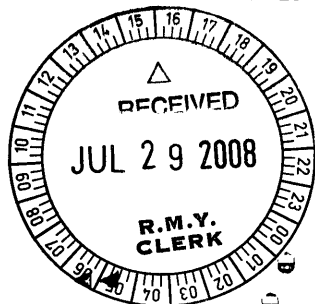


REGION OF YORK  
CLERK'S OFFICE

FILE No. - *folo*

**October 2, 3, 4 & 5, 2008**



July 23, 2008

Mayor Wayne Emmerson  
Chair of Transportation & Works Committee  
Region of York

**Re: Traffic Calming Measures on McCowan Rd. in vicinity of Markham Fair Grounds  
during the Annual Markham Fair**

Dear Mayor Emmerson:

This is a matter that you and I touched on in conversation and at this time, I would like to initiate a request for assistance on behalf of Markham Fair.

### **The problem:**

With 60,000 - 70,000 people attending Markham Fair there are a lot of people and traffic mixing back and forth with the traffic going north and south on McCowan Rd. Additionally several thousand young people attend the fair on their own on Friday night. They are dropped off by parents or brought by bus. Some decide to walk home. Some decide to keep the party going out by the McCowan Rd. gate and they spill onto the road, as they wait for parents or whoever. Some simply pass time until the last bus goes. Additionally there is traffic exiting the Markham Fair driveways onto McCowan Rd. and there is traffic exiting Elgin Mills Rd. onto McCowan Rd.

The fear is a speeding, or unaware driver coming through on McCowan Rd. and striking a vehicle or a pedestrian.

### **Solutions:**

In our discussion with York Region Police about 3 years ago, the police representative agreed (from our memory) to work through the police traffic unit and the York Region traffic department to determine possible solutions, but nothing came of this.

In 2007, Markham Fair initiated a meeting with Nelson Costa, from York Region. Although the Fair committee arrived for a 10:30 am meeting, Mr. Costa thought it was an earlier meeting and he had come and gone, but he agreed with our Fair manager, Dan O'Brien that the problem was valid and that he would take the necessary steps and put in the necessary signing.

On the Thursday morning of Markham Fair, I went on a mission to find the new signs. They were yellow, and the size of a small speed limit sign and posted to the north and south of the fair grounds on McCowan Rd.

## **Markham and East York Agricultural Society**

10801 McCowan Road  
Markham, Ontario L3P 3J3  
Telephone: (905) 642-FAIR  
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Email: office@markhamfair.ca  
Website: www.markhamfair.ca

General Manager  
Dan O'Brien

1st Vice-President  
Karen Murphy

President  
Blair Scoley

2nd Vice-President  
Kevin Hollands

Based on my own experience as a traffic police officer, I knew these signs were woefully inadequate. Over a period of months or a year, regular users of McCowan Rd. might get the idea, but on the short term, nobody saw them. I specifically asked about 10 people who had come to the fair grounds what they thought of the new signs, and no one had seen them.

Mr. Costa from York Region was contacted and he forwarded an e-mail to Blair Seeley, Vice President of Markham Fair, permitting the fair to install PMB'S (LARGE LIGHTED MESSAGE BOARDS) with the wording

#### MARKHAM FAIR

#### TRAFFIC TURNING AHEAD

#### REDUCE SPEED

The fair was already started and time was of the essence. Blair Seeley contacted an associate from the Town of Markham Roads Department and the company recommended to the Fair was OTS (On Track Safety)

The signs were ordered with an assumption that the price would be fair. Again there was no time to negotiate. The fair was running and we were concerned for our patrons safety, regardless of the inadequate signage provided by the Region of York.

#### Results:

There were no traffic mishaps. The signs worked well. Drivers responded in a positive way.

The fair was given an invoice for \$7,158.00. Everyone had assumed it would be \$1,000 or \$2,000. Subsequent inquiries with a few construction companies revealed that \$3,000 or \$3,500 might have been the going rate.

The fair appreciated Mr. Nelson Costa's support, but felt totally let down by the little signs he had erected.

The fair tried to settle the invoice for \$3,000 to no avail.

The fair considered appealing to the Region of York, but in view of the fact that we had good weather and good attendance in 2007, and through our appeal to York Region with help for busing, subsequent grants were given to us from the Town of Markham and the Town of Stouffville. So no appeal about the inadequate signing and the cost of signing was launched. Markham Fair paid the invoice, but we cannot incur this cost on an ongoing basis.

#### 2008 & subsequent years

It would seem that the use of the PMB's is the ultimate answer, in the interests of all parties including patrons of the fair, motorists, the Fair, the Region, the Municipality and the Police.

Superintendent Wayne Kalinski, who has been the officer in charge of 5 District YRP, the past 5 years is in full agreement. His comment today and that of Sergeant Dave Morrisson a year ago, is that the Fair should not have to incur this burden.

Superintendent Kalinski recommended that we contact Mr. Zoran Postic, Manager of Traffic Engineering and Road Safety for York Region and he invited any inquiries from Mr. Postic. He also gave us the contact phone numbers for Mr. Postic, but we feel, Mayor Emmerson that we should leave this with you, to work through. (Superintendent Kalinski is currently working at the Courts Bureau)

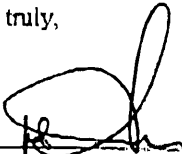
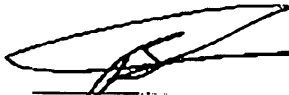
The Superintendent suggested that the Region does in fact own some of these signs and we believe his insinuation was that it would be most appropriate if they were used at the Fair each year.

### Closing & Request

Mayor Emerson, in your position as Chair of York Region Transportation & Works Committee and as the Mayor of many of thousands who come to Markham Fair and the Mayor of the larger number of Board Members of Markham Fair, would you kindly copy this letter out as you feel necessary and have the discussions that you feel are appropriate and arrange for the Region's PMB's to be placed at Markham Fair in the same manner and place as the rented ones were placed last year

In the interest of the safety of all, we respectfully submit this request.

Yours truly,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dennis Seeley  
Co-Chair of Police and Emergency Service  
Markham Fair  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Blair Seeley, President  
Markham Fair