

SECURITY TIPS

# 'How not to get your door kicked in'

In the wake of a rash of home burglaries Joanne Iannuzzi, chairperson of the Stouffville Policing Centre, prepared the following tips for residents:

It is important for people to realize that a basic deadbolt lock on most residential front doors is inadequate because people get a false sense of security from them.

Making your access doors secure is an important step in protecting your home. Good, solid doors improve your chances of keeping burglars out.

*But nothing beats a good solid front door with reinforcement that will stand up to someone trying to kick it in. It is your front-line defense.*

When selecting a door, enquire about what the door is made of and how heavy it is. Look for doors without windows, or doors that do not have windows within arms reach of the inside lock and handle.

For added protection, you should consider installing a u-shaped escutcheon plate around the lock set at the door's edge. This will help prevent entry from prolonged kicking or extreme pressure.

For immediate and affordable target hardening, York Regional Police recommend a product, which has proven effective in reinforcing the front door of most houses. On the Safe Door Systems website (www.safedoor-

systems.com) there is a video demonstrating the effectiveness of the product and another on how to install it with common household tools.

The Safe Door System is available at Home Depot for \$49.99. If you are not handy with tools, then perhaps you could enlist help from a friend or source a carpenter from the newspaper. Schell Home Hardware in Stouffville has a list of local contractors.

Neighbourhood Watch is a great way to engage your neighbours to watch out for each other.

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, also known as CPTED, provides excellent safety and crime prevention tips you can apply, to make your home less of a target for crime.

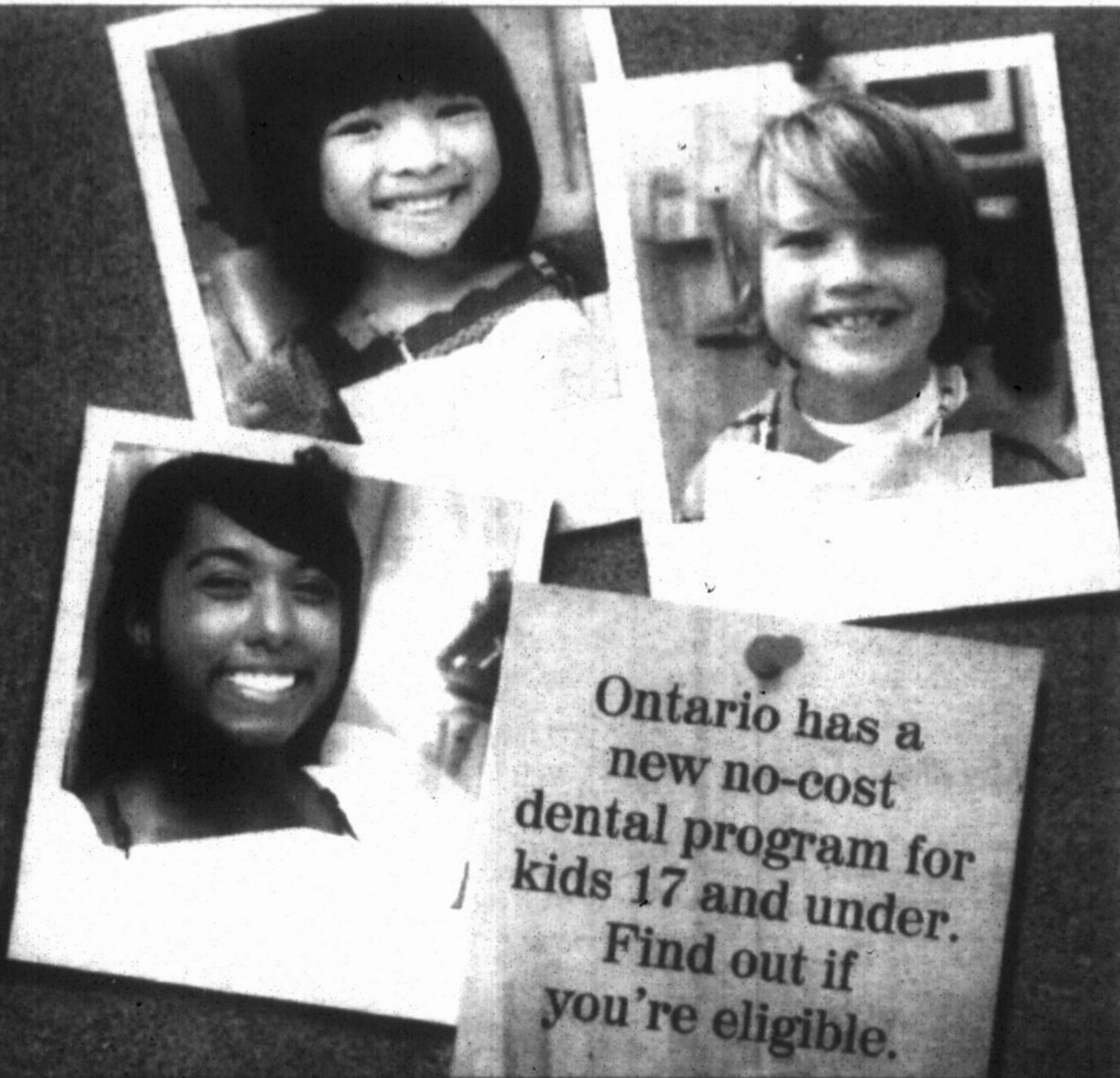
But nothing beats a good solid front door with reinforcement that will stand up to someone trying to kick it in. It is your front-line defense.

