

Police say copycats put metal in food

STEPHANE MASSINON
CANWEST NEWS SERVICE

CALGARY – Grocery stores are struggling with a rash of food-tampering, with Calgary police saying yesterday that nine stores have now been affected by 11 separate incidents since January.

As he announced the two latest cases, Calgary police Chief Rick Hanson said police believe the recent food-tampering is the work of copycats.

“We’re frustrated because a few idiots who, for motives that are known only to them, are causing so much anxiety, putting so many people potentially at risk,” said Hanson.

“Because of these idiots, we have to devote a huge amount of resources, which we are, to investigate this. We will catch these guys.”

The food-tampering started in January with three incidents at one southwest Calgary Co-op store and looked to be resolved with the arrest of a woman.

But the incidents grew city-wide when Sobeys, Superstore, Safeway and Buy-Low stores were also targeted. Police have asked people to be vigilant in looking over the groceries they buy.

In each case so far, metal objects have been inserted into food. To date, no one has been injured.

Hanson also said police will no longer do media interviews to discuss food-tampering incidents but will notify when more cases arise.

“We firmly believe that at least some of these are copycat incidents and the constant attention given to each event is only fuelling this behaviour,” said Hanson.

CALGARY HERALD

Body modification gets under skin of police

DVD of surgery sparks investigation of tattoo parlour in Guelph

DOUGLAS QUAN
CANWEST NEWS SERVICE

In the seemingly no-boundaries world of tattooing and body piercing, artists no longer just poke and pinch parts of the body. They split tongues, create artistic scars by cutting or branding, and implant three-dimensional objects underneath the skin.

But how far is too far? It’s a debate rolling not only within the body-modification industry,

but among medical professionals – and even among law-enforcement agencies.

Police in Guelph, Ont., say they are considering criminal charges after receiving an anonymous package that contained a DVD showing genital surgery being performed at a local tattoo parlour.

But some in the industry say that if the surgery was performed with the client’s informed consent, they don’t see a problem.

“If you own anything, you own your body. If the state or society says no, we have more control of your body over you, you’re not free,” said Shannon Larratt, the Toronto founder of Body Modification Ezine, an online magazine.

“We’ve said it’s okay to play risky sports. Why can’t they make risks

with their own body?” he said.

But Dr. Richard Warren, a spokesman for the Canadian Society of Plastic Surgery, says some procedures clearly cross the line. He said life-threatening complications could result if the modifications are not performed properly.

“At some point, invasive body modification becomes practising medicine without a licence,” he said.

The anonymous packages in Guelph – each containing a DVD, a letter of complaint and photographs – arrived on March 2, and had been sent to Guelph’s public health office, city hall and the local newspaper.

The envelope had no return address and was marked “urgent,” said Janice Walters, manager of infectious disease control for Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health.

Officials turned over the package to police after viewing the DVD.

“It was obviously a surgical procedure in a non-surgical setting,” Walters said.

According to the Guelph Mercury newspaper, the DVD shows a labia-reduction procedure being performed on a woman as heavy metal music blares in the background. Hands and arms with distinct tattoos are visible but views of faces are fleeting and unclear, the newspaper reported.

It is clear that people in the room know the surgery is being taped.

