

Teen prostitute praises police

An 18-year-old Toronto prostitute, the main witness in a jury trial involving two Uxbridge men, has high praise for officers of York Regional Police assigned to her case.

"They (the police) were really, really good. They met me at the subway and took me back again. It's the first time I've ever turned to the

police. They stuck by me all the way.

The former Blecker Street girl spoke with The Tribune following the conviction of Lloyd Edgar Harper, 24, and John James Wilkinson, 21, on charges of gross indecency and forcible confinement. Charges of sexual assault and possession of a dangerous weapon were dismissed.

Harper received a six-month jail sentence; Wilkinson four months.

The complainant called the sentence "weird." "I'm human," she said, "they put me through hell. They could have killed my baby. It's just not fair."

Why would a street-wise woman get into a truck with two men? "Others have asked me

that," she said. "Ordinarily, I never go with two guys, but it was one of those nights. I thought I could make eighty dollars."

Although angered by treatment at the hands of the accused, the teenager said the snickers and laughs from several in court were just as upsetting. "One called me a bitch," she said.

Although advised by her grandmother (with whom she lived), not to press charges, the complainant said she received wonderful support from all members of her family and a close girlfriend, with whom she now lives.

The complainant says the physical hurt is long gone, but the emotional hurt will remain the rest

of her life. "The mud she said, 'it must have been two inches deep. I couldn't run. There was nowhere to go. Besides, I knew they'd only catch me.'"

Although thankful she wasn't beaten, she recalls crying hysterically when let out of the truck back in Toronto. "I thought sure my baby was dead," she said. Later, a hospital

check-up proved everything alright.

The girl said both the accused had been drinking when they approached her on a downtown Toronto street. Instead of taking her to an apartment, as she requested, they drove north on Hwy. 404 to the 5th Conc. of Whitchurch-Stouffville and the St. John's Sideroad.

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LUXURY HOTEL PROPOSED ON EDGE OF BOOM



Vandorf quilters complete a labor of love

Last year, as a bicentennial project, the Ontario Trail Riders Association sponsored a 500-mile cross-country trek called "Journey Into Yesteryear." During the trip, 81 quilt blocks were collected, representing names of communities and pioneer families along the route. In January, members of the Vandorf Women's

Institute began work on a quilt measuring 100' by 100'. On Thursday, their labor of love was completed. 71 members shown here are (left to right) Bernice Mackey, Grace Pattenden, Bertha Pattenden, Reta Alcorn, Marjorie Richardson and June Petch. For full story see Page A-10. — Jim Thomas

STOUFFVILLE — A five-star deluxe hotel is one of ten projects on the drawing board in Whitchurch-Stouffville as the Town heads towards an industrial-commercial building boom.

Mayor Tom Wood announced Monday the likelihood of a modern hotel being built by International Equestrian Sports Services Ltd., south of Davis Drive, R.R. 1, Cedar Valley.

If construction proceeds according to plans, the firm will have accommodation available in time for the 1986 World Dressage Championships to be held on adjacent property at the International Equestrian Sports Centre in Whitchurch-Stouffville.

Monto Investments Ltd., Lot 20, Conc. 4—a 68,000 square foot plant to manufacture parafinized saw dust fireplace logs.

Ringwood Gas Bar & Restaurant—a 40-seat restaurant and gas bar.

Suncorp Main Street West, Stouffville—a new gas bar and two commercial retail stores.

Ratcliff Lumber Ltd., Lot 1, Conc. 4—a new retail store, 7,000 square feet.

General Production Devices, Lot 17, Conc. 4—a plant addition, 4,600 square feet.

D'Annunzio Fruit Market, Lot 1, Conc. 4—a new retail store, 10,000 square feet.

Stouffville Plaza, Main Street West—two new stores plus additions to the Brewer's Retail and Liquor Stores.

Stouffville A & P, Main Street West—enlargement of store.

Sanders Block, Main Street West—commercial boutiques and apartments.

Mayor Wood described the proposed projects as "serious." Reconstruction of the Sanders Block is already underway.

Wood said many enquiries are merely people seeking information, but not the proposals listed above. "These aren't pie-in-the-sky," he concluded.

Mayor Wood said that while several hurdles must be crossed before the project becomes a reality, a change in zoning has already received verbal approval from the Region of York.

Wood feels the Town is on the move, both industrially and commercially, with enquiries coming in every day. "Other new developments on the horizon follow:

Stouffville Plaza, Main Street West—two new stores plus additions to the Brewer's Retail and Liquor Stores.

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To improve downtown

STOUFFVILLE — A public meeting was called, Feb. 20, to approve the 1985 Business Improvement Area budget of \$11,000.

This was finalized without comment. However, the dis-

ussion that followed ranged from pigeons perched over head to Sunday papers scattered under foot.

Tom Thompson, chairman of the B.I.A., said Stouffville's downtown could be made the most beautiful in Ontario. He urged immediate action to bring this about.

