

False alarms big headache for police, homeowners

The Canadian Champion, Wednesday, September 26, 1990—RE 4

The growing trend towards home security systems is creating a giant headache for police departments across the country — false alarms.

In Southern Ontario, for example, 97 out of every 100 alarms are false and police, who respond to every alarm — false or not — are perplexed as to know what to do.

Some departments are looking at the possibility of billing homeowners for alarms that turn out to be false. The costs are already estimated in the millions.

"This was one of the things we addressed in developing our security system," says Andy Gyorffy, vice-president of marketing for Winnipeg-based Ramtron Pre-Entry Alarm Systems Inc.

"We've been able to virtually eliminate

this problem with our system by taking advantage of space-age technology."

Most false alarms, he notes, are user related, mainly because the technology is not only complicated to use but susceptible to false alarms by its very nature.

Most alarm systems are based on a 40-year-old technology, designed to apprehend intruders after they have entered the home "and therein lies the problem".

These conventional "hard wire" systems, so-called because your home must be wired in order to work, are activated once the electrical circuit created by the system is broken — and that's every time a wired window or door is opened.

These systems require the homeowner to punch in a security code to deactivate the sys-

tem — usually within 30 or 60 seconds after entering the home. The wrong code or not entered within the time limit and the alarm is activated.

Other systems, which utilize motion detectors, are also susceptible to false alarms — pets in the home tripping the alarm, a plant dropping leaves, even the movement of curtains caused by the furnace going on.

"Any sudden rise in ambient room temperature — a body going through an infra-red beam or a sudden burst of sunlight entering the room could cause the system to activate," says Gyorffy.

These systems, he adds, were designed for plants and offices that are locked up for the night and where the alarm will not be accidentally tripped through human error.

"The wrong technology in the wrong place."

This is why the Ramtron system is revolutionizing the home security industry, he says.

Unlike the conventional "hard wire" systems, Ramtron is wireless and, as a result, completely portable. The homeowner can keep it for a lifetime — no matter how many times he or she moves.

The Ramtron system, which incorporates the latest developments in microchip technology, is designed to stop intruders in their tracks, no matter where they try to enter — before, not after they enter the home.

This technology enables Ramtron to eliminate false alarms almost entirely.

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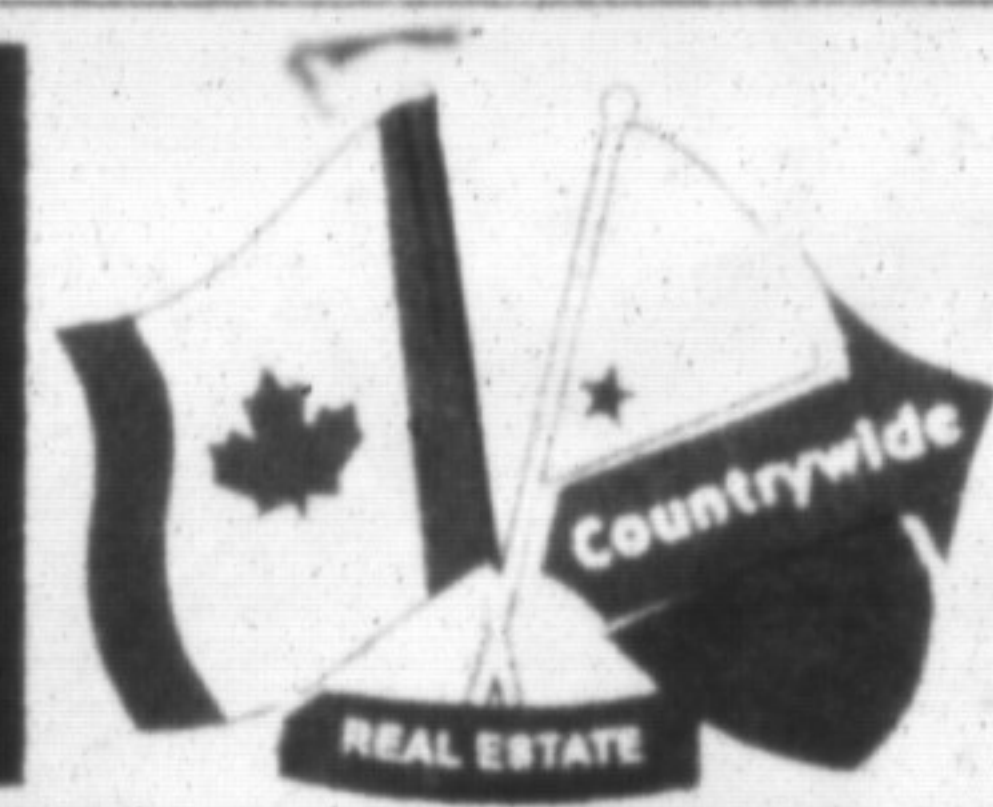
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