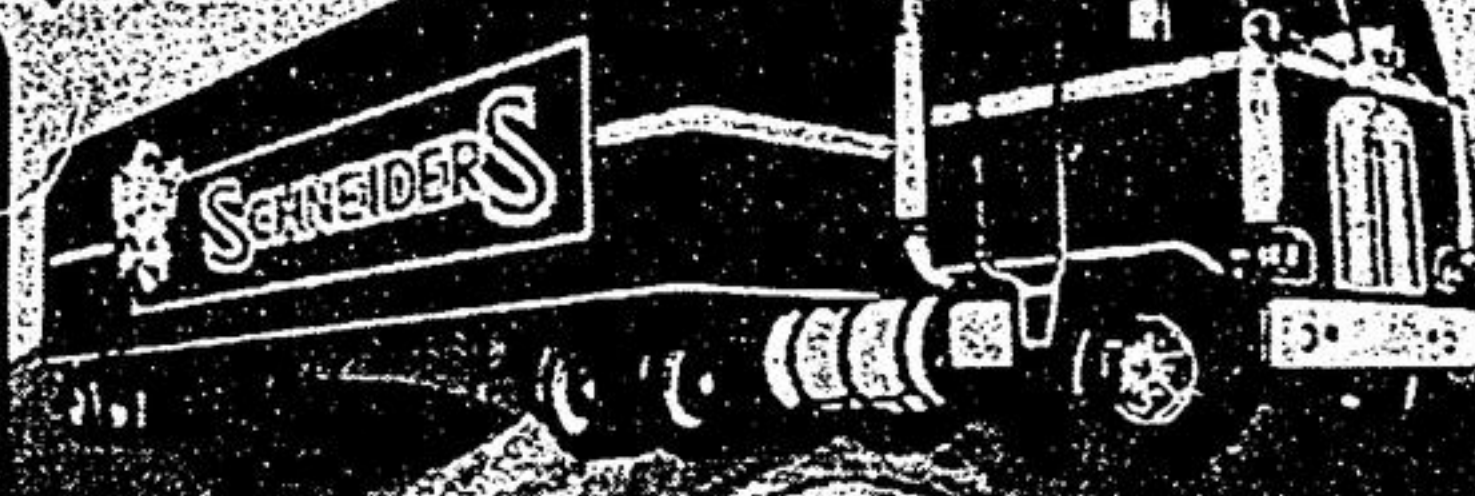


# THE NEWS

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### THE REGION: Richmond Hill wins battle against adult entertainment in its core

## Yonge Street strippers banned

BY CHRISTOPHER DOURIS  
 STAFF WRITER

The strippers are gone from the Major Mack Hotel.

It was closed Wednesday night, after Madame Justice Gloria Klowak released a ruling that supported Richmond Hill's bylaw banning adult entertainment from Yonge Street.

A message on the hotel's answering machine Thursday said it would be closed for two weeks for "renovations."

But yesterday, Noel Gerry, a lawyer who represents hotel owner Riccardo DiGiuseppe, said the hotel "is open for business as a tavern now."

He said he will be appealing Klowak's ruling and asking that it be stayed, allowing the exotic dancing to continue until the appeal is heard.

But lawyer George Rust-D'Eye, who represented the town at the hearings, said a stay wouldn't necessarily keep the club open.

The town passed a bylaw and the bylaw is valid until some court says otherwise," he said.

And DiGiuseppe suffered a second blow Wednesday, when police raided the downtown offices of Rich-Rotstein Chartered Accountants and seized a number of documents.

Const. Rob Purves, of the York Regional Police

morality bureau, said the raid was part of a proceeds of crime investigation started after the Sept. 10 raids of the Major Mack and 15 other properties controlled by DiGiuseppe.

"Closing them for a couple of hours is a victory, closing them for a couple of days is a bonus," said Det. Sgt. Chris Barratt.

Councillor Brenda Hogg agreed Klowak's ruling was a big step toward upgrading Yonge Street.

"Any strip club that tries to open on Yonge Street is going to have the biggest battle of its life," she promised.

In December 1996, the town passed a bylaw that moved the designated adult entertainment zone from Yonge Street to the Enford Road industrial area.

The bar, which has no adult entertainment licence and is still fighting the revocation of its liquor licence, appealed the bylaw.

"While mud wrestling and stripping carried on in the centre of town may have been acceptable at one time," Klowak said in her decision, "other more aggressive and overt sexual activity within the same character of neighbourhood can constitute a change inconsistent with the continued designation of the neighbourhood for adult entertainment."

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# Amnesty International celebrates human rights

On Tuesday Oct. 20, the members of Group 54, Amnesty International, are holding a public and informal celebration to mark the 50th anniversary year of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights (UNDHR) as well as the 25th anniversary of Amnesty in Canada.

Often without a second thought, daily in Canada we enjoy basic civil and human rights that are denied to so many around the world. Within our multicultural society, we feel free to worship and pray without the threat of censorship or arrest because our personal religious beliefs or our ethnic background.

As Canadians we are rightly proud and defensive of our compassionate and generally tolerant society. Our institu-

tions reflect the values of the 30 articles of the UNDHR. This historic document was signed into being on Dec. 10, 1948.

Kofi Annan, Secretary General of the United Nations, has stated, "the principles and precepts of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights guide and inform every act of the United Nations." These same precepts and principles are also the basis of the work of the human rights organization, Amnesty International.

It is unfortunate that many world governments ignore the principles of the UNDHR to which they are signatories. Thus world-wide violations of human rights continue, often on a massive scale.

On receiving an Honorary Doctorate of Laws from

McMaster University, Margaret John, Amnesty's branch coordinator for Malaysia/Singapore, said of the UNDHR, "We have set human rights standards but there is very little implementation. This then is the challenge of the 21st Century."

Anan said, "You do not need to explain the meaning of human rights to an Asian mother or African father whose son or daughter has been tortured or killed. They understand it, tragically, far better than we ever will. What they need, and what we must offer, is a vision of human rights foreign to no one and native to all."

Next time we go to our individual places of worship, let us reflect on Article 18 of the UNDHR: "Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion."

Local Amnesty members invite all residents to the Oct. 20 celebration at the Unionville Library, from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

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 A Church to Call Home  
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 WEDNESDAY  
 9:15 am Ladies Coffee & Crafts  
 7:00 pm AWANA (ages 3 to 12), Junior High, Adult Study & Prayer Choir  
 8:15 pm  
 THURSDAY  
 7:00 pm Senior High  
 8:30 pm Basketball Fellowship  
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