

Truck strikes woman at local garden centre

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

A Stouffville woman was struck by a cube van Thursday as she walked through outdoor nursery stock to her car at Farmer Jack's Gardens.

Local ambulance, fire and police crews rushed to the west end garden centre at about 12:40 p.m. after reports that a pedestrian had been struck at the site.

Verena Jaeger of Bloomington had apparently returned from the store after purchasing nursery items and was struck by a landscaping truck as it came out of a pickup laneway running alongside the outdoor garden centre. Jaeger was carefully transported from the ground to a stretcher by six emergency workers and taken by ambulance to Markham-Stouffville Hospital. The woman's daughter, Gala Jaeger, told *The Tribune* yesterday that her mother needed emergency surgery to repair a deep gash in her right leg that damaged some muscle tissue as a result of the incident.

Gala said her mother will likely not be able to walk for quite some time and will need therapy and skin grafting to completely heal her damaged leg. The young woman said her mother was quite shaken from the incident, but said her "spirits are good."

Hospital officials confirmed Jaeger was in stable condition as of yesterday. York Regional Police had not released a report at press time and are still investigating the incident, said Inspector Ivars Vitins yesterday.



Photo: TRACY KIBBLE

Ambulance attendants comfort an injured Verena Jaeger of Bloomington after she was struck by a van outside Farmer Jack's on Friday morning.

Business

New store not 'harmless venture': Pastor

(From page 1)

for all your spiritual needs," said Pastor Clarke.

"I feel there are some serious things being done there. In a pluralist society like ours, we tend to have a naive approach to every philosophy or every spiritual exercise out there. There's no black and white, no definitives in our society anymore."

Clarke expressed his concern over the services being offered at the store, and said he felt people should understand that "this is not a harmless little business venture."

"For instance, tarot card readings are a divination, with symbols which stand for such things as death and Satan," said

Pastor Clarke. He added he was afraid the youths who attend his church's Youth Barn teen centre, some of whom have histories of neglect and homelessness, might be negatively influenced by such practices.

Reverend Wayne Reed of Stouffville United Church admitted to having a problem with the store's sign, saying that any sign that contains the concept of magic is "bound to upset many people in a community like this."

"The New Age movement does worry some churches," said Rev. Reed, who said he has spoken to several people who were concerned with the store.

"For our people (at Stouffville United Church) it's not a problem. But those

people who don't understand the intonations may buy them."

Charles Mashinter, associate pastor of the Stouffville Missionary Church, said that while much of the New Age movement is harmless, anything that is related to the occult is of concern to him.

"The New Age movement is a religion: they have ministers," he said.

"And in a free country like ours you have to allow pluralism."

"But you open yourself up to Satan's oppression," he said of references to tarot readings and the store's sign.

Bob Fleming, head pastor at Springvale Baptist Church, said he hasn't been in the store, but has talked with people about the possible negative aspects of the

business. "If negative supernatural forces are a possibility, then I'm very concerned," he said. "I'm concerned about any avenues that can incite supernatural powers within people."

Mayor Fran Sainsbury said the town's building department has been approached by a man inquiring as to whether the business has proper zoning. She also said she has encountered a group of youths who attend the Youth Barn, and the teens have expressed a concern regarding the business, she said. She added she found nothing offensive about the store when she paid it a visit.

Ward 5 councillor Bob Ancheril said he has heard from many people expressing various concerns over the store.



Photo: STEVE SOMERVILLE

Return to the wild

Becky Atkinson of the Wildlife Clinic in Guelph releases a falcon that had been rescued and rehabilitated at the opening of the Stouffville Reservoir walking trail on Wednesday.

Post office's fate up in air: Fran

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

Is the Stouffville Post Office closing or isn't it?

That's what Mayor Fran Sainsbury wants settled once and for all, she told officials this week.

Sainsbury said there have been rumors circulating around town for too long about the fate of the local post office, and she is requesting straight answers directly from the source.

Sainsbury told officials Tuesday that a letter from Canada Post manager of provincial and municipal relations Barbara Stanyar indicates the corporation wants to discuss its service with the town.

"We want (Whitchurch-Stouffville) to understand our plans to continue to improve Canada's postal service," the letter states.

The mayor wants to take advantage of Canada Post's claim to "maintain open discussions and communication with municipal representatives," and ask whether or not

it intends to close the local post office.

Canada Post boasts "reliable, accessible and affordable postal products and services ...

and a more reliable service than ever in the 1990s," in the letter.

Council will wait for a response from the corporation.

Child Find will be at concert

Local parents will have the opportunity June 6 to register their children with Child Find Ontario Inc. at a benefit concert.

Field Rock Benefit '92 will feature some great activities for children, including a "kid check" from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Kid Check includes pictures, finger

printing and all your child's vital statistics. The event is in support of Canada 125 celebrations and Child Find featuring Blue Rodeo and four other bands. Children are free. The location is Woodbine Avenue, 3/4 km north of Bloomington Sideroad.



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