

York Region carjackings on increase

BY GIANNI COLAVECCHIA
Staff Writer

More York Region residents than ever are falling victim to carjackers and police are concerned about the increasingly violent tactics used by the brazen bandits.

Regional police say many of the victims are being forced to give up their vehicles to armed thieves in their driveways or near their homes.

"We have had a growing number of these since the new year, which tells us we've had at least two groups doing these things," Det.-Sgt. Bill Faulkner

said.

What's worse, the head of York Regional Police's holdup squad added, is "copycat" groups are jumping into the lucrative crime. Carjackers can fetch vehicles and valuables worth nearly \$100,000 in a few minutes, often with little trouble.

The thieves are no longer content with ripping off "high end" motor vehicles such as top-of-the-line BMWs and Mercedes-Benz SUVs or more affordable vehicles like low-end Lexus models.

These days, they are stealing cash or valuables too — and attacking victims with brutal violence.

In one recent incident, at least two armed suspects beat and stabbed a Markham man during a failed carjacking in Richmond Hill.

Other recent incidents in the last month alone prove carjackings and abductions are cause for concern in the region:

- Last month, a 25-year-old Vaughan woman was struck on the head with a handgun as a carjacker stole her 1999 Honda Civic. She refused to give up her keys.

- Another Honda Prelude was stolen

See MANY, page 14

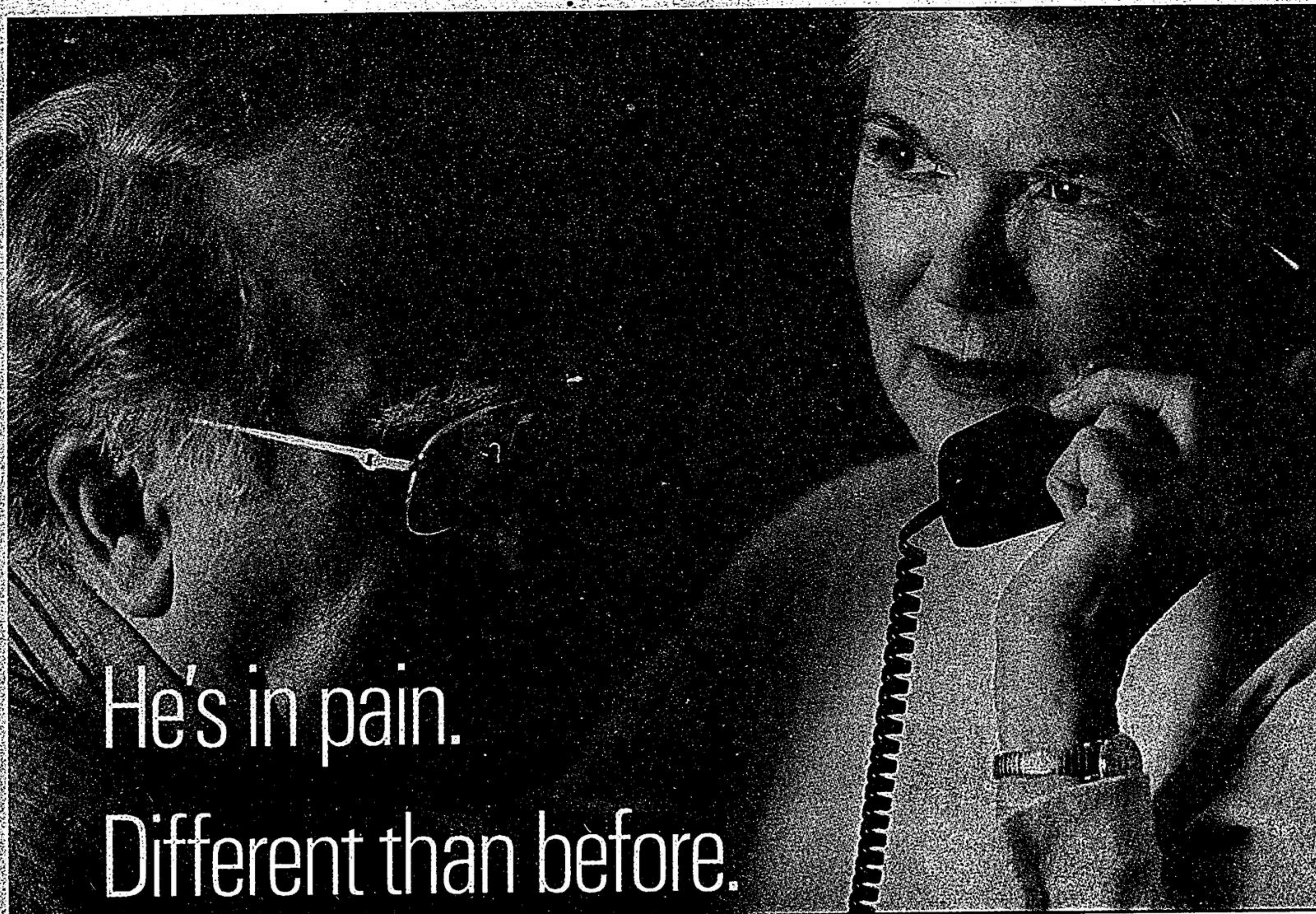
DeNure Tours

Britain & Europe

1-800-668-6859

Call for a free brochure

Reg. # 21032991



He's in pain.
