

Six arrested in home invasion

Hillier couple terrorized, OPP manhunt nabs suspect.

By Chris Malette and Frank O'Connor

The Intelligencer

HILLIER TWP. — Provincial police have arrested six suspects in a home invasion and beating early morning, involving an elderly man and his wife, Burr Road in rural Hillier Township.

Ron Hough, whose father Clifford, 83, is in Belleville General Hospital being treated for injuries he sustained in the beating and robbery, said the incident began about 4 a.m. at his father's home across the road from his own.

"From what we can gather," said Ron Hough, "they broke into dad's place about 4 a.m. and demanded he give them some money."

"The suspects — all believed to be from the Kitchener area, according to police this morning — are reported to have beaten the elderly man and cut him at least twice on the upper arm."

The man's wife was not injured, but Ron Hough said his mother was "pretty shaken up."

Clifford Hough, who had, said his son, farmed in the area all his life, was taken to Prince Edward County Memorial Hospital and later transferred to Belleville General Hospital. He is in stable condition at BGH.

After taking a quantity of cash from the home, at least two of the six tried to flee the scene in a Ford Bronco. The vehicle broke down not far from the Hough home and the pair ran from the broken down vehicle. They were arrested a short time later near sand dunes at County Road 2 in Ameliasburgh Township.

Meanwhile, a manhunt began for the remaining four suspects.

Fifteen OPP officers and the District 9 canine unit were called to the scene.

At about 8:30 a.m., Wayne Smit was sitting down to breakfast at his home on County Road 2, about three kilometres west of Mountain View "when I saw this

guy — I don't know if he was nameless or Korean, or whatever coming up to the house with Houghs' dog, (Nipper, a coon breed family pet) following him. He asked if he could call a cab. I called Central Taxi for him."

"Then," said Smit, 51, "I went outside and saw three more of these guys coming up the driveway and I thought I'd better call police. This didn't look just right."

He said a police cruiser drove up seconds later, before he could call for police, "and a police officer jumped out with his gun drawn and told these characters to get on the ground! On your bellies!"

Smit, who operates grain storage houses, said police arrested four without incident.

"But...they took a couple of wads of money off some of them. One guy had a big bunch of cash in his back pocket and another guy had some in a folder."

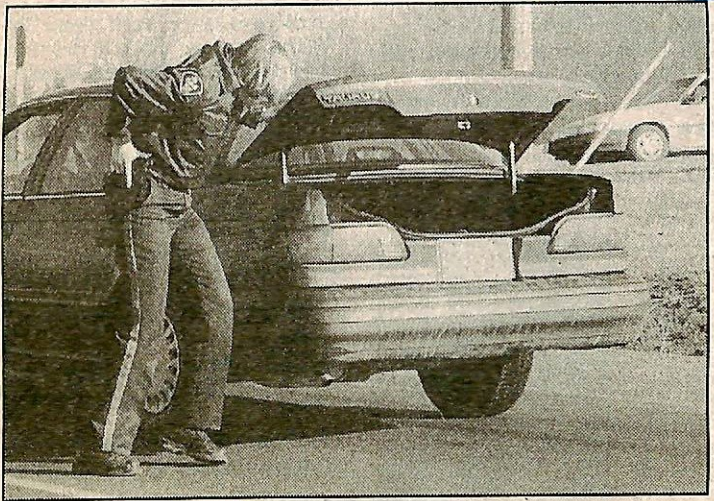
After police left, Smit said he "found another piece of evidence, though."

"I just went out and looked around while waiting for police to return to his home, "and I found a stiletto kind of knife — a switchblade — someone threw under the car. It's still there. I don't want to move the car until police get back."

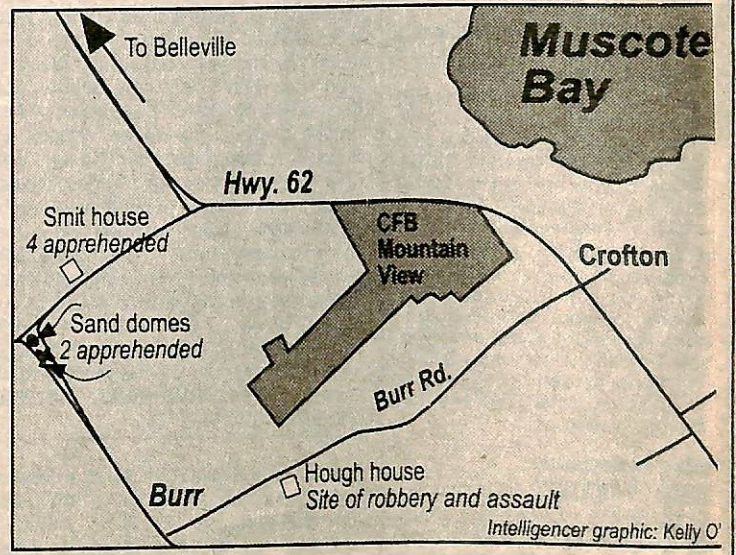
Police had not released information on identities of the suspects or charges at press time today.



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Intelligencer photos by Frank O'Connor
Suspects captured
 In photo above, police apprehend one of six suspects at County Road 2 in Ameliasburgh Twp. while in the photo at left OPP constable Jennifer Cassidy takes all precautions while checking a vehicle at a road block in Burr Road at County Road 2.



Intelligencer graphic: Kelly O'