

# Stouffville company revolutionizes Irish bank

BY SANDRA BOLAN  
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It took a software firm from Stouffville to do what 10 other companies from around the world were unable to do — bring Ireland out of the technological dark ages.

Customers of the Bishoptown Credit Union now have the ability to use their debit cards in real-time.

Prior to Strategic Information Technology's arrival, the credit unions, through the Bank of Ireland, could provide debit

card transactions, but transactions would not be posted to the purchaser's account for three or four days.

SIT opted to go a different route.

"Instead of going through the Bank of Ireland, we went through Mastercard," said Patrick Lannigan, vice-president of marketing for SIT.

When a customer swipes their debit card, the Mastercard rail triggers a switch that routes the card to Mastercard, which then traces it back to the customer's bank account.

Shortly thereafter, the purchaser's bank account is fully updated.

"It's a very small price to pay for the log jam," Mr. Lannigan said.

"To have something hit their accounts in real-time was amazing," said Jan Pandikiu, business solutions manager for SIT.

"We made the six o'clock news ... (Real-time) debit cards were that new," Mr. Lannigan said.

Bishoptown Credit Union is one of the largest community-based credit unions in Ireland with more than 24,000 members.



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## Police officer bitten during arrest

*Holding cell at police station flooded*

BY SANDRA BOLAN  
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A Stouffville resident faces several charges after a woman bit two people, including a police officer, during an incident in Markham.

Shortly after midnight on Aug. 6, York Regional Police were called by GO Transit dispatch to the corner of Bullock Drive and McCowan Road, where one of its buses was stopped due to an on-board altercation between passengers.

Three women exited the bus. One was let go while two remained for questioning.

While being questioned by police, one of the women became verbally aggressive, police said.

"She's mouthing off (and) she's holding her hands in an aggressive manner," said

**'She's mouthing off (and) she's holding her hands in an aggressive manner.'**

Marina Orlovski  
police spokesperson

Const. Marina Orlovski, media relations for York Region Police.

When an officer tried to handcuff a woman at the scene, she was bit on the arm and her face was scratched.

One of the women was then transported to 5 District in Markham, where an interview room was damaged and a cell flooded by the repeated flushing of a toilet, Const. Orlovski said.

A 22-year-old woman is charged with two counts of assault causing bodily harm, mischief under \$5,000, assault while resisting arrest and causing a disturbance by being drunk. She was released on a promise to appear in court later.

## Man gets 10 months for robbery, attempted robbery

*Second suspect in court Thursday*

A Richmond Hill man has been sentenced to 10 months in jail after pleading guilty to robbery and attempted robbery in Vaughan.

He was given credit for four months of pre-trial custody so he will serve three months and 16 days.

After he gets out, Nima Saadati will serve two years probation, have a lifetime weapons ban, provide a DNA sample and pay \$10,000 as part of a stand-alone restitution order.

March 30 at about 3:35 p.m., a woman parked her car at the CIBC at 10 Disera Dr.

As she got out of her car, she was approached by a man brandishing a steel pipe.

He grabbed the woman's purse, which contained a large bank deposit.

He fled toward Centre Street and into an alleyway between two businesses, court heard.

At this point, it is believed he got into a dark-coloured vehicle

with tinted windows.

On April 22, police were conducting surveillance on a CIBC in the Centre and Dufferin streets area of Vaughan when they saw two men acting suspiciously in a vehicle.

*He was given credit for four months of pre-trial custody ...*

The passenger matched the description from the March 30 robbery, court heard.

The two men then travelled to the CIBC on Disera Drive.

Once there, the passenger got out and disguised himself with a mask and hood and ran toward a woman who was approaching the bank.

His attempt to rob the woman failed when she ran into the bank and police moved in to arrest both the suspect and driver.

The second suspect, a 22-year-old Toronto man, will appear before Newmarket court Thursday.

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