

# Counterfeit American currency being passed in Halton Region

BY RICK SOUTAR  
The Acton Tanner

Police are warning merchants that counterfeiting is on the rise in Halton Region and that they should be extra careful when accepting American currency — especially \$100 bills.

Staff Sergeant Michael Kingston, of the Halton Regional Police, says that counterfeiters are passing an average of three to four bogus bills per week in Halton Region, up from the normal rate of one to two phony bills per month. The U.S. bills, usually in \$100 denominations, are described as being of excellent quality, but can be distinguished as counterfeit because the inklines are "fuzzier"

and "not as crisp."

Kingston says merchants bear the loss if they accept counterfeit money and if they are unsure they can refuse to accept American money because "it's not legal tender." There are several methods for checking currency, such as special light sensors which reveal hidden lines when inspecting bills, and chemical tests which can verify paper and ink quality. But Kingston recommends simply keeping a one-dollar sample of American currency for comparison.

"It's common enough to accept it, but not common enough to know it just by feel," he said of American cash.

Police believe the counterfeit-

ers operating in the area come from Toronto, Montreal, Waterloo and parts of the United States.

On Sunday another phony \$100 bill was passed in the Georgetown area by a white male said to be in his 30s, six feet tall and 200 pounds, with straight black hair and possibly American.

The shopkeeper told police the man made a \$15 purchase and made a point of explaining that all he had was a single \$100 bill.

"The investigation is being coordinated by the fraud bureau," Kingston said, adding that merchants can have suspect bills verified by a chartered bank, and suspicious activity should be reported immediately to the police.

## NEWS SHORTS

### Man charged with firing gun

A 29-year-old Acton man was arrested and charged after police received a complaint that someone was firing a shotgun near the Blue Springs Golf Club on Saturday night. Police investigating the incident found nine spent shell casings along the highway near the golf course. They tracked the suspect to an Acton address through a licence plate number and later confiscated a shotgun for evidence. The man was charged under the Fish and Game Act for discharging a firearm near a highway.

### Impaired driver

A 40-year-old man was arrested for impaired driving and refusing to provide a breath sample after a blue Dodge pick-up was spotted weaving along Main Street North in Acton on Saturday at 12:30 am. Police say the man's speech was slurred and there was a strong odour of alcohol on his breath.

### Truck destroyed by fire

An '86 Ford pick-up truck was gutted by fire Friday on Concession 6, near Eramosa. The truck had earlier been reported abandoned without license plates but it burned before police could investigate. The Rockwood fire brigade responded to the blaze, which caused an estimated \$4,000 damage. Police are searching registration records to try and determine ownership of the vehicle.

### False alarms at M.Z. Bennett

Acton firefighters were called twice to investigate what turned out to be false alarms at M.Z. Bennett Public School last Wednesday. The first alarm was caused by a malfunction at 6:30 am. The second alarm, tripped at 9 am while the system was being repaired, caused the school to clear all classrooms until the firefighters ensured it was another false alarm.

### Police tighten seatbelt patrol

Operation Impact was held Saturday as part of a one-day national campaign to promote awareness and compliance with seatbelt laws and safety. Police in Rockwood set up a roadstand along Hwy. 7 to flag down and remind motorists of seatbelt laws. The campaign will continue in Ontario until Oct. 16.

