

# Reduce your vulnerability to crime

Travel can be one of life's great pleasures. Sometimes, however, something rotten happens to the traveller.

It can be a tough, vicious world out there, depending upon where you travel to, and what kind of luck is riding with you.

Travellers are vulnerable because they tend to be conspicuous -- by their clothing, their cameras and their habit of stopping to consult map guidebooks.

Crimes, on the other hand, are on their own turf. They know all the best hiding places, all the diversionary tactics, all the escape routes.

Certain places are notorious for crimes against tourists. But don't act on easy assumptions about relative security.

You may be staying at the premier hotel in the city you are visiting, but -- just steps away -- muggers could lie in wait, confident of easy pickings when some hotel guest ventures out for a stroll.

In Paris, pickpockets tend to congregate in the Louvre Museum, preying on foreigners absorbed in

contemplation of the Mona Lisa or Venus de Milo.

## TAKE CARE

This isn't to say that we should all become paranoid about the dangers, refuse to budge from home, and give an especially wide berth to museums.

It's prudent, though, to pay some attention to the ways you can reduce your vulnerability to crime while away from home.

Like charity, such prudence



**Travel**  
**VINCENT EGAN**

begins at home. Instead of carrying your vacation money in cash, take most of it in travellers' cheques. At most, they will cost one per cent of the face amount, although many institutions charge no commission at all. And plan to use your credit cards, as an alternative to cash or travellers' cheques, as often as possible.

(Speaking of credit cards, take only one or two major, internationally recognized ones. Leave the rest at home, along with whatever other contents of your wallet or purse you won't be needing.)

Next, decide exactly how and where you will carry your cash, travellers' cheques and credit cards. A money-belt or something equivalent to it, worn under the clothing, is essential in my opinion, although some people feel that an inside coat pocket is adequate protection against pickpockets. Never carry anything of value in trouser hip-pockets.

## DON'T FLAUNT IT

If you have an expensive accessory bag for your camera, lenses

and film, better leave it at home. To a thief, such a bag is a walking advertisement that it contains valuable photographic equipment. Use something inconspicuous instead.

Shoulder bags worn by women should be zip-closed. Small is preferable to large, since it presents more of an obstacle to a light-fingered pickpocket.

Experts warn against showing your home address on luggage tags, since that tells people who handle or see your luggage that your home is likely to be unattended. Your business address is safer.

One of the many advantages of travelling with as little luggage as possible is that you are obviously less vulnerable to thievery with one suitcase to look after than with, say, four.

Whatever the number of pieces, always be vigilant in guarding your luggage. The period of highest risk is the time between the baggage-claim area and your hotel room.

**LOOK AT ME:** Once you have settled in at your destination, you may be tempted to let down your guard. After all, you don't travel to far-away places only to spend the time looking over your shoulder.

Nevertheless, you should continue to be wary. You probably won't be able to blend into the local population, but do try not to stand out like a sore thumb if you can avoid it. That's a sure way to attract unwanted attention.

When you leave your hotel room, don't place a sign on the door asking the chambermaid to make up the room -- that proclaims that the room is empty. Do leave your room key at the hotel desk, to eliminate the possibility of your losing it and a thief finding it.

If you rent a car, never leave any of your belongings in view while the

car is parked. Lock them in the trunk, and try to park where the car is in plain view. Even a car trunk can be forced open, of course, so carry no more than necessary in the car.

Upon returning to your parked car, and before getting in, check to see that no one has hidden himself inside. On the road, don't stop for hitchhikers, cruel as that may seem.

**SPREAD IT AROUND:** It's unwise to carry all your valuables -- cash, credit cards, passport tickets -- in the same place. Divide them up, and then if one batch is stolen, you may not lose everything.

One theory is that it's prudent, in high-risk locations, to carry a spare billfold containing a wad of bills in small denominations, to be handed over to a thief if necessary -- thus averting the violence -- that a frustrated thief might inflict on you if you had nothing for him.

## KIDS CORNER




**FOR DAYCARE AND NURSERY SERVICES**

The following businesses will be pleased to serve you, so give them a call

**The Village School**  
**DAYCARE CENTRE**  
For children 18 months to kindergarten  
*Professional care. Hot meals. French programs. Transportation to & from local schools.*  
Fee subsidy available.  
Open 7 a.m. till 6 p.m.  
60 Park Ave., Georgetown 877-7310  
Brampton 846-2935

**Georgetown Daycare Centre**  
- Full daycare & nursery school programs  
- Government licensed & inspected facilities  
- Kindergarten pick up to and from schools  
- Our hours 7 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL: 877-4376 (Full Daycare) or 877-6542 (Nursery School Part Days)

## USED ALUMINUM PRESS PLATES FOR SALE

Great for roofing sheds, lining outbuildings, protecting tree trunks from rodents and preventing cats and small animals from climbing into bird feeders. They have numerous home improvement uses including hot and cold air runs for heating and cold air systems as well as insulation under cottages or behind new walls.

