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OPP investigating booze sale claims

From page 1.

'I don't take kindly to ripping off hard-working Canadians.'

Joyce Jordan
resident

'She deserves all the credit, in my mind, for coming forward and telling the authorities. ... If they're stealing from the liquor board, they're stealing out of your pocket as well.'

Phil Bannon
town councillor

"I fell off my chair when I saw the \$1.6 million on the news," she said.

"I should have said something sooner. ... I don't take kindly to ripping off hard-working Canadians. I would have reported it sooner if I knew what kind of money we're talking about," Ms Jordan said.

Ms Jordan, 48, a landscaper and single mother of two young boys, who spent the past six summers living in a trailer in Musselman's Lake Cedar Beach because it was cheap, tipped off the LCBO to the goings-on at the trailer park last September, which led to an investigation involving the OPP and Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario.

No charges have been laid and none of the accusations have been proven in court.

The OPP's anti-rackets branch is heading up the investigation, according to the OPP Acting Inspector, Cathy Bell, corporate communications.

The anti-rackets branch investigates cases of political corruption, secret commissions, frauds related to the utilization and payment of health services and multi-jurisdictional fraudulent schemes targeting seniors, according to the OPP website.

"It is ongoing, therefore, it's inappropriate for me to provide additional details," she said.

Back in Whitchurch-Stouffville, Ms Jordan remains a resident, just not at the trailer park.

"There's some people who will think I'm a squealer, but I can handle it," she said.

LCBO IN COURT

A local politician is praising her.

"I actually give her credit for coming forward and working with the authorities," said Ward 2 Councillor Phil Bannon, whose ward includes the lakeside community of about 1,100 people.

"She deserves all the credit, in my mind, for coming forward and telling the authorities. ... If they're stealing from the liquor board, they're stealing out of your pocket as well," the former Toronto police officer said.

The LCBO is seeking an injunction that would freeze the assets of a Toronto resident and is hiring forensic accounting and fraud experts to investigate.

The allegations, detailed in court documents presented in Toronto last week, involve

the LCBO's diplomatic order customer service area in its Toronto's specialty services department, which allows official diplomats to buy alcohol without paying tax or duty. This can save them as much as 40 per cent.

Approximately \$1.6 million worth of product was shipped to the LCBO's Toronto warehouse, but the proceeds were not remitted between April 2005 and Dec. 31, 2011, according to the LCBO.

Liquor ended up being sold at a discounted price, out of the Musselman's Lake trailer, according to the court documents.

DOM PERIGNON

Ms Jordan met a new neighbour in June 2010 when she moved into the Cedar Beach trailer park in Musselman's Lake.

"I started to notice they liked to party. I'm not judging. We like to party," Ms Jordan said.

Ms Jordan said she would have bought some of the discount alcohol, but she's a wine drinker and the woman's cheapest stuff, she said, was Dom Perignon champagne, which retails for about \$220 a bottle.

"Thank god she didn't have what I wanted because I would have bought it and then I'd have to tell you," she said with a laugh.

Following a dispute with a resident of the park last September, Ms Jordan called the LCBO's fraud department.

Since the story went public last weekend, Ms Jordan said she has received about 50 "pretty nasty" text messages.

She hasn't reported them to the York Regional Police because "what's the point, they're not threatening, they're just insulting me".

Ms Jordan read one of the cleaner texts to The Sun-Tribune and it could not be printed due to its vulgarity.

"I guess I should be a little bit worried. But sorry, somebody needed to break the story. I may regret it down the road," she said.

Ms Jordan is staying with friends, whom she said are aware of what is going on and, along with other neighbours, are keeping a watchful eye out.

She also noted her children, of whom she shares custody with her ex-husband, are staying away, at her direction.

Ms Jordan has also moved her trailer out of the park for fear of it being vandalized.

Officials with Cedar Beach did not return The Sun-Tribune's calls.

— with files from Torstar News Service



Important Notice

York Region District School Board seeks applicants to represent Aurora and King



The York Region District School Board is accepting applications from persons interested in serving as trustee to represent Aurora and King for the balance of the current term, which expires on November 30, 2014

Candidates must be • a Canadian citizen • a resident of York Region • at least 18 years old • a public school tax supporter

Persons wishing to be considered for this appointment can obtain an information package from the Board's website or at the Education Centre, 60 Wellington Street West, Aurora. Written applications will be accepted until 4:00 pm, February 13, 2012 to:

Attn: Lori Barnes, Senior Manager, Board and Trustee Services
P.O. Box 40, 60 Wellington Street West, Aurora L4G 3H2

Qualified candidates will be expected to make a short presentation on their own behalf at a public meeting to be held on February 28th, 2012 at 7:00 pm at the Education Centre, 60 Wellington Street West, Aurora. A second public session will be held on March 5, 2012 to complete the selection process.

For more information please contact Lisa Reinhardt, Assistant Manager, Board and Trustee Services, at 905-727-0022 extension 2217.

www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca

JACOB MOON
Friday, February 24 / 8pm

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TICKETS: \$35 regular / \$18 student

THEATRE

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