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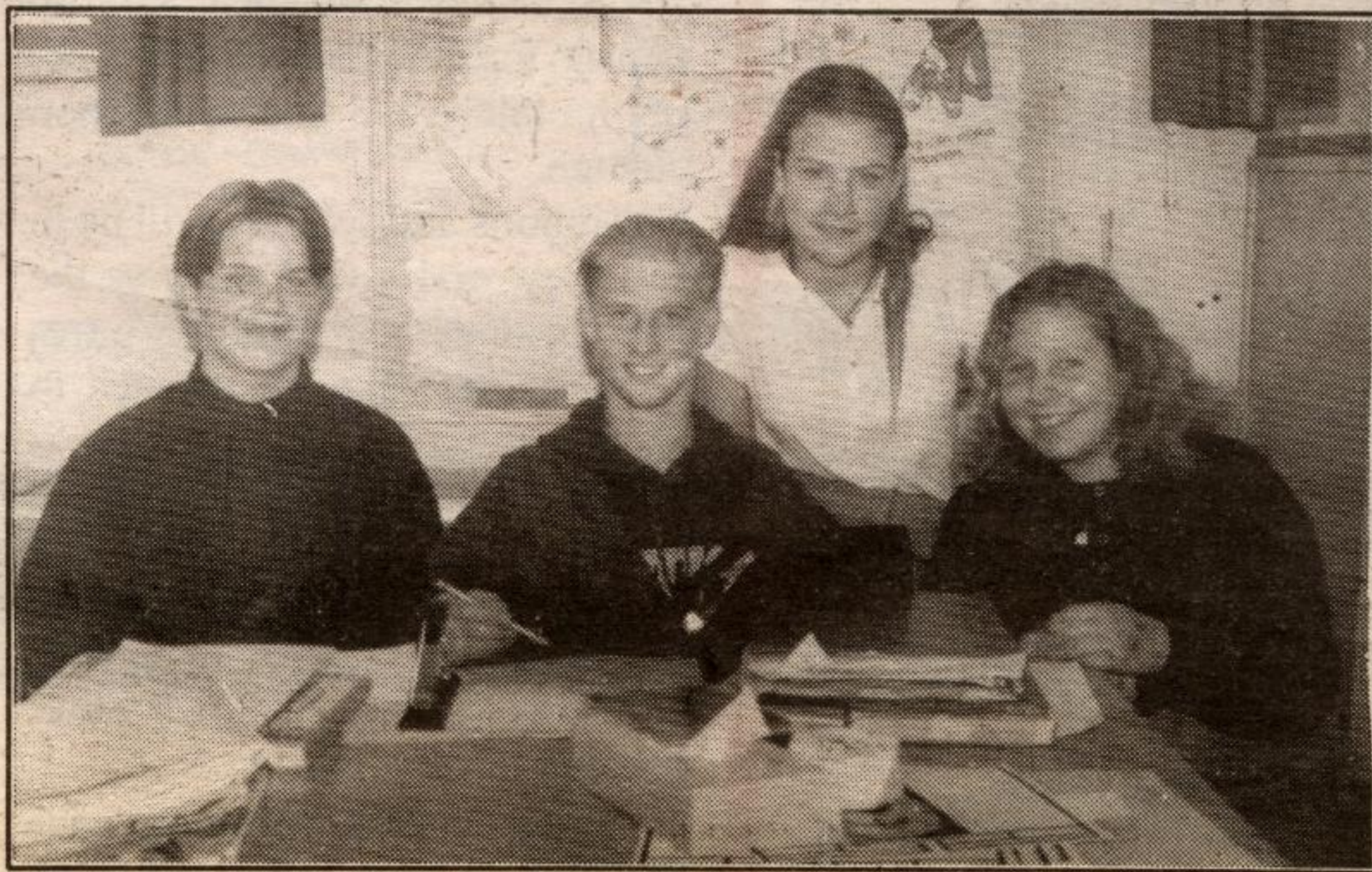
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### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"This weekend will be reminiscent of the good old days, with lots of cars and people."  
— Steve Dawkins, olde Hide House president, Page 16

### DID YOU KNOW?

In 1879, Thanksgiving Day was officially proclaimed an annual holiday of general thanks, and since 1957 it has been set for the second Monday in October.



