

# Robbery up 94 per cent over last year

**JULIE CASPERSEN**  
Staff Reporter

Robberies are on the rise in York Region. York Region police report a 94 per cent hike in robberies during the first half of this year compared to the same time in 1990. "They've almost doubled," said Sgt. Norm Miles, police spokesman. He described robbery as "theft with violence" and said most culprits turn to robbery to support a drug habit or a family, or are people with "a general unwillingness to work."

The robbery surge tops increases from pre-

vious years: 46 per cent in 1990 and 48 per cent in 1989. Miles said crime in general is up 23 per cent. Included in this statistics is a 38 per cent increase in motor vehicle thefts and 45 per cent hike in incidents of fraud.

Both break and enters and thefts over \$1,000 climbed 21 per cent. Last year, 5 District, covering the south end of Whitchurch-Stouffville, reported the highest break-in rate with 25 per cent of residential and commercial burglaries, the same as the previous year, although the actual number of break-ins jumped from 902 occurrences to 1,222.

Police saw a 24 per cent jump in the assault rate, while the number of sexual assaults surged by 30 per cent.

The number of incidents involving drugs and weapons subsided last year. The Morality Bureau, which grew from 12 members to 18, seized \$228,967.60 worth of illegal drugs in 1990.

So far this year, four people have been murdered in York Region, although none occurred in Stouffville.

In 1990, York Region police investigated five murders.

Traffic fatalities jumped by 65 per cent

in 1990, most of them attributed to alcohol and failure to wear seatbelts. In order to boost awareness of the importance of seatbelts, the traffic unit staged a two-week crackdown June 17 to 30. Of the 38 fatal collisions on regional roads that killed 43 people, three took place in Whitchurch-Stouffville, all on Bloomington Rd. within a two-week period.

In 1990, police handed out 47,039 speeding tickets and nabbed 6,704 people who weren't wearing seatbelts. According to the 1990 annual police report, the population of York Region grew by 4.5 per cent with the department increasing in size by 6.1 per cent.

## Stouffville woman in dispute with local video store

**ALAN SHACKLETON**  
Tribune Staff

A Stouffville woman is outraged over a dispute with a video store concerning a number of Nintendo games purchased by her developmentally handicapped brother last week.

Anna Diliddo said the store, Movies Plus on Winona Drive, should not have sold the games to her younger brother David. She is upset that the store will not take the six game cartridges and Game Genie back, and will not refund the purchase price of approximately \$393.

She said she plans to picket in front of the store if the matter isn't resolved.

However, store owners Ron and Brenda McQuaker said they can't understand why the Diliddo family is so angry.

"We've broken no rules or regulations," said Brenda. "We've done nothing wrong. I see no reason for why she (Anna) is upset."

The dispute centres around whether 19-year-old Dave Diliddo, who has a developmental handicap called Prader-Willi syndrome, should have been allowed to spend the amount of money he did on the games.

Anna said that on Monday, July 8, she saw Dave leaving a local bank. When she questioned her brother as to what he intended to do with the money he had withdrawn, he told her he was going to buy the video games.

She told him not to, at which point she said he had a temper tantrum.

