

Crime rate inches down in city

There has been an overall decrease in crime statistics in the first six months of this year compared to last, according to RCMP crime statistics.

However, two notable offences bucked the trend: arson and counterfeiting.

"We've noticed a decrease — they're small decreases — but a decrease in the number of assaults, all assaults: sexual assaults, aggravated assault, assault causing bodily harm, with weapons, they're down very, very slightly," says the RCMP's Constable Mike Herchuk. "And also property crimes. The most common ones reported are break and enters to businesses, residential break in and to other out-buildings are also down and thefts from motor vehicles are down as well."

The figures show the number of break and enters, residential or otherwise, has dropped 12 per cent while violent crimes, such as assault, have dropped eight per cent.

Constable Herchuk attributes the decrease to two very specific things: more public awareness and more public

apathy. He says the public is much savvier now, knowing how to crime-proof their homes and businesses, knowing how to avoid potentially dangerous situations and places.

"The other factor, of course, is there's an apathy factor. People who have been a victim may not be reporting the crimes for various reasons."

But while the decrease in the more common offences is good news for local law enforcement, there has been an increase in two unusual areas.

"There are two that we don't normally hear about, but occasionally they do happen. The first one is arson, and they're up considerably — about 33 per cent over the same time period last year. And the second one is counterfeiting. The number of counterfeit bills that have been passed in the city in the first six months of this year has superceded what we had in the first six months of last year."

In fact, there has been a surge in counterfeit \$100 bill across the country, especially in Ontario, where many businesses refuse to accept the bills.

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BARRISTERS AND SOLICITORS

PRESENTS YOU BE THE JUDGE

by Claire Bernstein

GREAT EGGSPECTATIONS

"Isn't this adorable?" Kate held up a baby sleeper at the department store.

"It's lovely. But aren't your twins a little old for that?" Allison asked.

"Actually, I'm thinking of having another baby," Kate said nonchalantly.

Allison was stunned. "No way! Since when is there a new guy in your life?"

"There isn't. Fred's the only man I'd ever want to have children with."

"YOUR EX-HUSBAND? The man you got a restraining order against during your horrible divorce?"

Allison's jaw dropped.

"Oh, he was a lousy husband, and I'd never want him back. I just want another kid with him. Look how wonderful the twins are. That man has great genes." Kate browsed through the strollers.

"But you can't even stand being in the same room with him!" Allison frowned.

"Who said anything about the same room? I'm not even going to tell him. I have some embryos left over from the last fertility treatments."

"I need a drink," Allison said. They headed for the food court. Allison's mind was racing as she sipped her cappuccino. "What if Fred finds out?"

"That's not my problem. He signed away his rights on the consent forms. Gotta run. I'm seeing Dr. Carlotti for the embryo implant. Wish me luck!" Kate grinned and disappeared into the crowd. Allison sat in the food court, deep in thought.



Finally, she picked up her cellphone. "I hope Kate will forgive me, but I don't think this is fair to her ex."

Allison called Fred.

Meanwhile, Kate was undergoing the procedure at Dr. Carlotti's. "I've inserted the embryo, Kate. Everything looks great."

Suddenly, Fred burst through the door. "Unhand that embryo!"

"Fred! What are YOU doing here?" Kate gasped, clutching her paper robe tightly around herself.

"Nurse!" Dr. Carlotti barked. "Remove that man!"

A week later, Kate called Allison in a fury. "How could you tell Fred! He stormed into the clinic like a deranged man. And big surprise...the procedure didn't take. Fred probably upset the embryo, or my uterus or something."

"Maybe it's for the best. Kate,"

Allison said sheepishly.

"Well, it's not best for ME!"

The next day, the bailiff showed up at Kate's door.

"What?! Fred is suing to stop me from using the embryos?!"

Kate was incredulous.

Fred jumped up. "Don't make me become a father because of a piece of paper, Your Honour! I'm divorced from this woman and shouldn't be forced to have more children with her."

Should Kate get the embryos? You! Be The Judge. Then look below for the court's decision. In court, Kate fought hard. "Your Honour, the consent form that Fred signed says I get the fertilized eggs if we split up."

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YOU BE THE JUDGE — DECISION

"Sorry, Kate, you can't use the embryos," held Judge Marlene. "A donor can't be compelled to be a parent against his will. People must have the freedom to decide whether to enter into a family relationship."

Today's column is based on a case from Massachusetts. If you have a similar problem, please consult Wilson, King & Company or a lawyer in your province. We are proud to bring you some of the current legal issues from across the country for discussion and debate. To provide compelling entertainment, we have fictionalized the names, the characters and the scenarios in the case. Any resemblance to real people is purely coincidental. In the interest of clarity and brevity, the legal issues in the case have been greatly reduced and simplified. Claire Bernstein is a lawyer and nationally syndicated columnist. Copyright 2001 Haika Enterprises. C28-3 (A9-3)



Beauty Secret of the Stars

Fight the physical effects of Aging

Aging starts deep within your cells which contain collagen — the binding element that literally holds your body together. As you age, collagen deteriorates and loses its natural elasticity, resulting in loose skin, thinning hair and brittle nails. One of the main components of collagen is silica. The effect of silica on physical appearance is being touted by personalities noted for their striking healthy appearance. According to an article appearing in the Swedish newspaper *halsoblast*, Joan Collin, Goldie Hawn and Barbara Streisand all credit their youthful appearance to Dr. Kervran's patented vegetal silica. Goldie Hawn was said to find his special water soluble extract of silica from spring horsetail extremely beneficial for growing thick, healthy-looking hair. Joan Collins and Barbara Streisand were quoted as using it for longer stronger nails and firm supple skin.

For the best quality in vegetal silica product, look for the name Flora Sil. The horsetail in Flora Sil is freshly harvested in the spring when it contains more soluble silica due to the concentration of bioflavonoids in the plant at the time.

RESEARCH BACKS IT UP...

Researchers Sullivan and Volcani at the Columbia University concluded that silica is an essential nutrient.

Dr. Kervran found silica to have a direct relationship with the absorption of all minerals especially calcium.

Holt and Osborne demonstrated in their research the essential role silica has in maintaining supple skin.

Dr. Kervan and Monceaux found that silica supplementation, fragile nails become normal in a relatively short period of time.

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