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## Bank cards 'skimmed' in Acton

Laura Scriver of Acton is making sure no one can see her Personal Identification Number (PIN) while paying with her debit card after she and her husband learned they were victims of fraud on the weekend.

Scriver discovered, while paying bills on the Internet Saturday night, that someone had made a bogus deposit into their account earlier that day at a bank machine with a counterfeit card, then withdrew \$500.

After contacting their bank, Scriver learned they had been the victim of debit card fraud. And over the past few days *The Independent & Free Press* has heard from several other Acton residents who have experienced a similar problem, or had their cards cancelled by their bank.

Halton Regional Police Detective Sgt. Don Cousens said Tuesday police are currently investigating seven debit card frauds involving Acton residents, but added there could be more as the banks often don't contact police about those occurrences.

Cousens added, "there are a couple of locations in the Acton area where we suspect these skimmed cards may have occurred," but at press time he could provide no further details.

Cousens said debit card fraud is "not unique to the community of Acton," and is a nation-wide problem.

He recommended people use precautions when using their cards— they shouldn't use their birthdate or address as their PIN, and when entering it into the machine make sure no one can see the numbers.

## Fire calls

### Stunt doesn't amuse firefighters

After witnessing two youths set a bicycle tire on fire with lighter fluid last Wednesday, and one of them attempt to go for a ride while it was engulfed in flames, Halton Hills Fire Protection and Prevention Services is asking parents to talk to their kids about the dangers of such a stunt.

A Halton Hills fire safety specialist stopped the youth immediately and, as the flames were extinguished, asked him why he would endanger himself in such a way. The youth said he did it all the time.

The lighter fluid was confiscated and the youths were cautioned by the firefighter.

"The potential for serious injury is enormous," said Doug Andrews, Halton Hills fire safety specialist, who worries the activity may be a trend and not just an isolated incident. "The youth's disregard for his own personal safety, without thinking about the consequences has left him vulnerable to severe and potentially fatal burns, had his clothing

caught on fire."

Along with warning their kids about the dangers of setting their bike tires on fire, the fire department asks parents to monitor the situation in their neighbourhoods and if they see anybody doing the dangerous activity call the fire department at 905-873-2601.

Halton Hills firefighters were called to Miskas Products Inc. on Armstrong Ave. early Thursday for a report of a forklift on fire. When firefighters arrived they found staff at the business had used portable fire extinguishers to contain the fire to the engine area so they extinguished the remainder. Damage is estimated at \$5,000.

Firefighters were called to a Mountainview Rd. home early Monday for a fire in a 1999 Toyota 4-Runner. A fire department spokesperson said it's believed the fire started in the driver's door panel, then spread, resulting in \$10,000.

## Police blotter

### Suspect spotted with his pants down

Halton Police report a woman walking in Hungry Hollow ravine near Mountainview Rd. Saturday afternoon saw a man masturbating approximately 20 feet away from her. He is described as 17 to 18 years old, with short brown hair and was wearing a red T-shirt and dark-coloured baseball cap.

Two BMX bicycles valued at \$900 were taken from a shed at a Ewing St. home late Thursday or early Friday.

Police are investigating two break and enters they believe are related into Georgetown businesses late Monday or

early Tuesday.

A glass window pane was removed at The Barber Towne Pub early Tuesday and a quantity of cash was taken from the office.

Sometime overnight police report the rear door was pried open at the Dollarama on Guelph St. The store was entered but nothing was taken.

An Acton man was charged with being intoxicated in a public place after being involved in a verbal dispute with a woman on Mill St. in Georgetown early Saturday. Police responded and charged the man.

Charged is Darrell Reid, 25, of Mill St. E.

# Halton Hills

Community Support and Information

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## Isolated Seniors Project

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- lives alone
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- finds daily tasks difficult
- may be living at risk

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**When:** September 15th, 2004  
**Where:** Acton Arena Community Room  
**Time:** 1:30 - 4:00 p.m.

**For more information contact Terri at 519-853-3310**

# BRIDAL BLOWOUT!

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on graduating from Christ the King.

Good Luck at the University of Guelph.

Love Mom, Dad, Erin, Matthew and Bridget

Stephanie Rowe

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## COLIN BROADBENT'S (CB) SURPRISE 70<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY

When: Saturday, Sept. 4th, 2004  
Where: 14 Temple Road, Georgetown  
Time: 2 - 4 p.m.