



MEMORANDUM

TO: York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee

FROM: Joann Simmons, Commissioner,
Community Services, Housing and Health Services

DATE: August 2, 2006

RE: National Access Awareness Week Accessible Parking Infraction Blitzes Results

Recently at a meeting of the York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee (YRAAC), the activities conducted by municipalities to promote National Access Awareness Week (NAAW) were reviewed. Of particular interest to this committee, were the accessible parking infraction blitzes that many municipalities conducted. Therefore, on behalf of the YRAAC, Wilf Morley requested statistics from each municipality regarding this initiative.

The following summarizes the responses received in response to this request:

Town of Aurora – The Town of Aurora did not conduct an accessible parking blitz during National Access Awareness Week as enforcement staff routinely conducts daily patrols of accessible parking spaces. To date in 2006, 23 Notices of Violation have already been issued for parking offences in accessibility parking spots.

Town of East Gwillimbury – During NAAW, 65 inspections of vehicles parked in accessible parking spots were conducted. Resulting from the inspections two verbal warnings were issued - one for ‘no permit’ and the other for “improperly displayed permit”. Additionally, there were two tickets issued for “no permit”. The Town of East Gwillimbury routinely monitors the use of accessible parking spaces resulting in over 1400 inspections to date. The number of verbal warnings and tickets issued has been consistent with the percentages of infractions found during National Access Awareness Week.

Town of Georgina – The Town of Georgina did participate in the accessible parking blitz during National Access Awareness Week and nothing unusual occurred.

Town of King City – The Town of King City did not participate due to the fact that there are not very many businesses in King City and therefore, not very many accessible parking spaces.

Town of Markham – A total of 239 inspections of properties with designated parking spaces in Markham were conducted during NAAW and as a result 19 parking tickets were issued for violations and 2 permits were seized for misuse. The above enforcement activity was completed in addition to the regular enforcement program. This has resulted in a total of 388 tickets being issued so far in 2006.

Town of Newmarket –The Town of Newmarket's Building and By-law Department had no accessible parking infractions to report during the week of the Blitz.

Town of Richmond Hill – The Town of Richmond Hill did not participate in the accessible parking infraction blitz during NAAW as staff routinely monitor violations of this nature. In the months of May and June 2006, a total of 121 (65 and 56 respectively) violations occurred.

City of Vaughan – The City of Vaughan reported a total of 32 handicap parking tickets were issued during NAAW, with two permits confiscated and 4 notices were issued requiring installation of handicap spots/signs. Although these statistics are above their norm for the week, other commitments, and workload limited the amount of time they may have otherwise dedicated to this initiative.

Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville – During NAAW, Parking Control Officers did extra patrols of accessible parking spaces. No tickets were issued during that week. Previously, an inventory of all accessible parking spaces was conducted and updated with correct signage. New vivid red sticker on signs warns of a \$300.00 fine for parking infractions. This warning has helped to keep the spaces free for those who really need them. As of August 2, 2006, there were 127 accessible spaces in Whitchuch-Stouffville.

Thank you.

Joann Simmons