

# Bank cards of more than 500 customers skimmed in fraud

• from MAN on page A1  
used that data to manufacture false cards, said Crown attorney Tony MacKinnon.

Siddiqui then made empty-envelope deposits at various ATMs and withdrew funds totaling about \$193,000.

In Toronto, the scheme was conducted in 2000, while the Mississauga and Milton scams took place in 2002, court heard.

In Milton, data was skimmed from the cards of almost 300 customers. Thousands of dollars were withdrawn from ATMs using that information over the Easter weekend, MacKinnon said.

In total, the cards of more than 500 customers were

skimmed.

Halfyard told the court Siddiqui came to Canada in 1990 from Pakistan and is a Canadian citizen. His wife and three young children recently joined him, and he's their sole provider.

He argued Siddiqui has been a model citizen since being granted bail in 2005, and would receive better care for his health issues — heart and kidney problems — in the community than in jail.

But MacKinnon countered that jail time is the only appropriate punishment.

"(He was) playing these bank machines like slot machines guaranteed to deliver every

time," he told the court.

He explained Siddiqui was hired at two of the gas stations under false names.

MacKinnon said Siddiqui knew exactly what he was doing when he waited for a holiday weekend to withdraw the money, since the banks would have fewer customers looking over his shoulder and the machines would be "topped up."

"The scope of victimization Mr. Siddiqui caused is unfathomable," MacKinnon said.

Stephanie Thiessen can be reached at [sthiessen@miltoncanadianchampion.com](mailto:sthiessen@miltoncanadianchampion.com).

# Fare-free bus initiative rolling ahead

Local residents will soon be able to ride Milton Transit for free during the day.

At its meeting last week, town council approved undertaking a pilot project where transit services would be provided at no cost between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. weekdays from June 1 to December 31.

"The pilot project is designed to increase Milton Transit ridership," a report from Community

Services Director Jennifer Reynolds said.

"By implementing this project, the Town of Milton will be the first community in Canada to provide a system-wide free transit program for such an extended period of time."

As part of the fare-free initiative, the municipality also wants to offer free shuttle services each Saturday in December and during a street party to celebrate

Milton's 150th anniversary June 9.

The motion endorsed by council says the pilot's introduction is subject to confirmation that sponsorship funding to cover the lost revenue has been secured.

Staff estimates ridership will surpass 100,000 for 2007 with the fare-free project.

