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Security probed in malls

By JIM THOMAS
 Editor

STOUFFVILLE — Doug and Shirley Benedict, Ironwood Crescent, Stouffville, suffered through a terrifying experience, Wednesday, when they lost their son in the huge Promenade Mall, Hwy. 7 and Bathurst Street.

Jassen, age six, was missing almost 45 minutes. The distraught parents feared he'd been kidnapped.

While not wishing to appear unduly critical, Mr. Benedict feels mall security, not only at The Promenade but perhaps others, requires revision.

He's placed the matter before Sgt. Rodney Sine, Community Services Bureau, York Regional Police. He's also discussed the issue with officials at The Promenade and other plazas in the hope that corrective measures can be taken.

Mr. Benedict feels parents can't negate their responsibilities. At the same time, he suggests public malls, anxious to attract customer business, must also be accountable.

He's hopeful that, through their trial, a basic security program will be formulated, effecting all shopping centres across Ontario.

"There's too much variance from mall to mall," says the Stouffville father of two, "a standardized security system is required."

Sgt. Sine agrees. He told The Tribune it marks the first time the issue has been brought to the Department's attention. He's promised full support.

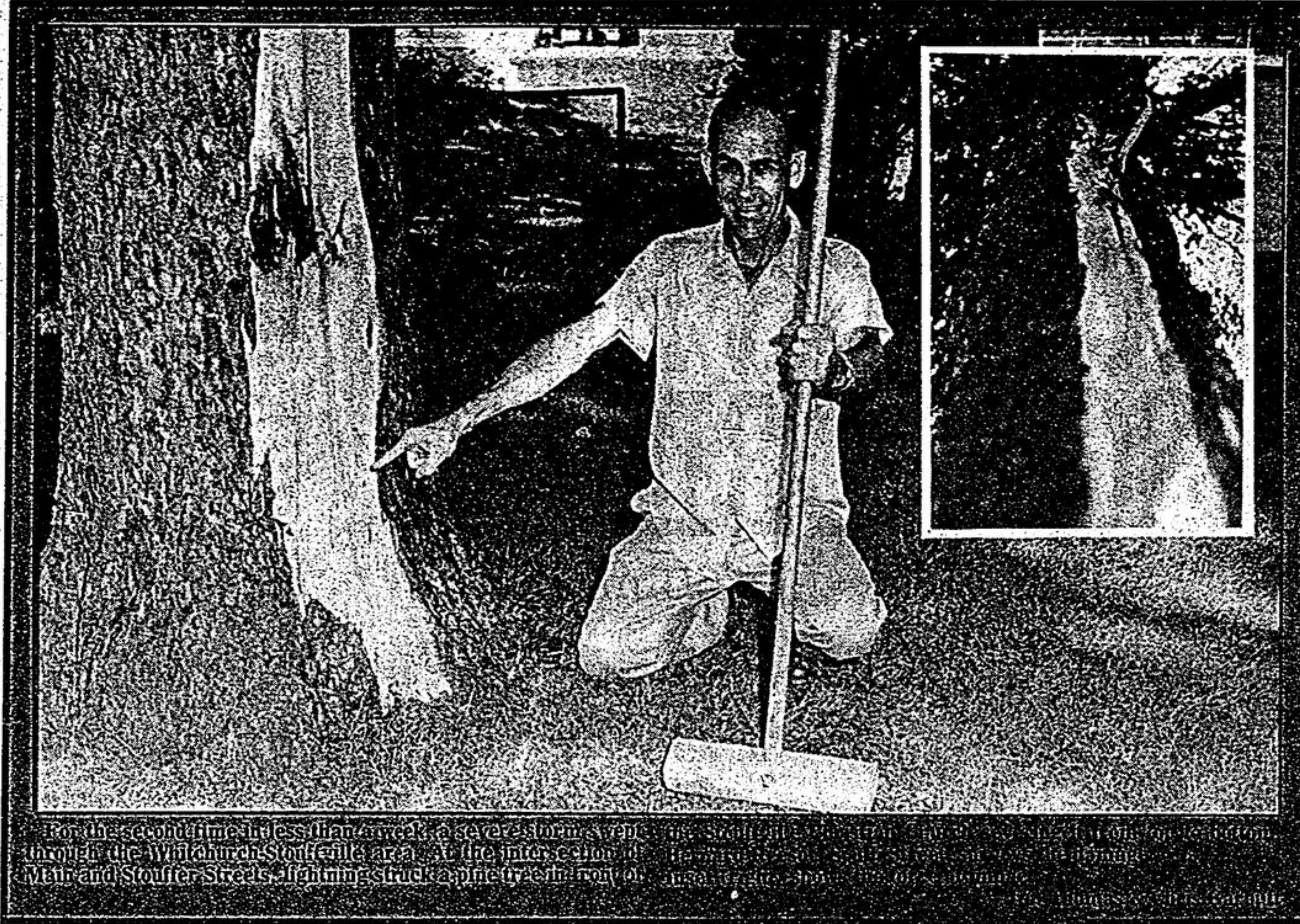
Support has also come from Patricia Foster of Child Find Ontario Inc.

