

# Policewoman faces gun charge after 12-hour siege in Uxbridge

BY CHRIS SHANAHAN  
UXBRIDGE TWP — A 28-year-old R.R. 1 Claremont woman faces a charge of careless use of a firearm following an inci-

dent here Sunday. An armed woman held Durham Regional Police at bay for over 12 hours outside Positive Outlook Farm, located on

Durham Road 21 between Coppins Corners and Goodwood. The siege began when police learned a woman with a handgun had barricaded

herself in an apartment on the grounds of the Uxbridge Twp. horse farm. The drama ended just before 3 a.m. Monday when a suspect surrendered to police and was taken away under heavy security. Durham Police Inspector John Kay said there were no injuries. Two .38-calibre handguns were seized following the arrest.

Police Chief Metro Police Chief Jack Marks and former deputy chief Frank Barbetta had joined about 15 Durham police officers at the scene.

Police and family members talked with the woman by telephone, although contact was cut several times when she left the phone off the hook.

Positive Outlook Farm is the home of Toronto dentist Ted Hogg and his wife, Joan. They raise thoroughbreds and registered Canadian Hunters.

A resident in a nearby subdivision, who asked to remain anonymous, told The Tribune he heard a series of seven gun shots Sunday at about 2 p.m.

Constable The suspect is currently on sick leave from her job as a Police Constable with the Metro force.

Charged with careless use of a firearm is Hillary Hogg. She was taken to Durham Region Police headquarters in Oshawa and later released.

The policewoman is scheduled to appear in Ajax provincial court on Aug. 29.



Durham Regional Police Inspector John Kay announces the surrender of an armed woman shortly after 3 a.m. Monday. The scene was a horse farm west of Coppins Corners.



Former Metro deputy chief Frank Barbetta shields himself from the glare of television lights as he leaves Positive Outlook Farm early Monday. An armed woman had asked to speak with Barbetta and a number of other people during a 12-hour siege at the Uxbridge Twp. horse farm. She later surrendered to police. A 28-year-old Metro Police Constable has been charged with careless use of a firearm. —Chris Shanahan

## Plant location "out of sight"

By Jim Thomas  
WHITCHURCH — Nestled among the trees on a 17-acre site near the intersection of Vandorf Sideroad and the 5th Concession, (Warden Avenue), Whitchurch-Stouffville, is a little-known firm called Nixon Plate Coils Ltd of Gormley.

While the plant may be out of sight and out of mind in Whitchurch-Stouffville, this operation is known across Canada and the United States.

The company was established here back in 1954. At that time and up to 1979, it specialized in plate coils. Six years ago, the operation was expanded to include plate heat exchangers, a device that exchanges heat from one fluid to another without mixing.

Management of the firm comes under the direction of William (Bill) Nixon, Vandorf Road, R.R. 1, Gormley and Chandu Patel, P. Eng., of Newmarket. They employ up to 25, five of whom have been on staff over ten years. Two recently retired. One had been with the firm 20 years and another nineteen.

While the site is scenic and peaceful, the out-of-the-way location is creating a problem. Because of the cost involved, Ontario Hydro refuses to provide the plant with the power it needs, making it necessary for the firm to install a diesel generator for day-to-day use plus a second unit as standby. Because Nixon Plate Coils Ltd. is the only potential customer in the area, Hydro

claims it's not economically feasible to invest in this extra expense. If Hydro refuses to alter its stand, the company may be forced elsewhere, even out of the municipality.

"There's an emotional attachment to this place, especially for Mr. Nixon," Mr. Patel said. "The decision to move would be heartbreaking." He admits, however, that somewhere down the road, it's a business decision that has to be made.

Mr. Patel is proud of staff allegiance and the longevity of employee personnel. Company policy is to hire people on as juniors and teach them the required skills. The practice has worked out well, he explained.

"All units are custom made in the 22,000 square foot plant. The time span from start to finish can be from four weeks to eight months, depending on the unit. Four to six weeks is general," Mr. Patel said. The cost per unit ranges from \$200 to \$100,000.

