

# Opinion

## Crime mapping will help keep you informed

Knowledge is power.

That's part of the reasoning behind Halton Regional Police's decision to launch a mapping function that will allow residents to monitor criminal activity in a particular neighbourhood, according to Halton Police Chief Steve Tanner.

Tanner made the comment at the recent launch of the function, which is available on the police website [www.haltonpolice.ca](http://www.haltonpolice.ca).

Police dispatch data is stripped of personal information, including the exact address, and sent securely to CrimeReports.com, which hosts the crime mapping software. The public can access the data through the Halton Regional Police Service's website under the Crime Files/Mapping navigation button.

Incidents reflected on the map will be shown within 100 numbers of the address, to protect individual's privacy, while still being within the general vicinity to give people an accurate idea of crime in their neighbourhood.

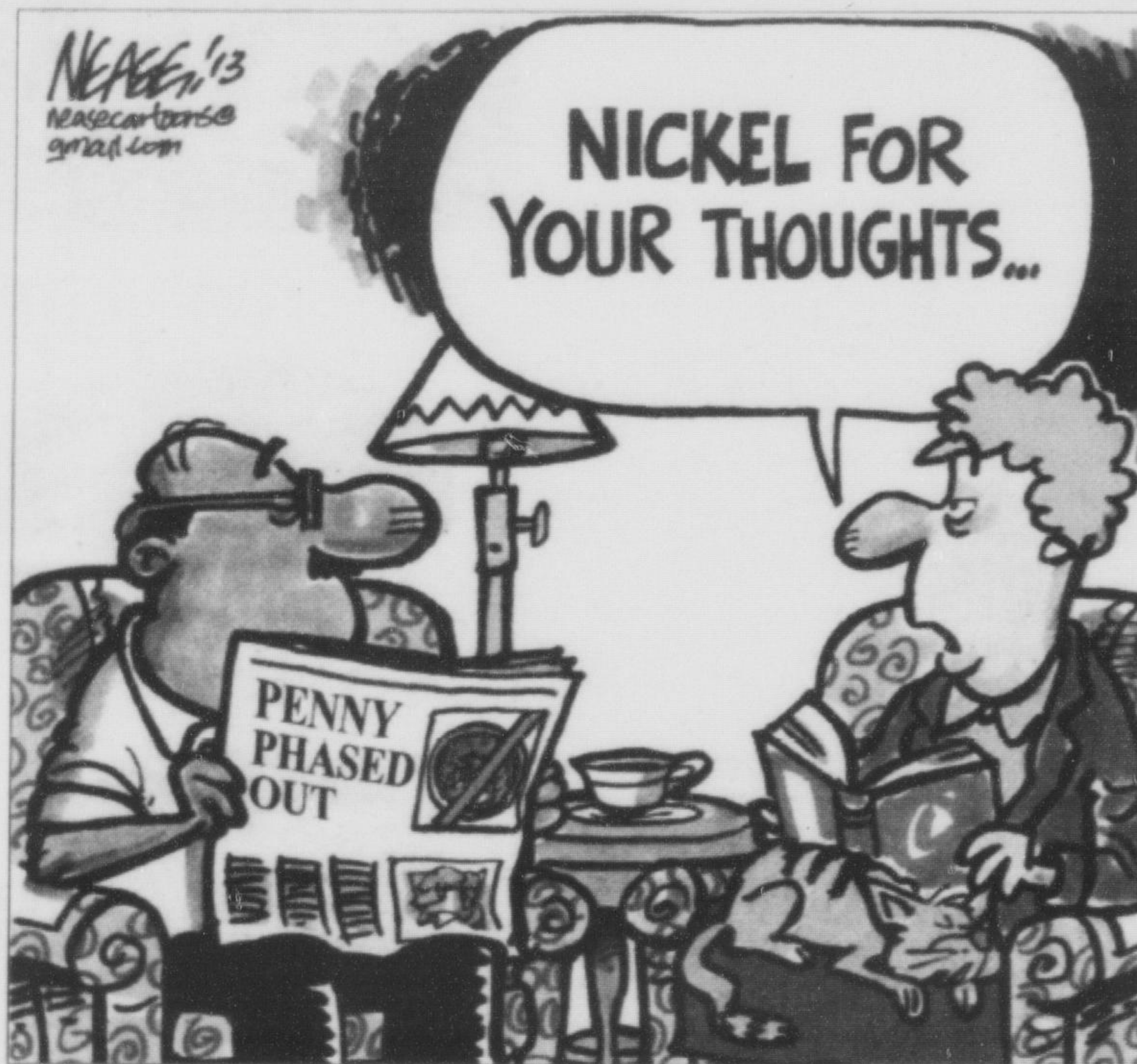
The crime mapping data will include police-dispatched calls for property damage, sexual assault, assault, robbery, break and enter, theft, impaired driving, homicide, attempted murder, offensive weapons, drug-related offences, and various traffic-related offences such as impaired driving, hit and run, and motor vehicle injuries and fatalities.

The idea behind the map is to allow the public to understand crime trends and thus better help police in preventing crime.

Residents are often surprised to learn a break-in had occurred on their street or that a particular neighbourhood had been vandalized. This is where the map can help keep communities informed.

However, we do wonder if anyone in the real estate or the tourism industries will be equally as enthralled with this mapping device.

Crime can happen anywhere, and the more people realize that, and take precautions to safeguard themselves and their property, the better.



### SNAPSHOT



### Help for hospital

Andrea Cayer of the Milton District Hospital Foundation accepts a cheque for \$2,684 from local singer/songwriter Jon Abrams. The funds were raised from his recent EP Release Party, with the first single 'For the Love of the Game' currently available on iTunes. Abrams also made a donation to the Minor Hockey Foundation of Ontario.

## On The Record

### A reporter's two cents on discontinued penny



Julia Le  
REPORTER

The Canadian penny has joined the \$2 bill in becoming a thing of the past.

With the Royal Canadian Mint officially halting the circulation of the penny earlier this week, I couldn't help but feel nostalgic about the little copper-coloured coin that had filled two piggy banks over the course of my childhood.

"Find a penny, pick it up and all day long you'll have good luck" was the rhyme I remember instinctively saying everytime I pocketed the shiny circular currency after seeing it glimmer on the street.

Growing up, I remember going on specific quests in search of them around my house. A successful day of digging through couch cushions would yield a couple of pennies that would then be traded at the corner store for some one-cent gummies.

On good days I'd leave the corner store with a small brown paper bag full of little Swedish berries.

At eight or nine years old I also had the successful job of removing the white hair from older family members heads. I charged a penny for each white hair I picked from the top of each person's head, which was a successful

The Canadian  
CHAMPION

555 Industrial Drive, Milton, Ont. L9T 5E1

905-878-2341

Advertising Fax: 905-876-2364

Classified: 905-875-3300

Circulation: 905-878-5947

[www.miltoncanadianchampion.com](http://www.miltoncanadianchampion.com)

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