Mr. Benedict offers several suggestions. These include additional security personnel, depending on the size of the plaza; an in-depth security training program and improved procedures when a lost child incident occurs.

In this regard, Benedict feels the perimeter of all plazas should be secured; that exit doors should be monitored and police should be notified.

In addition, he suggests identifiable arm-bands should be provided (for a price) at mall information desks, even a type of 'guide' so children can't stray while their parents' attention is distracted.

Mr. Benedict says he's unsure concerning the legal responsibilities of shopping malls, but intends to find out.



For the second time in less than a week, a severe storm swept through the Whitchurch-Stouffville area. At the intersection of Main and Stouffville Streets, lightning struck a pine tree in front of a house, causing a fire. The fire was quickly extinguished by firefighters.

Claremont athlete Scholarship

CLAREMONT — A 19-year-old Claremont resident leaves this month to enrol through a hockey scholarship at Kent State University, Ohio.

Tim Evans, son of Dean and Carolyn Evans, Barkley Street, was scouted out of the Pickering Panthers where he played two seasons. He's a graduate of Claremont Public School and Pickering High.

Tim advanced through the ranks of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Hockey Association before moving over to Uxbridge where he played briefly with the Midget team there, then the Jr. C Bruins.

With the Jr. B Panthers, he performed mainly at centre ice. He won the team scoring title in 1987-88.

Tim has been accepted in a 4-year Business Administration Course. Kent State University is located south of Cleveland.

Storm strikes town again

STOUFFVILLE — For a second time in less than a week, the Whitchurch-Stouffville area was lashed by a vicious wind, rain and electrical storm.

The latest occurred Aug. 4.

The Fire Department pressed every piece of available equipment into service including its 1960 GMC held in reserve for emergency situations. Four calls were received, one after the other.

The fire station itself didn't escape the fury of Mother Nature's onslaught. Two bolts of lightning hit the rooftop antenna, showering the interior with sparks. No fire resulted.

"I hit the floor," Chief Bill Brown said later, "it was scary."

Parkview Home on Rupert Avenue was also struck. A transformer in the laundry room burned out.

Remote alarms were touched off at the Public Library and Sleepy Hollow Golf Course.

A pine tree in front of the Stouffville Christian Church was severed from top to bottom. A large tree limb fell across O'Brien Avenue. Another tree was toppled at Windsor Drive, Musselman's Lake.

For Jill Bartosik, Bethesda Sideroad, it was an afternoon she won't forget. Lightning struck a tree in the front yard. Another bolt hit the chimney.