Different than before.

What should I do?

Introducing Telehealth Ontario 1-866-797-0000.

Now you have quick, easy access to a Registered Nurse whenever you have a health question. Whether you're calling because of an illness or injury or with a general health question, a Registered Nurse will be there to give you the information and advice you need.

Of course, Telehealth Ontario will not diagnose your illness, nor does it replace the need for regular medical check-ups. But it will help in situations when you are not sure what to do or where to go. Qualified Registered Nurses are trained to help you decide about appropriate options for care.

The call is always free. The call is always confidential. So keep this number handy.

Free access to Registered Nurses 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Working Together For a Healthier Ontario

www.gov.on.ca/health

 Ontario

Operate Your Own Home Day Care with Wee Watch

We offer:

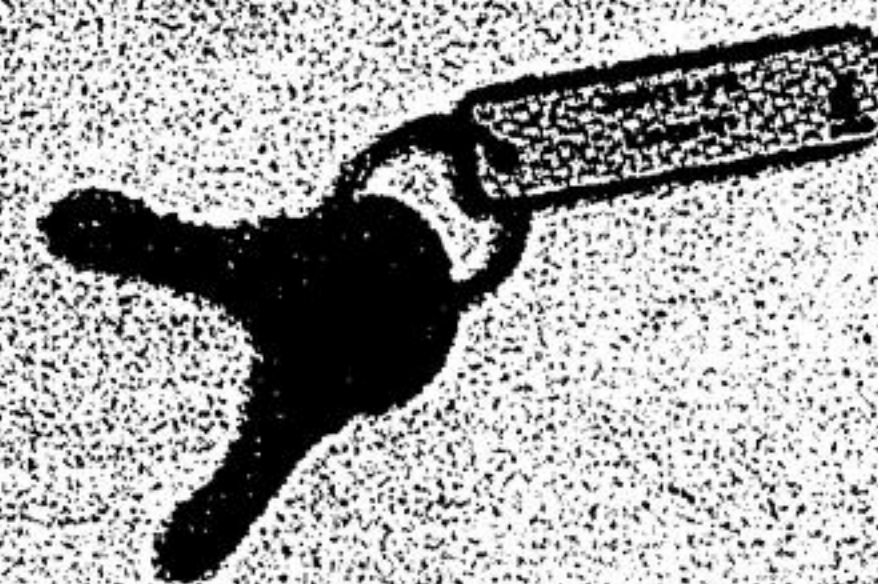
- Training and ongoing support
- A regular pay cheque
- Payment for statutory holidays and child sick days
- Some equipment
- Resource materials, craft supplies

To join us, call:

479-9671

Wee Watch
Private Home Day Care
A Licensed Agency
www.weewatch.com

The War Amps



At Your Service

The War Amps Key Tag Service has returned almost a million sets of lost keys since 1946.

When you use your key tags, you protect your keys AND you support War Amps programs — like CHAMP.



For more information, or to order your 2001 key tags, contact The War Amps:
E-ZEE ACCESS Tel.: 1-800-250-3030, Fax: 1-800-219-8988, or www.waramps.ca
Charitable Registration Number: 13196 9628 RR0001