

A reminder to adults— dial 911 for emergencies only

When would you call 911? Would you call if someone is breaking into your house; if your child's bicycle has been stolen; you witness a serious motor vehicle collision; or your neighbour collapses while shoveling the driveway? The answers are yes, no, yes and yes.

I talk to school groups, brownies, cubs and other children's organizations about proper use of the 911 system, but I seldom speak to adults. The 911 system is for emergency situations where you

need a police officer, an ambulance, or the fire department.

If you are in your house and someone breaks in, you should call 911. If you wake up in the morning and discover that someone has stolen your car, you should call the regular police number, which is 905-878-5511, and ask for a complaint taker. A police officer will take a report, but it is not an emergency situation. If you witness, or come across, a motor vehicle collision with injuries you should call 911. If it is just a fender bender the regular number will suffice.

911/
411



Laurel Barnett

I spoke to a supervisor in communications about misuse of our 911 system and asked if most inappropriate calls come from kids or adults. She advised that they get a lot of crank calls from kids at payphones. What

these kids don't realize is that we have a very sophisticated system, and we can see where the call is originating!

Sadly, numerous calls come from adults who think they are calling for directory assistance. That is 411. Many people also call 911 to ask what the non-emergency phone number is, because they can't be bothered to look it up. There are a limited number of 911 lines, so if the lines are tied up with a non-emergency call, serious calls cannot be put through. The dispatcher will disconnect the line to free it up.

Our 911 system is a wonderful thing. It has saved a lot of lives and has caught a lot of criminals. It will continue to work if people don't misuse it through maliciousness or ignorance. It could save your life or that of someone you love, so teach your children the correct use, and use it wisely yourselves.

If you have any questions about this, or any other police issues, contact me at 905-878-5511 or laurel.barnett@hrps.on.ca

