

Owners of stores that sold cigarettes to teens 'upset with staff'

From page 1

One clerk working out of the Gormley store questioned the teen shoppers. Before handing over the duMauriers, the clerk asked, "How long have you been smoking?" Another clerk asked the teen if she had a driver's license.

The chances of teens buying cigarettes increases when the clerk is a young male, while buying tobacco is the most difficult when the clerk is a middle-aged woman, the local youths said. Men and young female clerks sell tobacco to minors at about the same rate, the teens added.

The 16-year-olds were able to buy cigarettes at Savex Drug Mart in downtown Stouffville, Petro Canada at the Tenth Line and Main Street, Mis Super Variety at Woodbine Avenue in Gormley and Ballantrae Fruit and Vegetable Market on Highway 48.

Of the 15 local stores refusing to sell cigarettes, each asked the teens for identification. When it was not shown, the teenagers were told there wouldn't be a sale.

In each of the local stores, a sign stipulating that tobacco products cannot be sold to anyone under 19 years in Ontario is posted in full view.

Stores obeying the law by refusing to sell cigarettes to the Stouffville teens were Stouffville Variety and Gas, Convenience Market and BJ Variety, all at the east end of town, at Mac's Milk, the A&P 1001 Variety, Bi Way, Lucky's, Stouffville Variety and Smoke at the west end of town, Vandorf General Store and Odessey Convenience, both in Vandorf, Petro Canada at Woodbine and Aurora Road, the Esso Station and Eagle Convenience, both in Ballantrae and Sunnys Variety and Video at Musselman's Lake.

The owners of the local service station and the Ballantrae market were upset to learn that teens bought smokes at their places. Both business owners said they'd call the staff together, review the law and emphasize the importance of not selling tobacco products to minors. Both Darlene Keates and Helen Tunning of York Region's Health Services can offer the merchants' tips in this exercise.

"Owners are responsible for training their staff with regards to the requirements of the Tobacco Act," Keates said.

York Region-wide, a test of 111 tobacco vendors, representing 10 per cent of all merchants, was carried out. Of those, 32 stores were willing to sell tobacco to a test shoppers. When it comes to the law, York Region's compliance rate was 79 per cent last year, Health Services reports.

Among teen smokers as a whole there has been a major increase since 1994 in the extent to which friends and relatives, including parents are a source of cigarettes, Health Canada reports. At the same time, there has been a decline among teen smokers who use the local store as their source of cigarettes, Health Canada added.

Two years ago, York Region's health department launched a smoke buster campaign. Four teens ranging in ages from 15 to 17 years were deputized to help catch merchants selling smokes to minors. The test shoppers and tobacco enforcement officers conducted surveillance's across York.

This region-wide campaign and other law enforcement exercises resulted in 100 court convictions against people supplying cigarettes to minors and stores selling smokes to people younger than 19. Meanwhile, about 33 charges were laid against teens smoking in prohibited places.

A total of 20 cases remain before the courts. Last year, the fines handed out to merchants and adults buying cigarettes for minors averaged \$180 and \$50 for smoking in a prohibited place. Most of the teens were caught smoking in prohibited places such as church yards.

A merchant is subject to the maximum fine of \$10,000, while someone caught smoking in a prohibited place could face a maximum \$1,000 fine in keeping with the act.

If a merchant is convicted two or more times of selling tobacco to a minor, the right to sell tobacco will be

MONEY CONCEPTS A Great Alternative!!

WHO WE ARE

Money Concepts is a Canadian financial planning organization, established in 1985, with over 100 independently owned franchises throughout the country. Since 1992, Signy Lawson and Carol Clements have co-owned the Stouffville Money Concepts office.

WHAT WE DO FOR YOU

We believe it takes three components to successfully manage your financial life: **Time, Knowledge and/or Desire.** Many people lack one or more of these factors - that's where we come in:

- We listen to your needs and concerns.
- We help you to define your financial dreams - making them goals.
- When we have a complete understanding of your financial circumstances, we develop a detailed financial plan. We will call upon other professional advisors such as tax accountants and lawyers, when necessary.
- We consider tax, estate and insurance needs, investment strategies, education funding and retirement income projections.
- Our investment philosophy is essentially conservative in nature. We do however, consider your individual risk profile when evaluating your investment portfolio.
- When reviewing your current investment portfolio, we explain the merits of specific investments and we consider your circumstances and comfort level. Should changes be needed, we carefully explain the reasons and suggest sound alternatives.
- We examine all of your existing insurance policies and ensure you have a clear summary of each policy. When we discover an insurance need (life, disability, critical illness and/or long term care) we look for the best policy with a stable insurance company to suit your needs.
- Most important of all, we become your coach to ensure the action plan is implemented and our strategies are monitored and kept current.

WHO WE WORK BEST WITH

Our clients are people who:

- Find great value in establishing a long-term relationship of trust with an advisor who takes a lead role in their financial planning process, and who will educate and collaborate in the decision making process.
- Want us to help manage all of their financial affairs.
- Have family investments valued at \$50,000 or more (or will have soon).
- Do not want to manage individual stocks, but choose to rely on professional money managers, such as mutual funds or wealth management accounts. We do not trade stocks.
- Want to have peace of mind regarding their personal finances.

HOW WE ARE PAID

We ensure that any fees paid by clients are minimized, while fairly compensating us for the value we provide. An initial meeting to determine whether our services will benefit you is always complimentary. When we decide to work together, we mutually agree upon payment in one or a combination of forms being either commissions or fee for service.

OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU

- Confidentiality
- Exceptional service - with small town warmth
- Regular reporting and reviews
- Current knowledge of issues that impact your personal finances.
- For you, through various forms of communication from us (appointments, phone calls, emails, newsletters, seminars, articles, books, etc.)
- For us, through ongoing education, training and industry meetings
- A friendly and helpful approach by our team
- A relationship of trust and confidence. We view this as sacred, and constantly remind ourselves of our responsibility to you.

We'd be pleased to help you with your RRSP or any other investment needs. Please give us a call at 642-4540, if we could be of assistance. Please visit our new website: www.moneyconceptsstouffville.ca

Down-to-earth financial management. Your terms. Your comfort.

MONEY CONCEPTS

Money Concepts Group Capital Corp. and N.F. Insurance Agency

**6165 Main St.
Stouffville**

(Southeast corner of Main & Albert Street.
Just West of the Train Station)

642-4540

E-Mail: stouffville@moneycpts.com / Fax: 642-4537
Website: www.moneyconceptsstouffville.ca



The Money Concepts Team

See GRADE page 11

Stouffville DENTURE CLINIC

Full and Partial Dentures
Same Day Repairs and Relines
Soft Liners
Implant Dentures
Anti-Snoring Appliances
Open Saturdays
Emergencies Welcome 7 Days A Week

FOR YOUR APPOINTMENT

642-4867