



(Photo by Ron Fawn)

### Firefighters Raise \$1425 For MD

Crowds in Richmond Heights Centre welcomed the opportunity given by Richmond Hill Firefighters to contribute to the annual campaign to raise funds for research into the cause and cure of Muscular Dystrophy recently. The uniformed policemen and their vehicles passed the helmet and collected \$1,425.35 Friday evening and Saturday morning and afternoon. This was somewhat less than was collected last year in a similar campaign, but this was probably due to the fact that the firefighters and their equipment were called to fight a fire in the kitchen of the Richmond Inn at 7:30 Friday

evening and were not able to be present on the Heights parking area during the busiest part of the evening. However, they wish to thank all who contributed for being so patient and making their donations. Those who were missed may take their donations to the Richmond Hill Fire Hall and an opportunity will also be available to contribute during the "Open House" scheduled for October 13.

Firefighter Barry Pollard is seen above on the Heights with his helmet all ready for donations.

### Caught Opposite Police Station Man Fined \$25 For Fighting

Caught fighting September 28 across from the Richmond Hill Police Station in the Canadian Tire Store Parking Lot on Wright Street, Charles Wise, 24, of 9030 Yonge Street, Richmond Hill pleaded guilty in Provincial Court here Friday.

He was convicted by Provincial Judge Russell Pearce and fined \$25 or 15 days jail for causing a disturbance by fighting.

Edward Campbell, 28, of Goodwood, Uxbridge Township, admitted refusing a breathalyzer test July 11 in Markham Town when stopped while driving at 8:20 pm.

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**4-MONTH PROHIBITION**  
A married gravel truck operator with one child, he was convicted and ordered off the nation's roads for four months except during working hours. He was also fined \$175 or 30 days.

at 7:30 pm September 8 in Vaughan Town.  
**BOTTLE IN HAND**  
Crown Attorney Wijeshinha told the court Coniam was found sitting on the hood of his car with a bottle in his hand and more bottles of

## Court NEWS

Daniel Coniam, 21, of 38 Cranbrook Avenue, Toronto, admitted illegally having beer at the Binder Twine Festival

beer in the car. Coniam was fined \$28 or five days in jail and his beer was ordered confiscated.

### Vaughan Council Nixes Ski Grant

Council at its meeting October 1 turned down a request from the Canadian Ski Association for a contribution of "at least \$500," as it felt that municipally-supported programs should provide a direct benefit to residents of the community.

Authorized the issuance of 1973 taxi owner licenses to Norman Bird, Terry Desjardis and Kostas Tsianos; and drivers licenses to Thomas Mparras, Sami B. Dagher, Alice Tucker, Robert Waugh and Fernando Cunha.

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### Concord House, Maple Farm Had Part In Big Heroin Case

A house in Concord and a farm at Maple Farm prominently in the recent trial of eight people, who were involved in the largest heroin conspiracy case in Ontario history.

The trial, which just concluded in Toronto, brought in guilty verdicts against four of those charged with conspiring to import, traffic and possess heroin for the purposes of trafficking. A fifth, Antonio Sciortino, 40, of Etobicoke, who police shadowed to a Maple farm in 1971, was acquitted on the charge.

Found guilty were: Benedetto Zizzo, 59, of North York, three counts; Antonio Codispoti, 36, of East York; and Vito Cutrona, 33, of Toronto.

Francesco Bellitti, 23, a visitor from Sicily, was convicted of conspiring to import heroin.

Pleading guilty earlier were: Francesco Cutrona, 46, of Etobicoke, a brother of Vito Cutrona; and Nicola Asaro, 59, formerly of Concord, and his wife, Gaetana, 52.

The jury deliberated 18 hours before bringing in its verdict. The trial ran for 49 days.

The charges arose after RCMP seized 70 pounds of almost pure heroin with an estimated street value of \$32 million.

**NOVEMBER SENTENCING**  
Judge Hugh Honsberger, who said he would probably sentence the seven defendants sometime in November, ordered pre-sentence reports on the Asaros.

All the accused except Bellitti were born in the Sicilian village of Vita. Bellitti was born six miles away in Salerni.

Crown Prosecutor Patrick Duffy told the jury that the evidence proved beyond a doubt the accused belonged to a "high-level, superbly-organized, internationally-connected, heroin ring" operating here on an international level.

The trial, which saw 26 witnesses for the prosecution and only one—Sciortino—for the defense, unveiled a cloak-and-dagger operation as intriguing as any Hollywood thriller, with the Mounties seemingly in command all the way.

The RCMP investigation began in January, 1971 and ended in January, 1973, after a raid on the Asaro home in Concord.

The raid climaxed months of surveillance by the RCMP, during which time they used electronic bugs, movie cameras, tape recorders, helicopters and personal shadowing to keep track of the whereabouts and record the operations of those involved.

"When I first entered the room, Zizzo looked as if the world had crumbled around him... in the light of my flashlight he looked like a ghost." Corporal Luciano Nave, a member of the Concord raiding party, told the trial.

The Mounties, who battered in the front door of the house at 6:20 am on January 27, found Zizzo and Mrs. Asaro in separate rooms upstairs and Nicola Asaro

standing at the top of the basement stairs with a crowbar in his hands, court was told.

In the basement, Corporal Enzo Santori found Francesco Cutrona, also with a crowbar in his hands, standing next to a trunk, which had one white plastic bag visible through a broken section of side panelling.

The trunk, which was brought over to North America by Bellitti, was one of two which originally contained 52 bags of heroin hidden in false sides and bottoms.