# Renovation Celebration

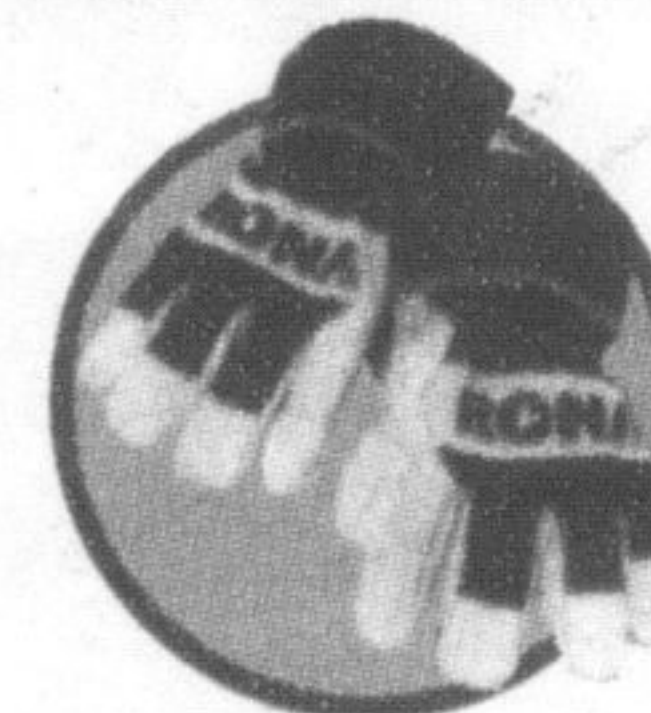
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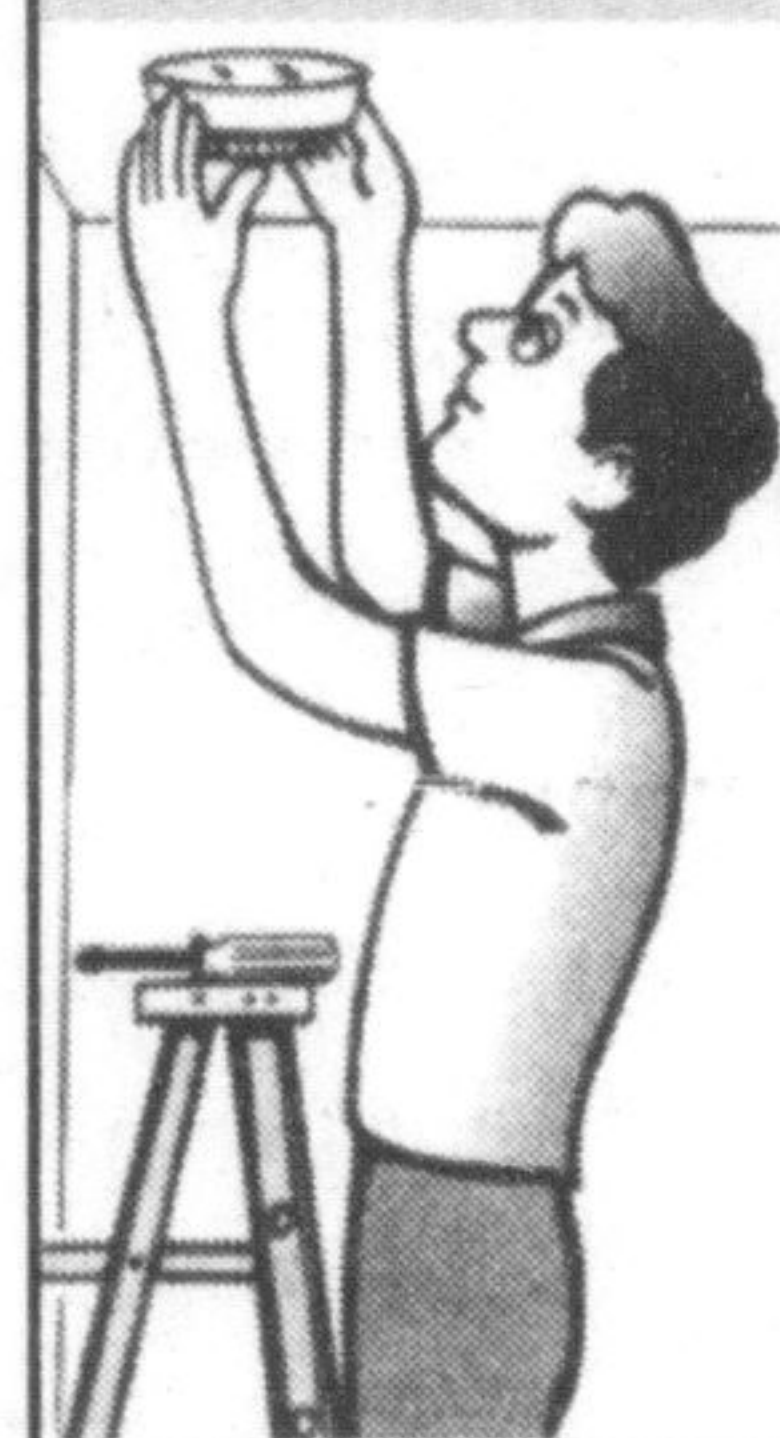
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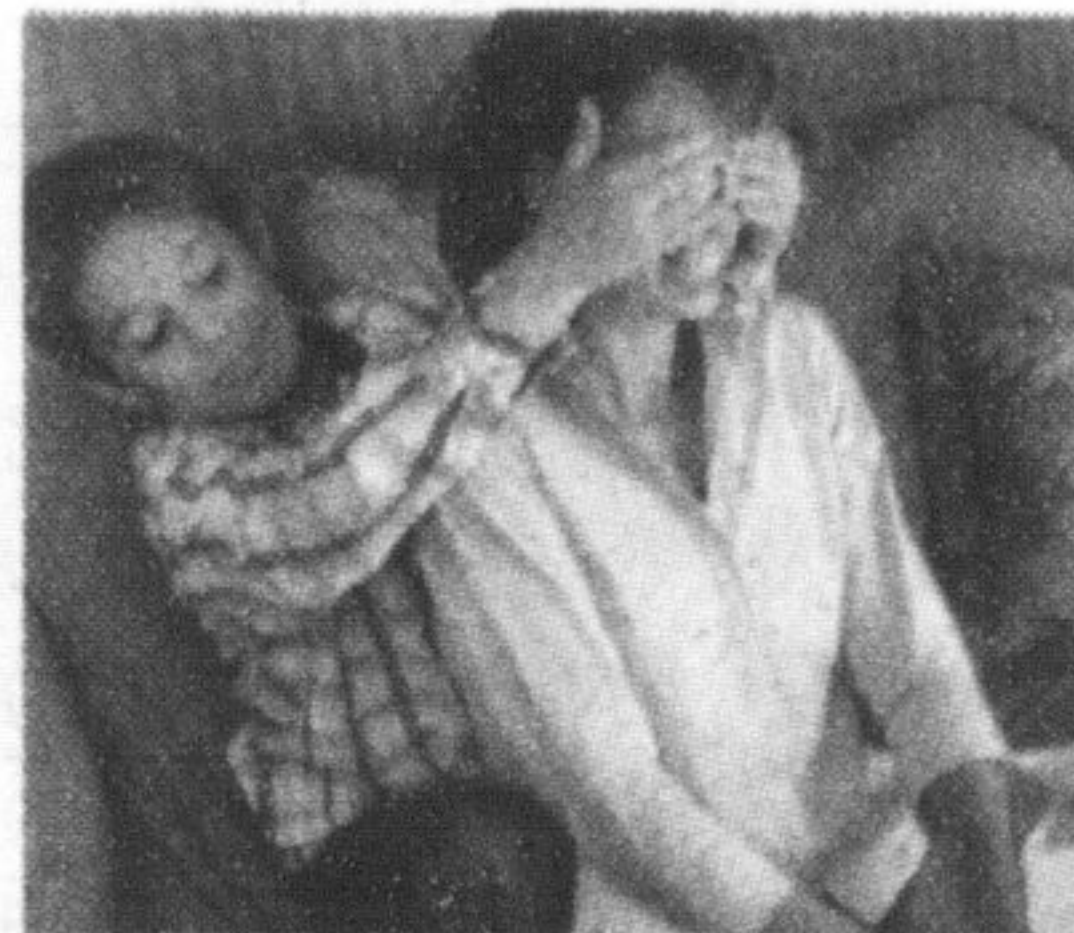
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- Entries must be received no later than 4pm May 9th
- Email entries to [batkinson@miltoncanadianchampion.com](mailto:batkinson@miltoncanadianchampion.com) or drop off to The Canadian Champion, 555 Industrial Drive, Milton
- Only one entry per household
- Winners will be notified Thursday May 10th 2007
- Winning poems will be published on Tuesday, May 15th 2007
- Employees of The Canadian Champion, contest sponsors & other immediate families are not eligible
- Include name, age & phone number
- Winners will be chosen & judged on the basis of originality, creativity and warmth.
- Winners will be notified by phone

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