

REGISTRATION

Wonderland pulls items over neo-Nazi complaints

BY PATRICK MANGION
Staff Writer

York Region's Paramount Canada's Wonderland has pulled some children's jewelry from its shelves following complaints it glorified hate.

The move to pull the products was prompted by a complaint last week from a parent whose child returned home from a day at the Vaughan theme park with some inexpensive necklaces from one of Wonderland's shops.

One featured a symbol which smacked of neo-Nazi hate, according to parent Karen Lazar.

B'nai Brith Canada, a Jewish human rights organization, agreed.

It could be some people were wearing the items innocently, Ms Lazar said, but others were fully aware of what the symbols

represented.

"It is known in certain circles and there can be no mistaking those in neo-Nazi groups and gangs who have adopted it as their symbol of hate," Ms Lazar said, adding a white pride website had been directing people to buy the items from the theme park.

While Wonderland disagreed with the parents that the products were anti-Semitic, "we have no intention of offending our guests," park spokesperson Kristin Williams said.

To many, some of the symbols in question have become part of popular culture and carry no political or religious connotation.

However, the move to pull the products was a good first step, Ms Lazar said.

"We wish other merchants would behave as responsibly," Ms Lazar said.

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