



Surveillance cameras caught these three people suspected of using stolen credit cards at various area businesses. Photos courtesy Halton Regional Police

Credit card thieves sought

Halton Police are asking for help from the public in identifying three people believed to be using stolen cards in and around Halton.

On Dec. 29 between 10:30 and 11 a.m. police say three people broke a window in a vehicle parked in the lot at Mold-Masters SportsPlex and took a purse.

The owner of the purse reported that a cell phone and several credit cards were in the purse at the time of the theft.

The cards were used at several locations later that day. Video surveillance footage from the businesses shows three people—two males and a female—using the stolen cards.

Anyone with information regarding the identity of the three people is asked to call Georgetown Criminal Investigations Bureau at 905-878-5511 ext. 2116 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

Break-in suspect on tape

Halton Police are interested in speaking to a man, captured on security video, who was seen entering The Royal Ascot condominium on Hall Rd. Saturday Dec. 29 at 12:41 p.m.

The man was seen running out of the back door of the building that same day at 12:53 p.m.

Police say sometime between 12:30 and 1 p.m. a man came into the building and entered an unlocked apartment while the owners were out.

When a neighbouring tenant went to check their apartment she came across an unknown man coming out of the master bedroom. The man quickly left the apartment and was last seen fleeing down a stairwell.

When the owners returned home a short time later they determined a quantity of cash and jewelry was missing.

Police believe the same man is

also responsible for several break-ins at the Mountainview Residence for seniors on Mountainview Rd. that occurred the same day between noon and 12:20 p.m.

Police say an unknown male entered the residence through the lobby then went into four unlocked apartments and stole jewelry and cash (about \$3,500) in total.

The man then left the building through the emergency exit and south stairwell.

He is described as white, with thick dark hair, brown eyes, about 40-years-old, clean-shaven wearing a dark winter jacket, dress shirt, and beige casual pants.

Anyone with information about the break-ins or who can identify the man is asked to call police at 905-878-5511 ext. 2106 or call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).



BREAK-IN SUSPECT

School board expects easy transition to trans fat-free menus

TIM WHITNELL
Special to The IFP

There is going to be a transition to trans-fat-free foods in school cafeterias and vending machines at school boards across Ontario, and a Halton District School Board official says they should have no problem adapting to the expected changes.

In an attempt to combat a growing obesity problem among children from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 12, the province introduced legislation Dec. 5. Ontario's Healthy Food for Healthy Schools Act calls for a ban on trans fats in many foods in all school cafeterias and an outright ban on trans fats in all school vending machine products.

"Our kids' health is just too important to risk," Premier Dalton McGuinty said in a news release. "Trans fats have no place in our schools and we've got to act now."

The move is intended to build on earlier action by the government to ban junk food in elementary schools and a call for 20 minutes of daily exercise for pupils.

"Our goal would be to have the regulations done and in place for next September (2008)," Ontario Ministry of Education spokesperson Michelle Despault said, in reference to stricter guidelines around trans fats in school cafeterias.

She said the timeline for a complete ban on trans fats found in vending machine foods is to be established following consultation this month on healthy food guidelines.

The government will be referencing the updated Canada Food Guide, she said.

Under the proposed legislation, Ontario would move to exempt some foods that naturally contain small amounts of trans fat, including beef, lamb and milk.

Also, Despault noted that exceptions would be made for schools that hold special events like pizza, hot dog or bake days.

Despault added the legislation only talks about trans fats; it does not mention other kinds of fat in foods or sodium (salt) intake.

Trans fat is often found in French fries, potato chips, some cookies and other cafeteria foods. The processed oil can contribute to childhood obesity. The government says the rate of obesity in kids has tripled in the past 25 years. Most obese children become overweight adults, putting them at higher risk for diabetes and heart disease. Cutting processed trans fat could help extend their lives and save health care dollars, say government officials.

The Health Canada website says fats in foods are made up of four types of fatty acids—polyunsaturated, monounsaturated, saturated and trans. Trans fats are found naturally in some animal-based foods, but are also formed when liquid oils are made into semi-solid fats like shortening and hard margarine. Scientific evidence has shown that dietary trans fats can increase the risk of developing heart disease.

The superintendent of facilities services with the Halton public school board expects a smooth transition to trans-fat-free products within their schools.

"It's been the topic of discussion for some time. Our cafeteria contract was to be renewed this past September and we (already) extended the existing arrangement for one (school) year anticipating something was about to change" concerning nutritional guidelines, said Gerry Cullen.

"Our contracts will go out for renewal this year to start next September so we can change all conditions necessary and comply with that date without too much difficulty."



The Halton District School Board says it doesn't anticipate any problems in complying with a new provincial government act that will see the removal of trans fat in many foods in school cafeterias.

Whether the cafeterias can accommodate the forthcoming changes, such as equipment needs, will be part of the contract discussions with the board's potential food providers, said Cullen.

The superintendent said the trend at the Halton board has been to offer students a greater variety of foods and healthier choices.

"This isn't a new initiative but a very specific one. The direction that has been taken throughout the past several years has been to introduce healthy choices so that menu selections are significantly different than they were years ago. Kids can still choose to go the route of French fries ... but an awful lot of them are looking for the salads, look-

ing for the healthy choice meals, looking for water to drink as opposed to pop," said Cullen.

"The kids themselves have started to make a real shift toward the healthier choices so I'm not sure it's going to be as controversial as one might suspect."

As far as vending machines and the proposed all-out ban on trans fats in those products, Cullen said there are a number of different arrangements, including a deal with Pepsi for beverages, and food service contracts that would require re-stocking of trans-fat-free compliant products.

He doesn't think the earning power of the service provider or the board will be dramatically affected by the proposed changes.

"Sales might shift from one product to another. Certain students will choose to make their lunches and some will choose to leave the property and go elsewhere but the pattern or habit of going to the cafeteria for lunch seems to be the more prevalent force; students who got into the routine will most likely continue to do so and they'll just have a different variety to choose from."

Health care and education groups are happy about the anti-trans-fat legislation.

"We are very pleased the government is joining us in our fight against trans fats," Rocco Rossi, CEO of the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario, said in a news release.

The Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF) issued a statement saying it is in agreement as well.

"It is essential that school be a healthy environment for children, where they can experience healthy behaviours that will continue into adulthood," said Dr. Janice Willett, President of the Ontario Medical Association (OMA).

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