

Police ignore law-breakers

DURHAM REGION — Durham Regional Police aren't planning to lay any charges related to the opening of grocery stores on Sundays.

At least not until the Supreme Court of Canada rules on the validity of the Retail Holiday Business Act.

Detective Derek Denson said a court decision had been expected in September. To date, he stated the police department had received no direction from the Attorney General on whether to lay charges or not.

The 'test case' before the court, relates to Toronto furrier Paul Magda who has been charged several times for doing business on the Sabbath.

Reluctance by police to lay charges doesn't stop individuals from taking action through a justice of the peace, Detective Denson concluded.

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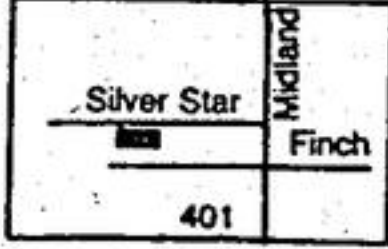
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Lawrence and Marilyn proud of their 'home farm' development

Lawrence and Marilyn Hennessey of Vandorf are proud of the 102-home development on property that once was Mr. Hennessey's farm. Executive Drive, west of Woodbine Avenue. The first phase contains 35 lots with 67 in Phase II. In the background is one of several estate residences fronting on

—Jim Thomas

Subdivision of 102 homes gives new life to Vandorf

By JIM THOMAS
VANDORF — It was back in 1954, while living at Preston Lake, that Lawrence Hennessey gambled on a property purchase and acquired the Wm. McDonald

farm at Vandorf. Little did he know then that the Twp. of Whitchurch and the Village of Stouffville would some day be one.

Little did he know then that a

super highway would transport commuters to 'the big city' in less than thirty minutes.

Little did he know then that Vandorf, a hamlet of 100, would increase in size to 550.

Little did he know then that on that same farm would be located the municipality's very own 'pioneer village'.

Little did he know then that on that same property would be established a Class A residential development.

Lawrence Hennessey, former deputy-reeve of Whitchurch Township can now look back at what he's accomplished. And he likes what he sees.

The first stage contains 35 lots, 26 of which are one acre in size and nine slightly less.

The second stage contains 67 lots, each three-quarters of an acre. House prices range from \$150,000 in Phase II to \$400,000 in Phase I.

The tax return to the municipality is sizeable.

The Hennessey Subdivision, as it's commonly called, didn't come about without a lot of sweat and tears. Gaining various government approvals resulted in sweat. A rise in bank rates to 22 percent prompted tears. However, Lawrence and Marilyn Hennessey persevered as slowly but surely their dream became a reality.

The majority of the Phase I homes were built by John Hurlbert Ltd. of Willowdale. Only three lots remain.

Arch Construction Ltd., also of Willowdale is developing Phase II. Thirty-eight of 67 homes are in various stages of completion.

"When the lights are in and the lots are sodded, it'll be beautiful," Lawrence says.

He sees no problems. Whitchurch-Highlands School can easily accommodate the children of elementary age and drilled wells are producing an excess of clear, fresh water.

In addition, the subdivision makes Vandorf a viable community or as Lawrence Hennessey puts it "the capital of Whitchurch-Stouffville."

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Awards stressed

STOUFFVILLE — Too much emphasis is placed on the award system and not enough on individual abilities, Lorne Boadway told a dialogue-with-the-principal meeting at Summitview School, Nov. 21.

Mr. Boadway was responding to one parent's claim that a teacher's comment on the report card served a more positive purpose than marks.

"Low marks can destroy a child's confidence," the mother said.

Mr. Boadway replied that to most, a 'D' or an 'E' represents failure, "but this isn't necessarily the case". He explained that comparisons between pupils aren't fair because judgements between teachers often vary.

"We're trying to use marks as less of a measuring device," he said, "and instead, evaluate a child on a day-to-day basis."

Mr. Boadway pointed out that some teachers still feel it's necessary to reward students for academic excellence.

"Our whole award system is based on this," he said. "We have to get away from this," he concluded, "and judge children on ability levels."