

Cops search for thugs who blinded man

BY LISA QUEEN
Staff Writer

York Regional Police are appealing to residents to help them find four thugs who left a 28-year-old Aurora man blind in one eye after a brutal attack last month.

In a vicious assault that mirrors the savage beating of Newmarket teen Jonathan Wambach a year ago, the victim was knocked to the ground and repeatedly kicked and punched as he left the Country Style Donut Shop at Yonge and Kennedy streets May 7 at 2 a.m.

As he walked through the foyer carrying coffees for himself and his father-in-law, one man grabbed him and another punched him in the face.

After the victim fell to the ground, the men kicked him in the head and all over his body. Two more accomplices, who approached the victim from behind, joined in.

The father-in-law didn't witness the attack, according to Det. Const. Doug Horn, who said the beating lasted about 30 seconds.

The two men had been drinking at Jersey Joe's Restaurant across the street. The victim decided to grab a couple of coffees before heading home, but was not accompanied to the doughnut shop by his father-in-law.

An employee of the doughnut shop contacted police after a customer alerted her to the beating, Horn said.

He said there doesn't appear to be a motive for the beating. The victim wasn't robbed, a racially motivated attack has been all but ruled out because the victim and the two attackers he saw were all white, and police don't think the man had any contact with the thugs before the beating.

"It smacks of some sort of retaliation. If so, we're certainly not speculating why," Horn said.

"The victim is not known to police. He's no bad guy at all. He seems to me to be a nice guy just trying to go through life."

Horn, who spoke to the man a day

after the attack, said the victim was severely injured.

"He was pretty sore. He couldn't sit down to be interviewed and had to stand," said the investigating officer.

"Even breathing hurt. Everything he did hurt. Nothing he did didn't hurt, it was just a matter of degree. He has marks and bruises all over."

Horn is convinced people witnessed the attack and is urging them to come forward.

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