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announcement

Local Business Owners... "Dealer of the Year" Again!



Congratulations to Roy and Luisa Mazzola (centre), owners of seven Sun Shades Stores, who recently won the "Dealer of the Year" award from Shade-O-Matic for the second consecutive year! On hand from Shade-O-Matic to present the award were Norbert Morracco and Donna Battiston. The Mazzola's were also among the industry's top businesses invited by Shade-O-Matic to receive their award during a Caribbean Cruise in April.

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"TWO GOOD"

Congratulations Phillip, for earning sales professional of the month for a second time this year. In retrospect, your decision to give up soap operas in order to dedicate more time to your career has certainly paid off - and now that they've canceled Melrose Place and 90210, well the sky is the limit.

As a 14 year veteran in the automotive industry, Phillip Hudson is a seasoned professional dedicated to serving your automotive needs. If you are currently in the market for a new or used vehicle, or are interested in leasing any make or model give Phillip a call. Remember, there is no substitute for experience.



PHILLIP HUDSON

Sales Professional of the Month, April 2000



PHILLIP HUDSON



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'Sophisticated' ring cracked by cop

From page 1.

revoked bail for Owens, Bailey and Lumsden.

The decision set off an emotional courtroom scene as Owens clasped one hand over his face and rocked back and forth in his seat, while Lumsden's mother began crying loudly behind him.

Bailey's young son broke down in tears in the arms of his grandfather before Minden's decision and the pair left the courtroom.

"As it relates to the children, I have sympathy. But at the same time, the defendants had ample time to make arrangements to the possible outcome," explained Minden, who said he considered the men flight risks.

"There is strong motivation they will do just that, given the sentencing they now face. These are very serious crimes."

Sentencing has been set for June 9.

"It's the first time I've seen this type of robbery that sophisticated," Westgate said after the hearing.

In each of the six incidents, two men would attempt to enter the bank on a Saturday morning as employees arrived for work. Once inside, they would use walkie-talkies to communicate with the third person outside, who would inform the pair when another bank worker was approaching.

According to testimony during the 45-day trial, the bank robbers knew the names of the employees, their ages and where they lived. They used the information to intimidate the employees.

But Minden credited the investigative work of York Regional Police Staff Sgt. Bruce Ringer, who figured out how the robbers found their information.

Working with the Ministry of Transportation, Ringer determined the bank employees' licence plates had been run through the Canadian Police Information Centre, a computer system police

forces use regularly.

Ringer, who at the time was working in the holdup squad, was able to trace the licence numbers back to the same terminal Owens used in Niagara Falls.

Ringer became suspicious after an employee at a Thornhill bank told police she received a telephone call at her home from a man saying he would rob the branch following a failed attempt on Feb. 23, 1997.

"When I initially discovered we were looking at a police officer, I was extremely disappointed," Ringer said. "I had to overcome that and get on with the job. He is one of our own and a black mark on the profession."

During Minden's sentencing, court heard Owens and Bailey — who worked together for Brink's Canada in Toronto — would plan the robberies together. Bailey would monitor the banks on Saturday mornings, recording the licence numbers of employees and forwarding them to Owens.

Police arrested Bailey and Lumsden on July 5, 1997, following a failed robbery at a Bank of Nova Scotia in the Agincourt Mall. Hands was arrested inside his Dodge van parked outside the branch.

At the scene, police recovered a hand gun, duct tape, disguises, a police scanner and walkie-talkie.

Owens was arrested the same day while on duty in Niagara Falls, where he has been on paid suspension. A search warrant revealed a list of licence plate numbers of employees at several of the branches under investigation, while phone records matched calls from Owens' wife's cellular phone to Bailey's residence.

Meanwhile, Niagara Regional Police will suspend Owens without pay and he will face a breach of trust charge and additional charges under the Police Services Act, said Niagara Regional Police Staff Sgt. Lorne Lillico, who was in court Thursday.

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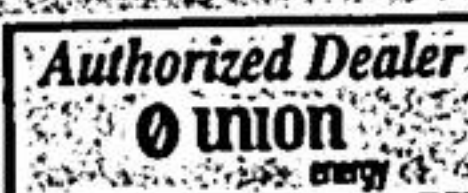
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