Councillor Susanne Hilton has arranged a presentation with York Regional Police Dec. 12 at 7 p.m. at the new town council chambers, 111 Sandiford Dr. in Stouffville. Turn south off Main Street at Sandiford Drive, where the McDonald's is located. The new town office is the second building on your left. Come in the front door.

You will learn about Neighbourhood Watch, CPTED and it is a great opportunity to ask questions on how to protect yourself and your family.

It would be great to see you there.

-Joanne Iannuzzi



Ontario has a new no-cost dental program for kids 17 and under. Find out if you're eligible.

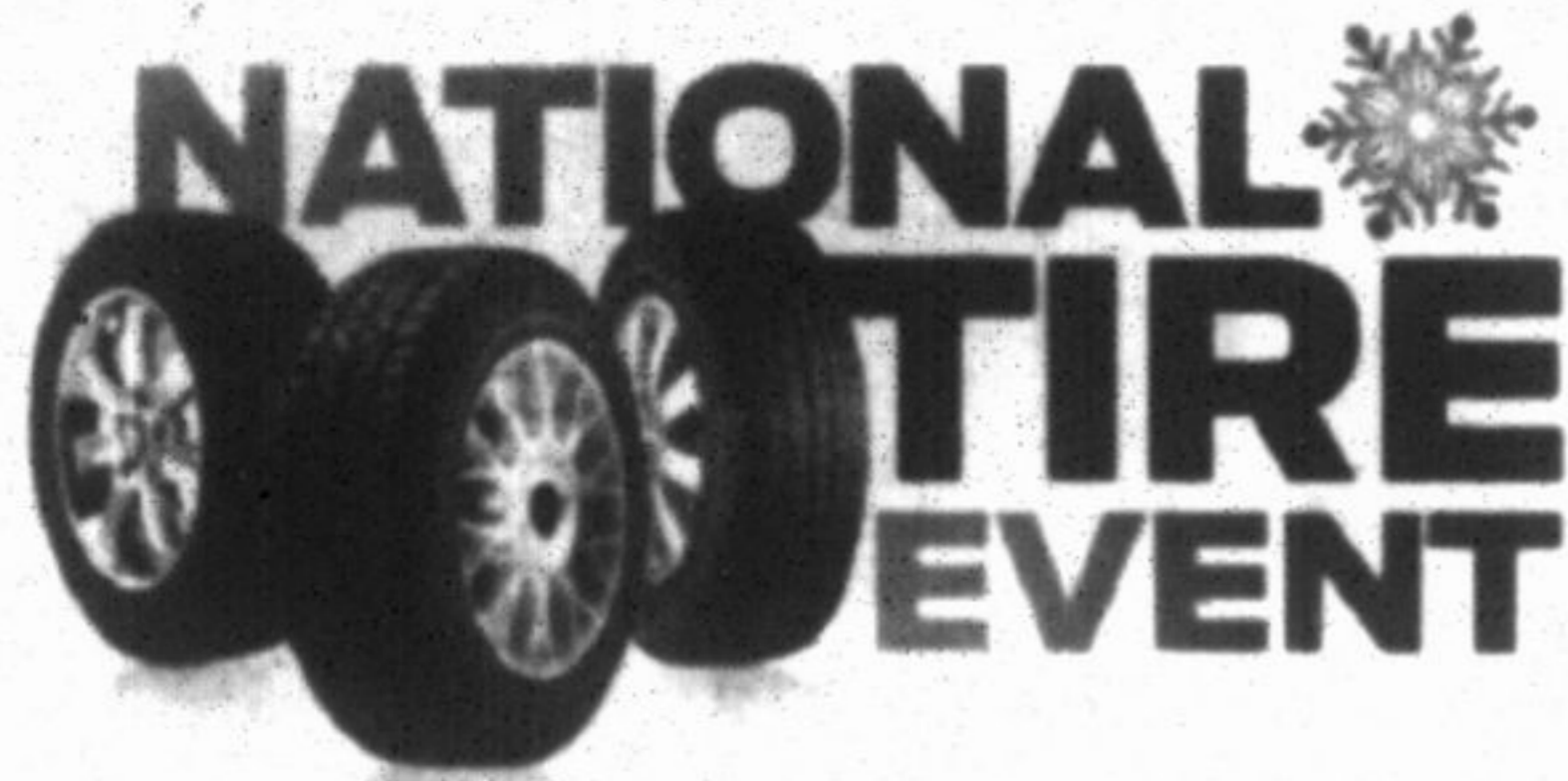
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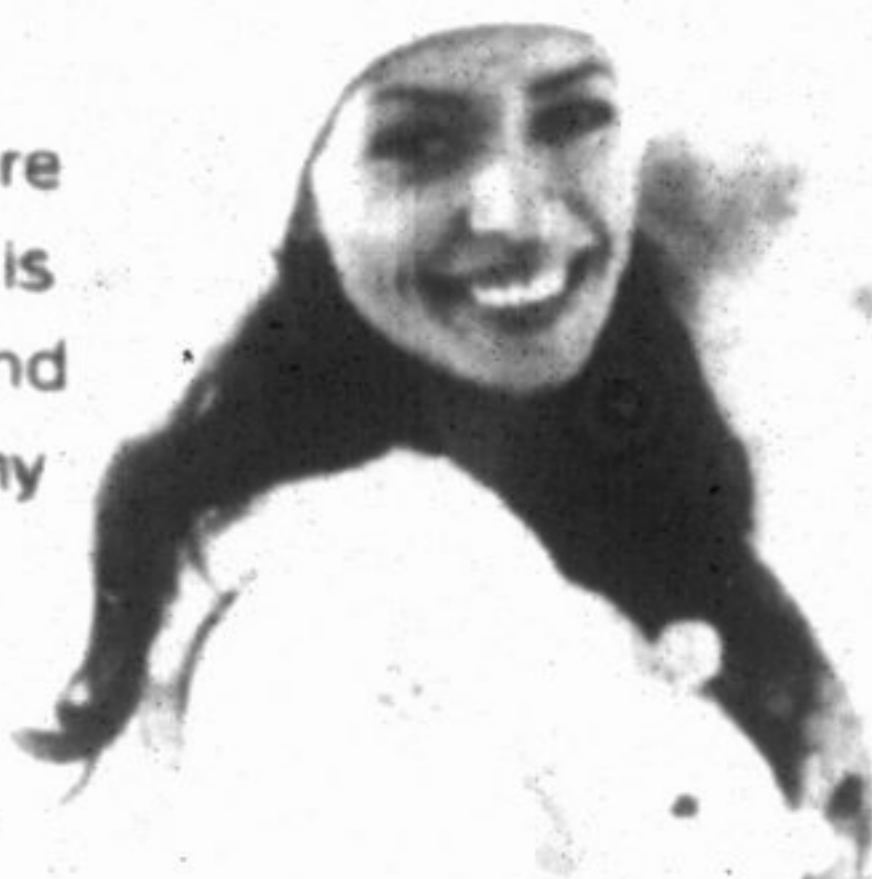


For more information please visit [www.york.ca/teeth](http://www.york.ca/teeth)



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