

# Police action possible on Studio 134 shows

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In an interview, recently retired York Regional Police Deputy Chief Darrell Burbine was surprised the police force would be unaware of such performances at the strip club.

Astonished that public acts such as simulated oral sex could go undetected by the police, he said that "...it sure as hell doesn't sound like we are doing our job if this is going on."

Studio 134 (in the Sherwood Plaza on Hwy 7 west of Main St.) has been charged in the past, he said, for several criminal offences ranging from 'nudity in a public place' to 'immoral theatrical performances' (Criminal Code sections 170 and 163 respectively). The number of charges "... would make your head swim."

But he noted that obtaining a conviction is another story, and can be both "difficult" and "frustrating".

"We've taken the evidence that we have witnessed at the time it happened and placed it before the courts," he explained, "and in most cases it has been deemed not to have been obscene."

Regional Solicitor Edward Oakes, who often represents the police force, commented that this has discouraged police from laying nudity charges against the dancers and instead has resulted in indecent exhibition charges being levelled against patrons who have urinated outside the premises.

"There was one case where the girl had just her shoes on and the judge said that she wasn't nude," he said.

An attempt was also made by the Town of Markham in 1982 to invoke a licensing bylaw that would eliminate nude dancing where food was served.

Bylaw 394-82 was quashed by an Ontario Court of Appeals decision in November, 1984, said the Town's lawyer Ray Kallio, because it was deemed to be an effort to legislate morality — a federal responsibility under the Criminal Code.

So how do police investigating the tavern draw the line between what is "obscene" and what is "tolerated by community standards"?

Upon learning of some of the goings-on at Studio 134, Chief of Police Donald Hillock replied "you're kidding...I thought they cleaned up their act."

He stressed, however, that even with substantial evidence "...there is no black and white answer or anything written down about what is obscene and what isn't."

But, in spite of the lack of a definitive statement on obscenity, he indicated that there are general guidelines that the police do follow when proceeding with charges.

"The key that we look for is audience participation," he said.

At Studio 134, for \$5, a patron can have one of the girls perform a dance at his table. Some of the

girls Thursday night went beyond a mere exhibition of flesh, and actually fondled the customers and were fondled in return.

Strippers moved from table to table carrying wooden step stools to conduct highly intimate performances.

Along the lengthy south wall extending from the entrance to the stage, a naked stripper straddled a patron, conservatively attired in a brown suit. Meanwhile, in the corner, a man in a black leather jacket caressed a table dancer's buttocks and breasts.

When Deputy Chief Burbine was asked about the steps that York Regional Police may take, he replied that he could foresee charges and arrests being made in the near future.

Larry Owen, a crown prosecutor for York Region, agreed that certain acts such as simulated sex that are performed in public are beyond "community standards of tolerance" and stated that it "...would probably be a situation where a conviction would be likely." He added, however, that "in the final analysis, the decision is in the judgement of the court."

Strip club owner John Lazarou denied that simulated oral sex and fondling of customers takes place at the club.

"There is no such thing here," he snapped. "Don't make any stories because I think that there is enough already," he continued. "I don't want to get anymore trouble, and I don't want to talk to you." On that note, he hung up.



An Uxbridge Twp. truck driver is charged with failure to yield following an accident Tuesday that caused \$7,000 damage to the late model Honda pictured here. The car's driver and a passenger were both wearing seatbelts and escaped the Bloomington Rd./Hwy. 47 crash with minor injuries. — Chris Shanahan

## Seatbelts cited as saving men

By CHRIS SHANAHAN  
Staff Reporter

Seatbelts are credited with saving two Toronto men from serious injuries in a Tuesday afternoon car accident near the boundary between Whitchurch-Stouffville and Uxbridge.

A tandem dump truck was east-bound on Bloomington Rd. when it turned north onto York Region Rd. 30 and into the path of a west-bound 1984 Honda, according to Cst. Murray Gordon of Whitby OPP.

The car, driven by 21-year-old Greg Nicoll, pulled to the right to avoid a collision, then left the highway and rolled twice before coming to rest at the bottom of a steep embankment.

Mr. Nicoll and passenger Jamie Peters, 20, were treated at hospital for minor injuries and later released.

OPP Cst. Murray Gordon said physical damage would have likely been much worse if the two men hadn't been wearing their seatbelts.

Damage to the Honda was estimated at \$7,000.

Beer cases and liquor bottles littered the mangled vehicle, but Cst. Gordon stressed drinking and driving was not a factor in the 1:36 p.m. accident.

"They hadn't been drinking," the officer said, noting that the

car was being used only to transport alcohol.

"They were asking us at the hospital why we smelled like alcohol," Jamie Peters said in a telephone interview the next day. "But it just sprayed all over us (when we crashed)...We weren't drinking."

The truck driver, a 50-year-old R.R. 2, Uxbridge man, faces a charge of failure to yield.

## Autopsy confirms drowning

An autopsy has confirmed that an elderly Scarborough couple discovered in their son's Markham swimming pool Wednesday died from drowning.

Thomas Bradley, 74, and his 70-year-old wife Kathleen were found about 2 p.m. Wednesday in a pool on John Dexter Place in Markham.

Detective Karl Shaw of York Regional Police said foul play is not suspected in the deaths.

The couple were visiting their son Stefan Bradley.

# Car phones approved for Markham councillors

By STEVE HOUSTON  
Staff Reporter

Markham Council last week hung up on a proposal to have cellular phones installed in Markham's three regional councillors' cars.

Instead, an amended proposal was adopted that makes phones available to ward councillors provided they pay half the costs. Mayor Carole Bell will have one installed and paid for by the town. Though some local councillors

admit the phones will be used for personal business purposes, they see them as a means to improve their availability to residents.

Councillors Fred Cox, Gord Landon and Doreen Quirk are three members who have careers in addition to their municipal duties.

The original proposal was shot down by members who said the amount of calls received by ward councillors equal those of the regional councillors.

Markham Councillor Gord Landon, chairman of his own software firm, disputed the possibility that the town would end up paying for half of his personal business calls.

He also estimated that while on the road, constituent calls outnumber business calls "10 to 1".

"I'd be prepared to have our calls logged," said Councillor Landon. "It's fair if we're using them for business and paying for half."

Similarly, Mayor Bell suggested in an interview that a maximum number of calls or "some mechanism," be introduced to monitor calls. She added that the best methods will be looked at by staff.

"I think that some details are going to have to be worked out with the councillors," she noted.

Regional Councillor Bud Bonner, on the heels of having the original proposal turned down, said he will not ask for one of the phones.

With his only occupation being regional councillor, he said all of his calls are constituent oriented.

"There's no way in the world I'm going to pay half the cost of a phone I would only use for town (business)," he said.

## Ed and Claudette



AIRD/86

"When are you going to start supper Claudy? I'd like to test our new smoke detector!"



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