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Police vague

Sunday shopping law confusing merchants

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

A Stouffville retailer is not sure if the law will allow him to open his business Sundays, and he's not getting many concrete answers from local police.

Glenn Woods, owner of Triple Play and RGW Antiques, a combination baseball card, clothes, collectibles and antique store at 20 Freel Lane, told *The Tribune*, he doesn't know whether or not he can open on Sundays.

The Ontario Court of Appeal unanimously ruled last week that the Retail Business Holiday Act did not infringe on constitutional rights of retailers because it banned Sunday shopping.

The appeal overturned a lower court decision last year which allowed large retailers to remain open Sundays and holidays.

But now that the courts have cracked down on Sunday shopping again, some retailers, including Woods, don't know if

they can open legally or not. Woods said he called the local York Region police detachment to find out, but the officer said he wasn't clear on the law either.

"I want to make it clear that I think the police are unfairly stuck in the middle of this," Woods said.

But when one officer told him to call Sunday morning to find out if he could open because, "it depends on which staff sergeant is working Sunday," Woods said he thought the law should not be handled "at the whims" of officers' moods.

Meanwhile, Constable Ron Keizerwaard of District 5 admitted the law is "vague."

"We're waiting right now for the province to give us something more concrete - it's just not specific enough," Const. Keizerwaard said.

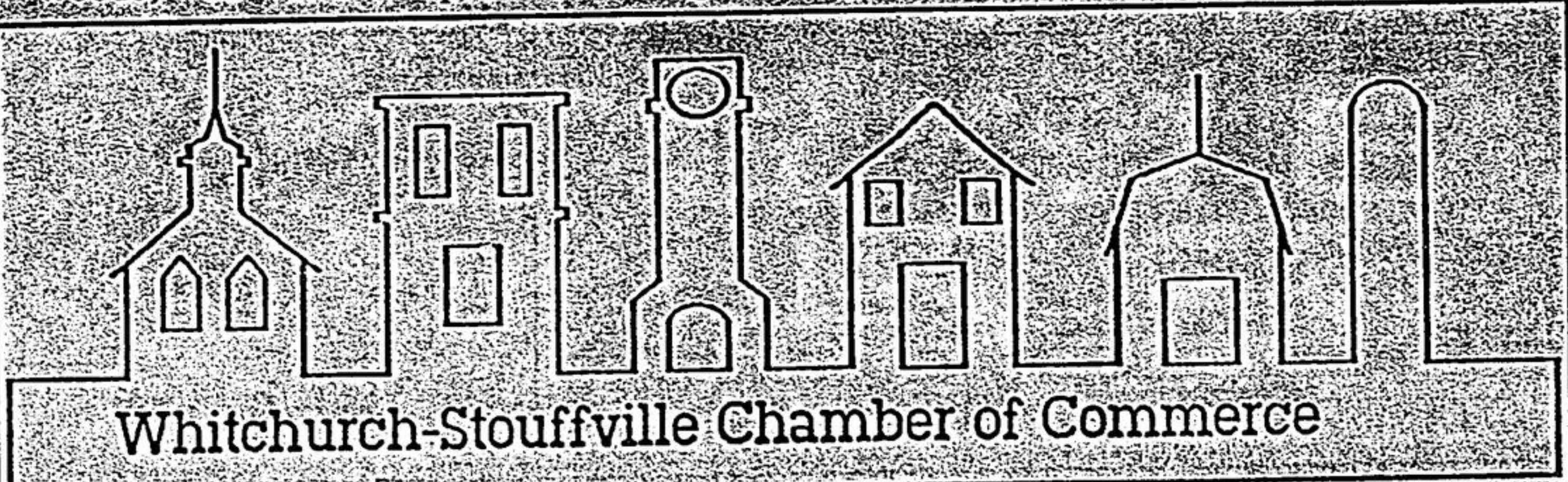
Keizerwaard did say the law would allow any store to open Sunday that is of a convenience store nature or a tourist attraction as outlined by the Region

of York. "They shouldn't impose this law on (retailers or the public) until they know what they're doing," Woods said. Woods, who wants to open

Good Friday and Sunday, will wait to hear from police before opening.

But the police are not taking the law too seriously right now, according to Sergeant Norm

Miles. Miles said the department is not making fines a big priority, and said the department is not keeping track of who they warn about opening.



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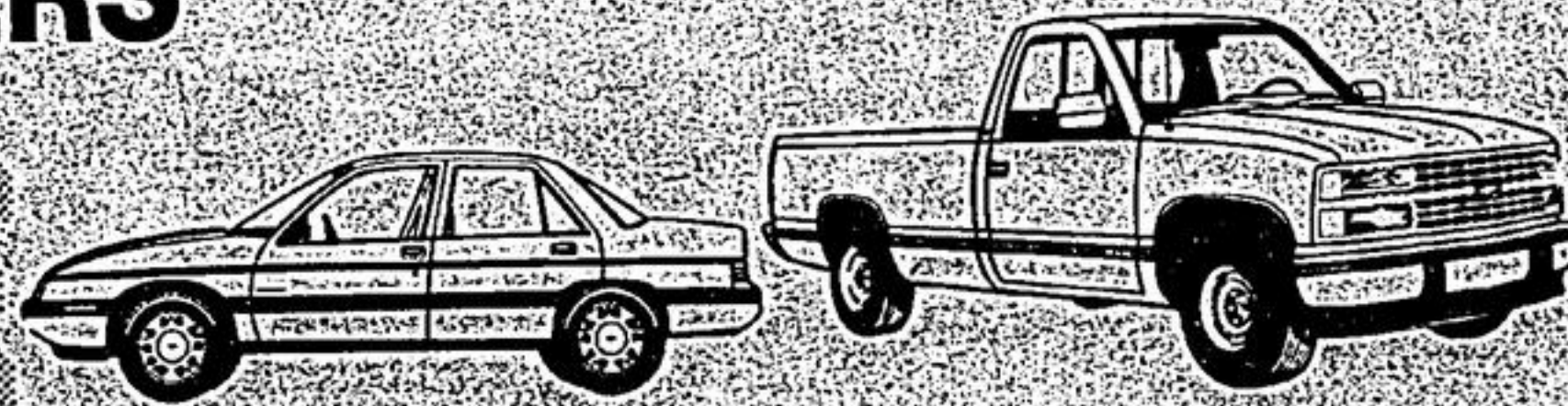
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