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HOURS OF OPERATION:

Monday

9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday Wednesday CLOSED

CLOSED

Thursday

9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Open until 7:00 p.m. on

Friday

Thursdays until October 31) 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

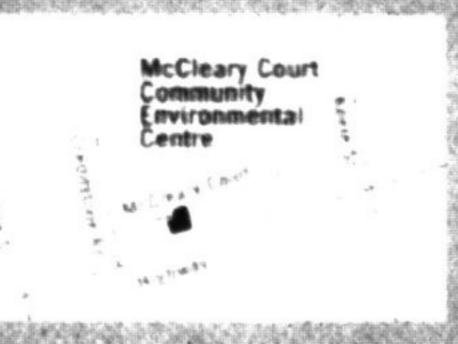
Saturday Sunday

9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

ELGIN MILLS COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTRE 1124 Elgin Mills Road East Town of Richmond Hill



McCLEARY COURT COMMUNITY **ENVIRONMENTAL CENTRE** 130 McCleary Court City of Vaughan



For more information please visit www.york.ca/cec or call 1-877-449-9675 ext. 3000.



Ex-LCBO worker guilty in \$2.7M fraud

A former LCBO employee pleaded guilty Monday to defrauding the provincial agency of up to \$2.7 million in stolen liquor and cash over a 13-year scam.

Starting in February 1989, Francois Agostini ran the diplomatic sales program in Toronto, where he placed alcohol orders at a heavily discounted price for diplomats and took payments, according to an agreed statement of facts filed with the court.

Last year, the LCBO filed a \$2 million lawsuit against Mr. Agostini that alleges he was aided in the fraud by four others including a friend who posed as Ukrainian diplomat "Svitlana Petrovska" and sold the liquor from her trailer at Musselman's Lake, north of Stouffville.

The diplomats program operated on an 'honour system," according to the statement.

'HONOUR SYSTEM' FOR DIPLOMATS

At the end of 1998 Mr. Agostini began making up alcohol orders that were delivered to the Toronto warehouse and fudged or deleted records so he could take home booze for himself, friends and family.

In some cases he lowered the cost of products and pocketed the difference, or failed to record all or part of the payments in his

handwritten ledger, according to the agreed statement of facts.

The fraud continued until weeks before Mr. Agostini was fired in January 2012 after an in-house investigation. He had worked at the LCBO for 31 years and was making \$54,778 a year at the time.

MUSSELMAN'S LAKE TRAILER

A forensic audit pegs the loss to the LCBO in the range of \$2 million and \$2.6 million. The LCBO has also had to pay \$134,000 in taxes due to some of the fraudulent transactions.

A search of Mr. Agostini's home revealed a stash of \$500,000 in cash and a \$2,800 bottle of cognac. A total of \$628,829 has been repaid to the LCBO, according to the agreed statement of facts. Other assets seized may also go toward restitution. The fraud was revealed by an anonymous tip made to the LCBO.

The LCBO alleges that Agostini showered his wife with lavish gifts and gave acquaintances large sums of cash.

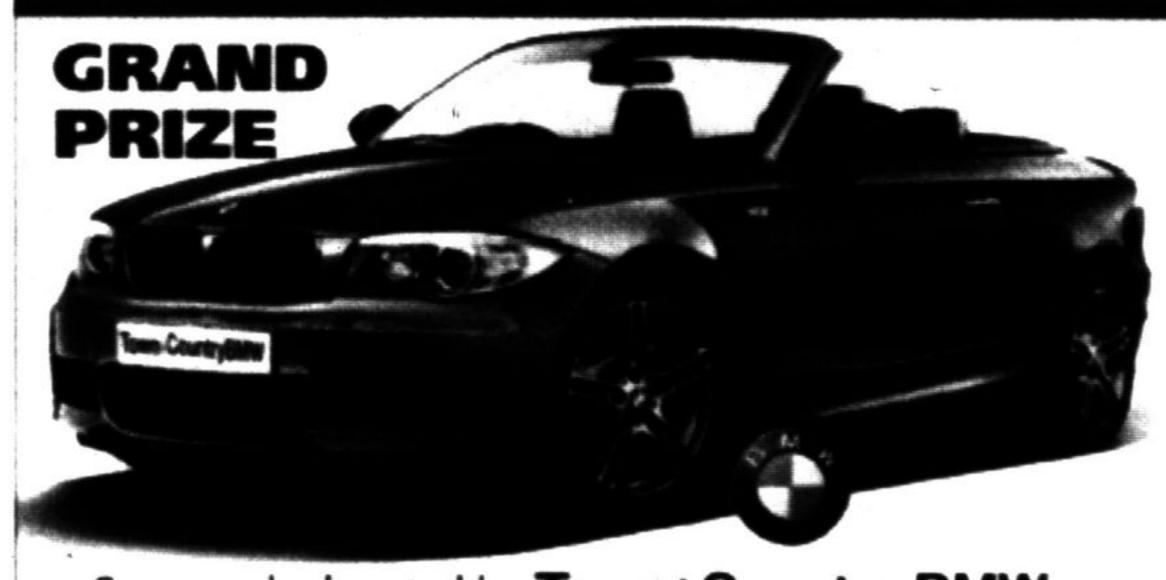
The allegations in the LCBO's lawsuit have not been proven in court.

Mr. Agostini's sentencing hearing will begin

- Torstar News Service



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