

ATMIA

Media Clippings

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Media Clippings ATMIA December 1-15

Man arrested for cutting locks, stealing from lockers at gyms

[Cornwall Seaway News](#), 12 December 2016

CORNWALL, Ontario - Janifar Hashem, 32 of Montreal was arrested on December 10th, 2016 and charged with the following:

- Theft under X3
- Possession of Property Obtained by Crime
- Possession of B&E tool (bolt cutters)
- Breach of Probation X4 (failing to keep the peace and for attending two local gyms)
- Breach of JP Recognizance X6 (failing to keep the peace and be of good behaviour and house arrest x2, being in the driver's seat of motor vehicle, being in possession of document that does not belong to him and attending a gym)

It is alleged on Dec. 10, 2016 the man attended two local gyms, cut the locks on some lockers and removed property. Police were contacted and an investigation ensued. During the investigation the man was located in a parking lot on Brookdale Avenue. He was taken into custody, charged accordingly and held for a bail hearing.

2000 ATM illégaux découverts

[Journal de Montreal](#), 12 December 2016

L’Autorité des marchés financiers (AMF) semble décidée à faire le grand ménage dans les guichets automatiques. Depuis six mois, elle a découvert près de 2000 guichets ATM qui opéraient jusqu’ici sous le radar, soit près de 30 % de tous les appareils en activité au Québec.

L’AMF ne s’en cache pas, les révélations de notre Bureau d’enquête au printemps ont pu amener des exploitants à vouloir montrer patte blanche aux autorités.

«C’est certain que ça a un effet si le dossier des guichets se retrouve dans *Le Journal de Montréal*», a dit le directeur général, contrôle des marchés à l’AMF, Jean-François Fortin, en entrevue.

L’organisme dit aussi avoir redoublé d’efforts pour informer les exploitants de guichets de leurs obligations légales.

Notre Bureau d’enquête révélait en avril la présence de nombreux guichets privés ATM clandestins aux quatre coins de la province, en violation flagrante d’une loi adoptée en 2013 visant à lutter contre le blanchiment d’argent dans l’industrie.

«Depuis le 1er mai, 1220 nouveaux guichets ont été accrédités. Six cents sont aussi dans le pipeline pour être accrédités», a dit M. Fortin. Selon lui, cela porte la proportion de guichets légaux au Québec à près de 83 %.

Cet été, *La Presse* avançait que plus de la moitié des guichets privés ATM étaient illégaux, un chiffre que l’AMF juge toutefois exagéré. «Il y a encore du chemin à faire, mais on s’approche d’un taux d’accréditation satisfaisant», a dit M. Fortin. Selon lui, des efforts importants ont été faits, notamment auprès de petits commerçants des communautés culturelles.

«On a fait traduire certains [messages] en chinois pour s’assurer de bien se faire comprendre», dit-il.

Poursuites pénales

L’AMF a dit que de nouvelles poursuites pénales étaient à prévoir contre les exploitants qui persistent à rester dans l’ombre. Dix poursuites pénales ont déjà été déposées en août.

Deux hommes et cinq entreprises font aussi l’objet d’accusations concernant la transmission de faux renseignements.

Selon l’AMF, la loi a prouvé son utilité pour lutter contre le blanchiment. «C’est très apprécié des policiers. On constate le déplacement de certains phénomènes hors du Québec», a dit M. Fortin.

- ombre de guichets ATM au Québec environ: 6200
- Nouveaux guichets enregistrés à l’AMF depuis mai: 1200
- Demandes en cours de traitement: 600
- Nombre de guichets qui étaient accrédités avant notre reportage: 3420

Une importante entreprise possédant environ 500 guichets ATM au Québec a été vendue à la fin de l’été après une enquête de la police.

Selon l’AMF, la Sûreté du Québec a révoqué au printemps le rapport d’habilitation sécuritaire obtenu par l’entreprise montréalaise Insta-Cash en 2015. Ce rapport est obligatoire pour obtenir un permis de guichets de l’AMF.

Notre Bureau d’enquête avait révélé en avril des liens d’affaires discutables entre un des propriétaires d’Insta-Cash, Paolo Petrilli, et le mafieux Marco Pizzi.

Pizzi a été arrêté au début mai lors du démantèlement d'un réseau de présumés importateurs de cocaïne.

Il a échappé de peu à une tentative d'assassinat en août.

