

## **Claremont residents continue quest for traffic calming**

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September 21, 2011

PICKERING -- Residents of Claremont continued their three-year-long quest for traffic relief in their quiet hamlet with a visit to Pickering council.

At a meeting on Sept. 19, residents detailed concerns regarding the volume and speed of traffic coming through the hamlet.

"There's been a lot of changes in Claremont over the last three years," said Jim Doyle, president of the Claremont and District Community Association.

"There's been a huge increase in population and a growing number of families with young children. As such, there's been a growing concern about traffic through Claremont, primarily the traffic volume east-west and the speed of that traffic. Traffic studies tell us approximately 6,000 vehicles per day come through the hamlet, which is a lot for a small community, with some clocked at up to 90 km/h."

Mr. Doyle and resident Dave Storms recounted the group's fruitless efforts to have Claremont designated a Community Safety Zone and have speed indicators installed. The group has been in talks with Region of Durham staff, since the area of concern is along a regional road, for three years. Although various solutions have been proposed, residents have yet to see any improvements.

"We feel like this whole thing has been going on for so long it's getting bogged down in a bureaucratic nightmare," Mr. Doyle said, noting that the area of concern includes Claremont Public School.

"As far as we're concerned it's not an emergency but it is quite dangerous. Are they waiting for someone to get hurt or killed?"

Councillors echoed the group's concerns, but noted that the City has no authority to authorize improvements on a regional road. In an effort to help get the group's message across, councillors Peter Rodrigues and Bill McLean offered to present a motion stating council's support for the Claremont group.

Councillor David Pickles questioned the last-minute motion, suggesting more consultation may be necessary before putting anything down on paper.

"Our staff have been working quite a bit on this issue and speaking with regional staff trying to get this issue brought to the Region's attention," he explained.

"I haven't seen this motion that is being discussed, but might it be a good idea for us to sit down with residents and staff and go through the issue a little bit to make sure we get our best case on paper before we go back to the Region?"

Councillor Jennifer O'Connell disagreed.

"Our next chance to take a position on this would be at the end of (October)," she said.

"Would us taking a position tonight be better suited to the needs of your community? Do you not feel a formal position of this council in support of your initiatives would be a first step and a very good step?"

Mr. Doyle agreed.

"I think it would be a major step forward and we would be very grateful," he explained.

"Obviously the sooner we can tackle the issue, the better."

A motion to introduce, which required a two-thirds vote and would allow Coun. Rodrigues to present a motion in support of the association, was defeated.

Residents of Claremont will be presenting their case again at an upcoming meeting of the Regional works committee on Wednesday, Sept. 28.

"Obviously we are frustrated," Mr. Doyle said of the lack of progress. "But we will persevere and we will carry on."