Memories

The annual Antique and Glass Show one of the largest of its kind in southern Ontario, will be held on Sunday, Aug. 14, at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum, 100 Main St. More than 100 vintage dealers are expected, including a display of early Canadian automobiles. The show opens at 10 a.m. and concludes at 6 p.m. The event will also include an exhibit of miniature houses, a bake sale, a craft fair, a raffle and a tea garden. Country music and dance will be featured.

Speaks against open Sundays

STOUFFVILLE — Stouffville businessman Graydon Card spoke in front of the Ontario Government's Select Committee on Sunday Shopping at Queen's Park, Monday.

The president of Card's Hardware, Main Street West, was representing the 800 Ontario members of the Canadian Retail Hardware Association.

Mr. Card is on the executive. He told the Committee his Association is almost unanimous in its opposition to the concept of Sunday shopping.

The Peterson Government wants to pass the responsibility of Sunday Shopping legislation on to the municipalities, Card explained. "Our Association is opposed. We fear the domino effect whereby one municipality's affirmative decision will lead others to follow suite.

"We're suggesting that like school holidays, Sunday shopping be handled the same way," he concluded.

Bylaw thwarts corn grower

STOUFFVILLE — The operation of a roadside market has the Town in a tizzy.

The centre, managed by 16-year-old Scott Paisley, R.R. 4, Stouffville, is zoned commercial rather than rural. Further, it's located away from the property where the produce is grown.

This, according to Town Bylaw Enforcement Officer Bruce Arrowsmith, contravenes the bylaw.

But Mr. Arrowsmith stopped short of saying what his department plans to do.

"Action is proposed," he said, "we're dealing with it."

David Paisley, Scott's father, says he's confused. He claims support from at least three members of Council including ward member Jim Rae. He says his son "is very humiliated by it all — it's bothering him badly."

Altogether, Scott has four separate corn plots. His sales outlet is located on private property north of the Stouffville Road between Concessions 6 and 7. He rents the site.

Mr. Paisley claims the intent of the bylaw is to stop non-residents from doing business here.

He says he'd been told by Councillor Ron Robb "to keep on selling until he returns from vacation". Currently in summer recess, no regular Council meeting is planned until Aug. 23.

"Ignore it for a couple of weeks, then change it," Councillor Rae suggests.

Rae said that, at a cost of \$600, Mr. Paisley can apply for a temporary re-zoning order. However, this will require approval from both York Region and the owner.

"It's imperative that Scott keeps the crop moving," his father explained, "otherwise it'll go to waste. It was a little extra income."

He appreciates the fact the Bylaw Department is acting on a complaint.

"It's unfortunate some people want to play this kind of game," he said, "it's not a very neighborly thing to do." He claims it's just another example of farmer harassment in an area that's rapidly changing.

He claims his son is very 'down' over the controversy. He called it "a learning experience."

