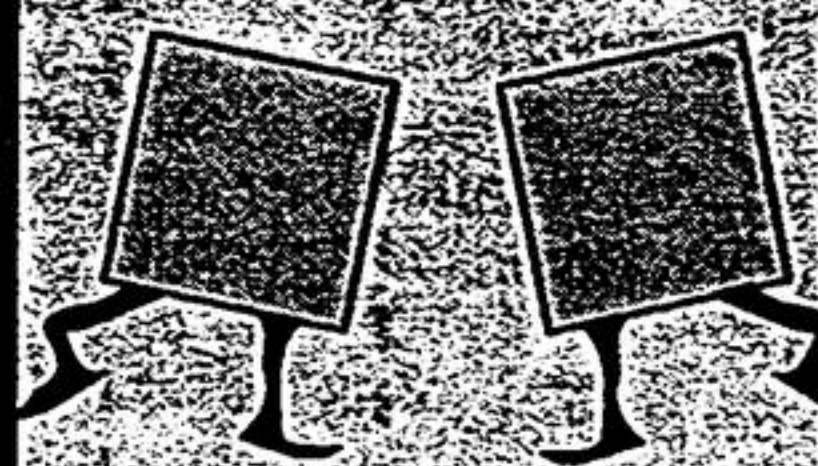


MUSIC  
MANIA



The best of local talent goes Hollywood. See p. 16.

Square dancers  
See page 14



SPORTS



Season ends.  
See page 6.

# Stouffville Tribune

VOL. 3 NO. 18

A Metroland Community Newspaper

Wednesday, May 1, 1991

21-28 Pages

50 cents

TRIBUNE exclusive

## Youth tells how beer led to fire

**Youth charged in Deer Park fire tells of how 'boredom' and beer resulted in \$1 million damage**

TRACY KIBBLE  
Staff Reporter

An empty building and three bars stocked full of beer proved to be a goldmine for a "bored" Stouffville teen.

The Tribune interviewed a teen charged with the \$1 million fire at the Deer Park Inn last week. The young person interviewed, who cannot be identified, was also charged with stealing beer from the establishment the night before the fire.

That first night about 6 p.m., Sunday, April 21, two youths allegedly "took a knife and pushed a window lock open," an easy entry.

"At first I felt nervous but when I realized no one was there I felt it was a challenge," the young person said.

And once inside the deserted building, the youth found beer - lots

of it. "More than you could ever haul out of there in one night." "But we stayed three hours and left everything the way we found it." That was Sunday night. The lure of drinking a few beers enticed a return to the Deer Park the next night, the youth explained. On Monday, April 22, the youths came back and this time, the youth said, they even brought a few friends.

The door was already unlocked from the inside from the previous night's excursion so the group entered soundlessly. It was 6 p.m.

The youth admitted to "smoking a few cigarettes and having a few beers" downstairs in Cheers - one of the dining areas - because there were no windows. "Then we just got destructive and started to destroy everything. We started throwing furniture and smashing windows." Although the electricity was not disconnected the group used candles because they "thought it was better to keep the lights off."

But the youth had had enough - six beers - and went home at 12:30 p.m. The others were still there. The fire had not yet started, according to the youth. When the youth awoke the next morning, a school day, and heard the Deer Park Inn had burned down, the youth admitted "I wasn't sure what happened."

The youth's first thoughts were, "Are the others still in there? What's going to happen now? Could the fire have started from the candles or one of the heaters we "might have" kicked over?"

A "hungover" teenager went to school until the York Regional police came and escorted the suspect to Markham headquarters. No handcuffs, the youth added, and said police joked about the size of their suspect.

"I feel lousy. I couldn't even look at the place when I drove by. I'll never go on that property again," said the youth.

When asked what an appropriate punishment for such a crime would be, the youth said "hours of community work" is his first offence. The young person, who wants to be a truck driver when finished school, said boredom and wanting to escape the house for a few hours instigated the trouble those two nights.

"There's no arcade anymore, the mayor took that away. There's no where to go in Stouffville, nothing to do. I'd like to go to a normal mall or the movies or something without going to Markham."

The youth was to appear in court Monday for the third time to answer the charges. "They don't know what to do with me," the youth said. The youth's father, who agreed to the interview, said he wanted the new owner of the Deer Park to know that it isn't always the parents who are at fault. He was referring to a comment in The Tribune by Phillip Stefaniak who asked where the parents of the youths were at the time of the incidents.

"I am a good parent. I really am."

## Stouffville boy hit by truck

An eight-year-old was struck by a dump truck while riding his bicycle on the weekend and was taken to Markham Stouffville Hospital for minor injuries.

York Regional police said the boy was riding along the sidewalk near his home at Gabrielle Mews and Hemlock Drive about 4:08 p.m. Saturday, April 27, when he drove into the side of a truck making a right-hand turn.

The truck was heading along Hemlock at a slow speed, police said.

As the truck made his turn, however, the bike struck the back of the left front tire and the boy lay under the middle of the vehicle.

An independant witness, who helped the boy from under the slow-moving truck, said the boy was travelling fast and may have lost control.

The boy's bicycle is destroyed and the boy suffered a swollen left ankle from the collision, police said.

There were no charges laid in the mishap.

Peck on the cheek



overheard

"I feel lousy. I couldn't even look at the place when I drove by. I'll never go on that property again."

- Stouffville youth charged in Deer Park fire.

GARDEN CENTRE & LANDSCAPING SUPPLIES

**farmer Jack's**  
CRAFT & GARDEN CENTRE

PLANT OF THE WEEK  
FLOWERING ALMOND  
A beautiful pink  
flowered, ornamental  
shrub Reg. \$14.99 Sale \$9.99

Plant Starter 5-15-5  
For all transplanting of trees, shrubs  
& flowers Reg. \$4.59 Sale \$3.59

DID YOU KNOW WE  
CARRY A FULL LINE OF  
PET FOODS AND  
SUPPLIES

Rent all Shop  
Roto tillers Rollers  
Aerators Wheelbarrows  
Detachers and much more.

STORE HOURS  
Monday to Friday  
9 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
Saturday and Sunday  
9 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Phone: 640-5080

We are here  
Stouffville  
Highway 48  
FARMER JACK'S GARDEN & CRAFT CENTRE  
Stouffville Side Rd. Highway 47  
MARKHAM  
Highway 7  
5402 Main Street, Stouffville  
(Just east of Hwy. 48)