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Street gangs not problem in region, police say

BY ROGER VARLEY
 Staff Writer

Although York Regional Police were involved in Wednesday's arrests of scores of gang members in

Scarborough, as well as the months-long investigation that preceded the raids, York doesn't have street gangs like those plaguing Toronto in recent years, a senior officer says.

Supt. Randy Horne, head of investigative services, said some crimes in the region are committed by Toronto gang members, but they do not have a significant impact.

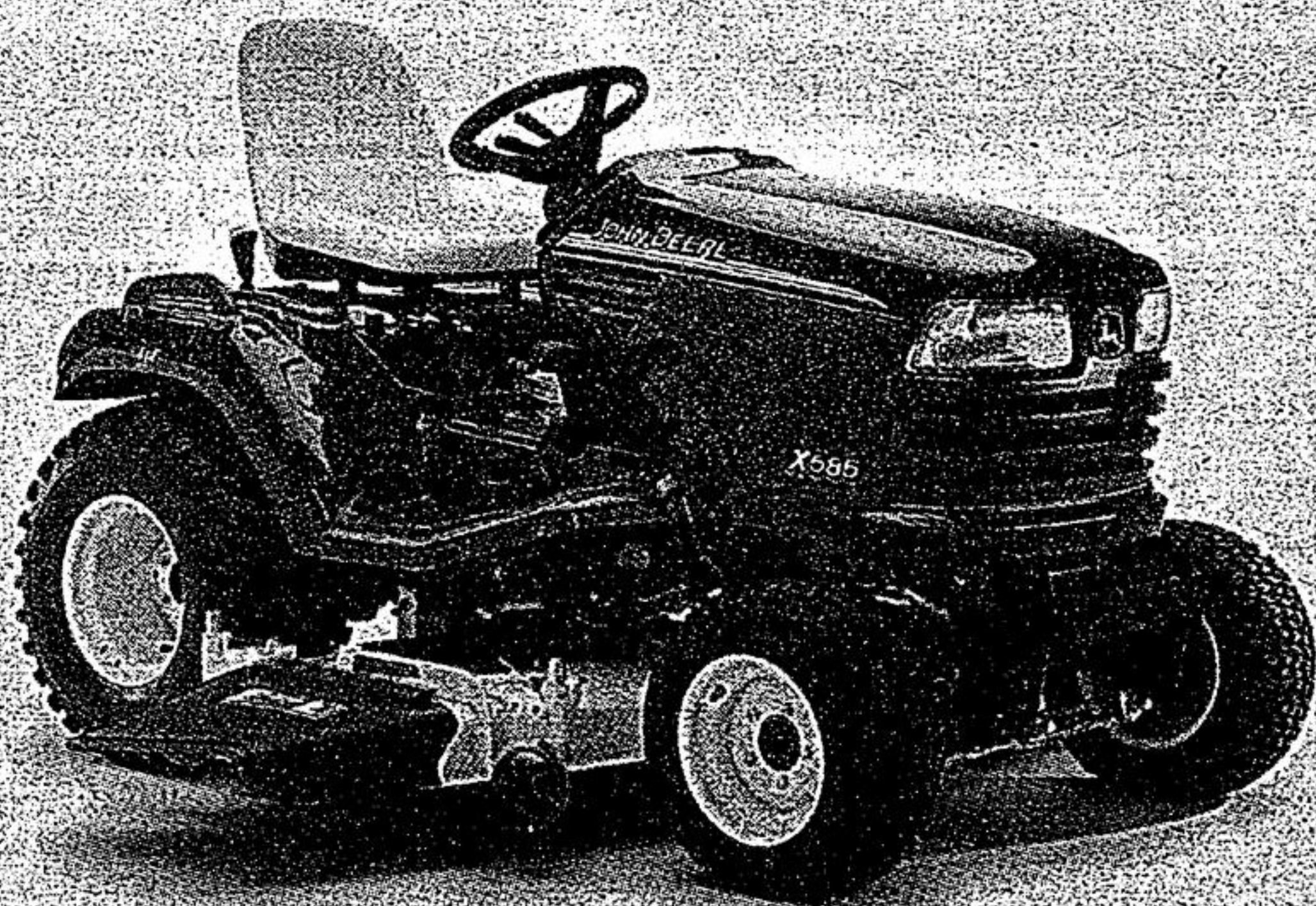
"There is some spillover," he said. "Some of those targeted by Toronto police were wanted for crimes in York Region."

For example, Omar C. McParlane, one of the 65 people arrested in an effort to

crush a gang called the Malvern Crew, was wanted by York police in conjunction with an armed robbery in Markham in February. York police, assisted by a Toronto tactical unit, made the arrest.

Wednesday's early morning raids, an operation called Project Impact, involved hundreds of officers from several forces, many of whom spent the past year investigating the Malvern Crew, one of the biggest gangs in Toronto.

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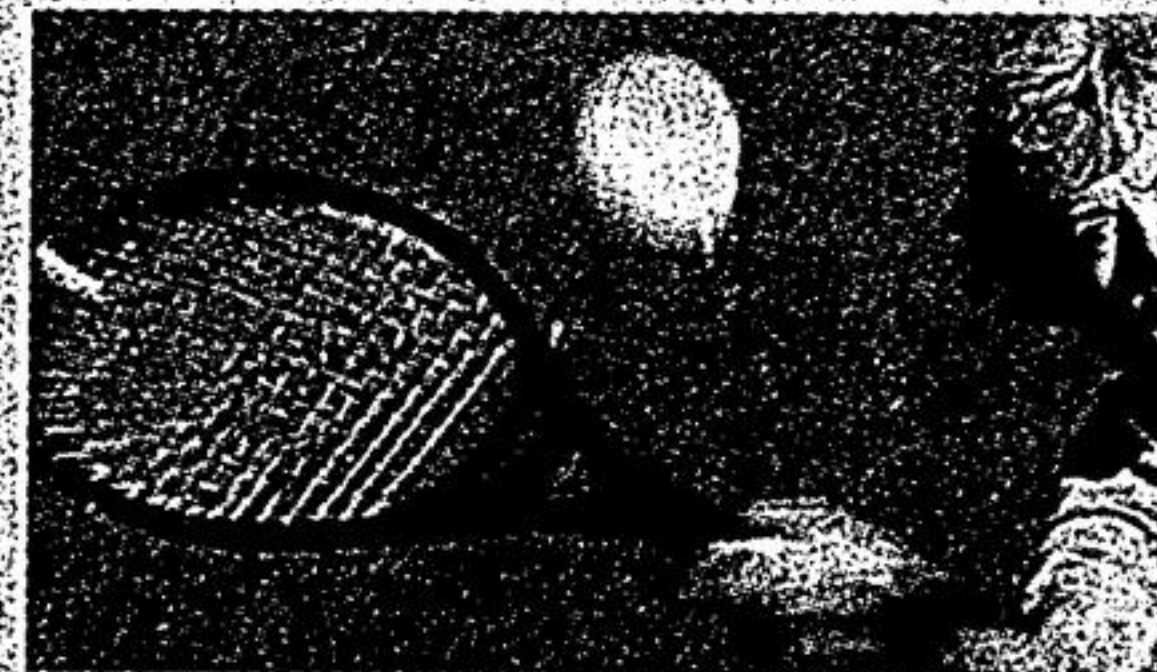
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