



BETHESDA — Stouffville fire department volunteers were called out Saturday afternoon when a truck parked in front of the old Bethesda general store mysteriously burst into flames. Shown talking to police officer, while the firemen extinguish the flames, is truck owner Joseph Culnan of R.R. 1, Mount Albert. He told police the truck had been sitting for about a half hour before the fire started. As can be seen from the picture at right the truck was a write-off. Firemen were also called out Sunday night, just after 9 p.m., to attend to a smoking furnace at the Main St., Stouffville, house now used as a law office by attorney William Parsons.

John Montgomery

## York credit counselling

TORONTO — About \$13,450 has been granted towards credit counselling in York Region for 1976-77. Minister of Community and Social Services James Taylor announced last week. The funds go toward the York Region Credit Counselling Service, located at Suite 10, 225A Yonge St. North, Richmond Hill.

The service, Mr. Taylor said, "strives to arrange orderly payment of debt to prevent... job loss." The availability of credit today "tends to draw some people in over their heads," he said. A total of nearly \$800,000 has been contributed to the service by the ministry across Ontario, to 26 separate agencies. About 12,000 individual families were helped last year, Mr. Taylor said.



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## Charge of selling car without device is dropped

NEWMARKET — Charges laid under the Environmental Pollution Act against a Gormley garage owner and an

Stouffville man given discharge

NEWMARKET — Peter Cox, 24, of Stouffville, was granted an absolute discharge recently when he appeared in Newmarket court on a charge of assault.

A 16 year old Markham girl, Donna Armstrong, was the victim.

An absolute discharge is not an acquittal, but when granted means the accused will have no criminal record and will serve no probation. It is usually granted when there are extenuating circumstances.

Angus man were dismissed in Newmarket Court following a trial before Judge James Crossland here last week.

The Provincial Judge dismissed charges against Wayne Lambert of Lambert Performance Specialists Ltd. and Peter Brian Moore, the owner of a Corvette car which E.P.A. inspectors alleged had been offered for sale without pollution control equipment.

Judge Crossland declared that there was reasonable doubt that the case, as presented by a Special Prosecutor from the Department, showed guilt on the part of the

### Convicted of assault

A Whitchurch-Stouffville man was jailed nine months last week for assaulting a 12-year old girl. Russell Fockler, 24, pleaded guilty to the charge before County

company, and the two men.

Charges were laid last December, 1975 after Sydney Newdick, an Inspector, went to the Gormley Garage, and saw the Corvette, which was owned by Mr. Moore, in a compound behind the building. Mr. Newdick told the court he saw a "For Sale" sign on the vehicle, and on examination noted the car did not have any pollution control equipment installed.

According to his testimony, the Inspector ordered the equipment put back and the car taken to Toronto to a Test Centre.

Mr. Lambert claimed the car was not for sale. He told the court that the vehicle had been placed in the compound away from the public, and that the compound was kept locked and guarded by dogs.

He admitted that a For Sale sign was on the car, but claimed he was unaware who had placed it there.

The Gormley mechanic complained to the court that insufficient literature has been made available to him regarding the Environmental Act, but was told by Judge Crossland that "ignorance of the law is not a defence."

Mr. Lambert told the court "These people (the inspectors) made a nuisance of themselves, they wasted time, and people have been harassed as a result."

## York staff pay raise remains

RICHMOND HILL — Raises given to senior administrative staff of the York County Board of Education will not be rolled back, it was learned last week.

A letter from the Anti-Inflationary Board to school board chairman Douglas Allen recently said the wage hikes, approved last year, are excessive, but that the A.I.B. accepts the explanation that the raises had been agreed to prior to the announcement of the guidelines.

The raise had been granted the day following the wage guideline announcement.

Sixty school board staff members will receive salary increases of about 16 to 20 percent. The wage guidelines restrict increases to 10 percent and may not exceed \$2,400 a year.

The A.I.B. letter suggested the school board review the raises, but Mr. Allen said no changes in salaries will be made.

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