RCMP, who received cooperation throughout the investigation from U.S. customs and drug agents, took the trunks apart in New York, where the ship carrying Bellitti had first gone, because of a storm. All but two of the bags of heroin were replaced with plastic bags containing flour, and the trunks were put back together.

**UNUSUAL SEARCH**  
This even entailed RCMP agents scouring New York for some similar flower-patterned lining for one of the trunks, which had been torn during the removal of the panelling.

Following the raid on the Concord home, RCMP arrested Codispoti, Sciortino and the Cutronas at their homes.

After the Canada-bound passengers were put on a bus from New York to Montreal, Bellitti, who was one of them, was constantly shadowed by RCMP.

He was later followed to Toronto, where plainclothes

Mounties observed him meet Vito Cutrona. Francesco Cutrona was also seen in the station, and then Codispoti arrived and drove Bellitti away.

RCMP followed them by car and helicopter to a Sudan Avenue rooming house. The next day the Mounties delivered the trunks, which had now been bugged, to an express company warehouse in Mississauga.

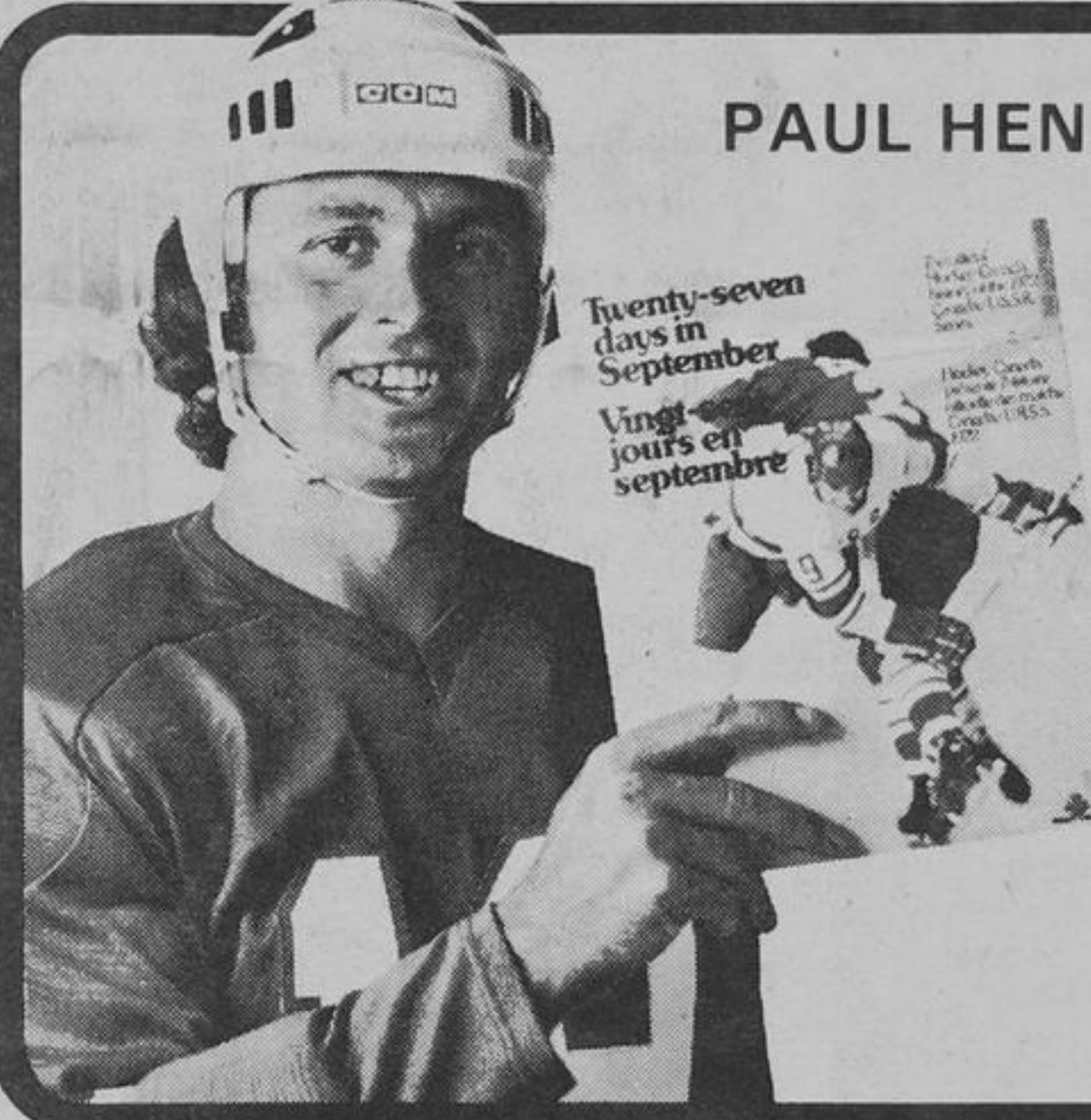
When Vito Cutrona and Bellitti arrived to pick them up that afternoon, helping them through customs was RCMP Constable Gianfranco Zeni, an Italian-speaking drug investigator.

**EXIT LAUGHING**  
The loading of the trunks into the van, which the two accused had rented for the occasion, was recorded on video tape by a Mountie hidden in the back of a nearby truck. An RCMP plane then monitored the directional signals transmitted to it by hidden beeper devices in each trunk, to following police cars.

Cutrona drove to a service station, where Codispoti and Cutrona got into a car and drove away laughing.

Cutrona delivered the trunks to the Concord home, which the Mounties then kept under surveillance from an unmarked truck across the street.

After recording conversations picked up by the hidden transmitters in the two trunks for the next two days, and finally hearing what they felt was the unmistakable sound of the trunks being taken apart, the Mounties made their raid.



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