Paolo Petrilli a été associé dans plusieurs entreprises avec Pizzi. Une de ces entreprises de gestion (une compagnie à numéro) était active au printemps.

Fraude fiscale

Une autre, dont Petrilli a été actionnaire, a été reconnue coupable de fraude fiscale en 2013 et condamnée, avec Pizzi, à des amendes de 136 000 \$.

Plutôt que de répondre à nos questions, l'entreprise nous avait fait parvenir une mise en demeure.

Selon nos informations, l'essentiel de l'entreprise a été vendu 6 millions \$ à Access Cash, le n° 1 des ATM au Canada.

Chris Chandler, le PDG, nous a confirmé «avoir acquis des actifs reliés à un portefeuille de guichets d'Instacash» à la fin août.

M. Chandler, qui est aussi porte-parole de l'Association de l'industrie ATM, a nié tout lien entre cette transaction et une enquête de la police. «Nous étions déjà en discussions pour acheter», a-t-il assuré.

Alberta police link many of province's 130 ATM heists to just two gangs

[CN News Canoe](#), 10 December 2016

Alberta RCMP commanding officer Marianne Ryan credits data-driven policing for linking a series of seemingly random ATM thefts to organized crime.

“It's providing a compass for police to go out and track it down,” said Ryan, adding, “that is a tremendous resource.”

More than 130 ATMs were stolen from 60 communities across the province in the first six months of 2016. Criminals were using stolen vehicles and heavy equipment to literally rip the machines out of banks, credit unions, convenience stores and gas stations.

“The number kept growing,” said Ryan. “We gave it the full court press. We put some analysis around it to direct our law enforcement officers.”

After careful examination by trained criminal intelligence analysts, detectives began to notice patterns in where and how the thefts occurred.

“Not until you get into the investigation and separate fact from fiction do you really know what you've got,” said RCMP Staff Sgt. Dave Knibbs, with the Alberta Law Enforcement Response Team's Combined Forces Special Enforcement unit, who worked on the case.

Further investigation revealed not only were many of the ATM thefts connected, they were likely being orchestrated by two organized crime groups suspected of using the cash to fund illegal drug and firearms transactions.

Knibbs said investigators identified two gangs, one operating in the Bentley and Rimbey area earlier in the summer and another stealing ATMs around Saddle Lake in the late summer and early fall.

In October, officers announced they had laid 101 charges against seven suspects in connection to the ATM thefts, with violations ranging from vehicle thefts and break-and-enters to armed robberies and firearms trafficking.

Jonathan Andrews, 23, of Bentley and Shane Hicks, 37, of Rimbey face 63 charges in connection to a series of crimes between May 5 and June 12.

Tyrone Hunter, 23; Byron Hunter, 42; Rodney Hunter, 37; Francis Cardinal, 22; and Abigail Hunter, 45, face 38 charges in relation to thefts of ATMs and other crimes committed around Saddle Lake and Edmonton between February 2014 and August 2016.

“The ATM thefts were just one of the criminal activities that these groups were engaged in,” Knibbs said. “It was very good that we were able to be able to take enforcement action when we did for the sake of public safety.”

The damage caused to businesses often exceeded the value of the cash inside the ATMs.

In September, criminals used a backhoe to tear out part of the wall of Sherbrooke Grocery in Edmonton to get at an ATM, while ATM thieves in Red Deer broke into a Shell gas station on Gasoline Alley in October by cutting a hole in the roof and climbing down a rope.

Ryan called crime analysts “one of the most valuable assets on a unit,” allowing police agencies to focus resources more effectively while tracking trends that could help officers get ahead of the crime.

“It’s doing what we want to be doing, which is catching bad guys and putting them in jail,” Knibbs said.

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A sample of ATM thefts in 2016:

Jan. 22, 2016 – Warburg – Two suspects in a stolen dark blue 2000 F250 took an ATM and 100 lottery tickets from a Fas Gas at around 4 a.m.

Jan. 30, 2016 – Crossfield – Airdrie RCMP were called to a break-and-enter at an Esso gas station, where investigators believe = suspects broke in by damaging an exterior door and tried to get access to an ATM. When their efforts were unsuccessful, the suspects fled in a four-door pickup.

Feb. 3, 2016 – Leduc – At 5:15 a.m., police responded to an alarm at a Money Mart on 50 Street where it appeared an unknown vehicle crashed through the front entrance and dragged an ATM out.