Member Linda Fawns suggested closer cooperation between Town Council and business. "We're a benefit to the town," she said, "the council should beautify our Main Street and we should help."

Ged Stonehouse, president of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Chamber of Commerce said \$462,000 is collected annually in business tax. This is from the entire town and not just Stouffville, he explained.

Mayor Tom Wood pledged Council's help.

Thompson stressed the importance of immediate action. He described the Sanders Block on Main Street as "a future show place" and said he hoped others would follow this lead and improve their properties.

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Chamber accusation riles town councillor

STOUFFVILLE — Councillor Fran Sainsbury feels the Town's been given the shaft by the president of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Chamber of Commerce, and she's hopping mad over the accusations.

At a recent Chamber meeting, President Ged Stonehouse said the Town wasn't doing enough to sell the municipality to industry. He said "one person should assume this responsibility and serve as an industrial agent."

He also said the Town requires an information kit that can be handed out to would-be developers.

"Things are happening here," an irritated Ward 4 councillor replied. She said Whitchurch-Stouffville had set up an excellent display at an industrial show in Vaughan last fall. She noted too that the Town was included in the Region's new Industrial Reference Guide and had prepared a kit set-

ting out key properties in a new industrial park east of Vandorf, together with the price per acre.

Another map, she says, lists those industries already located here, (33 in total), and their locations.

Calling herself the Town's Economic Development Advisor, Mrs Sainsbury said she'd volunteered for the job.

She argued against the hiring of an industrial agent, saying only those municipalities with 50,000 or more population are going that route. Such an employee, she said, could demand a salary in excess of \$40,000.

Mrs Sainsbury said that, at present, the mayor is handling all industrial site enquiries.

Whitchurch-Stouffville is in a perfect spot," she said. She called the corridor, north of Gormley between Hwy. 404 and Woodbine Avenue "the town's golden mile."

Returning one of the verbal "shots" fired by the Chamber of Commerce president, Councillor Sainsbury said Mr Stonehouse recently arrived at an industrial promotion meeting at the Deer Park Inn with no documentation whatsoever. "Talk about the pot calling the kettle black," she said, "at least we're trying."

Close call

RINGWOOD — Rod and Bernice Nelson of Ringwood had gone to McArthur's Mills in the Bancroft area for a few days of snowmobiling. They were lucky to escape with their lives.

At an early morning hour, fire swept through the two-storey lodge where they were staying, burning the 70-year-old structure to the ground. Mr and Mrs Nelson made it to safety in only their night clothes. Nothing else was saved.

It was around 6 a.m. that the proprietor knocked on their bedroom door and said he smelled smoke. Minutes later, his wife detected fire.

By then, one stairway was filled with smoke. They had to exit another way, with Mr Nelson, an ex-firefighter, crawling on his hands and knees.

Minutes after reaching safety, a loud explosion shook the building and flames enveloped the structure, Mr Nelson said.

"In 45 minutes, it was completely down," he told The Tribune.

Neighbors responded with clothes and food. While regretting their personal loss, Mr Nelson said had the fire occurred one week earlier, blind people from Belleville might have been trapped inside.

Markham Fair second to one

MARKHAM — "One of the best fairs in Canada," Gerald Mann, secretary-manager of the Markham and East York Agricultural Society, told The Tribune this week.

He and 28 other members and executive members of Markham Fair attended the annual convention at the Royal York Hotel, Toronto, Feb. 20 and 21. Mann, a member of the Ontario Board since 1974, was president of 'A' and 'B' sections in 1981.

In 1983, Markham boasted the second largest fair attendance in Canada, running second only to London, Mann said. London Fair extends over two weeks.

Comparison figures aren't yet available for 1984.

In '83, Markham Fair attracted larger crowds than centres like Thunder Bay and Kitchener. (Ten days), Simcoe, Peterborough and Lindsay. A decrease in attendance was general across the pro-

vince, last year, Mann said, due in part, he believes, to so many bicentennial activities going on.

Gerald Mann feels that while agriculture must remain the dominant theme of Markham Fair, the outreach must be flexible so as to appeal to urban as well as rural fair-goers.

"What's wrong with a cow-milking contest?" he asked, "that could prove a real challenge to some."

Because 1985 is International Year of Youth, skills and accomplishments of young people will be stressed, also education, the secretary-manager said.

Cathy O'Connor, Markham Fair's 1984 queen, attended the convention along with 109 other lovely young ladies from across Ontario.

In the Convention's photography contest, Markham won four awards. Entries were placed by Carol White, Debbie Watson, Dennis Seeley and Gordon Wilson.