Booze party Residents upset

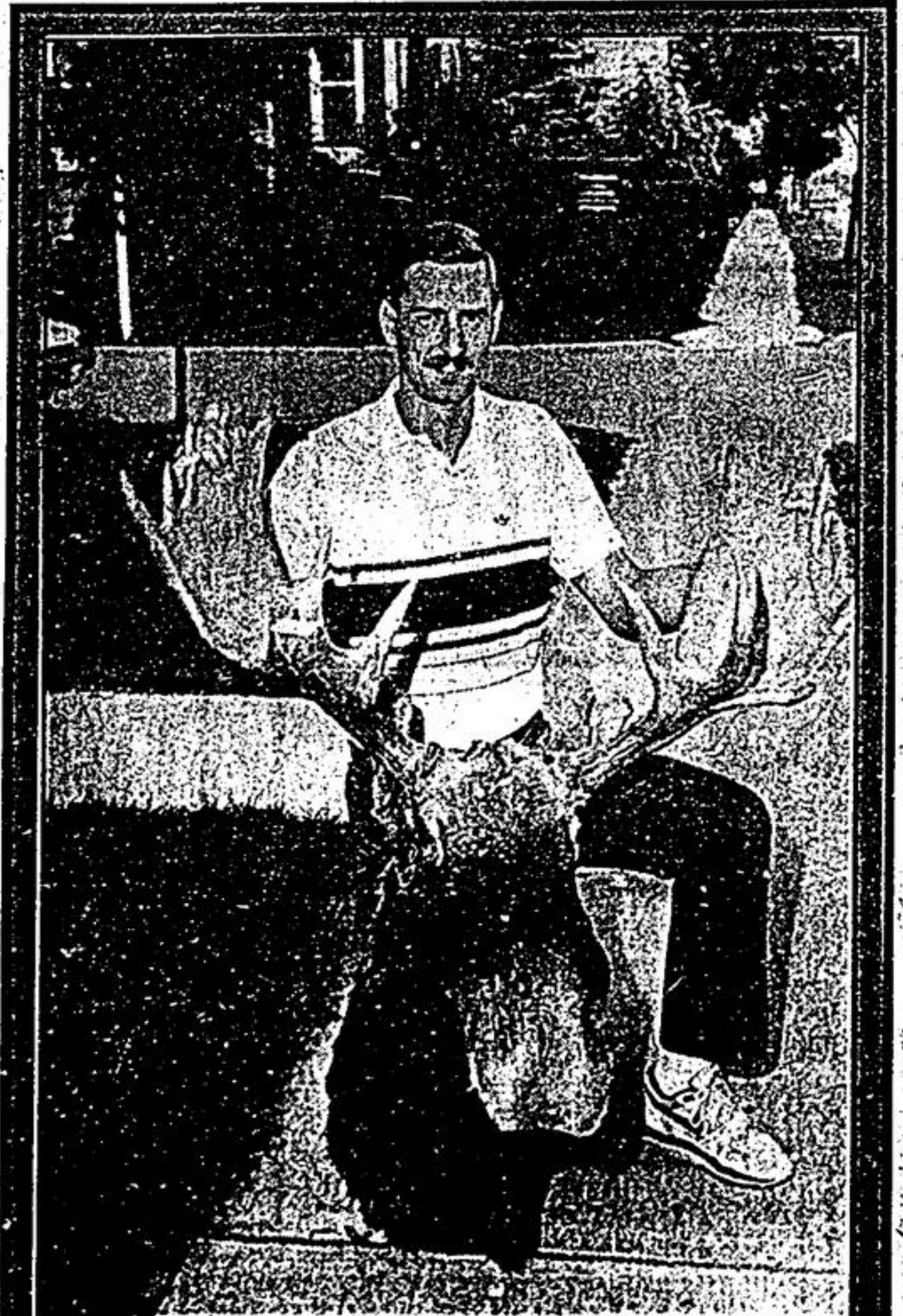
MUSSELMAN'S LAKE — York Regional Police were twice called to a booze party involving an estimated 60 young people on Hillsdale Drive, Musselman's Lake, Saturday.

The location is an open lot extending from Hillsdale Drive through to Bomar Road.

"They came by the carloads," an informant said, "there were beer and liquor bottles all over the place."

"The noise was terrible," another resident said, "kids were screaming and hollering all night long."

It continued throughout the night, one caller said, with several still at the site the next morning.



Beauty

Beauty... (The text is mostly illegible due to the high contrast and grain of the image.)

Roll-back?

STOUFFVILLE — The salary roll-back motion is in place.

It will be presented by trustee Harry Bowes of Whitchurch-Stouffville and trustee Ken Taylor of East Gwillimbury at the Board of Education's first business meeting following the Nov. 14 elections.

The Bowes-Taylor recommendation calls for a 1989 honorarium of \$15,000 rather than the \$18,000 already approved.

Mr. Bowes is optimistic. He notes that with three new trustees coming on stream anything can happen.

"This could be an election issue," he contends.

The \$18,000 figure was passed by a split vote of 8-7.

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