Feb. 29, 2016 – Thorsby – RCMP responded to an alarm at a Bank of Montreal at 4:45 a.m. Earlier, a garbage truck had been stolen, which investigators believe was used to break into the bank and steal an ATM. The garbage truck was later abandoned on Township Road 492. Police believe the suspect fled in a clean, white early 2000s Chevrolet or GMC truck with an extended cab. This was the second ATM theft reported in Thorsby, though it was not clear if the two events were directly related.

March 14, 2016 – Lamont – Fort Saskatchewan RCMP were called to a break-and-enter already in progress at a Service Credit Union at 5014 51 St. According to police, a tractor was stolen from a nearby business and five suspects used it to break into the credit union in an attempt to steal the ATM. The thieves weren’t able to flee the scene with the ATM, which was recovered on site along with the stolen tractor and another stolen vehicle.

March 28, 2016 – Stirling – In the early morning, Raymond RCMP were called to the Street Side Market at 218 4 Ave. where a white male suspect, approximately smashed the front door, stealing a small safe and an ATM. The suspect fled in a white GMC pickup with blue trim.

April 1, 2016 – Lacombe – Red Deer RCMP and Lacombe police teamed up to investigate after a 1998 green Toyota minivan was stolen from the Collicutt Centre in Red Deer on March 31. Police believe this van was then used by three men to steal the ATM from the lobby of the Lacombe Hotel at around 12:30 a.m. April 1. Just over an hour later, the van was found on fire near Taylor Drive and Kerry Wood Drive with the stolen ATM inside.

April 14, 2016 – High River – Police were called to a break-and-enter at the Rexall drug store around 7:20 a.m., where the front window had been smashed and the ATM inside the store had been stolen. Investigators believe the theft occurred at around 3:45 a.m. and the suspect vehicle had been spotted by police driving without its headlights on just minutes after. The vehicle was found later that morning in a field west of High River.

April 20, 2016 – Linden – At around 3 a.m., three men entered the Mountain View Credit union and, using chains attached to a truck, ripped the ATM from the building. A light-coloured Ford F-350 was seen dragging the ATM east on Township Road 304. The vehicle was later found on fire on Township Road 304 and Range Road 253. The ATM was located nearby.

May 3, 2016 – Red Deer – At around 4 a.m., two suspects were caught on camera using a white Ford Econoline van to pull an ATM from the wall of a Scotia Bank at 2950 22 St. RCMP later found the van and the now-empty ATM abandoned in a wooded area behind Lagrange Crescent nearby. Witnesses reported seeing another vehicle, possibly a truck, leaving the area shortly after.

May 5, 2016 – Caroline – At around 4 a.m., Rocky Mountain House RCMP responded to an intrusion alarm at the Alberta Treasury Branch. Two suspects used a stolen front-end loader to drive through the entrance of the bank, stealing an ATM. The front-end loader was abandoned outside. Police later found a stolen truck, trailer and the ATM. Later, two suspects were caught “red-handed” breaking into a post office in Mirror. Jonathan Alfred Andrews, 24, from Bentley and 37-year-old Jonathan Alfred Andrews of Rimbey were later charged in connection to an alleged crime spree in central Alberta.

May 11, 2016 – Okotoks – At around 5 a.m., Okotoks RCMP were called to a theft in progress at a TD bank on Southridge Drive. Officers were on the scene within minutes, but the suspects had already fled in what was believed to be a red Ford F-150, leaving the ATM in the back alley.

May 17, 2016 – Mundare – Vegreville RCMP were called to investigate suspicious vehicles outside the Mundare Servus Credit Union at around 5 a.m. after a witness reported seeing a truck backed up against the front door of the bank. The front windows had been smashed. Suspects had attempted to steal an ATM using a stolen truck and some tow straps, but fled in a vehicle stolen from Smokey Lake before they could get any cash.

May 20, 2016 – Sturgeon County – Around 4 a.m., Morinville RCMP responded to a break-and-enter at the Al Razzaq Food and Gas Convenience Store near Highway 37 and Highway 2. Three suspects broke into the store by breaking the glass in the front door. One thief put a rope around an ATM while the driver pulled it out. The third suspect grabbed cigarettes and a cash register. All three suspects fled in a stolen green F-250 extended cab pickup, which was found abandoned later that morning.

