

Cops warn businesses to look out for bogus money

By **KAREN SMITH**
The Champion

Police are trying to shut down a counterfeiting operation as a rash of phony \$100 bills are turning up weekly across southern Ontario.

Halton Regional Police fraud investigators have noted a significant increase in the number of counterfeit Canadian \$100 bills in circulation here and in other southern Ontario regions, said Acting Det. Sgt. Alex Fishbein.

"The counterfeit bills are showing up at various retail outlets," he said.

"We are urging merchants dealing in cash transactions to make their staff aware of this problem. They should take a moment to check all their currency, with particular attention to Canadian \$100 bills."

In Milton and Halton Hills, local police have received approximately 25 phony \$100 bills and eight bogus \$20 bills over the past two weeks.

Busy clerks targets

The fake cash has been circulated at gas stations, night clubs and busy stores, where clerks are in too much of a hurry to check bills, Det. Sgt. Fishbein said.

While the RCMP conducts extensive investigations into counterfeiting operations, Halton police are looking to determine who's passing the bills in this region.

Det. Sgt. Fishbein said there could well be Halton residents buying the phony bills from counterfeiters. Two people are under investigation in connection with incidents in Oakville.

Police have several suggestions that will help reduce the risk to retailers and consumers, Det. Sgt. Fishbein said.

"Anyone who deals in cash transactions should be aware of the security features of Canadian currency, which are intended to deter counterfeiting and identify bogus bank notes."

Det. Sgt. Fishbein made the following additional



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Halton Regional Police Detective Sgt. Jackie Gordon holds a counterfeit detection poster and some evidence bags of counterfeit \$20 and \$100 bills recently passed in the area.

recommendations:

- Compare a suspect note with a genuine one of the same denomination.
- The hologram on the \$100 bill fades from gold to
• see COUNTERFEITS on page 7



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