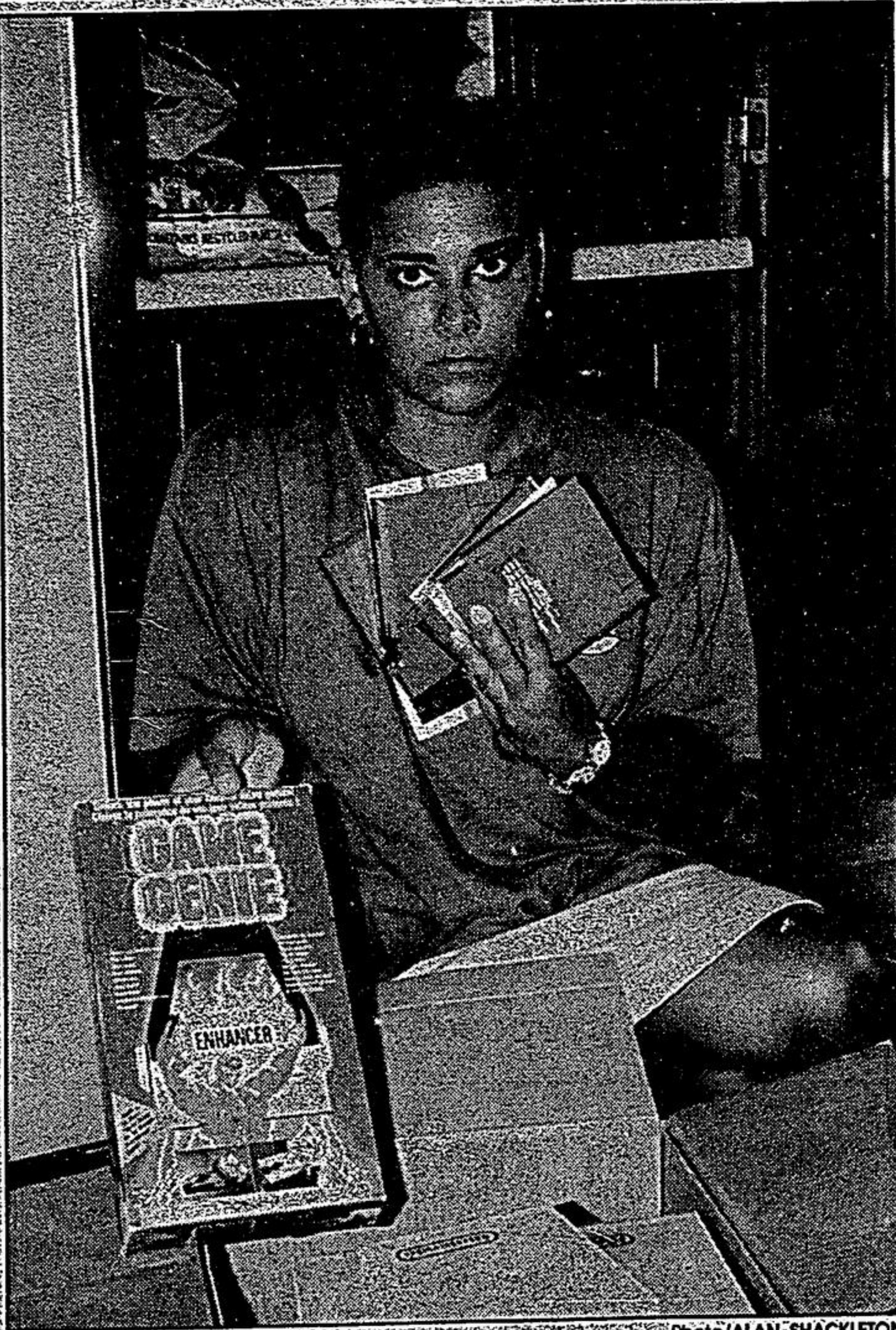
"He said he was going for a bike ride (earlier in the day) and then I caught him coming out of the bank," said Anna. "The van from the video store was parked waiting for him. I couldn't get Dave to come with me, but I told him not to go to the store."

Since Dave was becoming increasingly upset, she let him leave in the van, assuming that driver Ron McQuaker was going to take him home.

At that point, Anna decided to go to the video store herself, and ask them not to sell the games to Dave.

"I thought I'd be smart and head him off at the store," she said. "I couldn't get Dave to come with me, so I went to the store and told the lady (Brenda) that he can't buy the games."

However, according to Anna, Brenda McQuaker told her that the games had been ordered more than a month ago, at which time Dave had put



Anna Diliddo holds the Nintendo and Game Genie her brother Dave bought at a local store.

down an \$89 deposit, and the sale had already been made.

The next morning, Dave's mother Carmen brought the games back to the store to return them for a refund. Carmen and Anna said that Brenda refused to accept the games because they were no longer in their boxes and there was no receipt.

"She (Brenda) said the boxes were gone and she couldn't take them back," said Carmen. "I was speechless. I didn't know what to say."

The Diliddos said that Dave was given neither the boxes nor a receipt for the games.

The McQuakers say that isn't the case at all. Ron said that he gave David the games in the van and they were in their boxes, and he also gave David a receipt.

"I gave him a receipt, but he threw it away," said Ron. "He took the games out of the boxes at the end of his own driveway."

In an interview with Dave last Friday at his home, he said that he was offered the receipt, but refused it.

"I said no for the receipt, but he should have given it to me anyway," said Dave. He wasn't exactly sure what happened to the boxes. At one point he said the games were in the boxes and then he said they had been taken out in the van.