July 18, 2016 – Red Deer – Two men attempted to steal an ATM from the East Hill Fas Gas on 30 Avenue and 22 Street at around 2:45 a.m. One suspect used a sledge-hammer to smash the glass door. Another suspect tried to cut a hole in the ATM with a portable saw. When their attempts were unsuccessful, the pair fled in a white truck with a covered licence plate and a tow strap attached to the back. Brandon Robertson, 20, was charged with break-and-enter with intent, possession of stolen property over \$5,000 and failing to comply with an undertaking.

July 26, 2016 – St. Albert – Shortly before 4 a.m., St. Albert RCMP were called to an alarm at the Shell gas station on 31 Fairview Blvd. When police arrived, they found a window smashed and extensive damage to an ATM inside.

Sept. 12, 2016 – Thorsby – Between 3:30 a.m and 5:30 a.m., Thorsby/Breton RCMP responded three break-and-enters at businesses where two men tried to steal an ATM at the Warburg Hotel in Warburg, the Seely's General Store in Alder Flats and the Buck Creek gas station. While the thieves didn't make off with an ATM, they did steal cash from Seely's General Store before fleeing in a white Ram 1500 with an extended cab.

Sept. 27, 2016 – Edmonton – Northwest division officers were called to the Sherbrooke Grocery store near 121 Avenue and 127 Street where investigators believe a stolen backhoe was used to break through the wall of the business to steal an ATM inside.

Oct. 14, 2016 – Red Deer – RCMP responded to a break-and-enter at a Shell station on Gasoline Alley at around 5 a.m. after two suspects cut a hole in the roof and climbed down a rope to get inside and steal an ATM. The suspects used a sledge-hammer and a crowbar to break open the ATM, which was found just west of the gas station.

Oct .25, 2016 – Stony Plain – Between midnight and 4 a.m., RCMP believe thieves broke into a Fas Gas on the corner of 48 Street and 50 Avenue and stole the cash register and an ATM.

Nov. 23, 2016 – Penhold – At around 4:15 a.m., RCMP were called for a break-and-enter in progress at the Penholder Tavern. A male suspect tried to break down the door with a stolen farm tractor and steal the ATM inside. The tavern owner interrupted the would-be thief, who fled the scene on foot.

Dec. 2, 2016 – St. Albert – RCMP officers were called to a Shell Gas Station on Fairview Boulevard where two suspects backed a white Ford truck into the front window, smashing it. Once inside, the suspects loaded an ATM into the truck and fled.

Police release photos of suspect in ATM theft in Glace Bay

[Cape Breton Post](#), 9 December 2016

GLACE BAY, N.S. — Members of the Cape Breton Regional Police Service have released photos of the suspect in the recent theft from an ATM machine at the Glace Bay Central Credit Union that cleaned out the bank account of a single mother of three children.

“We’re hoping the public can help identify the individual in the photos,” said Desiree Vassallo, spokesperson for the police service.

Vassallo said it is believed the individual in the photos could be responsible for the theft at the ATM. She said the person responsible will be looking at a charge of theft.

She said the investigating is continuing. Anyone recognizing the individual in the photo is asked to contact police at 902-563-5151 or Crime Stoppers, 902-562-8477.

On Nov. 15, April McKinnon, a library clerk at the Cape Breton Regional Library branch in Glace Bay, left the library at about 4 p.m. for her dinner hour, stopping at the Glace Bay Central Credit Union to do a transaction with the teller. On her way out of the credit union she stopped at the ATM to check her balance. She then headed to Foodland for groceries but when she reached the parking lot the bank called and told her someone had found her banking card. MacKinnon went back to the credit union and retrieved her card but after trying to use the card for groceries, the card was declined. She went back to check her account to discover someone had tried to withdraw \$400 and when they couldn’t do so, withdrew \$200, cleaning out her account.

McKinnon, who lived in low housing for many years and finally rented a house in Sydney last year, said losing the \$200 did hurt her, as although it might not seem like a lot of money to some people, it was for groceries and some Christmas presents for her kids.

McKinnon was thrilled over the news on Friday that the suspect’s photo was being released to the public in hopes of apprehending him

“The whole point of why I came forward was to let people know that there’s people out there that do this. He needs to be stopped, he needs to be apprehended and thrown in jail. I hope someone can identify him so police can make an arrest.”

In the meantime, following the stories in the Post on the theft, McKinnon said there are not too many places she can go without being recognized.

“A lot of people will ask if I’m the one and I’ll say, ‘Yes, that’s me.’

“They say they are sorry of what happened to me and will share stories of things that happened to them.”

The Cape Breton Post received several emails from kind-hearted people wanting to donate \$200 to McKinnon. The credit union staff chipped in and gave McKinnon \$200 and said some people also came in and made deposits in her account.

