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Future in doubt?

Deer Park owes money: employee

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

A former employee of Stouffville's Deer Park Inn says the owners of the establishment have reneged on employee pay cheques and believes the Inn's future may be in doubt.

Bob Fleming, a former employee at the 10th Line club, worked as a cleaner during the week and a host/receptionist on weekends for eight months.

Mr. Fleming left in December, after most of the other employees had already left because they were not receiving any pay, he claims.

He has since filed a complaint with the employment standards branch of the Ontario Ministry of Labor to claim the money he says is owed to him by the Deer Park Inn owners.

The ministry is currently investigating Mr. Fleming's allegations.

Several attempts by the Tribune to contact Deer Park Inn operators Roger Farrell and Diane Proulx proved unsuccessful.

And the establishment's information line is out of service, according to a Bell telephone recording.

"We weren't told anything (about the problems)," Mr. Fleming says, charging that management at the establishment "said I was blackmailing them if I left just because I wasn't getting paid."

During the Christmas season last year, Mr. Fleming says the management held a meeting and told staff they were "basically broke."

He says they offered to pay the employees who needed the money most, but Mr. Fleming says that was "a judgmental decision."

"Almost everybody left then. They (management) wouldn't deal with (the financial difficulties). They hid upstairs and staff had to deal with a lot of really irate people who wanted money. Some staff even paid for some things out of their own pockets," Mr. Fleming says.

When he went to the unemployment insurance office, Mr. Fleming was told he was not entitled for benefits for a six-week period.

Mr. Fleming says the office told him management said no pay cheques were missed.

Wally Sinjakewitsch, of the

labor board, says his job is to "find out the financial status of the company. I have to find out if it is a viable business, if it's operating or not and if it has been petitioned for bankruptcy or receivership."

"I will then peruse the payroll.

It appears something has happened but I haven't been able to get a hold of them (the owners.)

"This is something I will address as soon as possible but I'm not in a position to know now how many employees are affected by this," Mr. Sinjake-

witsch says.

However, Adam Timoon, a local and regular performer at the Inn, says the owner "is a very honorable man."

"I've worked with many club owners and (owner of the Inn) is probably the best. He went out of

his way to pay me and he's going through some difficult times but has always tried hard to pay people. All entertainers were treated the best," Mr. Timoon maintains. Additional calls to reach Mr. Farrell at press time were unsuccessful.



photo RICK MADONIK

On the wagon

Balmy temperatures brought just about everybody outdoors last week for the first taste of spring in Stouffville. While vacationers enjoyed the Florida sun, Ontarians had four straight days of their own great weather to experience. And that was just what the

weatherman ordered for one-year-old Jeremy Schell, who took some time to recline in his wagon while touring the driveway of his Stouffville home. Jeremy's older brother, Danny, 3, provided the horsepower for the journey.

Stouffville park plan too costly?

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

The Whitchurch Conservation Area has potential for summer camp sites and winter activities but the cost to lease the land "outweighs potential for use," says Director of Recreation Marlane McKee-Wetheral, in a report to council Tuesday.

The conservation area, located on Aurora Road and owned by the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSCRA) could be utilized by the recreation department.

And after visiting the site with the Town's Director of Public Works, Ms. McKee-Wetheral says both parties "agreed the site had excellent potential (because Whitchurch-Stouffville) does not provide a great amount of public park land."

She also reports that the recreation department "would be able to utilize this property for a summer outdoor camp site as well as the potential for development of outdoor winter programming."

But, "the question of incurring operating and maintenance costs on lands not owned by the Town outweighed the potential for use," she states in her report.

She recommended council not undertake the management and maintenance of the Whitchurch Conservation Area from the LSCRA but that the Town get first right of refusal of sale.

The LSCRA recently presented Council with a master plan for the new Pangman Springs Conservation Area, also located on Aurora Road between the 5th and 6th Concessions, and stated it may have to "trade-off" the Whitchurch Conservation Area maintenance in order to afford the new project.

Council was to vote on the matter at its meeting on Tuesday night.

DISCOVERY



SPORTS



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