

# Thieves caught in the act

BY DONNA DANIELI

Mail theft has been on the rise in the past few years. In urban areas, it's not unusual for thieves to follow closely behind mail carriers so that they can steal just-delivered mail from outside mailboxes or break into the super mailboxes used in subdivisions.

Rural neighbourhoods, though, have been hardest hit by these bandits over the last year. "It's more common in rural areas because there's more opportunity for it," explains Sergeant Val Hay of the Halton Regional Police Service. "It's isolated. There's less traffic and less chance of being seen. It's not random; it's very organized."

Janos Farkas and Attila Zsolt Toth, both of Toronto, failed to count on the rural community's tendency to look after its own. Both men were arrested on July 24 after a resident of the area, driving through rural Milton, spotted an unfamiliar white car. The occupants were removing mail

from two mailboxes. The police were alerted, and both occupants were arrested and are facing charges of theft under \$5,000.

Mike West, Chairman of the Nassagaweya Community Consultation Committee, is elated with the arrests and hopes that more will follow. "This is an extensive operation involving more than just these two men," says Mr. West. "Hopefully, now that they have these two under arrest, they'll be able to get some information out of them."

Police believe the individuals involved are part of an organized group in which teams of two steal the mail, keeping cheques, credit cards and other pieces of identification, while discarding the remaining mail in a ditch.

"We'd like to see it stop," states Mr. West, who recently invested in a locked mailbox to protect his mail. "The police can't be everywhere. It takes residents to be alert for cars that they don't recognize."

## Mohawk Raceway applies for expansion

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states that the development will cause no undue impacts on the area road network, except for increasing delays at the left turn at the Highway 401 westbound off-ramp to the Guelph Line, and at the key right-turn exit from the raceway, especially during the late evening when people are leaving.

Councillors and members of the public raised some of these issues, in addition to others, at the July 28 council meeting. Barry Lee, Regional councillor for Ward 3 in which the raceway is located, asked Town staff to evaluate carefully the applicant's hydrogeological report. He was informed by staff that the Town is working with the Ministry of the Environment, the Region and Conservation Halton on the issues of water taking, wastewater and groundwater.

Richard Cooper, who owns the neighbouring KOA campground, requested that an independent consultant be hired to review the water and sewage reports, to be paid for by Woodbine Entertainment Group. David So, president of the company that owns Mohawk Inn, made the same request and expressed worries about non-competitive business practices like giving free rooms, meals and beverages to gaming patrons. Both Mr. Cooper and Mr. So asked that their customers be offered the same rates to the new facilities as those at the proposed hotel.

Many area residents raised concerns about running out of well water because of the increased demand by the redevelopment, contamination of water by pesticide and fertilizer runoff from the golf course and ponds, sewage effluent draining onto their properties, increased traffic and trash on the roads, and the protection of wildlife. One neighbouring chicken farmer warned that golf course customers might object to natural country odours.

The applicant's studies and reports are currently being reviewed by Conservation Halton, the Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry of Transportation, the Niagara Escarpment Commission and the Region of Halton. Further public comments are welcome by Milton's Director of Planning and Development, and staff would appreciate receiving them by September 5. A staff and technical report concerning the application must then be prepared and brought to council.

The market assessment report predicts that, within the first five years, the redevelopment will draw 331,000 new visitors to the region, provide more than 1,365 "person years" of employment and will generate \$155 million in regional expenditures. Construction will cost \$72 million, reveals Mr. Careless. "We think it will be one of the better destination points in Ontario," he says. "It will be a major economic generator in the region."

# TALK of the TOWN

A monthly feature from the Town of Milton

## "Fall" for these new happenings



With the days getting shorter, the autumn season is just around the corner. Along with the usual new beginnings in the fall, such as returning to work or school, the Town of Milton is pleased to announce these new beginnings...

