

# Thefts from house garages increasing, police warn

*Public told to keep their garages locked even when they're home*

By **STEPHANIE THIESSEN**  
*The Champion*

After a number of recent bike thefts, police are reminding Milton residents to keep their garage doors closed and locked at all times.

"These are crimes of opportunity," said Det. Carol Crowe with Halton Regional Police. "You can be sitting at home and someone can walk by your home, grab a bike, and be gone in a matter of seconds without you seeing anything."

Det. Crowe said the thefts from garages of bikes and other items seem to be increasing.

"It's becoming more of a problem," she said.

The most recent theft from a

garage that was reported to police happened between November 9 and Saturday. Unknown suspects entered a Syer Drive garage through an unlocked door and took golf clubs, a golf bag and a jacket, all worth \$1,000.

Another happened November 10 between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. at a Laurier Avenue home, Det. Crowe said. An unknown suspect entered the garage through an unlocked door and took a bike worth \$750.

"It's so frustrating," Det. Crowe said of incidents that occur when doors are left open or unlocked.

Sometime between 7:30 p.m. November 5 and noon November 8, unknown suspects entered a

Valleyview Crescent home through the unlocked side door to the garage. A bike worth \$5,000 was stolen.

And between 3:30 and 5:30 p.m. on November 2, thieves saw their opportunity and stole a bike plus two sets of golf clubs worth \$4,350. The garage door of the Pine Street home had been left not just unlocked, but open, Det. Crowe said.

Det. Crowe said she doesn't think Milton residents are oblivious to crime, but they're letting their guards down. She said although it's easy to leave the garage door unlocked all day, it's important for residents to keep them locked all the time since thefts don't just happen at night.

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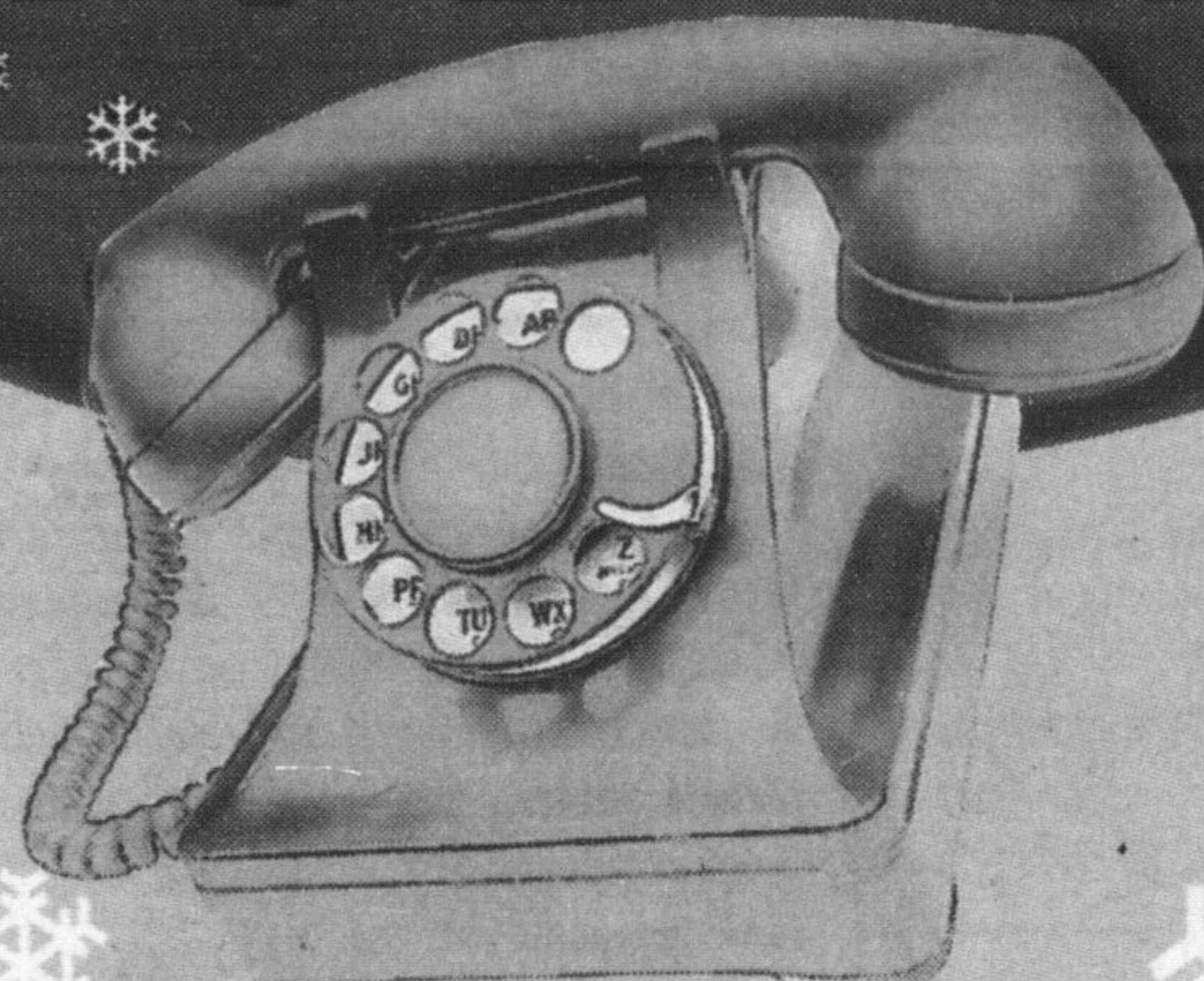
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