McKinnon said she only shared her story to warn people so this wouldn't happen to anyone else and was overwhelmed by the public's response.

"I'm grateful for the public's support and generosity. Anyone who recognizes the person, please call police or Crime Stoppers."

Riley's Bakery ATM stolen

[Cornwall Seaway News](#), 9 December 2016

CORNWALL, Ontario - In the early morning hours of Thursday, Dec. 8, someone broke the glass door to Riley's Bakery on Pitt Street and stole the Automated Teller Machine (ATM).

The Cornwall Community police say that they have been notified of the incident and that the investigation is ongoing.

The Riley's Bakery Facebook page, which is not run by Rob or Ana, but by a fan, asked anyone with any knowledge about the crime to come forward.

The post got a lot of positive reaction and implored Rob and Ana to keep up their good work despite this adversity.

"To Rob and Ana: Please do not get discouraged, both of you and your business are loved dearly by our entire community," the post reads. "We are all behind you, and we love you. We WILL find who did this."

Many commenters on the post also had words of encouragement.

"Sorry to hear, please keep your spirits high. You're an amazing couple," wrote one Natalie Ann. "Always bringing joy to people through your amazing treats and eats! Know that in this terrible situation you have an entire community supporting you. Because you're that amazing and awesome."

This is the second break-in at Riley's this year.

Deachman: A bunch of signs the world is ending — not counting Donald Trump

[Ottawa Citizen](#), 9 December 2016

Far too many of our favourite souls were called away this year: [Leonard Cohen](#), Mose Allison, David Bowie, Muhammad Ali, Prince, Neville Marriner, Shimon Peres, Gene Wilder, Mahasweta Devi, Gordie Howe, Harper Lee, Alan Rickman, Florence Henderson, and that other guy, you know ... whatshisname, that old guy, he was in all those shows, with the dog, oh and he did that TV ad, too. ... He was good.

And with each addition to the sad list, the year 2016 seems more cold and grey, as if these men and women have taken with them to the great beyond that share of light and grace which they had brought to our lives, leaving us a measlier, parsimonious world, pocked with small-minded threats, bald-faced lies, email inheritance scams, Canadian values tests, ludicrous ATM charges and troglodytes of the world wide web.

So, as the days darken, the season turns and 2016 draws to a stumbling, fumbling close, one might be forgiven for asking, in a weaker moment: Have the end times finally arrived? Does Judgment Day draw nigh?

The sun might now turn black as a sackcloth of hair and the moon red as blood, as we desperately take selfies of ourselves to see if we might bear the mark of the chosen on our foreheads (“No, wait, that’s my thumb on the lens.”)

Perhaps, the heraldic fanfare ringing in your ears is not, in fact, part of the Muzak playing at Walmart as you consider shelling out \$39.86 for a LEGO® City Advent calendar. Instead, it may be the distant blasts of seven trumpets getting closer and louder, announcing the arrival of the Apocalypse world tour — ironic T-shirts available at the merch table during the intermission for millennials keen on Snapchatting the whole thing. (*Damn, why can’t I find a brimstone emoticon?*)

And we wonder whether John was a fervent literalist. For just as we no longer measure our arks in cubits and largely agree that more than 6,000 years have passed between the creation of Everything and the resurgence of beard wax, some modern-day liberties can surely be taken with the old-school Doomsday predictions.

With that in mind, here are some signs that the Armageddon, like objects in your side-view mirror, is closer than you think:

Locusts and fake golden retrievers

“And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth, and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.”

Yes, good old-fashioned locusts, the kind that blacken skies and destroy crops. The world apparently hasn’t seen really biblical plagues of locusts since the latter half of the 1980s, although 2016 has done its best to buck that trend: In January and February, Argentina saw its largest swarms in 60 years, with 100 outbreaks affecting more than 700,000 hectares of land, an area slightly larger than Prince Edward Island. Just imagine, for a moment, the devastation were P.E.I. covered from stem to gudgeon in locusts — the whole Anne of Green Gables industry would wither, and what good would that province be then, really?

A few months after Argentina's outbreak, officials in Russia declared a state of emergency (and you know how Vladimir hates doing that) as locusts destroyed about 170,000 hectares of corn. And the United Nations' Locust Watch website warns now that a couple of large outbreaks of Desert Locusts began occurring in late October and November, in Mauritania and Sudan, because, well, Sudan doesn't already have enough to deal with.

