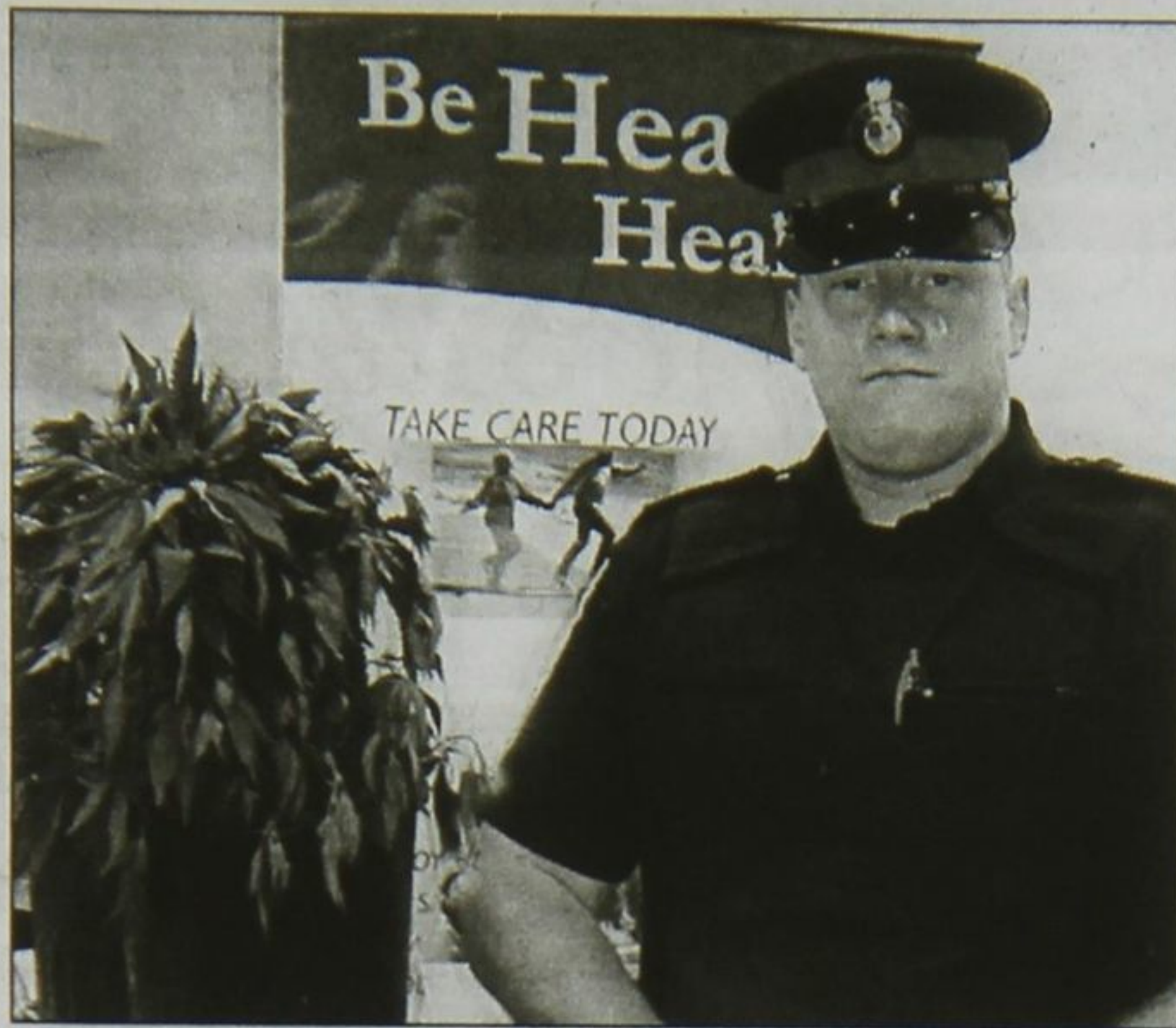


Safety open house held at Leisure Centre

A growing concern: Constable James R. Woodcock stands beside a marijuana plant at a Community Safety Open House hosted by the Stouffville Community Policing Centre at the Lebovic Leisure Centre Sept. 10. Representatives from several York Regional Police departments were on hand to provide information and answer questions, and the evening drew a large crowd of residents.



Arty Party at Latcham Hall

Latcham Gallery's second annual Arty Party will be held Oct. 18 at Latcham Hall.

The evening includes a unique sale of recycled, retro and rare finds such as painted furniture, original art and home accessories, along with garage sale items transformed into one-of-a-kind gems by area artists. Browse among lamps, tables, chairs and garden sculptures, meet up with friends and neigh-

bours, and enjoy a fabulous evening of fun.

Silent and live auctions will be featured, as well as delicious food and a cash

bar, and tickets are just \$15 from the Latcham Gallery, 6240 Main Street. All proceeds go to support gallery programs.