SIZES: 23 1/16" x 30" Or 23 1/16" x 35"  
**3 for \$1.00 (While Sale Lasts)**

Call  
**the HERALD**  
Home Newspaper of Halton Hills. Established 1866  
**877-2201**

**Valerie Cunningham R.N.**

CHILD CARE CONSULTANT

TELEPHONE 877-6398

6 EDITH STREET,  
GEORGETOWN  
ONTARIO L7G 3A5



**Georgetown Custom Car Sound**  
THE CAR STEREO EXPERTS

REPAIRS TO ALL STEREO HOME, AUTO AND V.C.R.s

55, Sinclair Ave., Unit 5  
Georgetown  
877-2425

*hair Creations*

126 MILL ST.  
GEORGETOWN  
ONTARIO

**877-8097**

*Georgetown Decorating '14*

**Centre**

"FINEST IN PAINT AND WALLPAPER"  
GEORGE & SHIRLEY BERGSMAN  
272 Guelph St. Georgetown  
877-4193

**DUNLOP INSURANCE LIMITED**

HOME, BUSINESS, AUTO  
FARM & MARINE INSURANCE  
AND LIFE INSURANCE

515 Guelph St.  
NORVAL  
877-5101

**Cedar Springs Motel**  
**877-8866**  
R.R. 1 Georgetown

**ROZELL**

453-8911      877-2293

11 Armstrong Ave., Georgetown

**FOR ALL YOUR PLUMBING NEEDS**

# PROOFING

## Child's Best Defence

**HERE ARE SOME GUIDELINES TO FOLLOW:**

General Rule: Tell your children not to go anywhere with anyone without checking in first!

- Child's identity code word:** To be established and used only with parent and child. This word is a special word and the child should know it is only to be known between parent and child and he/she is never to go with anyone that doesn't know the special word.
- Family Check-In System:** There should be a constant check-in program with both parents and child. If this is established when the child is young it should extend through the teen years as well. Please keep in mind parents should have the same consideration of the child in checking in as they expect from the child. (Note to follow: If you are to return home by a certain time, let your child allow 15 minutes to a half-hour to call in and establish a new time or change of plans.)
- Teach your children to know their neighborhood and the people in the area.** Often a child is abducted by someone they know, so it is important to teach them to be perceptive about situations that "feel" right or wrong.
- What to do in the event of abduction:** Teach your child to scream! A child often freezes up when they are scared; teaching them to scream is often a little difficult--so practise. Teach the child what to scream! e.g. "These people are not my mommy or daddy! They are trying to hurt me!"
- Safe places to go if lost:** If separated, children should know where block parents are or lost and found places and to recognize police officers and security guards etc. If you set out on a day's excursion to, say, Wonderland, first priority is to show the child where the information booths are, and exactly where to go if you are separated.

**Conclusion: The Streetproofing Program hopes that three things are attained:**

- Check-In Policy.
- That the child learns to say "NO" with confidence.
- Child learns where and how to seek assistance.

Bookings are now being accepted for courses in September. If you wish to look into this, call Child Find's Streetproofing Program at 1-842-5353. Ask for Pat Foster.

(A special thank you to these community minded businesses for their support in bringing Herald readers this important message.)



**Rockwell International**  
A Manufacturer of  
**Telecommunications Equipment**  
45 Sinclair Ave., Halton Hills (Georgetown)  
(416) 877-0191  
Telex: TWX810-492-2648 06-9777

**Goliger's TRAVEL**  
serving travellers since 1955  
Halton Hills Plaza  
Georgetown      877-0103

Home Hardware  
Georgetown Home Hardware  
265 Guelph St.  
Georgetown Ont.  
DON WILSON  
Dealer/Owner      Phone 877-8777

**BRACKEN'S**

STEAK • SEAFOOD • RIBS  
• SALAD BAR •

Open 12 p.m.-1 a.m. Mon. to Sat.  
4 p.m.-10 p.m. Sun.  
ENTERTAINMENT Mon. to Sat. 9 p.m.-1 a.m.

10 Mountainview Rd. S.      877-4166

COMPLIMENTS OF...  
**HALTON TRAILER SALES & RENTALS**

TAYLOR COACH LIGHT WEIGHT TRAILERS  
FOLDING TRAILERS SALES & SERVICE  
REEB HITCHES & R.V. PARTS SOLD  
Fabrication & Installation of All Types of Hitches

CECIL KYLE  
R.R. 1, Georgetown      877-4266

The Home of Assurance  
**West Insurance Ltd.**

877-5113  
8 Wesleyan Street  
Georgetown

**Wm. McNally Construction Limited**

Designers and General Contractors  
Commercial & Industrial Buildings

1 Egin St. **GEORGETOWN**  
877-3271  
TORONTO 457-3999

Cameron's Ladies' Wear  
Fashions

*Carol's*  
Hair & Beauty Salon

61-65 Main St. S. Georgetown  
877-2981