Brenda McQuaker said the games can't be taken back because they are older games, which the store would have trouble renting or selling to anyone else, and they were ordered specially for Dave.

"I told his mother and sister they can't have the money back because it was a specialty order," she said.

The McQuakers pointed out that Dave is often in the store and has ordered Nintendo games without any problems many times in the past. They said that if the Diliddo family didn't want Dave ordering games, then they should have informed the store previously.

"Are we not supposed to sell to handicapped people?" asked Ron. "Isn't that discrimination?"

Anna, though, said the family members are regular customers at the store and the owners were well aware of Dave's condition.

The McQuakers said they feel they are being used as scapegoats in a family dispute among the Diliddos. However, Anna said it is now a matter of principle to her and she intends to push the issue as far as possible.

"This is no fun for us either," she said. "It's been a lot of heartache and hassle, but it's the principle of the thing."

## For students Jobs few, far between

**ROGER BELGRAVE**  
Staff Reporter

It's dog-eat-dog in the student job market this year.

That's the assessment thus far this summer from Dora Valentini, supervisor for one of York Region's Canada Employment Centres For Students.

"The number of students finding employment through the centre has increased over last year, she indicated.

"Placements are up because students are just more aggressive this year," Valentini said.

The office, located at the southeast corner of 16th Avenue and Hwy 48, was opened in late April. Stouffville students began pouring in shortly after the doors were open for the summer.

"They were in the office earlier (this year) and trying to secure jobs," she pointed out. "Students were choosier last year and they had more to choose from and the whole economy is different."

There was a dramatic increase in the number of placements early in the summer compared to the same time last year. But the number is misleading because a large proportion of the jobs were census related.

In May this year there were 177 jobs posted at the office, compared to 214 last year. While students filled 136 of those jobs this year, only 54 were taken during the same time last year. However, last month the numbers were much closer to last year's statistics. Last month the number of jobs available rose only about 4 per cent compared to June 1990.

There were 171 vacancies last month in contrast to 164 in June 1990. But the number of positions filled remained the same at 145.

The centre offers a wide range of job postings from clerical and sales jobs to camp and warehouse labor positions.

Some of the jobs the centre finds for students are "odd jobs," said Valentini. The centre offers an Odd Job Squad which allows students to come in and add their name to a special list. Whenever citizens or com-

panies ask for someone to perform odd jobs, like babysitting or lawn cutting, individuals on the list are notified.

Job seekers can come into the office and peruse the job boards. If a student sees a vacancy they're interested in all they have to do is make a note of the information and pursue the lead themselves.

There is no longer any need for the students to register at the office before seeking a job. "It's just faster this way," Valentini explained.

On any given day, traffic through the office can be light or heavy, but there is always a constant stream of people checking the boards.

Valentini and two student placement officers also offer various seminars to help the students chances of acquiring a job. The programs cover such things as resume writing, job search and interviewing skills.

Staff at the centre make calls to businesses daily, trying to find job openings. But unlike past years, it's an employers market this year. "Students really have to settle for what ever they can get," said Jennifer Zubik, a student placement officer.

If students are looking for \$10 an hour summer jobs, they may have to settle for work paying between six and eight dollars.

Two years ago, Johnathan Kenny found a job as a camp councillor through the centre. Just back home for the summer from the University of Guelph, Kenny, 21, is hoping the centre will help find him another job.

After a few minutes scanning the board, he found a job opening and decided to apply. Settling is something 21-year-old Shawna Morrow, a graphic design student at Durham College, is prepared to do.

She has been fishing in the employment waters for a while trying to get "anything," she said. Her search recently passed through the employment centre. "It's really hard finding a job," she added. "This makes it a little easier."

With details like wages, work hours and location included on the job posting, it's easier for students to decide if they want to pursue a position.

## Preliminary hearing set in Grimshaw case

September 16 is the new date for the preliminary hearing in the court case involving Stouffville's Ed Grimshaw.

Grimshaw, charged with misappropriation of funds while serving as treasurer with the Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Hockey Association (WSMHA) in 1990,

appeared in Newmarket Court June 28. The case has been stayed on several occasions, with the charges initially laid in the fall of last year.

Grimshaw, a long-time executive member of the WSMHA, is currently serving his second year as president of the Ontario Minor Hockey Association.

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