Plate coils are distributed in both Canada and the United States. Plate heat exchangers are sold in Canada only from Nova Scotia through to British Columbia. Deliveries are made by truck transport.

Mr. Patel notes that despite the firm's thirty-year existence in Whitchurch, the company has gained little recognition, particularly in Stouffville.

Out of sight, out of mind? Perhaps. However, should the company decide to pull up stakes and move, concern would be both visible and audible—maybe too late.

## Party planning business helps good times roll

STOUFFVILLE — Residents of the Markham-Stouffville area can now put the wearisome burden of party planning on someone else's shoulders. A new unique business called The Party Planner has been established for the sole purpose of assuming that burden.

people who are either too busy or too inexperienced to organize their own party," says owner Mike Watters. Mike, who runs the business by himself, will do everything from choosing a theme for a party to cooking and serving guests. He will help choose the location for a party, organize and decorate the room, plan

a menu and often host the event. "Sometimes I even do the shopping if people don't have the time," says Mike. Theme. For those who want to throw a party but cannot think of an occasion, Mike has about 60 theme suggestions to offer. He also has 10 menu suggestions for people who do not know

what food to serve. Depending on the theme and size of the party, Mike prefers to throw a party out of the host or hostess's own home. "You get a better feel for the people that way," he explains. The guests also tend to feel more comfortable. Mike does a great deal of home entertaining himself. This allows him to try out new ideas.

Mike acquired most of his cooking and menu planning ideas and skills while working at Melba's Restaurant in Markham. His organizational skills are largely a result of the community work he has done. Mike was the coach of a soccer team for three years, he organized wheelchair hockey at Participation House and was President of a local youth group.

Skills. Mike's food preparation and organizational skills combined with his boredom with the University of Toronto's Biology program led to the establishment of The Party Planner. The business opened in March of this year. Since March, The Party Planner has organized about 15 parties. The Markham Board of Trade has been a prime client. The Party Planner deals primarily with gatherings of 50 to 100 people and can handle anything from Halloween parties to Wedding Receptions.



Mike Watters says his business, The Party Planner, is designed for people who are either too busy or too inexperienced to organize their own party. He'll do everything from choosing a theme to cooking and serving guests.

### Fine talent here

Dear Editor: I'm a regular visitor to the Latcham Art Gallery in the Public Library. I seldom miss a show. While this facility may indeed serve a purpose, I feel that purpose could be enhanced if more people from the Whitchurch-Stouffville area were given an opportunity to display their talents. We all know there are brilliant artists scattered throughout the province who indeed need and deserve exposure. However, there are also a number right here in town who, although perhaps a rung down the ladder of fame and fortune, are also deserving of their place in the sun. If I wish to see the works of talented people living outside the municipality, I'll go outside the municipality to see them. Personally, I'm more interested in the accomplishments of my neighbor than in the skills of someone I don't even know. Sincerely, Joyce Musgrove, R.R. 3, Stouffville

## Damage to vintage wagon upsets museum official

GREENWOOD — Pickering Village Museum was the scene late Saturday of what officials describe as a "senseless act of vandalism."

An 1885 cartage wagon was removed from its display area and pushed down a slope, according to museum manager Gord Brackett. It travelled about 150 feet

before coming to rest in Duffins Creek. He estimated damage to the wooden artefact at approximately \$500.

