

HOME SHOW: YRMG event next weekend

Police making 'house' calls at show

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The Markham Fall Home Show will have a new addition this year.

York Regional Police will be spreading their safety message and introducing the public to safety-related vendors by joining forces with York Region Media Group to present the annual show at the Markham Fairgrounds next weekend.

The advice police provide can be extremely useful, Const. Melanie Moffatt said.

"It gets people thinking, thinking like a bad guy," she said.

For example, when you move, have the locks and keys changed because you never know how many pairs of the house keys could be out there, Const. Moffatt said.

Vendors at the show will include alarm and surveillance companies.

With mortgage fraud a growing crime, one vendor may be a title and insurance company. A pool and spa company will attend.

"It is about meeting neighbours, creating communities," Const. Moffatt said.

Another information provider will be Crime Stoppers.

Child Find will be fingerprinting kids, while the Home Depot will bring pre-

cut wood for children to work on.

Another company will demonstrate a reinforced front door that cannot be kicked in.

Every day, the police go into homes following break-ins and see safety measures that could have helped.

Improving safety in your home could be as simple as putting an old hockey stick in place to secure a sliding door.

"It is educating (people) on what you can do to prevent that happening. It is like a do-it-yourself project," Const. Moffatt said.

You don't have to buy anything if you don't want to, she added — just take advantage of the tips.

The RIDE truck, which tests for drinking and driving, will be there and can do breathalyzer tests. The public can also check out the truck.

Last year, the Markham Fall Home Show hosted some 10,000 visitors. Organizers are expecting larger numbers this year.

The Crime Prevention Home Show at the Markham Fairgrounds runs Friday Oct. 15, 1 to 9 p.m., Saturday Oct. 16, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday Oct. 17, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Markham Fairgrounds, 10801 McCowan Rd.

For more details visit www.yrp.ca or visit www.markhamhomeshow.ca

BOLD THIEVES HIT O'BRIEN, LORI AVE.

You're in Break-in Central.

York Regional Police reminded residents yesterday to take extra precautions to secure their homes and vehicles as a growing trend of break-ins hits Markham and Whitchurch-Stouffville. Most of 365 reports of break-ins came from Stouffville and the north end of Markham.

Thieves gained access to homes through unlocked front and back doors, open garage doors and windows. Cash, jewelry, electronics and tools have been taken — often while residents are home sleeping.

Someone entered a home on O'Brien Avenue in Stouffville through an unlocked front door overnight Sept. 24 and discreetly rummaged through the home, stealing electronic items while residents and family dog were sleeping upstairs.

Early on Oct. 2, suspects are believed to have entered a Lori Avenue home through an unlocked, side garage door. They left with electronics, cash, credit cards and a black four-door, 2001 Volvo S60. Keys to the car are believed to have been in a purse, belonging to one of the residents. Residents were sleeping upstairs.



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

York Regional Police officer Shayne Mulligan fails to break a window protected by a 3M Window Film as 3M's Kevin Hiller looks during a promotional event for the Markham Home Show at the Community Safety Village in Whitchurch-Stouffville Wednesday.

13, Stouffville Sun-Tribune ■ www.yorkregion.com ■ Saturday, Oct. 9, 2010

Loyalty Can Be Costly

Shopping Around Still The Key To Saving On Car Insurance

How Much Is Your Loyalty Discount Really Worth?

If you're like most consumers, you worry that switching insurance companies means losing your "loyalty discount". The truth is that switching insurance companies may cause you to lose your loyalty discount (if you had one in the first place), but that doesn't necessarily mean you'll pay more for car insurance or that you can't save a bundle in the end. The fact is, some insurance companies may provide a small discount on your premium if you've been with them for a long time — but that small discount can quickly become irrelevant if another company has a rate for you that is significantly less than what you're currently paying. After all, what good is 5% off of an annual rate of \$1,500 (a \$75 savings) if you could pay \$1,100 (a \$400 savings) with another company?

How Much Do Rates Really Differ Across Companies?

The rates charged by different insurance companies to insure the same driver, with the same car, for the same coverage, can vary by hundreds and even thousands of dollars. And with so many insurance companies providing car insurance in Ontario, odds are you are not currently insured with the company that offers the best rate for your driving profile. This is where InsuranceHotline.com can help by providing an independent, unbiased rate comparison from over 30 top insurance companies to find you the lowest rate available for your profile. Even better, once your lowest rate is found, InsuranceHotline.com can connect you with a licensed insurance broker or agent to seal the deal. It's Fast, Safe and FREE.

What If My Insurance Company Finds Out I'm Shopping?

