

'Jealous' women attack waitress

BY MARTIN DERBYSHIRE
Staff Writer

Jealousy may have been the reason three women swarmed a waitress outside a Markham bar, York Regional Police say.

The 18-year-old Toronto woman left the Tropical Island Bar on Hwy. 7 at about 3 a.m. May 21 and met some friends in the parking lot.

She went back to the bar, but was attacked by four women and repeatedly punched and kicked.

Her friends in the parking lot finally came in to see what was taking her so long, stopping the assault.

Police arrested the bar owner's girlfriend, a 21-year-old Toronto woman, shortly after the incident, but are still on the hunt for the three other women involved.

The waitress' relationship

with the bar's owner may have led to the assault, Det. Const. Mark Charlebois said.

"The motive was most likely jealousy," he said.

Investigators obtained the first names and photographs of two suspects through a chat room.

Their names are Inga and Suki.

Anyone with information is asked to contact police at 1-866-876-5423, ext. 7241, Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS or leave an anonymous tip online at www.crimestoppersyr.ca

The waitress was treated in hospital, but is expected to make a full recovery.

Anyone with information is asked to contact police at 1-866-876-5423, ext. 7873, Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS or leave an anonymous tip online.

Health care ruling creates implications

BY CHRIS TRABER
Staff Writer

A landmark Supreme Court ruling reversing Quebec's ban on private health insurance may eventually influence how citizens obtain care in York Region, stakeholders contend.

Thursday's ruling made it unconstitutional to prohibit private insurance in Quebec when the public system fails to deliver reasonable service. The ruling is seen as a warning to provinces to stem growing waiting lists.

"The ruling will certainly affect Quebec and it's going to impact the rest of Canada, including the Region of York where people have suggested that we open private health care services," Thornhill MPP Mario Racco said. "We have not discussed the issues with the Ministry of Health but this has pushed us to look at them with an open mind."

Politically, Mr. Racco said he can't advocate a health system where the affluent can usurp others in wait lists for medical procedures.

"We can't have short cuts for people who have the money," he said. "Personally, we need a strong, equal system. That means putting more money into the system. If we don't do that and people don't want to be on a waiting list,

there may be legal arguments."

The Quebec ruling stirs potential for future parallel private systems in provinces across Canada.

No wholly private hospitals exist in York Region. The Shouldice Hospital in

Thornhill, a world renowned hernia specialty facility is licenced by the Ministry of Health under the Private Hospitals Act. Ontario residents with valid OHIP insurance are covered.

—files from Patrick Mangion

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York Region West Nile Virus Mosquito Control Program:

Please note that between June and September 2005, the Regional Municipality of York in conjunction with York Region District School Board and York Catholic District School Board will be conducting a larvicide program under the authority of the Medical Officer of Health to control larval mosquitoes in order to prevent their development into vectors of West Nile Virus.

The pellet formulation of the larvicide methoprene (product name Altosid, with Registration No. 21809 and the Altosid XR briquets (methoprene) with Registration No. 27694 under the *Pest Control Products Act*) will be placed into catch basins along Regional and Municipal Roads and in catch basins, as required, on private property respectively.

In addition, the biological larvicide bacillus thuringiensis subspecies israelensis (product name VectoBac 1200L, with Registration No. 21062 and VectoBac 200g with Registration No. 18158 under the *Pest Control Products Act*) may be placed in ditches and temporary or permanent pools including storm water retention ponds if evidence of mosquito breeding is found. Signs will be posted along the perimeter of any treatment areas.

All larvicide will be applied by Ministry of the Environment licensed applicators or trained technicians.

Larviciding is a low risk and effective measure when used in accordance with label directions for the control of West Nile Virus. The slow-release pellet formulation interferes with the mosquito life cycle, preventing the mosquito larva from reaching maturity. It is not sprayed. The products have been approved by both the provincial and federal governments and are considered low risk for humans, pets and the environment.

For details on exact locations and dates of treatment please call:

- Health Connection at 1-800-361-5653 or visit www.york.ca
- York Region District School Board at 1-800-268-1660 or visit www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca
- York Catholic District School Board 1-800-363-2711 or visit www.ycdsb.ca

Prevention and protection are the best ways to protect yourself and your family from West Nile Virus. For details on simple and common sense precautions that should be taken, contact York Region Health Services Health Connection at 1-800-361-5653 or visit www.york.ca.

For more information call 1-800-361-5653

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