



Gino celebrates 35 years in Canada

Gino Testa, Bethesda Sideroad, Whitechurch Township, arrived in Canada from Italy 35 years ago painless. On Saturday evening, he hosted a party in celebration of what this country has done for me. The gathering of close friends was held at the Goodwood Community Centre. Here, one of the guests, Mayor Kevin Sainsbury, fits Gino with a "Made in Canada" hat. —Jim Thomas

Teenage girl

Ravaged by gang

CLAREMONT — Ten young people appeared in Oshawa Court last week, following the reported beating of a 16-year-old Pickering girl in a Claremont area farmhouse.

The group, five males and five females, all in their early teens, face multiple charges ranging from forcible confinement to gross indecency.

Police said a weekend party at a residence on Conc. 8, Pickering, turned ugly when an argument broke out. The victim was allegedly stripped, punched, kicked and whipped.

The girl said she escaped into a nearby field but was dragged back, forced to eat mud, drink melted ice water, bark like a dog and oink like a pig.

She told of being handcuffed to an outside door and beaten some more.

The assault lasted about two hours, she said.

After the chains were removed, the victim fled to a neighboring residence. Owners there called police.

The teenager was admitted to Ajax-Pickering Hospital where she was treated for a broken nose, bruised face, a bruised kidney and cuts to her lips.

Eight of the ten accused were released on bail following their initial appearance in Oshawa Court. Two others were ordered detained in custody by Justice of the Peace Opal Rosamond.

The ten range in age from 14 to 17 years.

None can be identified under the Young Offenders Act.

The JP also imposed a ban on publication of evidence given at the two-day hearing.

According to police, the victim was punched and kicked repeatedly. She was stripped to her panties and bra and had syrup poured on her head.

When officers arrived at the farmhouse they found the suspects still inside; two on the ground floor and eight in the attic.

Throughout the hearing, the teens sat manacled to each other, in handcuffs and chains.

Stepfather of the victim appeared visibly upset when two of the girls smiled at one another while statements were being read.

The stepfather said later he hardly recognized his daughter when he saw her after the ordeal.

"She's a strong girl and will make it through," he was quoted as saying.

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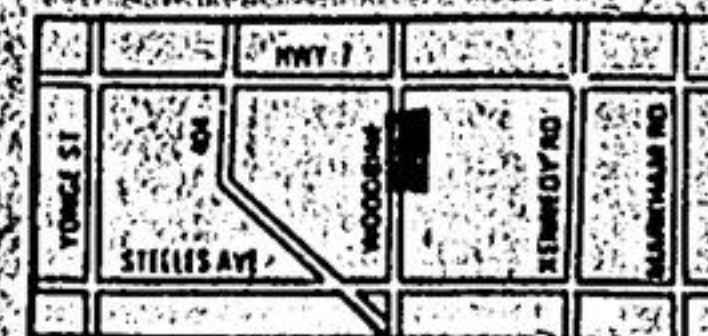
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