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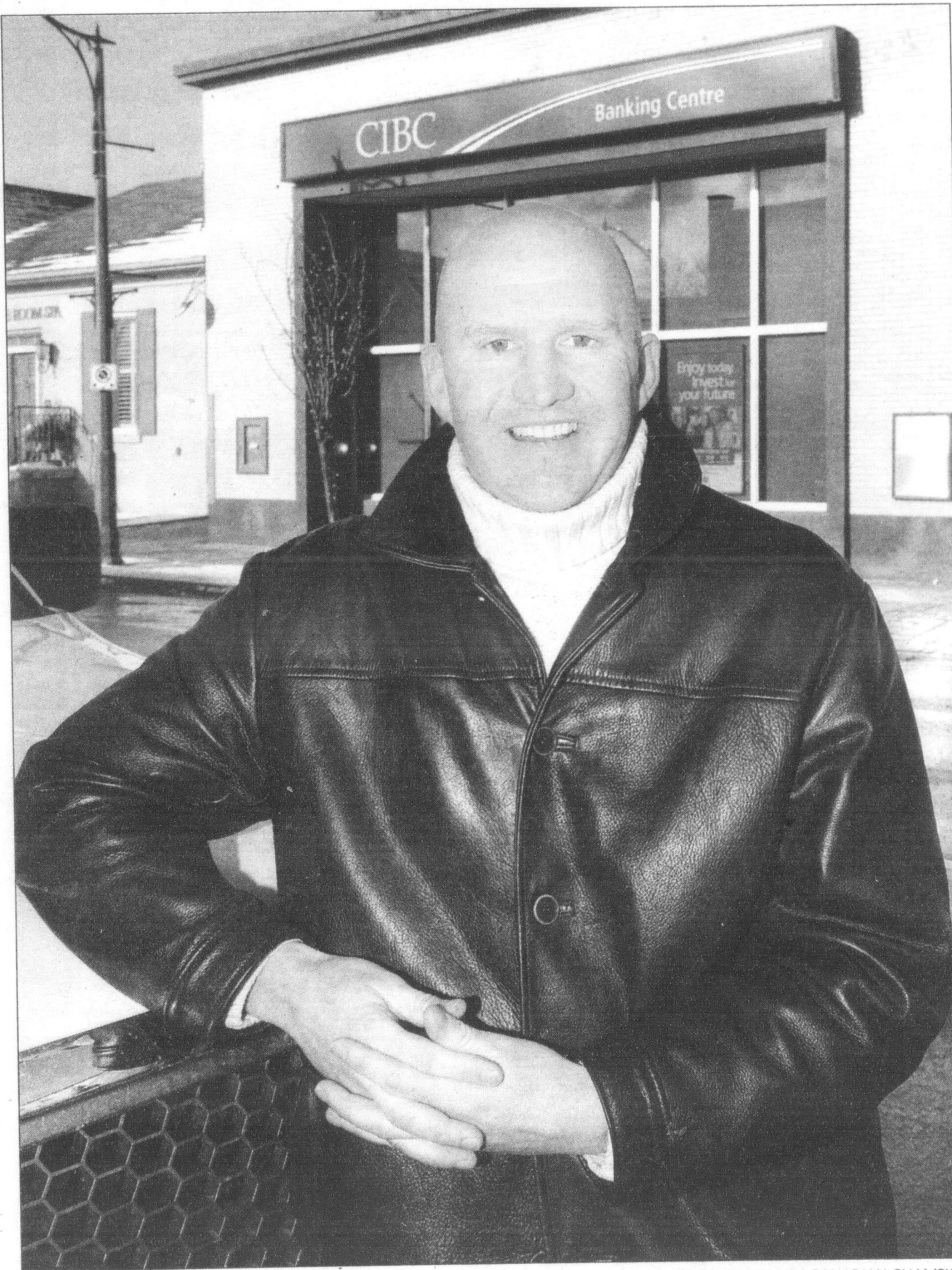
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Man dubbed hero in purse-snatching



GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

Doug Penson stands in front of the bank where he saw a man carrying a purse and followed him. His action led to the arrest of a robbery suspect.

Citizen's quick action leads to arrest

By Stephanie Hounsell
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Alarm bells went off in Doug Penson's mind when he saw a man heading away from a Main Street bank clutching a red purse.

"I said, 'This guy is not the type of guy to carry that kind of purse,'" Penson recalled.

That initial thought set in motion a sequence of events that eventually led police to a suspect in the purse snatching of a 66-year-old woman walking with a cane.

Police said that at about 3:30 p.m. Monday, the woman had left the CIBC bank at 147 Main St. and was headed to her vehicle in the rear parking lot when she was approached from behind.

A robber forcefully removed her purse from her shoulder and knocked her to the ground before fleeing, police said.

Penson didn't know what had happened in the bank parking lot. Sitting parked in his pick-up truck, all he knew was it seemed mighty strange for a man to be carrying a red purse — and even stranger that when he called out to the man, he bolted like his pants were on fire.

"I opened my door and yelled, 'Hey you with that purse, get back here!'"

What happened next was like a scene from a blockbuster flick.

Penson got out of his truck and ran after the man, a decision he can only attribute to adrenaline.

He chased him past the post office on Brown Street, eventually ending up on Robert Street.

"Thank God I ran the Toronto marathon," Penson joked.

He was fairly sure he saw the man enter a home, so he knocked on the front door.

The man who answered said he didn't know anything about a stolen purse and that he was alone with his girlfriend. Since Penson didn't get a good look at the face of the suspect, he wasn't sure if it was him.

It was at that point, on the doorstep, that Penson said he realized he could be in danger.

"I've got a baby on the way. I've got to get out before something happens to me," he thought.

He went back to the bank, where the senior was being cared for, and the police arrived shortly after. Penson told them what had happened and pointed out the house.

Police said a man was arrested without incident at the home, where a relative of the suspect resides, and the woman's purse was recovered.

The victim received minimal
• see POLICE on page A4

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Hawkins Animal Hospital ASK DOLLY

Dear Dolly, I am urinating outside my cat litter tray, and that is very unusual for me. It's a bit sore when I do it. My humans think I am being bad:

Signed LuLu, Siamese, Milton

"Dolly" Hawkins.
(Registered Golden Retriever and Cat Lover)

Dear LuLu, get your folks to take you to your Vet, where they will check to see if you have a bladder infection. My Mom (Dr Debbie) says that there could be many reasons for what she calls "inappropriate urination" but often it is a simple bladder infection. Could mean medicine though and a change of diet. But Sweetie, get to the Vet now. Just tell your folks. Always "Dolly"

IF ONLY PETS COULD SPEAK.

Dr. Debbie Hawkins 550 Ontario St. S., Unit 5A 905-875-6888
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