

Long-time customers shocked at closing of 40-year-old store

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 "We took a major hit when they did the re-construction of the plaza," he said, adding the business "never really recovered".
 David said competi-

tion from other stores, like Wal-Mart and neighbouring Giant Tiger, also affected their sales.

Less demand locally for cigarettes doesn't help.

"Everything's just all added up."

For the brothers' customers, they're going to have to go somewhere else for that

chocolate fix or lottery ticket.

"It's absolutely criminal," said Bob Bundy, a resident and customer for 33 years. "They withstood all the other things, like the LCBO and Shopper's (Drug Mart) moving (from the plaza), but just not this," he said, referring to the construction.

Another customer asked

when the store was closing and shook his head in disbelief when he realized the date was a mere two weeks away.

David and Derek's last day is Sept. 12.

The brothers said the reaction from their customers has been echoed across the board.

"A lot of them are shocked

and disappointed we're leaving the business," said David.

As for the future, the pair are looking for employment elsewhere.

"I'm hoping to find something local," said Derek, who has lived in Stouffville for 40 years. "It's not looking good so far."

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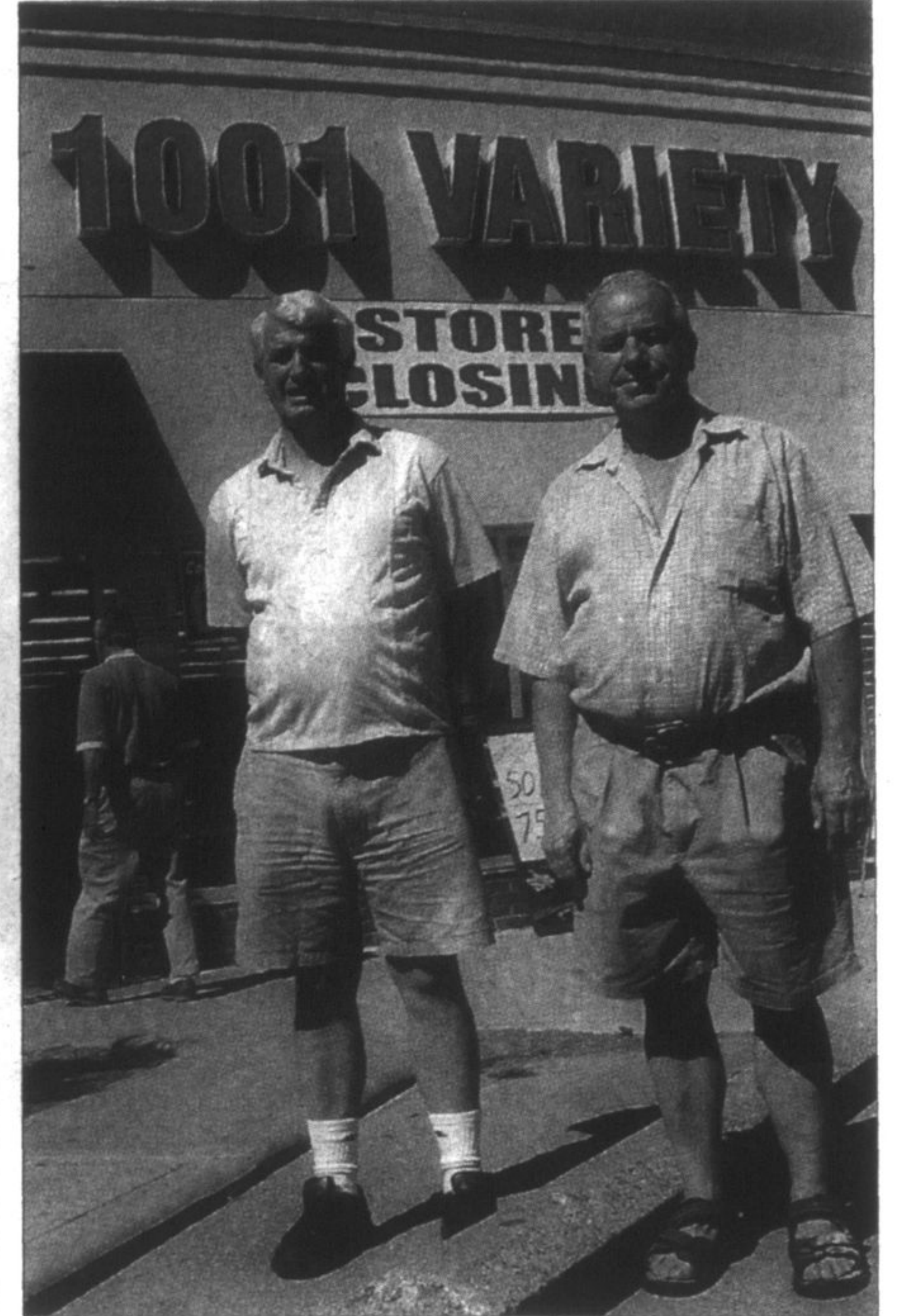
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David (right) and Derek Monaghan are closing 1001 Variety next month after 40 years at the Stouffville Plaza on Main St.

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