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# Residential break-in figures prompt new hi-tech invention

By JIM THOMAS  
In recent months, house break-ins have plagued residents in the rural areas of Durham and York Regions.

Several preventative measures have been recommended.

One of these is a lane-entrance gate that would serve as a deterrent to would-be burglars.

Ken Oag of Estate Advancements, 16 Franklin Street, Uxbridge, has the answer.

It's called a 'Gate Sentry', a unique laneway barricade that operates from a house or car with the flick of a switch.

Ken began working on his invention two years ago after thieves entered his father's property, east of Coppins' Corners and stole a tractor.

It was never recovered. The experience started Ken thinking. He wanted a gate that would keep thieves out yet let owners in — with as little inconvenience as possible.

Through experimentation, he's come up with a unit that, in his own words, "works beautifully."

Rather than opening inwards or outwards, (a problem in deep snow), Ken's 'Gate Sentry' slides backwards and forwards.

It takes only seconds to open. When closed, it locks firmly in place. Construction is solid yet ornamental.

"It's simple and reliable," Ken says. "It should last forever."



Photo/JIM THOMAS

Designing an entry gate to residential properties came about for Uxbridge resident Ken Oag after his father had a tractor stolen from his property two years ago. The result, Gate Sentry, is shown by the inventor here. The gate retracts into the wall instead of opening inward or outward.

The same electronic connection can also turn the laneway lights on and off.

A communication box is available with a switch to open and close the gate from the house.

The operation can also be tied into an automatic alarm system.

Ken's left nothing to chance. Should the power go off, the 'Gate Sentry' can be operated manually.

"I'm creating a market," Ken says of his invention. "So far, the response has been excellent."

Ken and Debbie Oag moved to Uxbridge from Markham

five years ago. They have a baby boy, Erik, seven months.

"This is a wonderful place," Ken says of the town. "We love it here."

He's anxious others enjoy their properties equally as much. The 'Gate Sentry' could be the answer.

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4. How do zoning by-laws affect you?
5. Who can vote in local government elections?
6. Who is your councillor?
7. Who is your school board member?
8. What does a Committee of Adjustment adjust?
9. Where does your local government get its money?
10. What happens if you don't pay your property taxes?

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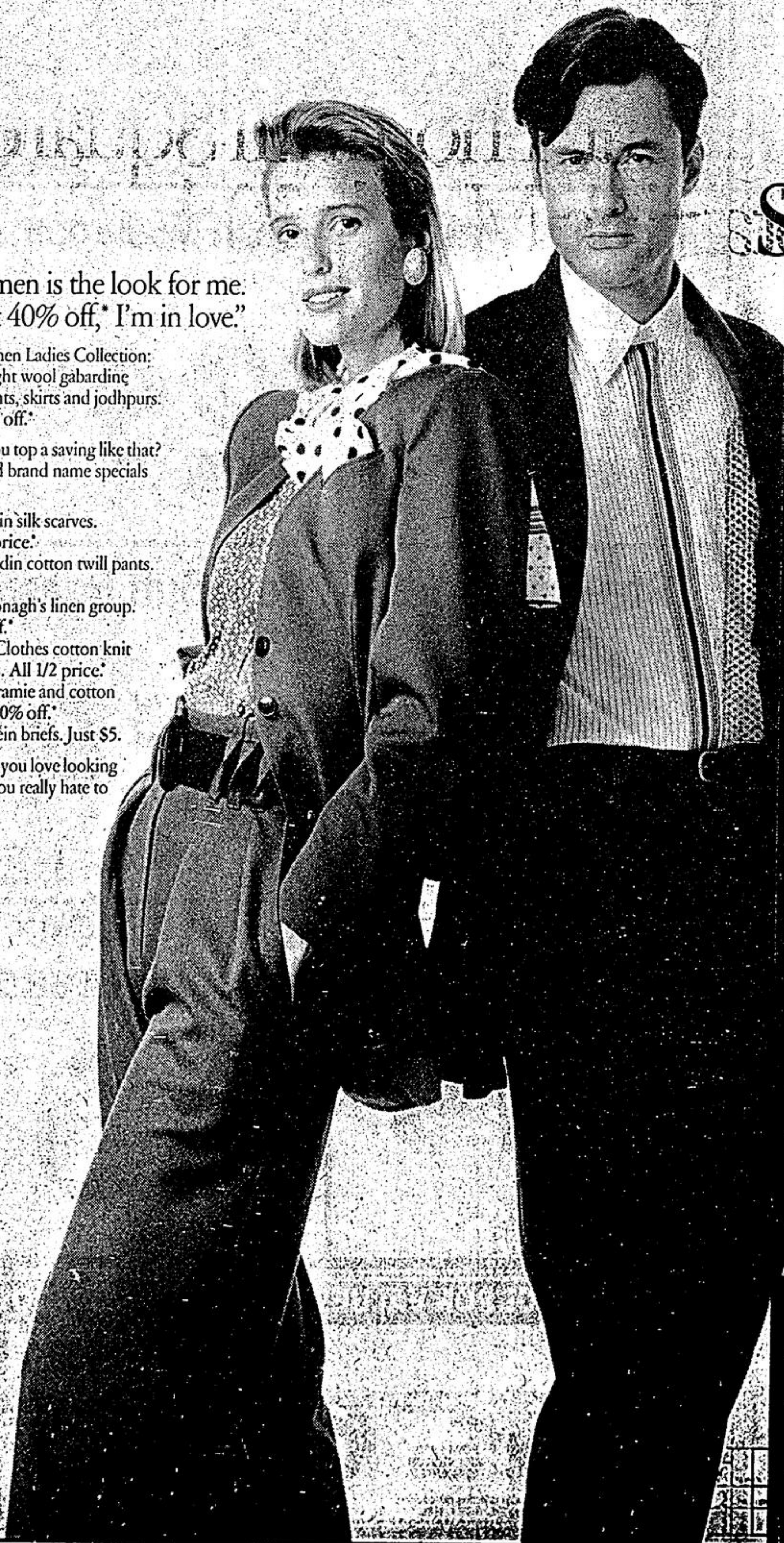
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