

Former chief campaigning for office, won't discuss charges he faced

BY LISA QUEEN
Staff Writer

Former York Region police chief Bryan Cousineau says he won't talk publicly about criminal charges he faced two years ago as he campaigns for a seat on Newmarket council this fall.

In a news release Tuesday, Cousineau confirmed he registered on Monday to run in the November municipal election.

But in a letter to the newspaper yesterday, Cousineau said he won't discuss the public breach of trust case that led to his downfall as York's police chief.

The newspaper had invited Cousineau to tell his story and address questions he's sure to

face from voters during the campaign.

"Thank you for the opportunity of the interview on Thursday," he replied.

"However, I feel this situation has been extensively covered to date. I was also given the opportunity to address the public through an article published by The Era-Banner.

"I plan to campaign door-to-door and I will deal with any questions that may arise."

An open letter from Cousineau to residents ran in Metroland Printing, Publishing and Distributing's York newspapers in February 1999.

Cousineau retired from the

force two years ago, hours before he was charged by the OPP following an 11-month investigation.

He pleaded guilty to two counts of public breach of trust for failing to disclose a \$125,000 loan from Magna International and for using a police-issue cellular phone for personal use.

Cousineau was given a conditional discharge with 100 hours of community service and 12 months probation, meaning he has no criminal record.

Court was told Cousineau accepted the loan from Magna in 1995 in return for future employment after he retired from the police department.

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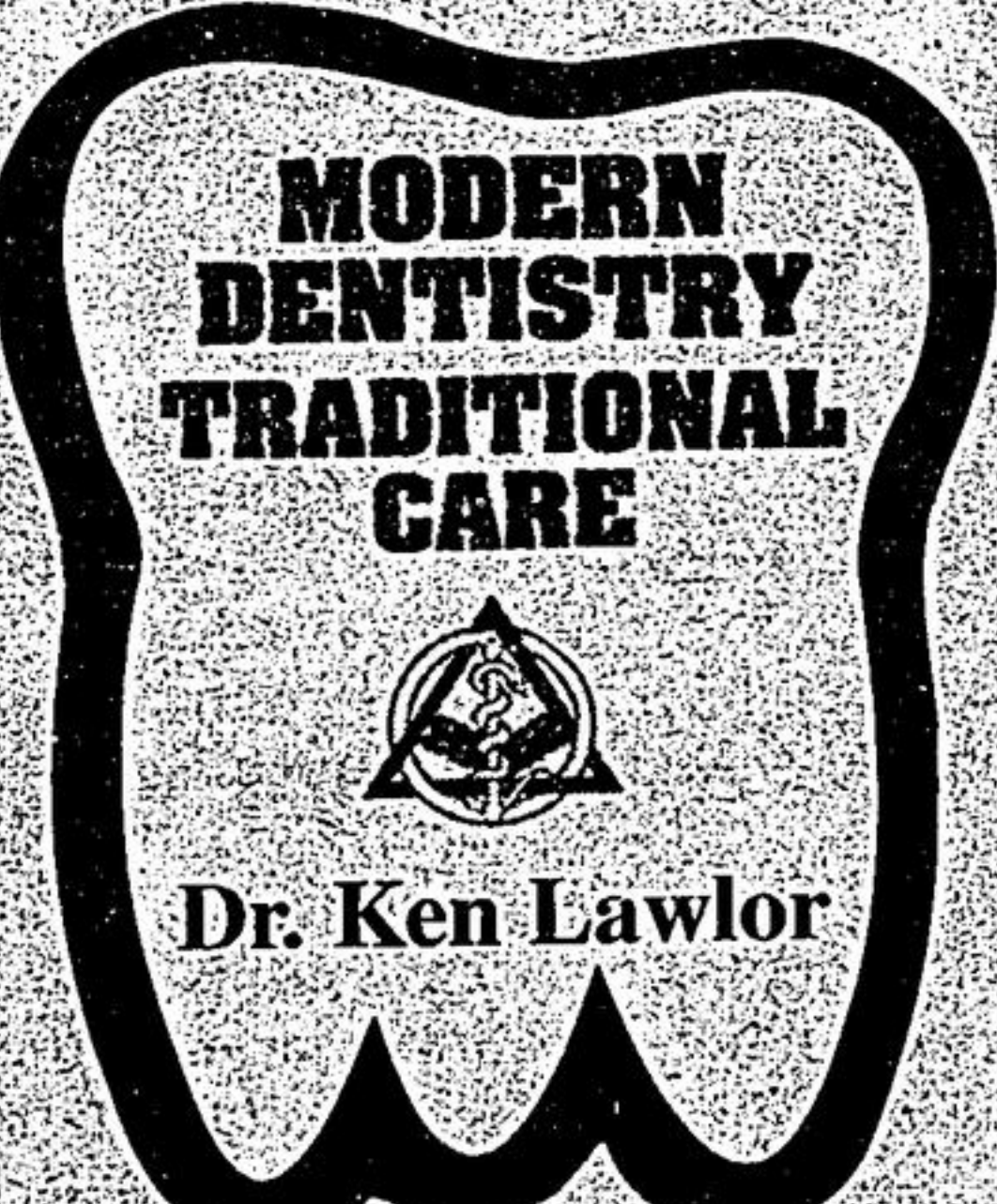
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MARKHAM - 7-year-old Elden Witherspoon of Markham recently received the nation's coveted Wunderkind Award, given to a child displaying the exceptional qualities necessary for becoming a future mover and shaker. Elden credits his success to his parents' determination, stamina, and fortitude in getting an early start on his training. Betsy and Floyd Witherspoons submitted Elden's name to the renowned Einstein Infant Institute (EII) shortly after conception, and were thrilled to get the acceptance call while in Labour and Delivery at Markham Stouffville Hospital.



Elden Witherspoon

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