Take precautions to ensure your safety

Talton is one of the safest communities in the Lworld, but precautions must be taken to keep it that way. The best way to avoid becoming a victim is to avoid putting yourself in dangerous situations. Having said that, it is impossible to predict some dangers. Women in particular can be vulnerable.

There are a few things that you can do to make yourself safer. When you are at home, never open your door to a stranger. Install a door viewer so that you can see who is on the other side. You can always ask for identification if the caller says that they are from a company or service. Install good locks on your door, and use them!

Do not list your first name on a mailbox or in the phone book. Use your initial. Never hide a key outside your home to be used by family or friends. Your unique hiding place may not be as unique as you think.

When you are traveling, it is a wise idea to have a cell phone. If your vehicle breaks down, or you see another motorist who requires assistance, you can call from the safety of your vehicle. Never let your gas tank run below a quarter; that way you will not be forced to stop at night to gas up. Never pick up hitchhikers, and try to park in

Laurel Barnett

well-lit places if you are out in the evening. You can always ask for someone to walk you to your car. Many malls have security personnel who are happy to provide this service.

The decision to resist or comply can only be made by you. You know what you are capable of. If you do resist, remember your personal weapons: voice, head, elbows, hands, feet and knees. If your attacker is only after your purse or wallet, give it to them. If you can, throw it away from you to distance yourself from your attacker. You can replace money and credit cards. Your safety is more important.

This is only the tip of the iceberg for women's safety. There is a pamphlet available at the police station. If you have any questions about this or any police topic, contact me at 905-878-5511 ext 2120 or e-mail me at laurel.barnett@hrps.on.ca

> —Const. Laurel Barnett is Community Support Officer for 1 Division



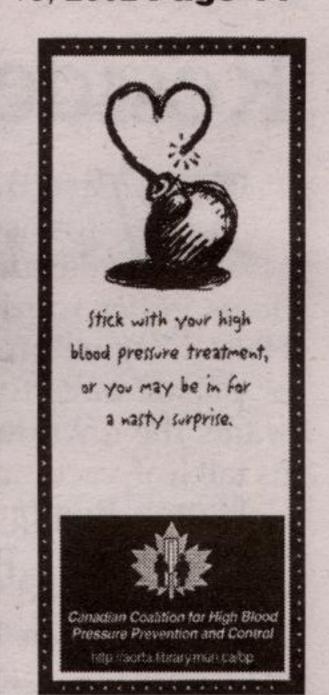
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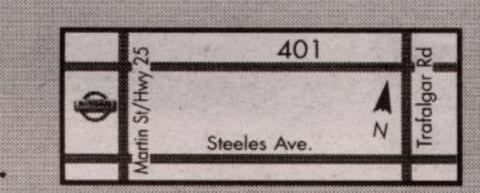
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