### Visit [www.milton.ca](http://www.milton.ca)

It's now simpler than ever to visit the Town's website with its new easy-to-remember address. If you haven't visited the site since the start of the new year, it's time to check out the new design and enhancements. Interested in an agenda or minutes for a Town Council meeting? Need to find out more about installing a pool in your backyard? Looking for transit information? It's all online at [www.milton.ca](http://www.milton.ca)

### Milton Online Registrations

The Town will be launching its new Milton Online Registrations service this fall, which will allow you to register for recreation program courses using either the Town website or touch-tone telephone system. This means more convenient and faster turnaround times – all from the comfort of your own home.



The first phase of this new service will be limited to aquatics programs for the fall session launch. The next phase will include registrations for more recreation programs for the winter session. Future phases of the Town's electronic services will allow even more Internet transactions such as purchasing a dog license or obtaining a building permit.

### Start using Milton Online Registrations in September

#### Getting started

Obtain an *Account Personal Identification Number (Account PIN)* to identify your family account and *Client Barcodes* for each family member. If you have registered for a recreation program since January 2002, you will automatically receive your account information in a comprehensive information package coming your way by mail in mid-August. If you haven't been registered for a program during this time, simply visit Town Hall or the Milton Leisure Centre during regular operating hours to set up your account.

### Three new ways to register in September

#### 1. Register on the Internet

Visit the Town website and click on the Milton Online logo on the home page and you will enter the electronic gateway to the Community Services Department where you can register for recreation program courses. Start browsing as early as August 22<sup>nd</sup> and register for some aquatics courses starting September 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. for Milton residents. Payments are a breeze with Visa and MasterCard!

#### 2. Register by telephone

Starting September 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m., Milton residents can call 905-875-5400 (Long distance: 1-800-418-5494, ext. 2430) to register by telephone. With your account information and course numbers close at hand, simply follow the easy-to-use voice prompts to register for courses and make payments using Visa or Mastercard.

#### 3. Register in person

There will be a new walk-in registration session on Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup> (September 24<sup>th</sup> for non-residents):  
Town Hall (9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.)  
Milton Leisure Centre (9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.)

This special registration session will ensure everyone, with or without Internet access, will have an equal opportunity to register for recreation programs. A walk-in session is also scheduled for winter registration.

Visit the Town website this fall for more details on Milton Online Registrations!

### New Fall/Winter Community Services Guide

This new edition will be delivered throughout Milton on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. As always, this publication will be chock-a-block full of recreation program details and community information. It will also include extensive information on the Town's new Milton Online Registrations service as well as important course codes for Internet and telephone registrations.

### NEED INFORMATION ABOUT OTHER TOWN SERVICES?

Call 905-878-7252 or TTY 905-878-1657

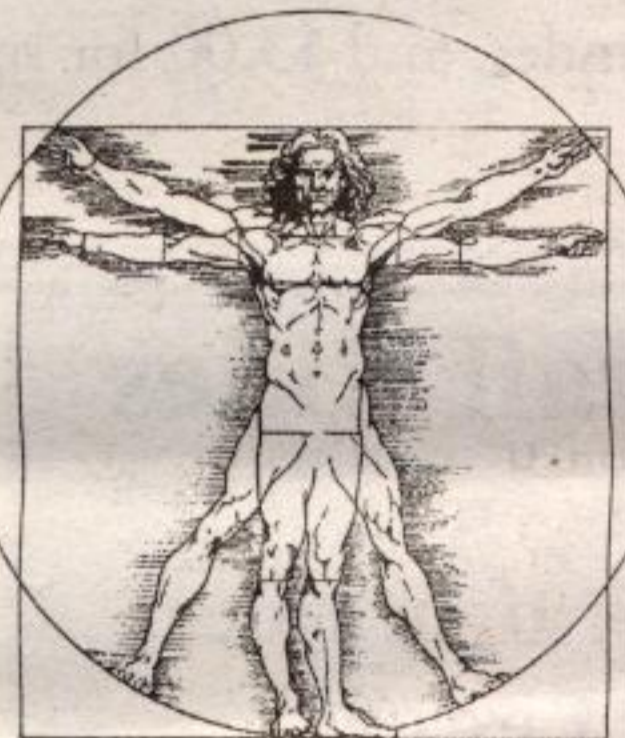
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