

Lawyer says Internet laws needed to reflect high-tech communication

By Kim Arnott
SPECIAL TO THE BEAVER

The Canadian government should develop laws about communication on the Internet, a Toronto lawyer and broadcaster told a Sheridan College audience last week.

Lorne Honickman, a media lawyer and veteran CityTV reporter, said legal issues surrounding the Internet are being resolved on a case-by-case basis because of a lack of legislation regarding the technology.

Courts are struggling to deal with issues of libel, copyright infringement, pornography and hate crimes on the Internet, he said.

And while the Internet's world-wide existence makes it difficult to legislate, Honickman suggested the government must attempt to address some of its unique issues.

For example, he noted, it is not currently a

Police safety guide for seniors

"Taking Care - A Safety Guide for Seniors" has just been released by Halton Regional Police.

This 12-page booklet provides valuable crime prevention and safety information for seniors and their caregivers.

The Personal Safety section, for example, provides tips for securing one's home, what to watch for while out in the community and what to be aware of while walking or out with your vehicle.

For financial safety, the guide offers information on the latest scams and cons, such as the "lottery scam" and the "charity scam."

The last section of the booklet deals with elder abuse, a situation which many seniors face. It is estimated that more than 4% of Ontario's 1.45 million seniors suffer some form of abuse.

Information is provided on how to spot abuse (physical or financial) and how to prevent it.

In Oakville, the guide is available at Town Hall, Information Oakville, the Oakville Seniors Centre, regional headquarters on Bronte Road and at any police station.

crime to visit a web site to view child pornography. However, once a photo is downloaded, a user is considered to possess child pornography and could be criminally charged.

Honickman said that is just one example where Canada's laws have not kept up with technology.

The ability of the Internet to quickly distribute information across the globe has also made court publication bans obsolete, he added.

In the area of libel law, most recent court decisions have presumed that the same standards that apply to traditional publications or broadcasts also apply to Internet communications, he said.

However, one of the most interesting legal questions currently under debate is the role of Internet Service Providers (ISPs) in the distribution of defamatory material. Should people be allowed to sue ISPs that allow users to post libelous materials, or are they simply innocent distributors of material?

The courts are usually clearing ISPs of liability in the case of defamatory material, unless they have been given notice that the objectionable material was being posted. However, in Canada there is no specific legislation outlining the rights and responsibilities of the ISPs, as there is in the United States, SAID Honickman.

"It's the courts that are making the rules here," he said.

He also cautioned the audience against relying on anonymity when making defamatory statements electronically. Anonymous users can be traced, and even deleted computer files recovered.

"You have to treat any e-mail communication as if it's going to be read out in court some day," he said. "You have to be careful."

"There's no such thing, potentially, as an anonymous name on the Internet that you can use to publish whatever you want," Honickman added.

A journalist with CityTV in Toronto for 19 years, Honickman now works as a lawyer and law professor and hosts a weekly television show.

No weapons seen in gas bar robbery

Halton Regional Police in Oakville are investigating a robbery that occurred on March 24th at the Esso Gas Bar located at 562 Trafalgar Road.

At 2:58 a.m. two males entered the kiosk and accosted the attendant after making small talk with him.

The suspects are described as:

— male, white five-feet six-inches tall, wearing a plaid lumberjack style shirt, blue jeans and a blue bandana covering his face.

— male, black, six-feet two-inches tall with a skinny build. He had a navy blue bandana covering his lower portion of his face.

No weapons were observed or indicated during this robbery. The suspects left on foot in an

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unknown direction.

If you have any information that leads to an arrest in this or any other matter, you may be eligible for a cash reward. You need not give your name when you tell us your information and you will remain anonymous. Crime Stoppers does not subscribe to the telephone call display feature.

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Community Notices

Deaths

BOWES, Sydney, (Coldstream Guards) — Peacefully at Ian Anderson House in Oakville, Ontario on March 31, 2001 at the age of 84. Formerly of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, England, Syd was the beloved husband of Christina Henderson Bowes (nee Swan). Father of Sylvia, Anne, Pat and Christine; and father-in-law of Gordon Fenn. Grandfather of Susan and Christina. Great-grandfather of Andrew and Benjamin. Predeceased by his daughter Gwen and granddaughter Jeannette. Fondly remembered and sorely missed by his relatives and friends. Private cremation has taken place. A Memorial Service will be held at the Oakview Funeral Home, 56 Lakeshore Road West (one block east of Kerr St.) Oakville, on Friday April 6, 2001 at 1:00 pm. Family will be receiving friends at 12:30 p.m. Special thanks to the Ian Anderson House and to VON Halton.

"Nulli Secundus" (Second to None)

COWAN, Isobel — Passed away peacefully on Saturday March 31, 2001 at the Extendicare Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital. Isobel, loving wife of the late Percy James. Dear mother of James and Barbara of Brampton. Predeceased by her daughter Janet Regan. Grandmother of Kathy, Jennifer, Jim, Dee Dee, Andrew and great grandmother of Jeffrey and Willem. Fondly remembered by Meg Cowan. A private cremation.

