

Crime Stoppers of Halton

Lone robber pulls off bold bank heist

The robbery of a downtown Milton bank has investigators seeking help from the public to identify the culprit.

Shortly before 3 p.m., Friday, Feb. 2, a man walked into the Bank of Montreal at 144 Main St. E. He ordered tellers to fill a bag with cash while opening his jacket to reveal a handgun.

After the tellers complied with the demand, the suspect fled and was last seen running south in the adjacent alley toward the rear of the building.

The man was described to police as white and five-foot-nine. He had a slim build, pointed nose and pale skin. He wore a dark ball cap, sunglasses and a dark grey jacket.

If you think you know who this person is, or if you saw someone fitting the description get into a car close by, give Crime Stoppers a call.

If you have any information that leads to an arrest in this or any other case, you may be eligible for a cash reward of up to \$1,000.

You need not give your name and your information will be treated with complete anonymity. Crime Stoppers does not subscribe to call display.

Call 1-800-668-5151 or 825-TIPS (That's 825-8477).

Crime Stoppers of Halton is operated by a board of directors made up of 18 civilians from all areas of Halton Region. The reward fund results from the financial support of business, industry, services clubs and private citizens. The board of directors raises the money, decides on the amount of rewards, and actually pays the rewards. Crime Stoppers is incorporated as a charitable organization, therefore all donations to the reward fund are tax deductible.

Halton kids buying beer with fake ID

By DAVE DICENZO
Special to The Champion

Halton Region has seen the number of alcohol-related arrests of underage youth shoot upward dramatically recently, the end result of the quantity of phony identification cards circulating.

According to Halton Constable Gary Ribble, since June, in Oakville alone, Halton Police have confiscated between 500-700 pieces of ID from people under the legal drinking age. Some were as young as 13.

To help combat the problem, the police have joined with Brewer's Retail stores to take extra measures aimed at reducing the amount of alcohol purchased by minors.

"The common goal is the protection of our youth," said Const. Ribble, to a room full of Brewer's Retail employees who were on hand to learn what to look for in fake ID.

Const. Ribble said 59 per cent of alcohol obtained by under-agers is through the use of fake ID. He hopes, with some hard work by the community, the number will go down to about 10 per cent.

"Some of the ID out there is really good," he said.

The most common piece of altered identification is a driver's licence. Const. Ribble told the group to be certain all three pieces of the licence coincide in terms of date.

A sure-fire way to detect a fake or altered licence is to hold the card close to your ear and bend it. If it makes a clicking noise, it has likely been re-laminated and altered in some way.

Const. Ribble told the group they represent the first line of defence in the battle to

minimize the sale of alcohol to youth.

"It's usually a gut feeling," he said. "If it doesn't feel right, don't do it."

An employee has the right to seize a fake ID, but Const. Ribble warned if it seems the situation could get dangerous, or if the person is uncomfortable with doing so, it isn't required.

"Once in the store I got a kid who used his friend's ID and they looked very different," said Brewer's Retail employee Jason Turek. "His friend came in later and I didn't give him any beer, either."

Const. Ribble attributed the increase in fake identification to a number of things.

"There are now so many different ways to manufacture ID and there's a market for it. There is also a lot of pressure on these kids to be with their older friends!"

Steve Boniface, of Brewer's Retail, was involved with the organization of the seminars and hoped they'll provide a solid base for the employees of stores throughout the region.

"Brewer's Retail want to show the public and the police force we're making an effort to combat this situation," he said. "The young kids out there are getting alcohol and we know it and would like to try very hard to stop them."

9—The Canadian Champion, Wednesday, March 20, 1996

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