

Bank card scam appeal dismissed

By Stephanie Hounsell
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

A judge has dismissed the appeal of a man convicted last year of defrauding residents — including some Miltonians — of almost \$200,000.

Halton Hills resident Umair Siddiqui, 38, had pleaded guilty to playing a role in a credit card skimming scheme in 2002 while employed at three gas stations, including the Esso station at Derry Road and Regional Road 25.

There were 246 victims who were defrauded as a result of the scheme.

Siddiqui pleaded guilty to 11 charges including multiple counts of impersonation, fraud

and conspiracy to commit fraud.

He was sentenced to 21 months in jail in April of last year and also to three years of probation.

The appeal was dismissed last month.

Halton Regional Police Staff Sgt. Kim Duncan-Lecoure said Siddiqui was appealing his conviction because he thought he should have had a conditional sentence.

A conditional sentence — essentially house arrest — is what Siddiqui's lawyer had pushed for during sentencing submissions, but the judge didn't feel it was appropriate.

Duncan-Lecoure said she wants to thank the many local victims who provided their

financial information during the initial investigation, as well as the 12 Milton and Oakville residents who took the time to write victim impact statements for the appeal.

"After that length of time, they still helped out — it played a great part in that case," she said.

She added police officers "did a fabulous job" in what was a very time-consuming case.

She said justice has been served.

"It was a long time for the outcome, but it was worth waiting for."

Stephanie Hounsell can be reached at sthiesse@miltoncanadianchampion.com.

Learn how to spot counterfeit \$

In light of a recent increase in counterfeiting activities in the GTA, Halton Regional Police and the Bank of Canada are organizing a free training session.

The counterfeit detection information session will take place at police headquarters, 1151 Bronte Rd., in


Oakville Monday, May 26 from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

It's designed for store owners, managers and anyone who handles cash on a regular basis. Attendees will learn how quick and easy it is to spot and stop counterfeit money, police said.

To register, call 1-888-513-8212.



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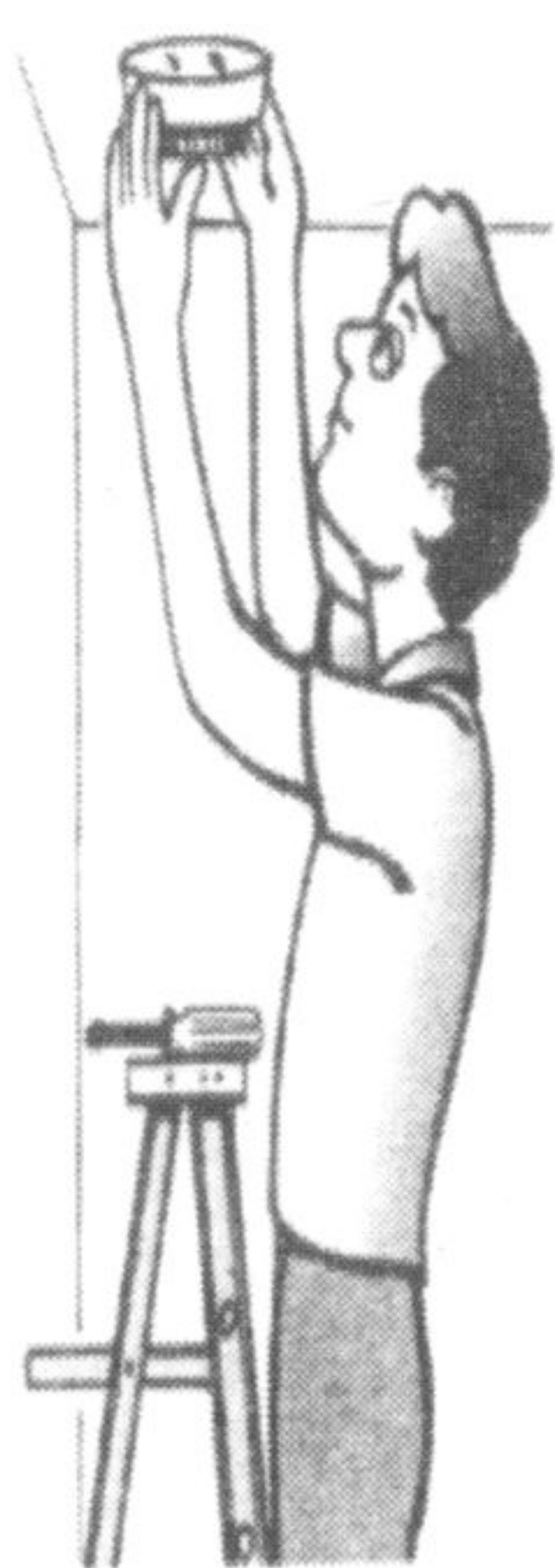


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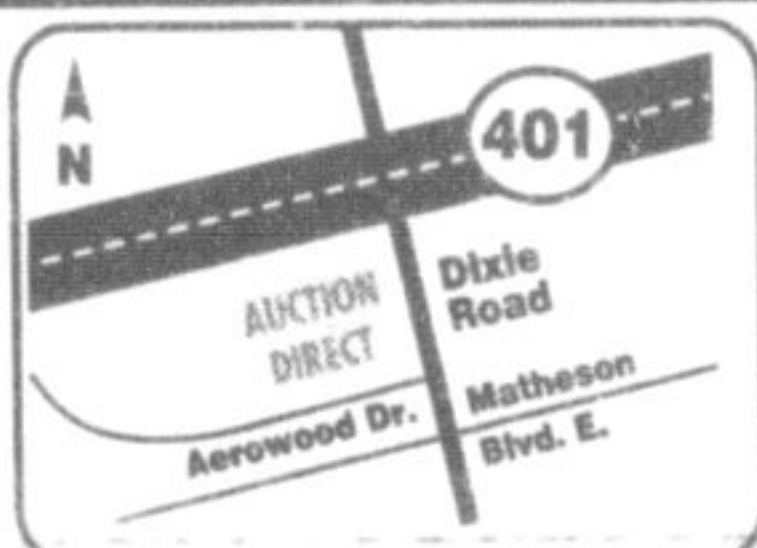
SATURDAY MAY 17TH AT NOON SHARP (Viewing starts at 9am)

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1999 CHEV BLAZER Sport Utility 2D	2003 HYUNDAI SANTA FE WGN	2000 PONTIAC SUNFIRE SE Sedan
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2000 NISSAN MAXIMA GLE Sedan	2001 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE Ltd	1999 VOLVO S80 T-6 Sedan 4D
2000 BUICK REGAL LS Sedan 4D	2000 GMC SIERRA 1500 Ext Cab	2002 NISSAN XTERRA SE S/C Sport
2003 PONT GRAND PRIX GT Sedan	2000 GMC ENVOY Sport Utility 4D	2003 INFINITI FX35 Sport Utility 4D
2000 FORD F-150 Super Cab	2000 PONTIAC MONTANA Ext	1995 DODGE INTREPID Sedan 4D
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