CRANK, John Frederick (Jack) — Oakville Senior Citizen 1985, Halton Helping Hands Volunteer, retired 35 years V.L.A., Member Oakville Legion Branch, 114). Peacefully on Sunday, April 1, 2001 at Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital. Jack Crank, beloved husband of the late Elisabeth (Irish). Dear father of Dennis. Loving grandfather of Kimberley. Loved uncle of Charmaine, Melonie and Pamela. Visitation at the Kopriva Taylor Community Funeral Home, 64 Lakeshore Road West, Oakville on Tuesday from 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. Funeral Service 3 p.m. Wednesday, April 4, 2001 in the chapel.

LUNT, Edward John (Retired employee of Rolls-Royce of Canada) At the Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital, Oakville, Ontario on Wednesday, March 28, 2001. Edward "Ted" Lunt of Oakville formerly of Montreal in his 81st year. Predeceased by his wife Ethel (nee Lonergan) and by his friend Florence McGowan. Loved father of Linda Kenwood and her husband Donald of Oakville. Cherished grandpa of Mark and Johanna. Also predeceased by his sisters, Barbara and Dorothy. Private Cremation. Born in Liverpool, England, Ted was a veteran of World War II where he served with the RAF. A Memorial Service will be held at Walton Memorial United Church, 2489 Lakeshore Road West (at Bronte Road), Oakville on Sunday, April 8, 2001 at 2pm. If desired, expressions of sympathy to the Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital Charitable Corporation-ICU would be sincerely appreciated by the family.

Deaths

MacARTHUR, Dr. William John Campbell, M.D., F.R.C.S.(C), F.A.C.S., M.B.E., - RCAF Squadron Leader, WWII — Peacefully at "the farm" north of Oakville, after a battle with cancer, on Monday, April 2, 2001 in his 88th year. Husband of Dorothy (Toots), his beloved wife of 60 years. Wonderful Dad to Judy and Fergus Chapman, Cam Jr. and Leah, Heather and Ian Blakelock and Jamie and Terry. Revered "Grump" to his twelve grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Predeceased by his sisters Isabel of Winnipeg and Olive of Port Hope. After attending the University of Manitoba, he studied medicine at McGill, graduating in 1938, and he remained a proud alumnus. At McGill, he captained the football team and was later named to the all-star team of the half century.

After spending a year at the Mayo Clinic, he interrupted his career to serve as medical officer with RCAF Spitfire squadrons in England. Wounded during the D-Day landing, he recuperated and returned to serve as a medical officer at Carpiquet airbase in France. He was twice mentioned in despatches.

Upon his return to Canada, he joined the medical staff at the Toronto Western Hospital. In 1946 he set up his medical practice in Oakville. He helped found the Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital in 1950, becoming successively its Chief of Surgery and Chief of Staff. Through the years, he mentored many young doctors and nurses. He retired in 1976 but, until very recently, continued his daily appearances at OTMH with cheerful greetings and encouragement for patients and staff alike, and maintaining his reputation for whistling as he walked the halls. A committed Rotarian throughout his working life, he was twice named a Paul Harris Fellow.

He was a friend to a generation of Appleby College students, while he was the school physician from 1946 to 1972. He also served on the board of the school.

In 1970, Cam and Dorothy first visited the island of Tortola in the British Virgin Islands where Cam took a 3 month locum for a vacationing physician. So began a 30 year association with the BVI, where "Doc", as he was known, assisted the medical and dental community by monitoring and sourcing equipment. He arranged for the Oakville Rotary Club to fund travel for a number of BVI children to Toronto for specialized medical treatment. He was named an Honorary Belonger in recognition of his contribution to the Islands and was further recognized in 1985 when he was named a Member of the Order of the British Empire.

Cam and Dorothy travelled the world with their wide circle of very good friends. Measuring laughs per mile, they got full value from these excursions. They loved Georgian Bay where they spent time with friends and family, fished and played cards. Cam always drew the right card, but usually let Toots catch the biggest fish.

He was an eager supporter of all family functions, travelling the continent to attend reunions and weddings. He rarely missed his children's and grandchildren's horse shows, swim meets, soccer, football, rugby, hockey and baseball games. To these events, he brought his partisan support and was quick to set the officials straight when they erred in their judgement!

He will miss his keen mind, his insight, his gentle, gracious manner, his caring nature, his mischievous sense of humour and his support. We have lost our hero.

Avoidpoups old friend

Visitation at the Kopriva Taylor Community Funeral Home, 64 Lakeshore Road West, Oakville from 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. Thursday. Funeral service 2:00 p.m. Friday at St. Jude's Anglican Church, 160 William Street, Oakville. Cremation.

Our thanks go to the marvelous medical men and women in Oakville; Toronto and Virginia who provided treatment and encouragement over the past 2 1/2 years. Donations please to the Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital which was such a big part of his life and to which he contributed so much.

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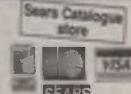
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