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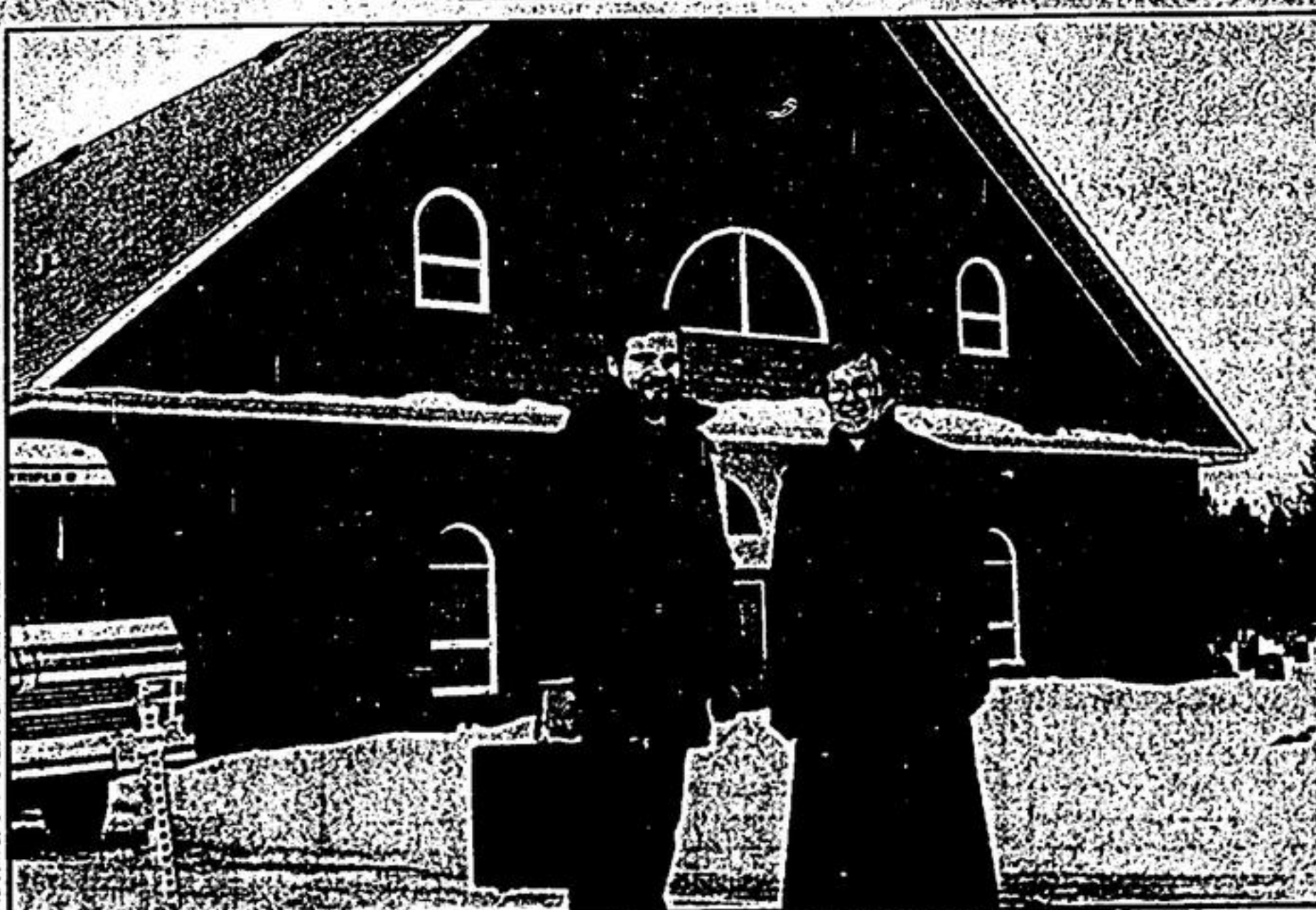
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Husband-wife team tell Mennonite story

In 1786, the first Mennonite pioneers came to Canada. The initial settlement was at Vineland, then Markham and Waterloo. In preparation for next year's 200th anniversary, Reg and Kathy Good of Kitchener are travelling across the country, telling The Mennonite Story. Last week, they visited Markham and Stouffville and spoke at an evening service in Wideman Mennonite Church. Their work is volunteer, arranged through the Mennonite Central Committee. For full story, see Page A-7. — Jim Thomas

No Area change

DICKSON'S HILL — Dickson's Hill Public School will remain in York Region's Area 2 (Whitchurch-Stouffville), rather than switch to Area 4 (Markham-Unionville).

The decision, Monday, followed a strong plea by Markham trustee John Myers that the area change be approved. The vote was 9-7 opposed.

Myers said, between 80 and 85 per cent of the students to attend at Dickson's Hill, will reside in Area 4. When problems arise, he said, he's the trustee who's called.

Trustee Harry Bowes of Whitchurch-Stouffville took exception. "I'm the one who's been answering the phone and attending graduations all these years," he said. "It's not unusual," Bowes said, to have a school located in one area and serve students living in another.