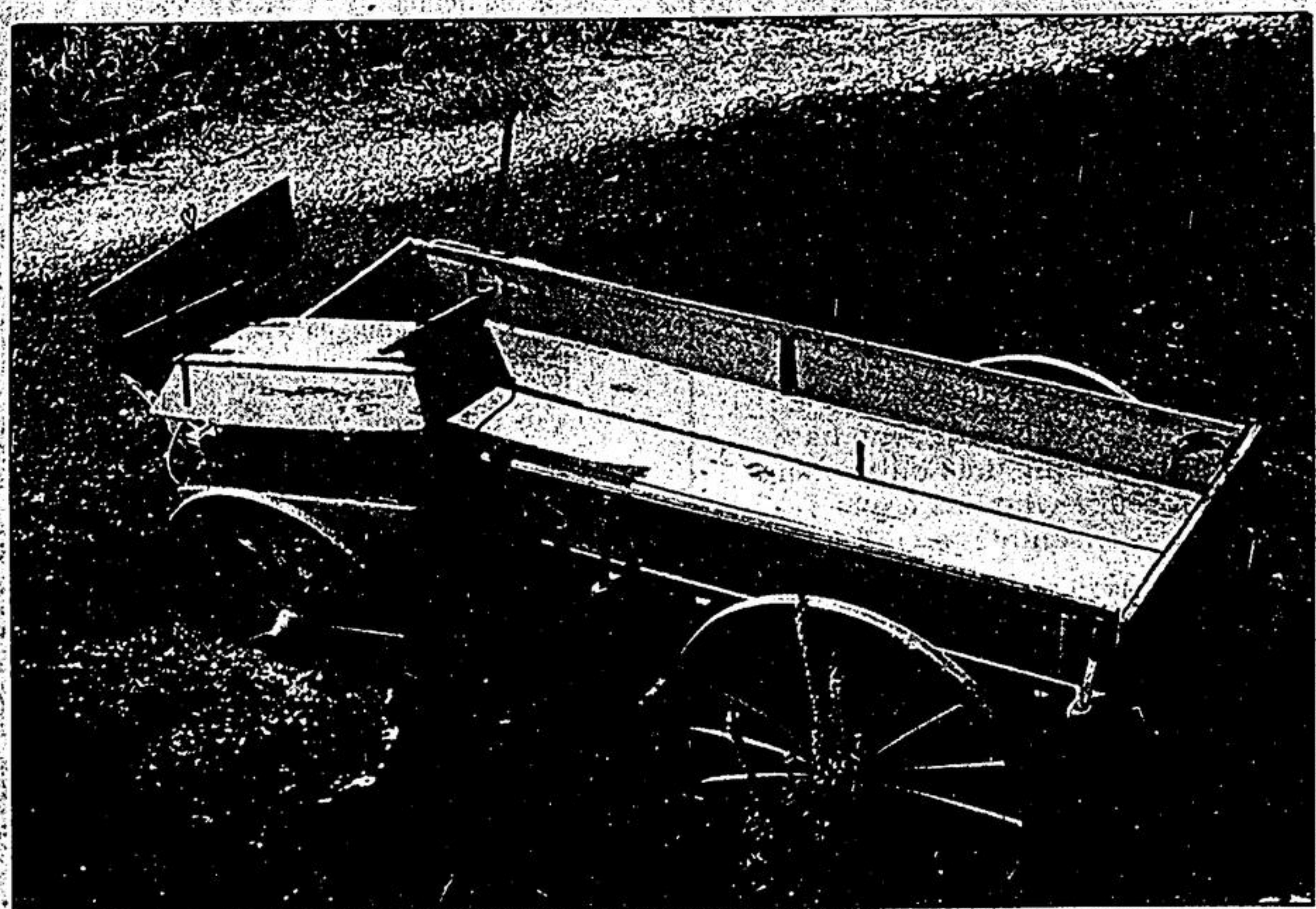
"You can't replace the parts on these carriages; you have to remake them," Mr. Brackett told The Tribune. "It's one of a kind."

Durham Regional Police are investigating the incident, although the village's

curator said this type of vandalism is usually difficult to trace.

Mr. Brackett believes the culprits jumped a fence to gain access to the grounds sometime Saturday evening.

The museum was established at its current site in 1979 to preserve the rich history of the Pickering area. It's located on Hwy. 7 in the community of Greenwood.



### Vandals strike at Pickering Village Museum

An age-old cartage wagon, built in 1885, was damaged to the extent of \$500 when vandals entered the property of the Pickering Museum at Greenwood and pushed the carriage down a steep slope into Duffin's Creek. The damaged parts cannot be

replaced. Each has to be hand-constructed, Museum manager Gord Brackett said.

—Chris Shanahan