

Woman stages bold early morning bank robbery at mall

A woman bank robber made off with a small amount of cash after holding up National Trust at Milton Mall Wednesday morning. The robber approached a teller with a note demanding money at 10:30 a.m., said Staff Sgt. Roy Smith of Halton Regional Police.

The teller handed over some cash, which the culprit put into a bag. She was last seen approaching the parking lot at the west

end of the mall. No weapon was seen, Staff Sgt. Smith said.

The robbery happened quickly and quietly, according to one bank patron who didn't realize the heist had occurred.

"You didn't even know anything had gone on," said Mike Walsh, 18, who was meeting with a financial consultant and didn't see the robber.

Mr. Walsh found out the bank had been held up when the man-

ager began locking the doors while customers were still inside — standard procedure during a robbery to protect the crime scene.

The woman was white, well-tanned, in her late thirties wearing a yellow sun visor, dark knee-length shorts and sunglasses.

Anyone who may have seen the woman is asked to contact police at 878-5511, ext. 2115.

The robbery was the first bank heist in town this year.

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Physician says:

Local patients may feel pinch

By KAREN SMITH

The Champion

Medical services across the province are in peril and Milton is no exception, says the head of the Halton Medical Society.

Dr. Garnet Maley, society president, says medical care is going downhill due to government cutbacks, and if the trend continues, local patients will feel the effects.

"There are some doctors in town that are very dismayed by what's happening," says Dr. Maley, a family physician who operates a practice in town.

He says doctors continue to earn less money and growing frustration will prompt them to simply stop providing some services that "are not worth the time or the aggravation."

The local physician's comments coincide with last week's call by the Ontario Medical Association (OMA) for the Mike Harris government to take immediate action to avoid what it calls an "imminent crisis in medical care



Dr. Garnet Maley

delivery." OMA president Dr. Gerry Rowland issued a stern warning to the Tories that the province's health care system is facing a grave crisis.

"The frustration among physicians is extremely high given the government's policy

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Country colour

Taking part in the Country Quilt Fest at the Ontario Agricultural Museum were Gillian Schmid, 4, above, and Leah Brown, right. Gillian, who says she hopes to be a marine biologist one day, modelled a matching jacket and hat with a fish design. Leah showed off a wool jacket. The quilt fest continues this weekend. See story page 17.

Photos by Graham Paine



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Escapees are caught in hours

Two Maplehurst Correctional Centre inmates are back in custody after escaping from the facility Wednesday.

The inmates were picked up by police separately, each within blocks of the Martin Street jail, several hours after they escaped.

The two men climbed a 10-metre fence, which enclosed a recreational area, at 1 p.m. in the jail break, Halton Regional Police said.

Police received a tip and found one of the inmates

lying on the roof of a truck at a Steeles Avenue business at 9:30 p.m., said Staff Sgt. Roy Smith.

Inspector Keith Gregory reportedly talked the man into surrendering.

The other escapee gave himself up to the Milton OPP on Highway 401 near James Snow Parkway at 1:30 a.m. yesterday.

Two men, 19 and 20, face charges of being unlawfully at large. The older inmate was serving time for robbery while the other man was jailed for fraud.

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