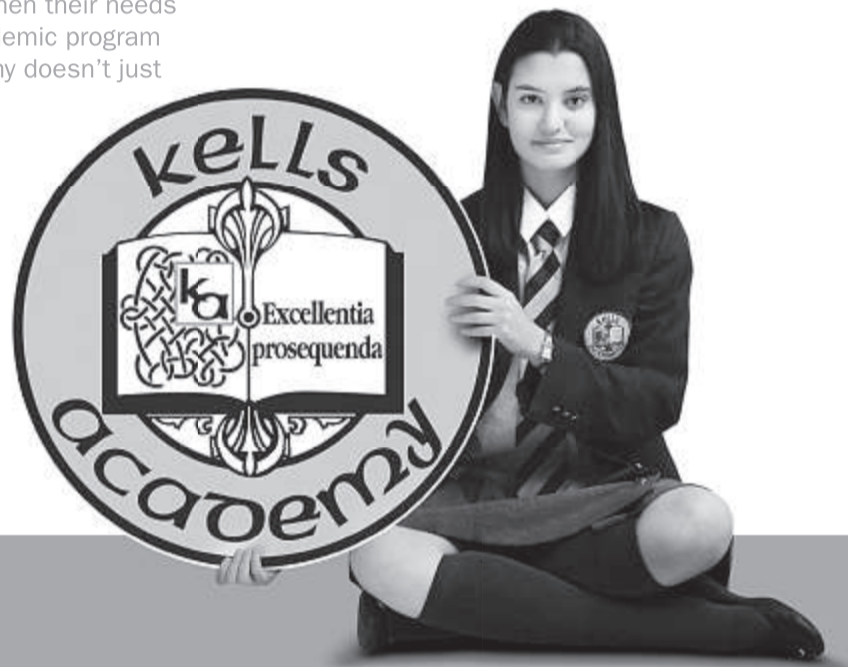
Guelph police Det.-Const. Kevin King said he and his partner were stunned by what they saw.

“We looked at each other. We have never seen anything like this come across our desk before,” King said.

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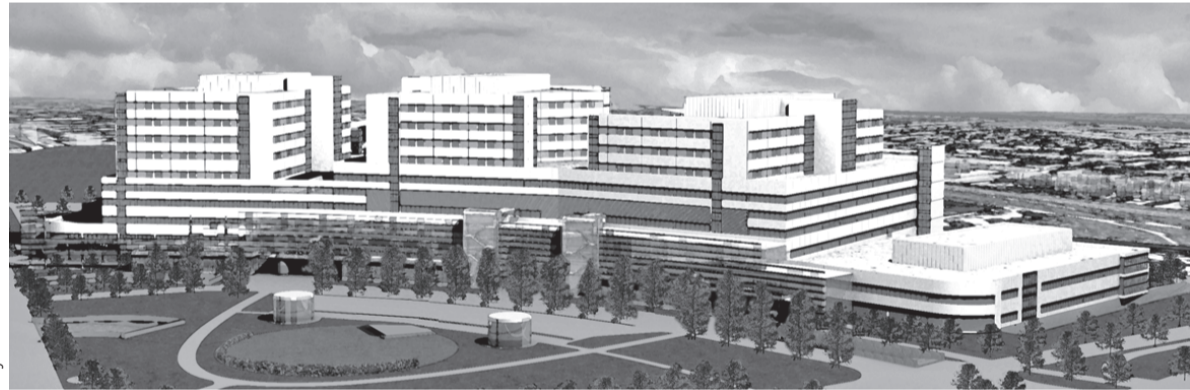
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The Glen Campus will unite on one site the Royal Victoria Hospital, The Montreal Children’s Hospital, the Montreal Chest Institute, a Cancer Centre and the Research Institute of the MUHC.

science and educational outreach. Our dedicated people and this project will make this possible.”

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The Glen Campus will be the new home of the Royal Victoria and The Montreal Children’s hospitals, the Montreal Chest Institute, a Cancer Centre and the Research Institute of the MUHC. Talented clinicians and scientists will have the 21st-century facilities to ensure that the population benefits from the most efficient, effective and proven healthcare practices across the lifespan. They will train new healthcare leaders and extend knowledge within the community and around the world. Finally, our investigators will accelerate our understanding of diseases, thus improving health care and contributing to our nation’s economy by attracting inquisitive minds and encouraging innovation.

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means being accountable for achieving the highest levels of quality, safety,

“With construction underway, we can focus our attention on completing the design, while continuing to address current operational priorities and push our Mountain and Lachine campuses forward...”

— The Hon. Arthur T. Porter,
Director General and CEO of the MUHC

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