—By Const. Laurel Barnett is the community support officer for 1 Division

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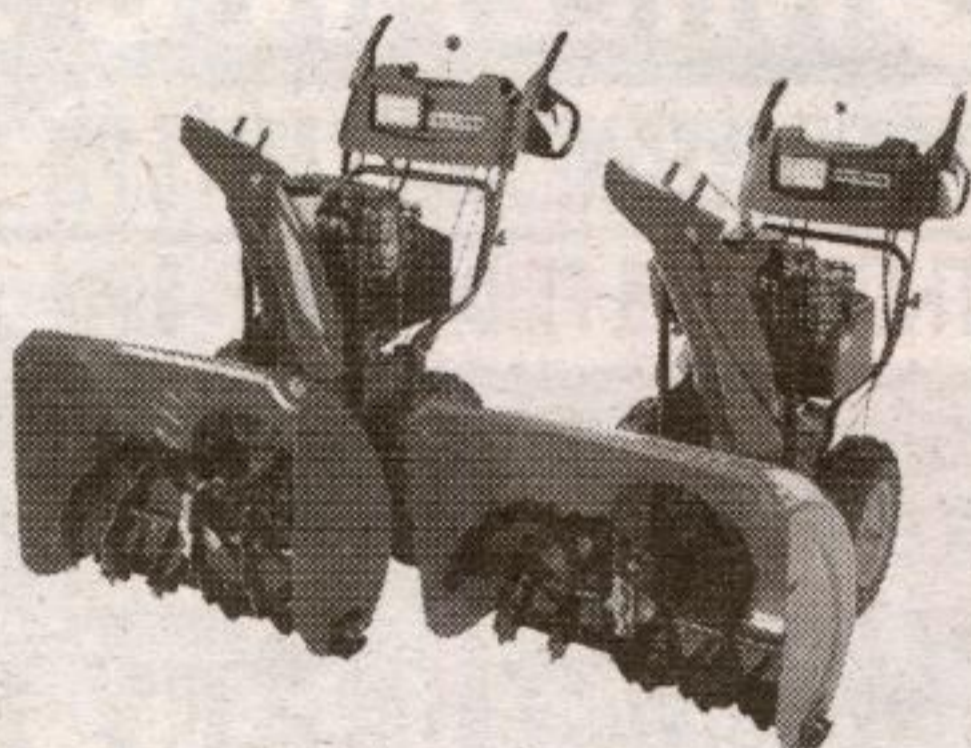
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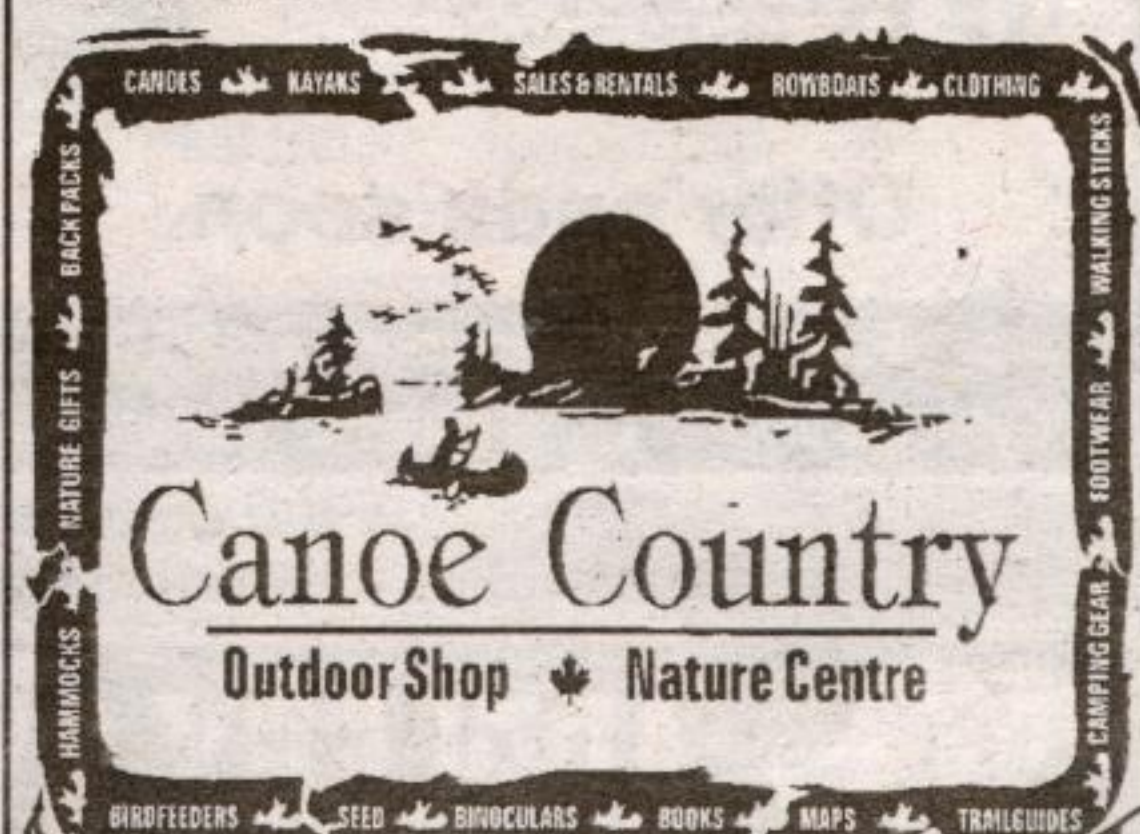
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Guide to the Outdoors



Julie Pomeroy

The GREAT OUTDOORS! Fresh air, clean water. We all want to live and play in a safe and healthy environment. An election is coming up in Halton Hills, November 10. Now is the time to ask your local representatives why the Town chooses to put the things that we love and need at risk by spraying weeds in our parks with chemical pesticides. You can find their names and emails at www.town.halton-hills.on.ca under Happenings. Do you have your birdfeeders set up for winter yet? Have you ever had a problem with squirrels? I thought so. May I recommend the peanut feeder by Yule Hyde. I have had blue jays, woodpeckers and nuthatches at mine so far this season and the squirrels can't seem to hurt it. A good mixed seed feeder is the metal Absolute. Call us for details.



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