

Sammy's Boot Bar to host charity concert

JORDAN H. GREEN
Correspondent

Stouffville residents can dance away their used items in July, when a benefit concert and auction takes place at the recreation centre.

Sam Valenzano, owner of Sammy's Boot Bar and Grill is organizing the July 19 charity event to help the Markham Stouffville Hospital.

"It's not just Sammy's, this is for the town," comments Valenzano.

"We're looking for the town, and businesses to participate, or if they can volunteer some time," he said.

Admission to the concert is a voluntary \$2, or whatever you can afford.

Proceeds will go towards a Dual Headed Gamma Camera, used for diagnostic imaging. Cost of the camera is \$486,000.

"It's a wonderful piece of equipment because it serves all patients," explained Wendy Douglas, the hospital's special events coordinator.

About 700 people are expected for the eight

hour event from noon to 8 p.m.

The concert features a number of popular country singers including Jamie Warren and Marty Damsell.

Event organizers are still scouting around for local talent to participate in the concert.

"We're looking for some local talent, whatever we can get would be fabulous," said Valenzano.

Originally, the event was to benefit the Starlight Foundation, but the foundation turned Valenzano down.

"It's not something I enjoy doing," said Gloria Temkin, the foundation's executive director.

The foundation just had too many fundraisers that day, and not enough time to plan for this one, according to Temkin.

"Next year, I hope he can give us more time and we can work with him," said Temkin.

The Starlight Foundation grants wishes to seriously ill children.

People able to volunteer their time or talent, or interested in donating items for the auction, can call Valenzano at 642-7469.

St. Mark parents fight for busing

MIKE ADLER
Staff Reporter

Parents of children going to St. Mark were told the Catholic elementary school is no different from many others — but it is, says a Stouffville woman concerned about safety.

For years, students were bused to the school, on a short, dead-end stretch of Glad Park Ave. But parents recently learned that this fall, most St. Mark children will be asked to walk.

The public board expects to open its own school, Glad Park Public, on the same block in October. Both will start at 8:15 a.m., 40 minutes earlier than St. Mark did this year.

The transportation service for both boards says these changes will save \$245,000.

But parent Lesley O'Connor isn't convinced the children of either school will be safe. And neither are the 500 residents who signed a petition asking the boards to reconsider, she said yesterday.

O'Connor said parents want the changes delayed for a year, enough time, she said for a traffic light to be built at the busy intersection of 9th Line and Millard St., where many children would cross.

Other streets surrounding the two schools, like Elm Rd., O'Connor maintained, have no sidewalks and will be dangerous places for children to walk at that time of day.

"People are zooming south to go to work," she said, calling the town's promise of a crossing guard at 9th and Millard "pitifully inadequate."

Many parents will decide to drive their children to school, and that will cause more congestion and danger on narrow Glad Park, she argued.

Separate school trustee Sean Pearce said the public board didn't properly plan the west-facing public school, which was built without emergency vehicle access from the north. "It's a huge concern," he added recently.

But Harry Bowes, Stouffville's public school trustee, said Glad Park is not unsafe, so there's no reason why the children shouldn't walk to both schools.

David Snelgrove, plant services superintendent for the public board

conceded the lack of emergency access from the north could be a problem, but said the Glad Park block is "no different than any cul de sac in a subdivision."

That section of Glad Park will be widened and a sidewalk should be completed on the east side this summer, said the manager of Student Transportation Services.

"I'm relying on these things to be completed," said David Martin recently.

O'Connor, who presented parent concerns to the separate board last month, said residents whose children will go to either school this fall are invited to an 8:30 p.m. meeting this Wednesday at 18 Summerfield Ave.

Prison time for man who terrorized jeweler

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-cuffed and verbally threatened.

Dehond figured he'd never see his four kids again. And, he expected watchman Cecile Simpson would die with him.

Tolentino and McMillan were arrested two months after the Gormley robbery.

During the five-day trial, the court was told that Tolentino terrorized a total of four victims in two separate robberies.

The pair also targeted a west end Toronto store, handcuffed

and terrorized the owner and a clerk.

Whitchurch-Stouffville mayor Wayne Emmerson commends Dehond for his cooperation and interest in seeing the case through to the finish.

