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See page 3.

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Development

Town scraps OPA-88 plans

By **MIKE RUTA**
Staff Reporter

Development representatives received a shock at the last council meeting of the term Tuesday night as the town without warning ended the OPA-88 process.

OPA-88 was an attempt by the town and landowners to redesignate lands on the east side of Hwy. 404 at Vandorf Road to an industrial use.

A scaled-down version of a larger area, OPA 88 was abandoned because the extensive studies required by the

province to consider private septic services on the rural lands were thought to be too costly for the town to undertake, said town representatives.

An OMB hearing on the matter, which recently got underway, was thought to be pointless, and the town's legal representatives advised that it be abandoned.

A report in the agenda by CAO Merlin Dewing, advising how counsel could proceed on OPA 88, was disregarded as

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A&P robbed Saturday

By **JULIE CASPERSEN**
Staff Reporter

A Stouffville woman credits a cool-headed cashier and a calm customer for saving her and her young children from harm during the armed robbery of the Stouffville A & P grocery store Saturday.

A lone gunman held up the busy Main St. food store shortly before 6:30 p.m. Saturday.

Laurie Vanzeeland of Stouffville was on her way into the store to pick up a few weekend groceries when she came face-to-face with the armed suspect. "I could have stuck my leg out and tripped him," Vanzeeland said.

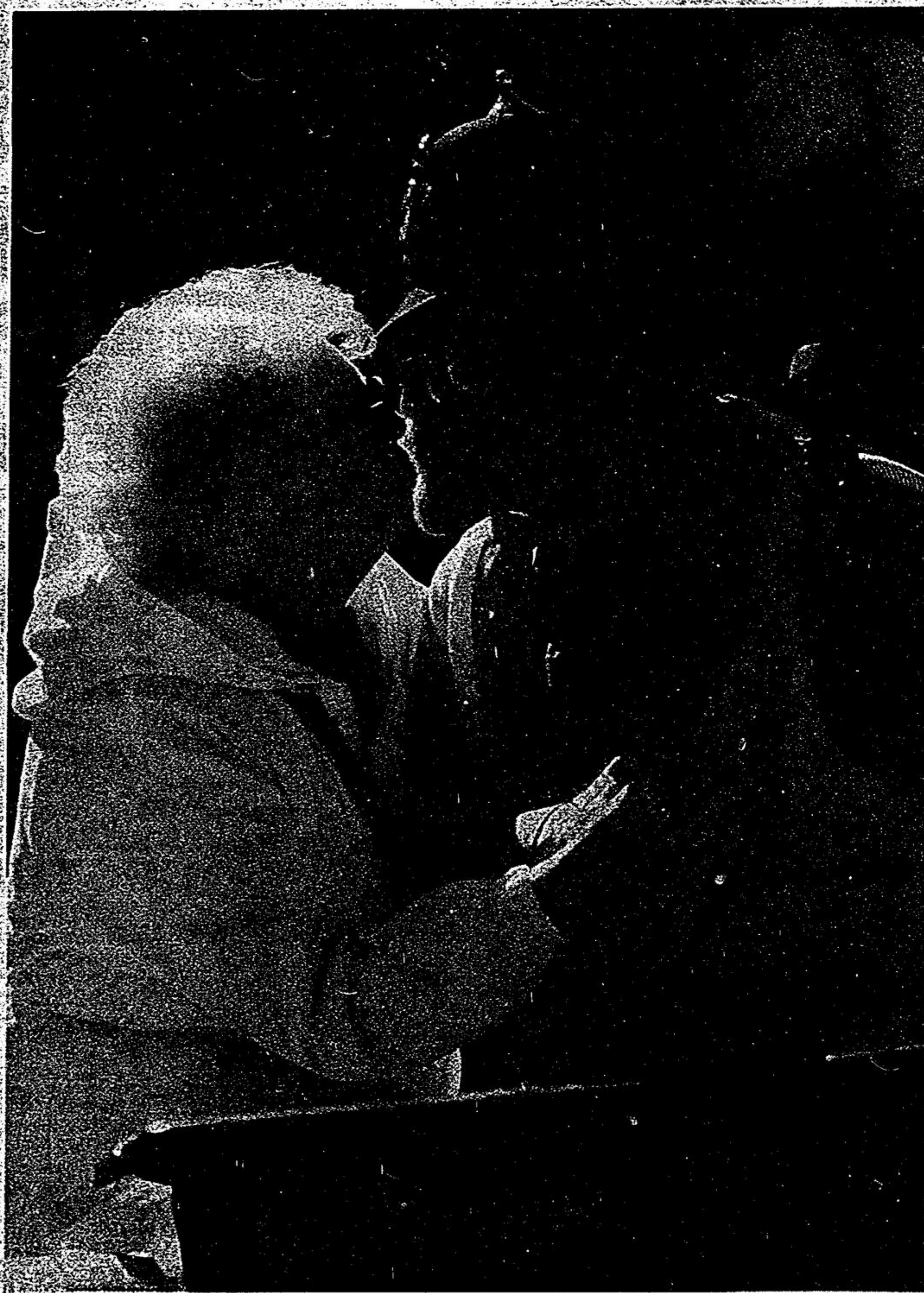
"The kids and I were walking into A & P. An employee was motioning something to me but I couldn't understand," she said. "I saw this tall black fellow walking from her cash area."

Vanzeeland said she'd just entered through the door and was distracted by the cashier's hand motions when a man gently pulled her aside. "He said, 'Come over here, he has a gun.'"

Vanzeeland ushered her six-year-old daughter and three-year-old son out of the way as the suspect "very nonchalantly walked out" through the automatic door she'd opened.

"I stood there stunned," she said. Before the shock set in, Vanzeeland tried to complete her shopping but ended up leaving the store empty-handed. "I was aimlessly walking up and down the aisles with an empty cart and two kids. I couldn't remember what I was there for. I couldn't remember what I was supposed to buy."

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A kiss for the Yorkshire Lad

Mary Upton kisses the Yorkshire Lad, Del Dickenson, who came to Stouffville for Harvest Fest. The event, made even better by great weather, was a big hit. See page 3.

Photo/STEVE SOMERVILLE

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