella,

As you are surely aware, the Holy Cross soccer field forces much traffic to frequent the Amica at Villa Da Vinci as well as the Villa Giardino properties. This traffic often presents extremely hazardous conditions, as many of the cars are driving at excessive speeds, thus placing our elderly residents in grave danger.

In order to avoid any potential incidents, we are asking for your support in approving an additional speed hump in our roadway, in hopes to alleviate excessive speeds.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Sara Tripodi
General Manager, Amica at Villa Da Vinci

Sara Tripodi / General Manager / **Amica At Villa Da Vinci** / 7371 Martin Grove Road,
Woodbridge, Ontario, L4L 9E4 / **tel: (905) 264-9119** / fax: (905) 264-9157 / s.tripodi@amica.ca

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