

Two charged with pot possession

Two Whitchurch-Stouffville residents have been charged with possession of marijuana and possession for the purpose of trafficking.

At about 2 p.m. Monday, York Region Police responded to a dispute call at an address in Musselman's Lake. While answering the call, police discovered and seized about 825 grams of marijuana along with a firearm.

A 46-year-old Whitchurch-Stouffville man has also been charged with breach of probation, while a 49-year-old woman from Whitchurch-Stouffville was also charged with unauthorized possession of a firearm.

Mystery shoppers in Stouffville

In the battle to retain customers and perhaps draw one or two away from the competition, local businesses are engaging the services of professional mystery shoppers.

The mystery shoppers are being provided by Competitactics, a mystery shopping organization that has been promoted by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce.

"We offer it as a benefit of membership because we believe in the concept," said Mardi Taylor, executive director of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Chamber of Commerce.

There are local businesses currently using the program, however their identities are being kept secret "because it's a competitive intelligence tool. I can't say who they are," said Jim Davidson at Competitactics.

Mystery shopping is a form of market research in which the shopper poses as a typical customer and observes service quality in an establishment.

"The program ... is a risk management tool

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for customer service," Mr. Davidson said.

Competitactics mystery shoppers are experts who look like regular customers, but are "trained to see with a critical eye and hear with a critical ear just what level of service staff give in what they assume to be unsupervised circumstances and, unfortunately, just how honest and vigilant they are in their employers' interests," Mr. Davidson said.

Find more information at whitchurch-stouffville.ca, chamber-mysteryshop.com or 905-642-4227.

Therapy treatment now in-home

Let's Communicate behaviour therapy centre has left its Main Street location and is now providing only in-home treatment.

"The extra piece we can offer the family is in-home training so they can learn what to do in their homes," said Tracey Grensted, founder of Let's Communicate, which provides behavioural treatment to children with autism spectrum disorder and other developmental and communication delays.

"Our role is really working with the child one-on-one and eventually transferring it over to the family," she said.

By eliminating their facility, the centre has been able to hire two additional therapists for a total of six, who treat patients throughout York Region, including Stouffville.

For more information, go to letscommunicate.ca or call 416-729-5973.

— Sandra Bolan

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