

# Police urge parents to be vigilant over phone calls

By LISA RUTLEDGE  
The Herald

Parents whose children receive calls from strangers claiming their child won a prize in a contest should take extra precautions before accepting the prize, Halton Regional Police warn.

A 13-year-old Georgetown boy, whose picture and name were recently published in a weekend edition of the Herald, received a call Monday from a woman claiming he won a \$900 Miele mountain bike from a Mississauga bicycle company. However, Ken Booth, sales manager at Miele Bicycle

Company, insists the company is not involved in a mountain bike contest.

The call came at approximately 1:30 p.m. Monday and a woman told the boy he won the bike in a sweepstakes and that the bike would be delivered in about a week. The caller did not identify herself or on whose behalf she was calling.

The boy's father is concerned the published information, which revealed the boy was a biking enthusiast, gave the caller the idea, especially since his son already owns a Miele-produced bike.

Mr. Booth said the Mississauga bicycle company is running a contest in co-ordination with a Brampton radio station, however, he said the radio station is required to send a letter backed-up with a phone call. The caller cannot be involved with the radio contest because the caller would have identified herself, he said.

It worries Mr. Booth that someone used the company's name when calling the 13-year-old Georgetown boy. Describing the incident, Mr. Booth said it creates paranoia, adding that it is scary

when a 13-year-old boy receives such an unidentified call.

Detective Keith Woudstra, of Halton Regional Police, Division 11, suggests if any youth receives a similar telephone call the youth should immediately tell his or her parents.

Det. Woudstra said if the parents want to verify that the contest is legitimate they should find out the caller's name, the company involved in the contest and the phone number. If further inquiries don't reveal the contest as legitimate, parents should contact the police

who will investigate the matter, he said.

Parents are advised to make sure their children don't make appointments to pick up a prize claimed to have been won in a contest, Det. Woudstra said.

He also suggested youths not give anyone permission to deliver prizes unless a parent is home at the tentative delivery time.

Det. Woudstra believes the call could be the result of a practical joke but insists that under no circumstances should youths agree to meet with anyone claiming they are prize winners.

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# Halton enjoys highest possible credit rating

By BEN DUMMETT  
The Herald

The higher a municipality's credit rating, the lower its tax rate, and according to a Canadian and American credit rating company, Halton Region has the highest credit rating possible - a triple A of Aaa-, said the Region's Manager of Economic Analysis and Policy Development, Mark Scinocca.

Both the Canadian Bond Rating Service and the American company Moody's Investment Service recognize Halton Region as having a triple A rating and have done so

for over a year, said Mr. Scinocca.

Mr. Scinocca explained the higher the Region's credit rating the cheaper it is for the Region to borrow money. And the cheaper it is to borrow money, the less Halton needs to burden local taxpayers to raise money to fund its debt charges.

Conversely, the lower the credit rating, the higher the debt charges, and therefore the higher the tax rate, said Mr. Scinocca. The cost of borrowing money is measured in terms of the interest rate charge on a loan.

That Halton's credit rating is the highest possible means Halton Hills, the Halton Hills Hydro Commission and Halton public and catholic school boards can borrow money at a cheaper rate than if the Region's credit rating was comparatively lower.

When the town, for instance, wants to borrow money, said Mr. Scinocca, it does so through the Region.

Halton's credit rating has improved from a single A rating during the first half of 1987 to its present rating, said Mr. Scinocca. The Region has had a credit rating since the early to mid-seventies, he added.

"We've (Halton) reached the

top, now it's just a matter of maintaining it," he said.

Success here, said Mr. Scinocca, will depend on the Region exercising good fiscal management.

Halton has been able to obtain the triple A rating because of its diverse economy, said Mr. Scinocca. That means if a Regional-based business went bankrupt, the loss of revenue to the Region wouldn't be dramatic.

The Region has its credit rating reviewed on a yearly basis, he said, and one of the first questions the rating service asks, is what would happen to the Region's financial situation if a company or companies went out of business? According to Moody's credit

rating report on Halton, the 10 largest employers in the Region are: the Ford Motor Company, 5,421; Halton School Board, 4,240; Joseph Brant Hospital, 900; Canadian General Electric, 870; Oakville Trafalgar Hospital, 835; Bonar Packaging, 700; F.W. Fearman Company, 575; Tridon International, 560; Varian Canada, 400; Westinghouse Canada, 400.

"The number of building permits has grown considerably over the last few years," he said.

A recent Regional report on building permits shows the number issued in 1989 increased by 10.7 per cent over the previous year. A total of \$838 million worth of building permits were issued in Halton last year.

# Police seeking abduction suspect

The Halton Regional Police in Georgetown are requesting the public's assistance in locating a male suspect involved in the abduction of a young female.

The kidnapping took place on Friday, June 15, 1990 at 2:30 p.m. The 16-year-old female victim was waiting outside Kay's Grocery Store on Guelph St. in Georgetown. At this time a vehicle pulled up behind her in the east bound lanes and stopped. The male driver got out, grabbed the victim and placed her in the passenger seat of the car, and drove away.



Composite sketch of suspect

The vehicle drove away east on Guelph St. and turned right on Mountainview Rd. The suspect drove around the Halton Hills area with the victim for approximately four (4) hours. The victim was dropped off by the suspect on 10 Sideroad, approximately 100m west of Trafalgar Rd. The suspect made no threats or advances towards the victim.

Description of suspect: Male, white, 6'4", large muscular build. Age: 22-28 years, clean shaven. Light brown straight hair, waist length. Tattoos - right upper arm of possibly a cross with a snake wrapped around it. Wearing silver rings and neck chain, black leather jacket with gold winged type emblem on back.

Suspect vehicle: Black newer model, Pontiac TransAm with gold eagle on hood, rear spoiler, black leather interior. Plate unknown.

Crime Stoppers will pay up to \$1,000 for information that leads to an arrest in this case or any other case. Callers are not required to reveal their identities or testify in court. The Crime Stoppers toll free number is 1-800-668-5151.



Bridge over troubled railway

Beating the street in the heat, Henricksen Construction Co. workers will be expanding, repairing and paving the way to a new and improved railway bridge at Main St. North in Georgetown. The bridge

requires eight new expansion joints and deck repair. Construction is expected to near completion in mid-September. (Herald photo)

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