

Cops collar car thieves, recover vehicles

Two cars were stolen from Georgetown residences early Friday morning but were recovered by police the following day.

A 1992 white Plymouth Sundance was stolen from a driveway on 10 Side Road, near Hwy. 25, and a silver 1982 Volkswagen Rabbit was stolen from a Regan Crt. home. The suspects also broke into another car on Regan Crt. and took a quantity of personal documents, which were later recovered. The Sundance was recovered in Toronto and the Rabbit was located on Hwy. 25, near 15 Side Road.

Police have charged two Mississauga youths - a 16-year-old and 20-year-old, with theft over \$1,000 (for the Sundance), theft under \$1,000 (for the Rabbit) and possession of stolen property (for license plates taken off the Rabbit). The 20-year-old youth is also charged with breach of probation.

Two-time offense

Police were called to York Auto Wreckers at RR 4 in Acton Sunday afternoon when two youths were observed loitering suspiciously. When police arrived, they searched both youths and found four stereo

Police Beat

knobs and a quantity of hashish in one of the youths' pockets.

The youth was on probation for a June 28 theft, and for disobeying the terms of his probation, including keeping the peace and remaining on good behavior, he was charged with breach of probation, as well as possession of stolen property and possession of narcotics.

He will be appearing in Milton Provincial Court Nov. 8.

Return visit

Police are looking for suspects who ripped off the padlock of a storage trailer at a construction site on Queen and Wellington Sts. in Acton, Wednesday night and again Thursday night, and made off with \$8,500 in equipment.

Wednesday night, suspects stole a plate temper, valued at \$5,000, and returned the following night to take a generator and variety of tools, valued at \$3,500.

Multiple vandalism

Police will be increasing patrols of a George St. residence in Georgetown where multiple incidents of egg-

tossing, house-greasing and car-shampooing have occurred over the past three weeks. There are currently no suspects or witnesses.

Observant thieves

Police believe the suspects who broke into a Norval home Aug. 20 knew the schedules of the homeowners. The thieves entered the home through a sliding patio door in the afternoon, took a 14" television, VCR, satellite receiver, Nikon camera, television transmitter and tennis racket, valued together at \$4,500. The suspects left through the same door. Police are investigating the incident.

Police chase

A standard car check turned into a high speed

chase late Thursday night. Police spotted a brown station wagon, traveling at a rapid rate of speed on Guelph St. in Georgetown Thursday night. The car turned onto Mill St. before the officer notice the car did not have license plates or a rear marker. When cruiser lights were turned on, the vehicle accelerated. The chase progressed along McNabb St., to John St., to College St., where the car swerved across the front lawn of a home, then cut down a laneway beside the house and eventually stopped in the backyard.

The driver, who lived at the address, was charged with failing to stop for police and driving without plates.

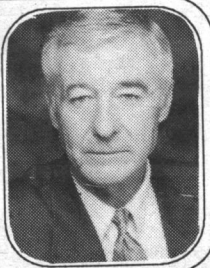
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Police being sued by freed suspect

By Oksana Buhel

A Burlington man, acquitted in the brutal sexual assault of a 17-year-old girl, is suing the Halton Regional Police Service (HRPS) and two of its officers for honoring the men who arrested him.

Terry Ekins, 29, filed a \$2.7 million lawsuit against HRPS, Chief James Harding and Sergeant Joe Martin, after two GO train special constables were presented with plaques for their arrest of Ekins in Oct. 1991.

The constables - Gordon Chong and Paul Kretchman, arrested Ekins six days after the assault of the Oakville girl on the GO train, after seeing a composite drawing of the suspect. The men felt Ekins closely resembled the picture and convinced Ekins to remain with them until he could be questioned by police.

The girl alleged she was grabbed by the neck, pushed to the floor, punched and choked until she was unconscious, then dragged to the washroom and sexually assaulted. Once arrested, Ekins remained in custody for a year, until he was acquitted at his Nov. 1992 trial. The judge ruled prosecution had not proved its case beyond a reasonable doubt.

Ekins is arguing the presentation of the plaques indicates he was guilty, and fortunate to have been acquitted.

Although HRPS is not commenting on the case until it is dealt with in court, Martin, who was the investigating officer at the time, insisted "the presentation of the plaques had nothing to do with his (Ekins) guilt or innocence." Martin added, Chong and Kretchman were being recognized for the commendable job they did in helping police.

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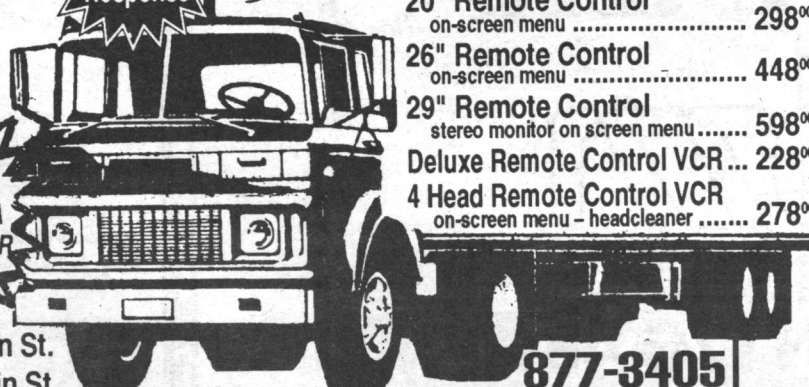
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