

Restaurants upset with prospect of ban

(From page 1)

law. Putting more teeth in this law will hurt business, especially "family restaurants," said John Papadimitrou, owner of Beebeaters.

Instead of governments adopting a Big Brother attitude, restaurant owners should assume more responsibility and discourage their customers from smoking to excess, said Papadimitrou.

"If a customer smokes five packs a day, he should be asked to leave (the restaurant). Just get rid of him," said Papadimitrou.

While health officials across the

province are calling for very tough smoking laws, Sam Kabiotis of Woodbine Ave., said an all-out ban violates human rights. Although Kabiotis is a non-smoker now, he said a 75-cigarette a-day habit nearly killed him. "I quit, but I almost died. Still, I don't see anybody doing anything about 27-year olds being killed by drugs," he said.

A York Region survey carried out recently shows the majority of people support a full smoking ban in public places, including restaurants. Still, Tony Lioutas, owner of Main Street Restaurant, is insisting that people

don't need such laws. Smokers frequenting his restaurant don't smoke "out of consideration for the non-smokers," he said.

A smoking ban would mean the creation of a "snitch line." How are they going to enforce it? How are they going to prove it? asked Lioutas.

In York Region during 1992, there were an estimated 514 deaths attributed to smoking, health officials reported. Meanwhile, laws tied to smoking are also being reviewed at the federal level. Health minister David Dingwall has promised tougher tobacco laws very soon.

Ceremonies on Monday

Grade 2 students from Summitview Public School will be special guests at the municipal offices as part of Remembrance Day ceremonies in Whitchurch-Stouffville.

Council extended an invitation to local schools to give students an opportunity to learn about how democracy works and gain awareness of the role Canadians played in preserving that democracy through two world wars. The students will meet Mayor Wayne Emmerson in council chambers at 10.30 a.m.

After a short information session, they will accompany town staff and members of council for the Remembrance Day ceremony, which takes place at 11 a.m. Monday at the Cenotaph in Civic Square. Branch 459 of The Royal Canadian Legion invites all citizens of the township to attend the ceremony.

A service of remembrance, lead by the Stouffville and District Pipe Band, will be held Sunday at 1 p.m. in Memorial Park, and there will also be a service at 2.30 p.m. in the legion hall on Ninth Line. As well, the Ladies Auxiliary is sponsoring a Remembrance Day Tea and Bazaar Saturday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the legion, with proceeds going to the bursary fund.

Donations to the Poppy Campaign are used to assist veterans and their dependents who are in need. Funds are also used to support the elderly and disabled and Community Care.



Rubbed the right way

Marita Concil (left) and Kendra West, both Registered Massage Therapists with the Stouffville Therapeutic Centre, work on Scott Richards of Magnum Copy Centres on Sandiford Drive in Stouffville to raise money for the United Way. If you can help out, call the centre. Photo/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

OMB hearing costs rise to \$400,000

(From page 1)

Stouffville council chambers. Meanwhile the answer to who wins and who loses is expected to be known

early in January, said Carmichael. The motion for costs is filed immediately after the decision is announced. What was expected to be a three-

day hearing has now dragged into nine days. The meter ticks for all parties, said Carmichael.

The application to build a cemetery on Woodbine Ave. found its way to the OMB after local council rejected the application.

A town official recently reported that the cost to the taxpayers is \$80,000 for this hearing.

If the OMB gives the go-ahead, construction will get underway as soon as the weather permits.

"We're looking at early spring," said Carmichael.

Stouffville students suspended for drinking on trip

By JOHN LAMBERSKY
SDSS Correspondent

Suspensions were handed out to 14 local high school students last Thursday for drinking while on a school trip.

Members of the Stouffville District Secondary School (SDSS) senior boys volleyball team were on an overnight tournament in Waterloo on Oct. 18 and 19 when the alcohol incident occurred, principal Rod Leonard said.

"As a result, we had to take action," said Leonard.

"It's unacceptable behavior."

The punished students, which included members of the team, the team manager and two fans, faced three-day suspensions, ending Monday.

The suspensions also mean that the senior boys volleyball team is disbanded. As well, the students will not be allowed to attend this year's semi-formal or participate in any sports for the remainder of this season, Leonard stressed.

Some students, however, felt that the punishment was too severe.

While one suspended student has admitted to drinking alcohol, he's claiming that the suspensions were unjust. "I just don't think it's fair," said the student, who is 17.

"The spectators shouldn't have been suspended."

When asked whether the suspensions were effective, the student grinned, "It worked."

Students who were not suspended agree that the punishment was too strict. They also take issue with the fact that fans who were not officially on the school trip were also suspended.

"I don't think it's fair," said Chris Lamont, 18.

"The punishment was too harsh for the spectators."

Aaron Altman, 17, said: "I think it was too harsh because it's been such a long time since the incident. Maybe if it was for something more serious, but it was only drinking."

John Tamlin, 18, a member of the team who was not suspended, doubts the punishment will have any effect. "I don't think it worked," said Tamlin.

"They won't learn anything by being sent home for three days."

In support of those, some students wore the volleyball players' uniforms on the annual Halloween dress-up day last week.

The administration, however, felt that such a display of support was inappropriate in light of the facts involved, confiscating one of the jerseys.

"Once the whole story was heard, parents and students had to accept the facts," said the principal.

He added, "the rules are fair and clear."

Leonard hopes that the suspensions will send a message to potential rule-breakers that SDSS is not a place where drinking alcohol is taken lightly.

"It's our reputation in the sports community and in the town," said Leonard.

"We don't need that kind of behavior."

Town's future on agenda

The next step to determine Whitchurch-Stouffville's future planning will be taken on Nov. 16. A workshop for the town's Growth Management and the Secondary Plan (SP) will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Latham Hall.

The 10-member committee will focus on what could go where in the part of the town known as Old Stouffville. The process, known as Shaping Our Future, will include producing a document to be ready for York Region approval in June.

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