

Couple fined after 50 dead animals found

BY JOHN SLYKHUIS
Staff Writer

A Stouffville couple pleaded guilty Friday to unlawfully disposing of dead animals on their Georgina farm three years ago.

Aynul Wasim and Akram Wasim were each fined \$2,800. This was the second conviction for the couple under the Dead Animals Disposal Act that mandates disposal of dead animals

within 48 hours of their death.

An Ontario SPCA inspector executed a Criminal Code search warrant at the Old Homestead Road property owned by the couple in May 2005, following a call from York Regional Police. Investigators found more than 50 dead animals strewn around the property in various states of decay, including cows, calves, a donkey, sheep and goats.

Necropsies (post mortems performed on animals) conducted at the

University of Guelph determined the animals died from dehydration and starvation.

The couple still face criminal charges in connection with the incident including two counts of willfully causing or allowing unnecessary pain, suffering or injury to an animal and two counts of willfully failing to provide with enough suitable food, water, shelter and care. The trial continues in Newmarket court Aug. 5.

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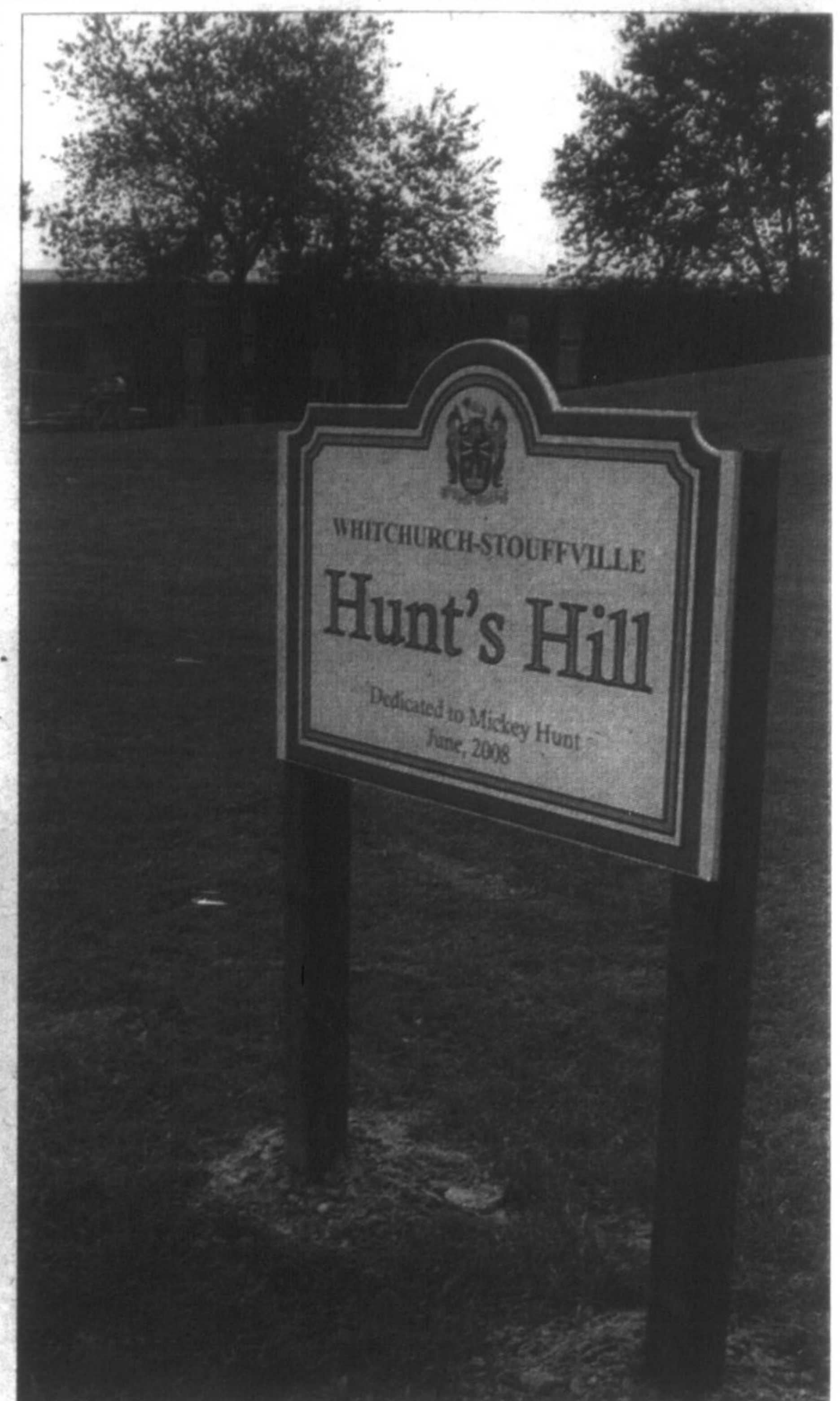
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STAFF PHOTO/JIM MASON

Hunt's Hill was dedicated this summer to Mickey Hunt who saw to its creation in Stouffville's Rupert Park in the 1960s.

Man with name on hill just happy kids used it

BY JIM THOMAS
It's official. The celebrated toboggan slide, created 40 years ago in Stouffville's Rupert Park, has been designated Hunt's Hill out of respect for Mickey Hunt, a man of vision.

The 30-foot high mound was originally created from basement excavations within the nearby Ponderosa subdivision and former Parkview Home.

Following recent approval by council, the town's department of leisure services, spearheaded by facilities manager Rob Raycroft, put up a sign on the site that reads: "Whitchurch-Stouffville, Hunt's Hill, dedicated to Mickey Hunt, June 2008".

The sign is white, trimmed in blue and gold with the municipality's emblem at the top. It's the only park designation in town.

Mr. Hunt, a native of Renfrew near Ottawa, and long-time proprietor of Hunt's Sunoco at Main Street and Winona Drive, envisioned the project back in the 1960s.

He had watched dozens of children, including members of his own family, play atop the elevation.

He mentioned the recreational possibilities to then

'(Mickey Hunt) is a very special person in this community. He was always looking out for our youth. It's a dedication that's well deserved.'

Mayor Wayne Emmerson

mayor Ken Laushway and Mr. Laushway agreed. On two conditions. That Mr. Hunt obtain a petition containing no less than two names and that said petitioners agree to sod the slope.

The proposal was presented to council and passed. But petitioners' sodding costs were withdrawn.

"I didn't build the hill," Mr. Hunt said, "I only asked that the hill be preserved. I'm glad I did and I'm glad it was. It's been a source of great enjoyment for thousands of kids."

Mayor Wayne Emmerson, in supporting the proposal, referred to Mr. Hunt as "a very special person in this community".

"He was always looking out for our youth. It's a dedication that's well deserved."