Sadly, the misguided fear of repercussions from their current insurer is what keeps many consumers from taking action and shopping around. The truth is that your insurance company has no way of knowing if you are shopping around for a better rate. In fact, even if they did know you were checking out your options, you cannot be penalized in any way for trying to find a better deal.

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Unlike most of its competitors, InsuranceHotline.com does not sell insurance, is not a licensed broker or agent, and is not owned in whole or in part by an insurance company. This allows InsuranceHotline.com to be completely unbiased when providing insurance quotes and keeps its focus solely on finding the lowest insurance rates for consumers. By contrast, most websites offering to "compare insurance quotes" are owned by or affiliated with insurance brokers or agents and are therefore only capable of quoting rates from the limited number of insurance companies they represent, typically no more than 4 or 5.

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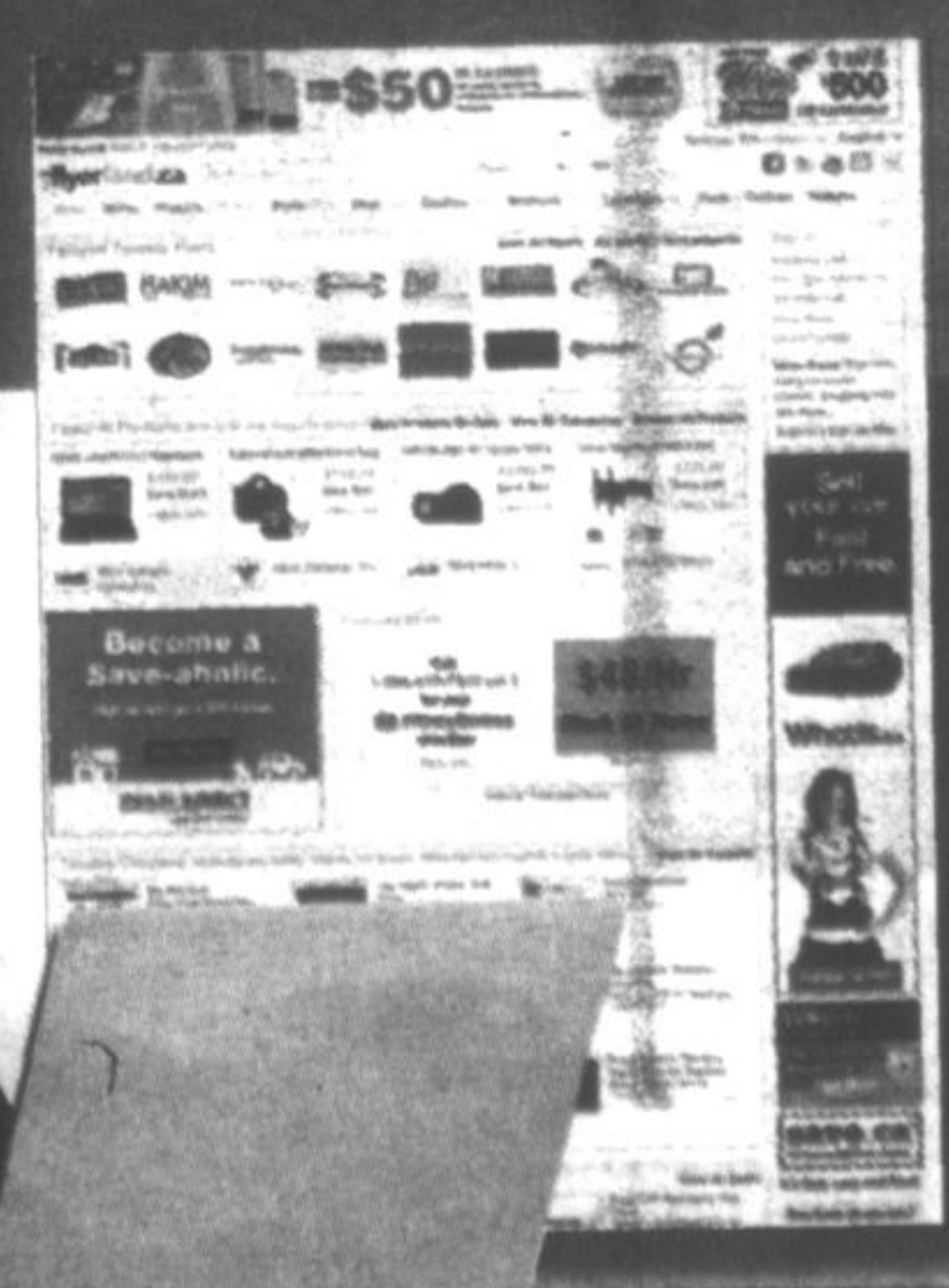


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