

Person's five senses often more reliable than technology in spotting bogus bills, says expert

Bank of Canada analyst holds detection seminar for Town staff

By **STEPHANIE THIESSEN**
The Champion

Humans come equipped with built-in devices — our five senses — to detect counterfeit money. And using our senses is often more reliable than technology for finding phonies.

That's what Jodie Sales, an analyst with the Bank of Canada, said the message was at a seminar held Wednesday for Town of Milton staff.

"Rely on your hands, rely on your eyes," she said. "The security features of bank notes are reliable when you have a better understanding of what they are and how to use them."

Christina McTavish, a health, safety and training officer with the Town, said with the increasing number of counterfeit bills being circulated, it's important that staff members know how to spot them.

"We thought it (the seminar) was something for our front line staff who handle money that comes through," she said.

Although detection machines can be helpful in spotting counterfeit bills, Ms Sales said they can't be solely depended on.

"Counterfeiters use this machine too," she said, explaining they make fake money that technology can't detect.

Det. Const. Ken Best, of Halton Regional Police's Fraud Bureau, said during an interview that counterfeit money is

a problem that's increasing everywhere — including Halton.

"We receive an abundance in Halton," he said.

Each month, Halton police collect the fake bills banks and businesses in Milton, Georgetown and Acton have received. Police get about 100 counterfeit bills per month, Det. Const. Best estimated.

"It varies, but for the most part, they're 20s."

These bills are passed along by people who don't know they're not real, he said.

Campbellville's Mohawk Racetrack is among the places counterfeit money is most commonly passed.

Patrons get cash from the automatic bank machines and unsuspectingly pass along fakes or try to use the machines, at which point the counterfeits are intercepted, Det. Const. Best said.

Counterfeiting affects communities at a local level as well as the national economy, he added.

For instance, everyone has seen stores where \$50 and \$100 bills aren't accepted. In towns that cater to tourists with boutiques and gift stores, not accepting the customer's cash — tourists often carry large bills — can put a dent in business, Det. Const. Best said.

Halton Regional Police's Fraud Bureau arranged the seminar for Town staff who deal with money at their jobs on a regular

"Rely on your hands, rely on your eyes."

JODIE SALES

easily. Comparing real bills with fakes, Ms Sales pointed out security features that can't be replicated.

Statistics revealed that last year 36 per cent of counterfeit bills were \$10 bills, and 36 per cent were 20s, she said.

"The 10s and 20s seem to be something to look out for," she said, adding 50 per cent of counterfeiting in Canada takes place in Ontario.

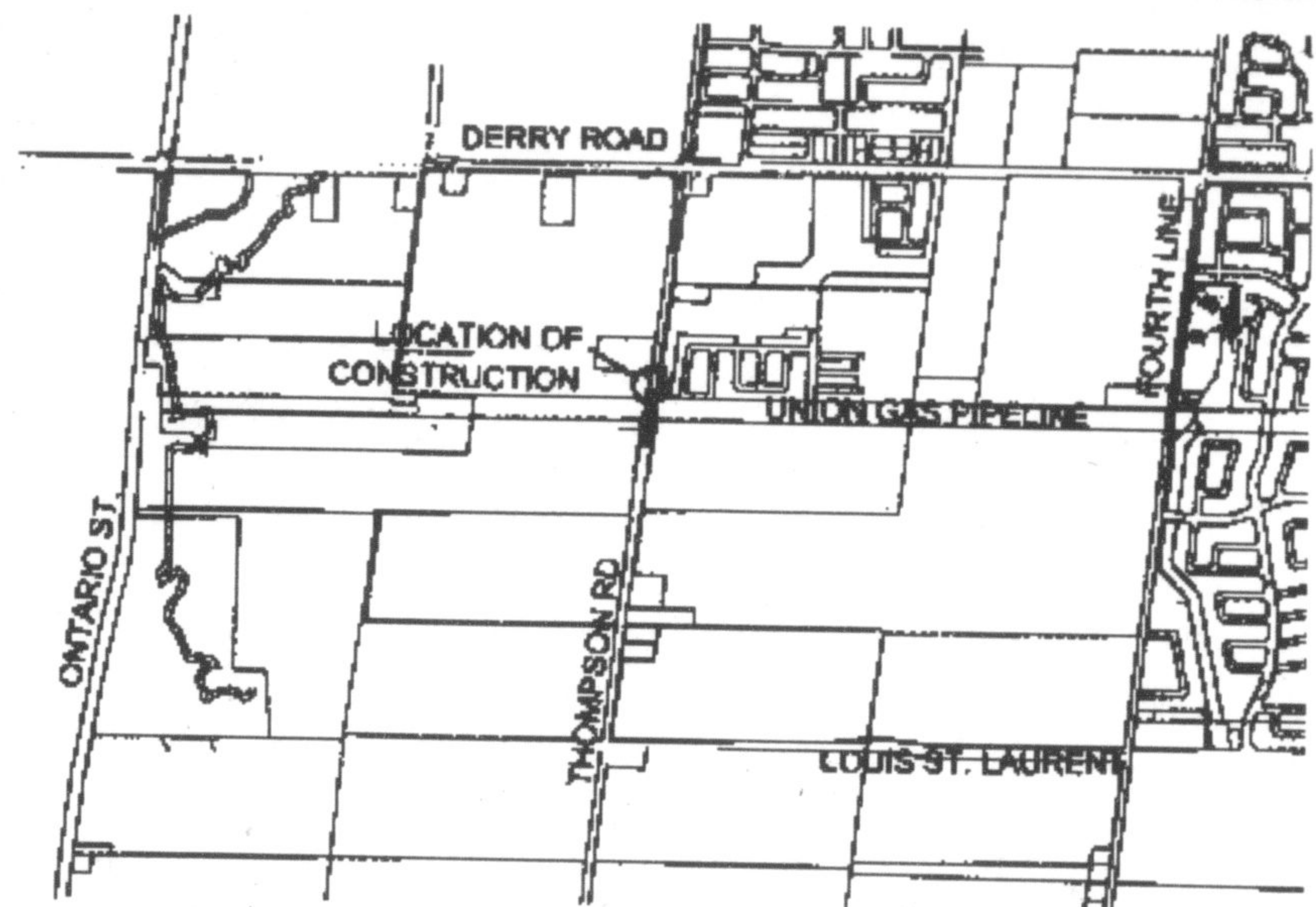
For more information about the security features on bank notes and how to spot counterfeits, visit www.bankofcanada.ca.

Stephanie Thiessen can be reached at sthiessen@miltoncanadianchampion.com.

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Derby Brown

ROAD CLOSURE NOTIFICATION



A temporary road closure of Thompson Road for a period of 6 days is required to accommodate road improvements to benefit existing and future residences. This road closure is planned for August 3 through August 8, 2004.

Traffic will be detoured around the closure via Derry Road, Britannia Road, Fourth Line and Ontario Street. Residents with direct residential frontage onto Thompson Road within the road closure area will have access maintained at all times during construction. Through traffic will not be accommodated.

Mattamy (Brownridge) Limited
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