

Lawyer impersonation case continues

(From page 1)

The bogus lawyer discovery was made in a Toronto court. Toronto detective Chuck Vander Heyden said a man was holding himself out to be a lawyer when in fact he was not and never has been a lawyer.

Previous courts have heard that a man convinced a friend to pose as him, while Kissen, using an assumed name, represented the man on a charge of impersonating a lawyer. While the well-spoken and sharply-dressed Kissen was quite convincing, the detective intervened and an arrest was made outside the courthouse.

A co-accused, a 24-year-old Ajax man, will also appear in the Toronto court April 24.

Courts in Durham and Toronto have heard that a person using a Toronto business address represented himself as a barrister and a solicitor.

The person had business cards identifying a law firm but there was no such law firm, said Vander Heyden.

The court's been told that people were offered legal counsel for family court, civil court, criminal matters and business matters, involving significant sums of money put down as retainers. The accused has appeared as a lawyer in a number of courts in Ontario.

Last year, the story took yet

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another twist. A Courtice man, a previous client of Kissen's, was charged with assaulting Kissen in his Stouffville home. This case is still before the courts.

Meanwhile, the Law Society of Canada is watching this case with a great deal of interest. Having someone charged with impersonation is not a common occurrence.

Two teachers awarded

At a ceremony held in Ottawa last week, Prime Minister Jean Chretien honored a Stouffville resident for his teaching excellence.

Carl Twiddy of north Stouffville and a faculty member of Markham District High School was given the Teaching Excellence in Science, Technology and Mathematics Award.

In his 30-year teaching career in York Region, Twiddy has touched the lives of more than 5,000 students, sparking interest in science and chemistry.

"Carl Twiddy exemplifies the best of education," Bill Hogarth, director of education for York's public school board said in a release.

Mary Ann Holman, another Stouffville resident who taught last year at a Markham school, was sent a local version of the award.

Holman, a teacher for 18 years, was recognized for her work at St. Patrick Catholic School. She now teaches in Aurora.

The prime minister's award has been handed out since 1993.

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