



**MAYORAL CANDIDATE** Coun. Jane Pitfield, right, said yesterday that she mistakenly voted in favour of a plan to purchase a landfill site that she actually opposed. *Torstar News Service*



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# Passenger billed for flight delay

**Air Canada seeks \$1,350 from Toronto man**

Air Canada has billed a passenger who verbally abused its employees \$1,350 for delaying a flight by 27 minutes. Airline industry experts are calling the move surprising.

Usually, it's passengers going after the airline, said longtime industry analyst Joseph D'Cruz, a professor at the Rotman School of Management at the University of Toronto. "This is a strange area because it is not covered under the Warsaw Convention, which is the international convention covering the lia-

bility of airlines and how much a passenger can sue an airline," D'Cruz said. "The convention is actually silent on whether and how an airline can sue a passenger for behaviour which harms the commercial interests of the airline, so this will fall under civil litigation." D'Cruz added that he

thinks Air Canada is making a smart public relations move by billing a passenger for lost business because "it signals unruly behaviour will have consequences." Gus Fuentes was in the correct row but wrong seat of a plane that had not yet left London, England, for Toronto on March 15 when he got in

an argument with Air Canada staff who had asked him to move. "I'm not going to pay a cent," said Fuentes, 26, a financial services representative in Toronto. "I don't care if they take this to a collection agency." Fuentes said he wants to appeal this and is looking for a lawyer. *TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE*

# Alleged mobsters live in GTA

Six men identified by prosecutors investigating the Mafia in Southern Italy are living openly in the Greater Toronto Area, undisturbed by Canadian authorities, *Torstar News Service* has learned.

Identified by Italian authorities as fugitives, the men face a range of charges in Italy, including heroin trafficking, gun running and extortion. The six men are under surveillance by Canadian police, but York Regional Police Chief Armand La Barge said there's little else his force can do until the federal government and Italian authorities move to have them extradited or deported. "It's frustrating for us, the incredible time it takes for these processes to be decided," La Barge said. The presence of the men in Canada raises questions about how hard Canadian and Italian authorities are pushing to bring accused organized criminals to justice and whether criminals can count on lax enforcement of Canadian immigration laws and procedures to remain in the country for decades. *TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE*

**no comment**  
Immigration Minister Monte Solberg's office refused to comment on the alleged mobsters living openly in the GTA, and would not say if there is any ongoing investigation.

# Woman objects to Rogers' legal tactics in case

A woman at the centre of a dispute over thousands of dollars in charges to her stolen cellphone is now complaining about legal tactics being used against her.

Toronto law professor Susan Drummond filed a lawsuit against Rogers Wireless last September after the company tried to get her to pay over \$14,000 in charges.

She claims Rogers recently changed its pleadings in the case, complaining a website, [www.rogersandme.ca](http://www.rogersandme.ca), that Drummond set up is attracting negative publicity to the company.

Drummond also says lawyers are trying to quash a court summons for Rogers Communications CEO Ted Rogers. *CANADIAN PRESS*



Sgt. Stephanie Sachsse, in uniform, speaks with 29-year-old Andrea Davis at an RCMP recruiting session directed at women at the Ontario Science Centre earlier this week. Many female officers from across Ontario's various divisions were on hand with some of their male counterparts to begin the first step to application for candidates and to give information sessions on the force.

PETER POWERS/TORONTO STAR

**NEWS IN BRIEF**

- **STREET RACE** Police say a University of Toronto exchange student was an innocent victim of a crash in Mississauga that has all the hallmarks of a street-racing incident. The 30-year-old student was killed Tuesday night when the pickup he was driving was clipped from behind and flipped over.
- **WANTED** A Richmond Hill man wanted for first-degree murder in the slaying of Piratheep Tharmakulasingam is likely hiding in the Toronto area, and police are urging him to surrender. *TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE*

# RCMP looking for a few good women

**Event at science centre draws 200**

The Mounties always get their man, so the saying goes, but they managed to draw more than 200 women to the first-ever RCMP women's recruiting event this week.

"Red is my colour," joked Carolyn Hanesen-Chalmers,

a 40-year-old divorced mother of two from Barrie who hopes to join the RCMP.

Her aunt is a Toronto homicide detective and Hanesen-Chalmers is hoping her own life skills — being a mom and running her own business — will be attractive to recruiters.

One man brought his whole family, including two teenage

boys and his 14-year-old daughter, to the two-hour event at the Ontario Science Centre on Tuesday evening.

"I drive a school bus. I'm white-haired now so I don't think I can pass the physical," said Mohammed Shaikh, 41. But he said he wants his children to be aware of the opportunities available to them.

The recruitment effort

comes four months after the Conservative government announced it will spend \$161 million to hire 1,000 extra RCMP officers to focus on fighting drug crimes, corruption and improving border security. The Tories will also invest \$37 million to expand the RCMP's national training academy in Regina. *TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE*

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