**STUDENT COUNCIL:** The 1993-94 McKenzie-Smith Middle School student council was announced during Thursday's appropriately titled Student Council day. The members are from left to right, Jared Sales, treasurer; Brad Foster, president and past treasurer; Janette Jensen, vice-president; and Tricia Johnson, secretary. (Doug Harrison photo)

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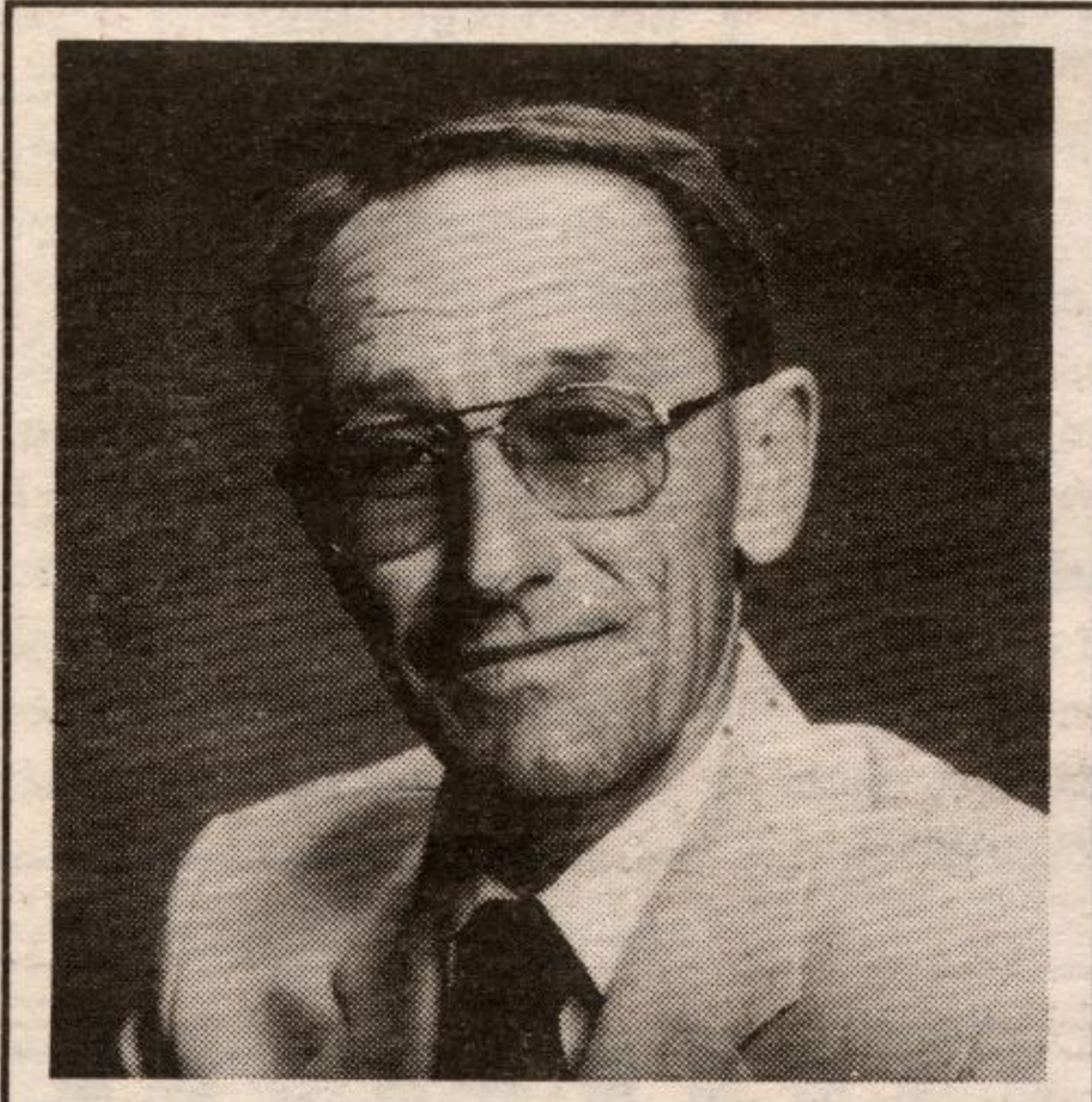
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