

**POLICE:** Little hope a missing police revolver will ever be recovered, officials say

# Youth asked to help police find cop gun

BY KATHLEEN GRIFFIN  
STAFF WRITER

Police say they are holding out little hope a police-issue .40 calibre Glock, missing now for almost a week, will be recovered.

But they are appealing to the public, especially to local youths who may have information about the missing gun, to call York Region police at the 5 District station or anonymously at CrimeStoppers.

"We haven't recovered it yet," Det. Mike Young said. "We can't really look anymore than we have—

were probably not going to get it back."

He said if any kids have seen it, heard about it or know who has it, they should let police know right away.

The gun has been missing since Friday evening after the 14-year-old son of a Toronto police officer took the gun from his home and threatened several boys in a park behind a Markham area school.

Police say the boy was a victim of on-going bullying and, after a 5 p.m. argument, ran home and

grabbed his dad's gun and ammunition.

After threatening the boys, he told them he wasn't going to shoot anyone and put the gun in his pocket. It fell to the ground when two of the boys jumped him.

One youth grabbed it and took off. He gave it to a friend, who in turn handed it over to another youth.

The 16-year-old friend was charged Monday with several offences, including finding a firearm and failing to report it and

possession of stolen property.

Young said officers have also been searching for the teen who took the gun from the parking lot, but so far have failed to locate him.

"We've been looking for him for two days, he will be facing charges," Young said.

Meanwhile the Metro cop, suspended last week, will return to work Monday, said Toronto Police media relations Sgt. Jim Muscat.

Sgt. John Sheldon said the officer reported the gun missing as soon as he realized it was gone. He

found his son and brought him to the 5 District station where they were both charged—the officer with careless storage of a firearm.

The officer's son has been charged with assault with a weapon, possession of stolen property under \$5,000, theft under possession and the pointing of an unregistered and restricted firearm.

Police want to hear from anyone with information at 881-1221, ext. 7541 or CrimeStoppers at 222-TIPS.

**COMMUNITY:** Welcoming new residents to Stouffville via Canada largest greeting service

## Welcome Wagon tradition from pioneer settler days

BY JOAN RANSBERRY  
STAFF WRITER

It's true: Welcome Wagon is a gift-bearing company.

Most people are surprised to learn Canada's largest greeting service company arrives at the door step with a gift basket, local Welcome Wagon representative Dianne Darling said.

Welcome Wagon models itself after days gone by. "In the tradition of pioneer women who drove covered wagons out to meet the new settlers with fresh water, food and other supplies, Welcome Wagon delivers gifts to new residents," Darling said.

Welcome Wagon was founded in the Canadian west in 1930. Today, it represents more than 11,000 businesses throughout Canada. Here in Stouffville, Welcome Wagon representatives introduce new residents to such businesses as local car dealerships, grocery stores, carpet stores, hairstylists, pet stores, video stores, restaurants, plumbers and travel agencies.

Meanwhile, a typical gift basket, given to new Stouffville residents, contains silk flowers, shampoo, candles, pet food, a gift certificate for an oil change, a pen, a package of popcorn and a picture frame. As well, new residents are given invitation cards, enabling them to pick up a gift at local retail outlets, including drug stores.

As a public service, Welcome Wagon

distributes a civic envelope containing a letter of welcome from the mayor, pamphlets from the parks and recreation department, a list of library services and programs, information on churches and the schedule for garbage and recycling. A copy of *The Stouffville Tribune* is also in the basket.

Darling is a familiar face in town. She's been a Welcome Wagon representative here for more than 20 years. When a family arrives in town, Darling is often the first to say "welcome."

Helen Boehm has just joined the Welcome Wagon team, having just moved here from Sarnia. "Helen had a Welcome Wagon visit and was impressed with the merchants, and with the friendliness of the town," Darling said.

Jill Bartley has also joined Welcome Wagon. As the Birth of Baby hostess, Bartley gets to meet new moms and infants a few days after they've arrived home from hospital.

The trio are always on the lookout for new residents. Once a subdivision is occupied, the Welcome Wagon representatives go door-to-door in search of new families. Meanwhile, new residents are eager to pass on names of new neighbours, Darling said.

One in five Canadians move annually, one in 50 marries, one in 34 is a new parent. These families in transition are vital to Welcome Wagon. For more information, call 640-3521.



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Welcome Wagon crew from left are Dianne Darling, community, business and professional welcome; Jill Bartley, birth of baby welcome; and Helen Boehm, community welcome. Darling has more than 20 years of service with the Welcome Wagon and received her 20-year pin.

## Didn't hear shots, accused says

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blood, were found inside, the jury heard.

"The front seat passenger side had what appeared to be blood on it," said McVeity. While searching the car trunk, the officer said he found soil and some leaves which "appeared to be marijuana."

Last week, Crown attorney Marcy Henschel said Bolender shot David Showers, 25, and Cowie. The pair were

unaware Bolender was in a construction trailer on the property while they were loading the marijuana into the car, they told police.

Det. Gary McBrien told the court he arrived at the property after 2 a.m. to find several police units already on the scene.

McBrien said Bolender told police he lived in the trailer, went to bed at 10 p.m. the night before and didn't hear any gun shots.

The trial continues.

## Union will demand salary hike

FROM PAGE 1.

• a copy of the board's application for special assistance from the Ministry of Education for added gratuity payments, arising from an increase in retirements last year.

• a detailed expenditure budget, including amounts transferred between budget areas.

In a statement, Benedict said until the

information is provided to teachers, "the probability of strike action increases every day." The board insists teachers in York earn an average of \$3,000 more than their colleagues in the rest of the province.

Benedict estimates it would cost the board \$5 million to reach a deal that would be satisfactory for teachers, including a salary increase. "We will not let this negotiating team go in and come out with a zero salary increase," she said.

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