Fall Forest Festival Oct. 18

Howl along with a wolf researcher, take a ride on a horse drawn wagon, discover how animals and plants get ready for winter.

These are just some of the fun and informative experiences awaiting you this fall courtesy of the

York Regional Forest staff. These public events, including guided walks, will take place at the Headquarters Hollidge Tract on Oct. 18, Nov. 15 and Dec. 20.

For information call 905-895-1200, ext. 5274.

Readers Opinion

Local MP addresses same sex marriage concerns

To the Editor:

Acknowledging the recent contention that has arisen surrounding the proposed legislation to legally recognize same sex marriages, as a Member of Parliament I had indicated from the very beginning of the discussions that I would reflect the clear majority of my constituents' views in the riding of Oak Ridges.

It is my intention at the end of the process to do just that. On record, I have as a member of the Richmond Hill Municipal Council and as a Member of Parliament supported the extension of benefits to same sex couples just as they are afforded to heterosexual couples. However, the issue before us is not one of extending equivocal benefits, discrimination or any other, but the belief that it is my responsibility to represent the electorate that have charged such duties to me.

It should be noted that regardless of the outcome of the vote in the Federal Parliament, the court decisions rendered by the Superior Courts of Ontario and British Columbia would still stand valid. Same sex marriages are legitimate under the eyes of the law in those jurisdictions.

Over the past few months, our office has been actively monitoring the sentiments in our constituency as expressed in the overwhelming volume of correspondence received. It will be an ongoing process throughout the coming months and I have appreciated the opportunities to listen to your input in facilitating my role as the elected representative of this riding.

Byron Wilfert

Member of Parliament for Oak Ridges

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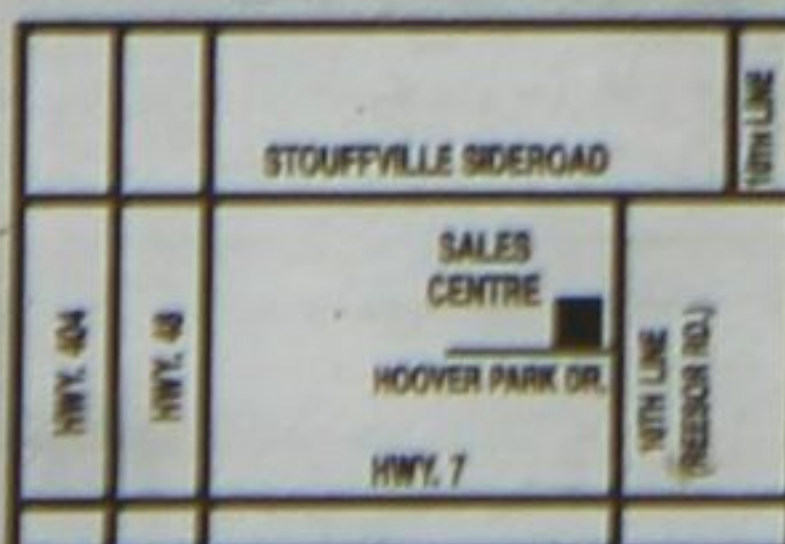
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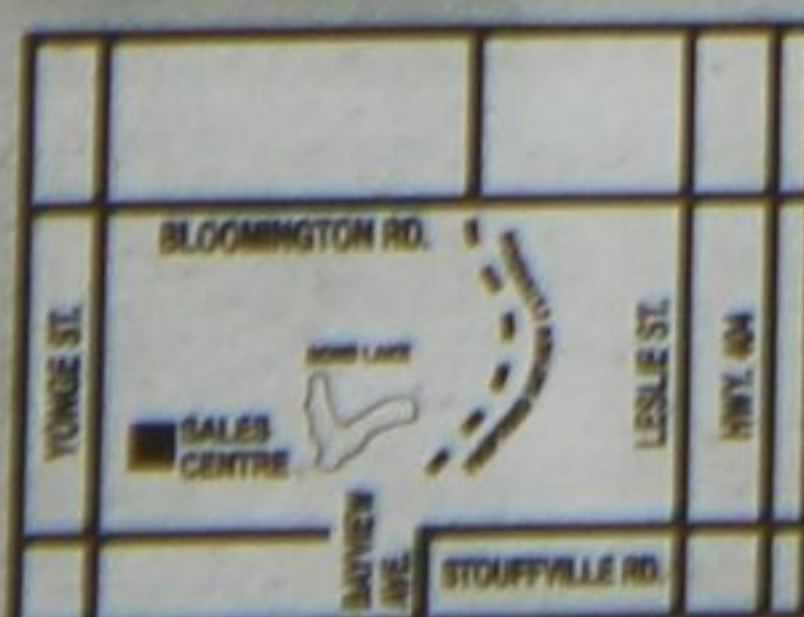
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