

PROVINCE: Pressure forces reversal of decision to charge for parking at Aurora OPP headquarters

Police backlash derails parking fee

BY LISA QUEEN
STAFF WRITER

Public pressure has convinced the provincial government to back off plans to charge for parking at the Aurora OPP headquarters.

"It's good news for everybody," Insp. Alex Kehoe said yesterday, the day paid parking was supposed to begin at the detachment and adjacent provincial government buildings at Yonge Street and Bloomington Sideroad.

"They (the officers) are greatly relieved. Trying to get in and out of this

place could be problematic if we had to get out in a hurry to a call and somebody is in line trying to pay for parking, counting their pennies."

Under the plan proposed by the Ontario Realty Corporation, an agency that manages provincially owned real estate, officers would have been charged \$25 a month to park their private vehicles. Visitors, including victims, witnesses and community groups, would have been charged \$2 each visit.

Last fall, the province adopted a pol-

icy that specifies parking fees will be charged at government properties served by public transit or close to private parking.

The corporation agreed to abandon paid parking in Aurora after a public backlash convinced officials public transit to the site is not reliable and there is no alternate parking available.

But local police association president Sgt. Cam Woolley argued the corporation would have known that, if it had bothered to consult with officials before introducing the proposal.

"They just said, 'We're starting paid parking March 1. Be there or be square.'"

According to Woolley, officers were ready to protest by charging overtime for the thousands of hours they now donate in unpaid work every year.

"Can you imagine charging victims? Sometimes, they come to us to pick up the valuables of a deceased loved one killed on the highway. But first you have to pony up \$2? It's disgraceful."

Woolley is relieved the corporation has pulled the plug on the plan.

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CRIME WATCH

Boys robbed at knifepoint

Two 15-year-old boys were robbed at knifepoint Saturday night while walking along Carlton Road in Unionville.

According to police, the pair was near Warden Avenue when confronted by a group of five youths at 11:30 p.m.

Police said the youths didn't know each other.

The group of five began by asking the two boys if they had any "herb" or marijuana, which they did not, police said. They then demanded cash and one of the suspects removed a designer jacket and a knapsack from one of the victims.

One of the five then pulled out a black knife, demanding the boys turn over a gold chain.

The group made off with the chain, the jacket and cash, for a total theft value of \$675, police said.

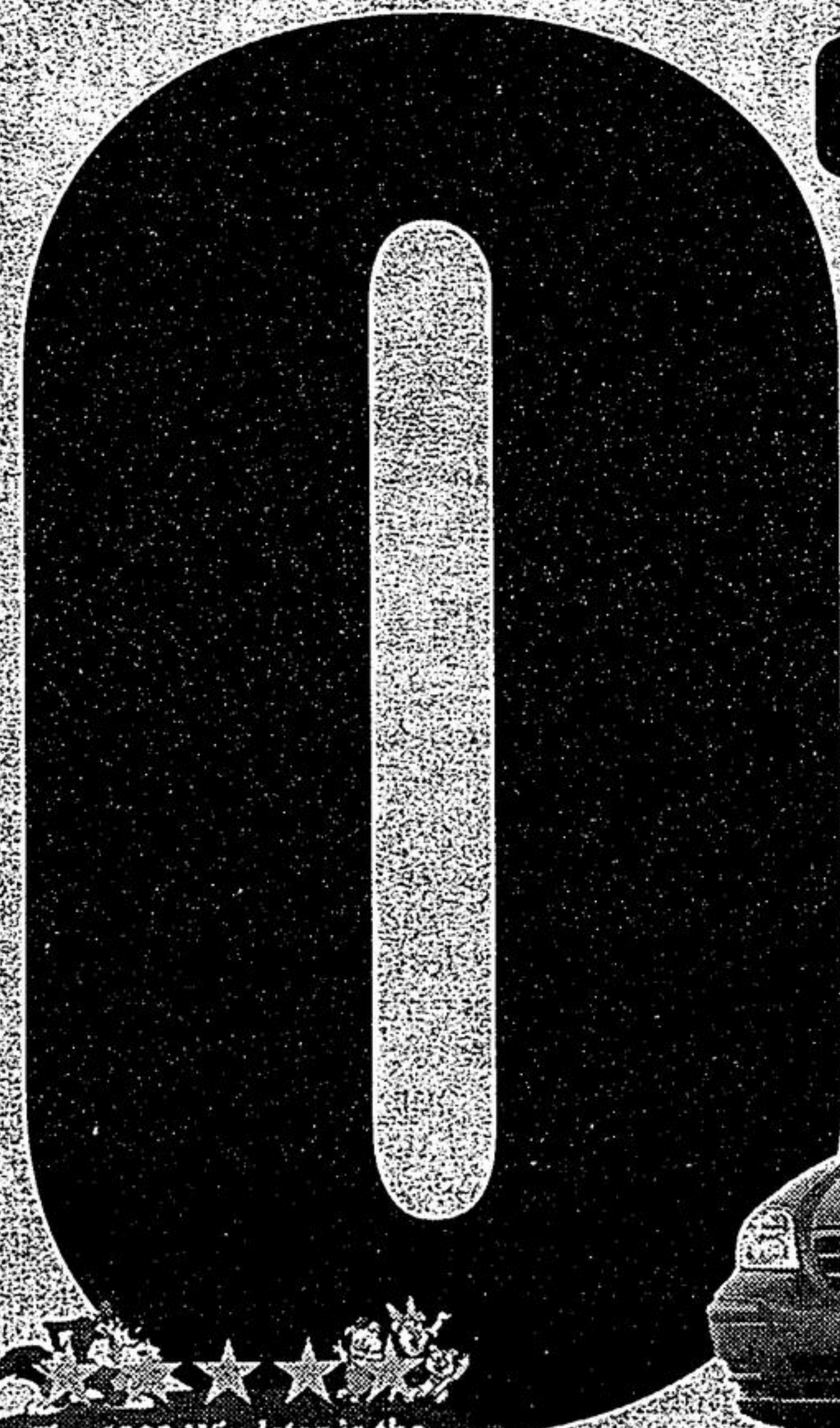
The suspects are described as male, black, all about 17, between five-foot eight-inches and six-foot tall, police said.

Two were wearing black, puffy jackets, including the suspect armed with the knife. His hair is shaved at the sides with the top buzzed and he had a turtle-neck pulled up over his lower face.

Anyone with information is asked to call 881-1221 or Crime Stoppers at 222-

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\$30,000	\$0	\$5,663.52	\$5,663.52

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NOTICE OF REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING TO HEAR DEPUTATIONS ON THE MILLS/CAMBRIDGE PROPOSAL

Proposed Amendments 505 and 510 to the Official Plan for the City of Vaughan are under consideration by the Region. The purpose and effect of Amendment 505 is to permit the development of a 1.35 to 1.7 million square foot "Mills Format" shopping centre. The purpose and effect of Amendment 510 is to implement the required transportation improvements necessary to accommodate the proposed mall. The subject lands are located in the southeast quadrant of Highway No. 400 and Rutherford Road.

Regional Planning Committee will be hearing deputations from residents and other interested parties at a meeting to be held on:

Monday, March 8, 1999
7:00 P.M.
Seminar Room

York Region Administrative Centre
17250 Yonge Street, Newmarket, Ontario

Contact Person: John D. Jacob, Area Planner.
(905) 895-1231, Ext. 1508.



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