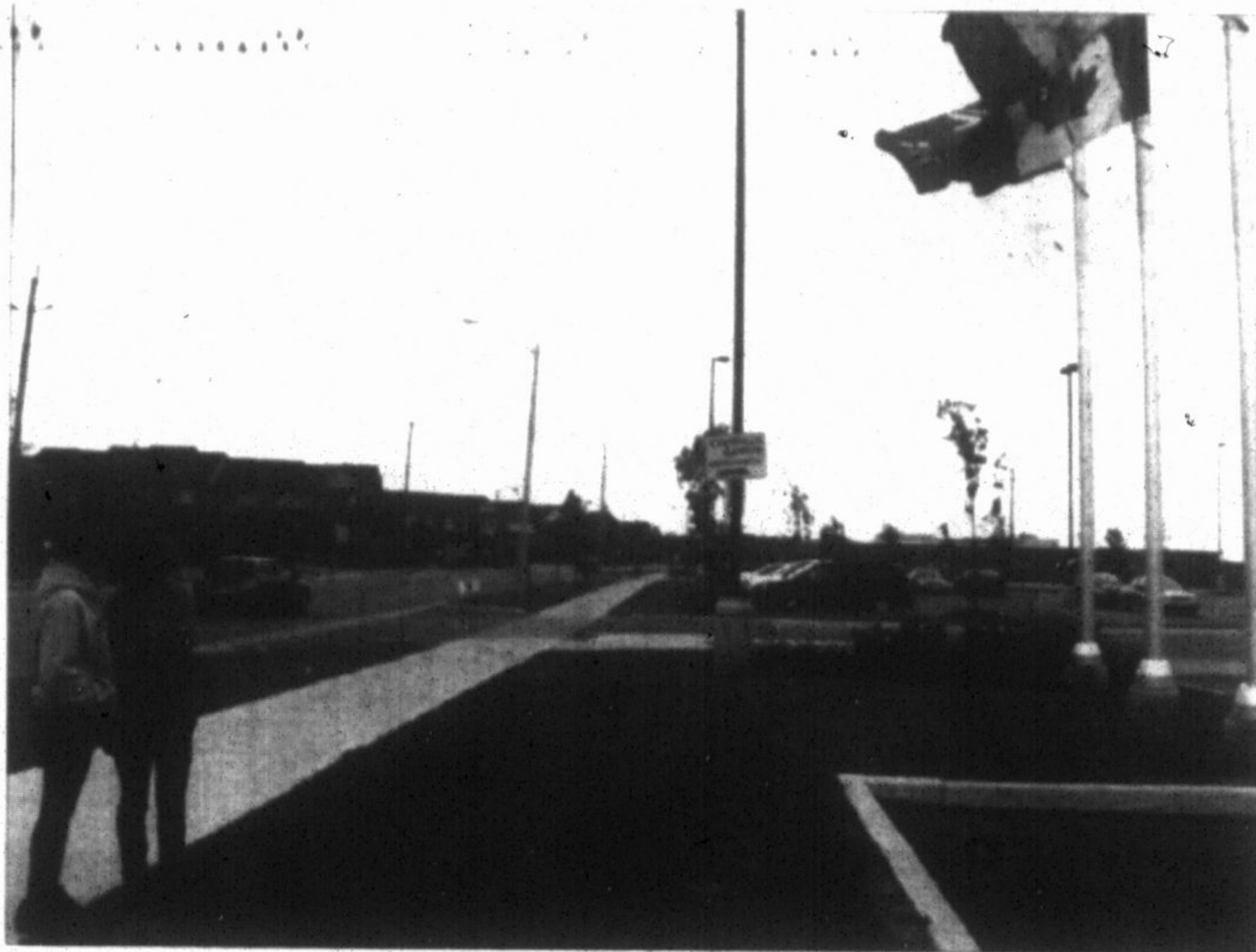


Nithisha Ketheeswaran, 16, (right) and Michelle Ravindran, 16, at the Stouffville fire hall where flags were at half mast to honour Const. Garrett Styles yesterday.



STAFF PHOTO/SANDRA BOLAN

'Traffic stops can take bad turn'

From page 1.

investigation, according to York Regional Police.

The accused, who cannot be named under the provisions of the Youth Criminal Justice Act, remains in hospital with serious injuries.

"I think it was irresponsible of the teenager. I don't know how he could live with himself knowing what he did to the officer," said Michelle Ravindran, 16, in front of the fire hall.

"He was a good constable because he put

his life on the line while on duty," said Nithisha Ketheeswaran, 16. "He probably died peacefully knowing that he died doing his job."

"Traffic stops can take a bad turn at any time. People don't realize that," said Joanne Iannuzzi, chairperson of the Stouffville Community Police Centre. "My fellow volunteers of the centre and I are deeply saddened by the sudden loss of Const. Garrett Styles in the line of duty and send our deepest condolences to his family, friends and colleagues."

Const. Styles' funeral is expected to be held Tuesday in Newmarket.

Death community 'tragedy'

BY JOE FANTAUZZI
jfantauzzi@yrmg.com

The death of Const. Garrett Styles has devastated members of York Regional Police, Chief Eric Jolliffe said this week.

Const. Styles, 32, who grew up in Newmarket and comes from a close-knit policing family, died Tuesday after being struck and pinned by a van in East Gwillimbury.

"He was well-liked among his peers and he loved being a police officer," Chief Jolliffe told a crush of reporters, while flanked by deputy chiefs Bruce Herridge and Tom Carrique at regional headquarters in Newmarket.

He described Const. Styles, a seven-year York police veteran, as a family man, dedicated professional and hard-working officer.

Chief Jolliffe expressed his condolences to the officer's family, including his widow, Melissa, a York police employee who works in the force's information management section, and two children, a 2-1/2-year-old daughter and a nine-week-old son.

"Our heartfelt thoughts and prayers go out to you," Chief Jolliffe said.

The officer's father, Staff Sgt. Garry Styles, retired in January, after serving 33 years.

The force has received hundreds of condolences from residents, fellow officers and politicians, Chief Jolliffe said.

Const. Styles was a valued member

of the association and part of a proud York Regional Police family, the York Regional Police Association said in a statement.

"Those who knew him personally over his seven-year career will miss him dearly," according to the association's statement.

Const. Styles wrote his promotional exam to become a sergeant, passing with an 82-per-cent average, Chief Jolliffe said.

He received three letters of recognition during his career and was a leader on his platoon, he added.

"A tragedy for us, his family and his community," Chief Jolliffe said.

Const. Styles attended Newmarket High School and graduated with honours from police foundations at Humber College in 2001, Chief Jolliffe said, his voice quivering.

He joined York Regional Police as a cadet-in-training in 2003 and became a constable in May 2004. He worked uniform patrol in Richmond Hill before moving north, where he patrolled Newmarket, Aurora and East Gwillimbury.

"Police officers put their lives on the line each and every day when they leave their families to protect others," the chief said. "Their selfless sacrifice and hard work ensures our communities are safe places to live and raise a family."

Every officer understands they face uncertainty and risk on a daily basis, he said.

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