

At Stouffville's Canadian Tire store

# Suspect pulled knife on guard

BY KATHLEEN GRIFFIN  
Staff Writer

A male suspect escaped the clutches of a Canadian Tire security guard in Stouffville Saturday and police want the public's help in catching him.

A man was spotted by the security inside the store about 3 p.m. He appeared to take a silver utility knife and a separate blade cover out of their packaging and slip them into his pocket.

The guard followed him outside the store and a struggle began, with the suspect telling the guard he was on parole and to let him go. The suspect then pulled the knife from his coat and tried to stab the guard in the stomach, police said.

A female then joined the fray, digging her nails into the guard's hands while the male suspect managed to wriggle out of his jacket and flee.

The woman may have fled in a vehicle.

He's described as white, about 40, five feet, 10 inches tall, about 200 pounds, and clean shaven. He was wearing blue jeans, a black T-shirt and a dark green coat. The woman was white, about five feet, four inches tall, 110 pounds with brown hair in a pony tail.

If you have information call 881-1221, ext. 7500 or Crime Stoppers at 222-TIPS.

## Four purses snatched within one hour

Police are searching for suspects in four purse snatchings which occurred within an hour in a one mile radius in Milliken Mills Wednesday night.

Between 7 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. four lone females were robbed of their purses as they walked home.

A 43-year-old victim was walking on Downside Road, near Larksmere Crescent about 7:10 p.m. when she was approached from behind by three males who grabbed her purse and fled.

Twenty minutes later, another 43-year-old woman had just parked her car in her garage on William Honey Crescent. As she was closing the garage door, a suspect asked her for directions to the local school before grabbing her purse from her arm. He fled in a red, mid-sized, four-door car.

Just before 8 p.m., the next female victim was walking along Aldergrove Drive near Old Kennedy Road when she realized she was being followed.

She began to run, but three suspects soon caught up with her. One was brandishing a four-inch knife, waving it near

her face. They grabbed her purse and a plastic bag she was carrying and fled in a silver, four-door vehicle.

The silver car may also have been involved in the Downside Road robbery as well, police said.

Finally, about 8:15 p.m., a 30-year-old woman was walking home from the library along Carey Crescent when she was approached by two suspects, one of which was holding a club in his left hand.

The victim was struck on the right cheek as the suspects tore the purse out of her hands.

There are a total of four suspects, three black and one white, all between the ages of 12 and 18 and all wearing jeans and dark shirts.

"These robberies all occurred within a one-mile radius," said Sgt. John Sheldon. "There's a good chance people were on the street around that time and saw something, and their information would be very valuable."

He advises women not to walk alone, to use a buddy system when possible or find a ride. Be aware of your surroundings and if you see something suspicious, call police.

Anyone with information is asked to call 881-1221, ext. 7541 or Crime Stoppers at 222-TIPS.

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