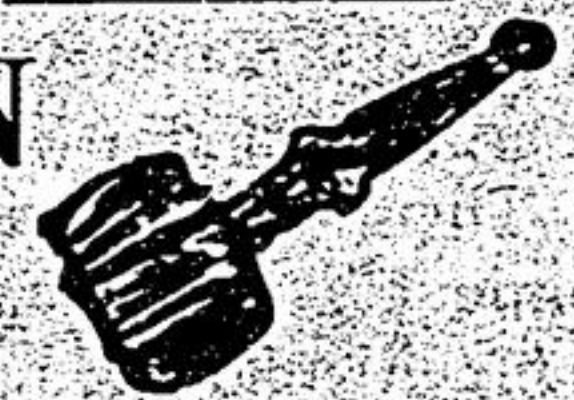
"He (Dehond) stuck with it. His testifying was important. I'm glad of the outcome," said Emmerson.

Dehond said at times, he still gets nervous when a stranger enters his store.

"The watchman still gets nightmares," said Dehond.



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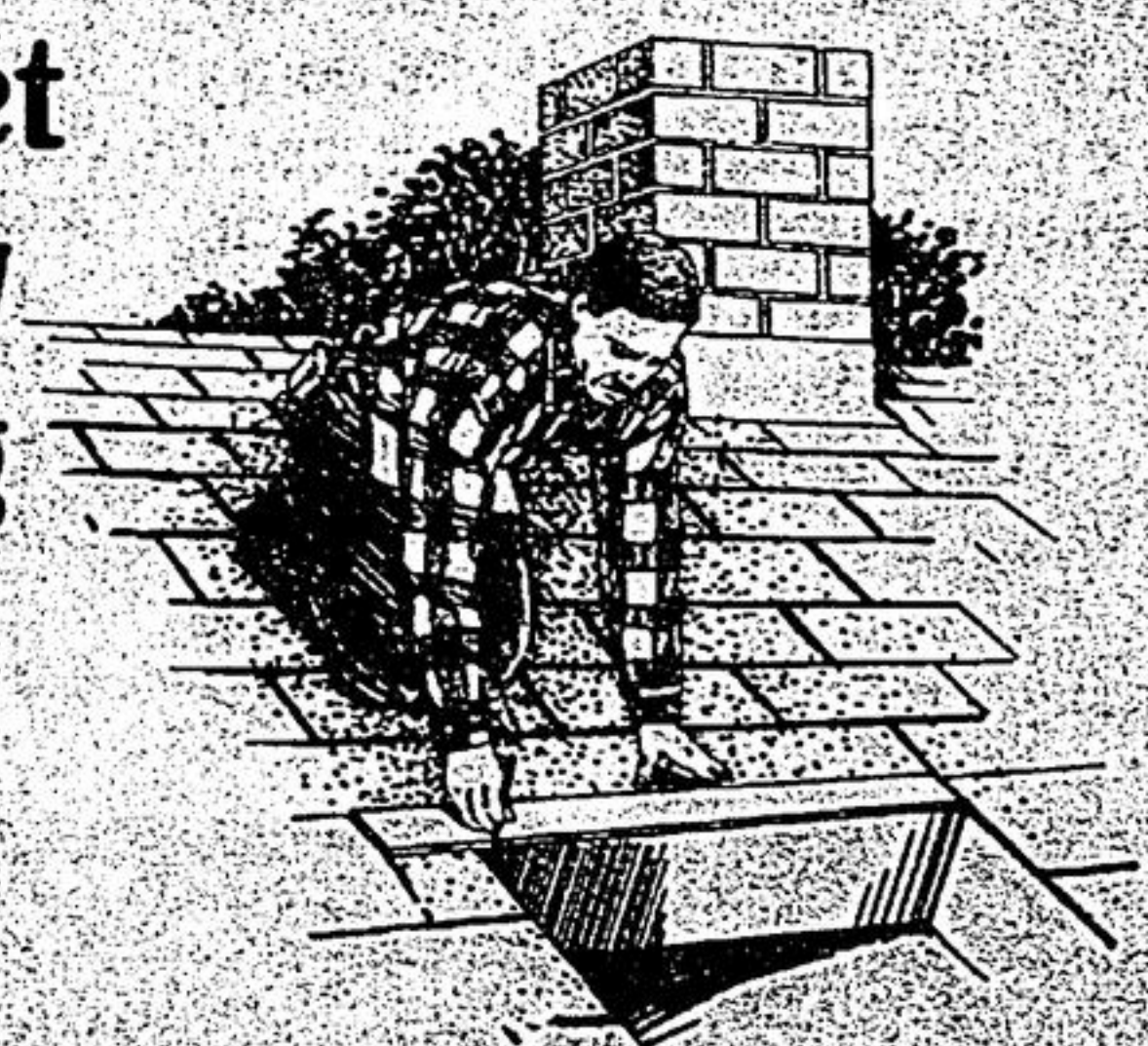
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