

Charges after pepper-spraying

A 27-year-old Stouffville man faces numerous charges after two Loblaws employees were pepper-sprayed in the face trying to stop suspected shoplifters Thursday afternoon in Markham.

Police said the two male victims, 32 and 24, noticed two men leaving the Bullock Drive store with food items — including steak — allegedly concealed in their clothing.

As the suspects attempted to flee the store, the employees gave chase and one man turned around and pepper-sprayed them both at close range.

Police responded and two men were arrested a short time later at a McCowan Road-Hwy. 7 plaza.

One man was released unconditionally, while the Stouffville man was charged with two counts of assault with a weapon and two counts of failing to comply with recognition.

He also faces one count each of unauthorized possession of a weapon, possession of property

POLICE

obtained by crime and theft under \$5,000.

- Kathleen Griffin

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