But if the buzzing insect hordes can serve as harbingers to our looming final storm, so, too, may several other perilous portents from the wider animal kingdom.

Look no further than man's best friend: There are those cafés and luxury spas, where at the latter you can have an exorcism performed on your misbehaving Fido, or buy a full-body canine onesie as a "solution" for dogs who shed. Blueberry shampoo facials for pets are a thing, as are pet weddings. Beer for dogs is increasingly popular: Belgium's Snuffle Dog Beer, for example, or Bowser Beer, or a vegetarian option — Dawg Grog — made from Oregon mountain water.

Social petworking is perhaps another indication that we have too much free time and bandwidth. One such site, Furency: The Social Petwork, is an application that lets pets "share their special moments with other pets, with assistance from their pet parents.

"While using the app," Furency's website promises, "pets will gain digital points, or Furency, that let's them see how they stack up against other pets in the world." Tell me this won't simply lead to more pet counselling than already exists, followed, inevitably, by depression then homelessness. "Hey, buddy, buy me a bottle of Bowser and I'll tell you a real sad story. It's rough out there."

Elsewhere in the animals-gone-wild world, toy manufacturer Hasbro, following its 2015 launch of a robotic cat aimed at seniors, has this year come up with a robotic Golden Retriever puppy that nuzzles your hand when you pet its cheek, activates its heartbeat when you stroke its back, and goes to sleep when you ignore it. Personally, I'm holding out for the robotic grandparent that bakes you cookies when you tell it you love it.

Gluttony is the new famine

"And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger..."

It would have been ridiculous 2,000-plus years ago to think that an overabundance of food could possibly wipe out mankind and, as a result, precious few dire warnings on the possibility were ever issued. Rather, starvation seemed the likeliest enemy, what with those locusts and all.

Today, though, with genetically modified foods and preservatives running amok and obesity levels rising exponentially, only the chronically poor are at serious risk of starving. (One in nine people globally were chronically undernourished in 2014-16, according to the United Nations.) The rest of us will eat our way to extinction, in glorious, gluttonous style.

Consider the epiphanous rebirth of Spam, that godawfullest of "luncheon meats" popularized during the Second World War, when its chief benefit was that it had the shelf life of a hammer. With a 100-gram (3-1/2 oz.) serving containing 41 per cent of your recommended daily intake of fat, and 57 per cent of your salt allotment, it's no surprise that the frequently mocked "food" is finding its way onto tony restaurant menus. New York's Suzume sushi restaurant offers patrons a Spam musubi, while

Manila Social Club in Brooklyn teases corpulent customers with Spam fries. And if the hipsterization of Spam isn't by itself a sign of the decadence that will be listed as civilization's cause of death, perhaps Manila Social Club's unique dessert, the Golden Cristal Donut, will. Each doughnut is filled with a mousse made from Ube, a purple sweet yam from the Philippines, and a gelée made with Cristal champagne. It is then covered in Cristal icing, sprinkled with 24-karat gold dust and hand-gilded with 24-karat gold leaf. Each one costs \$100 US, although the price drops to just over \$83 apiece when you order a dozen.

Why, there's even Spam With Real Hormel® Bacon, which will certainly make the end times more palatable. Bacon, in fact, may well be the Official Flavouring of the Coming Cataclysm®, masking everything from toothpaste to ice cream. When my name is called, I expect to be drunk on bacon-flavoured bourbon mixed with bacon soda, eating bacon jelly beans, wearing bacon sunscreen and cologne and squeezing bacon-scented pillowcases between my knees. And, of course, squealing like a pig.

While we await the ultimate crisping, our food obsessions can be further sated with the Smarter® Fridge Cam, which takes a photo of our fridge contents every time we open the door, allowing us to check on our inventory 24/7 via Smartphone. Additionally, you might want to get a Smarter® Mat or three. These are essentially scales upon which one stores peanut butter, cereal, coffee, licorice — what-have-you — with the app reminding you when you're running low on each item. Seriously, who needs assisted suicide? We're doing it ourselves.

Sit back and let Tesla do the driving

"And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse, and he that sat on him had neither his hands on the reins nor his feet in the stirrups. And he looked not ahead of him but down at a device with which he could communicate a great distance, and his thumbs did twitch furiously. And his horse, relying entirely on the stars above for guidance, did steer himself into a tree."

The arguments put forward in favour of self-driving cars are plenty: fewer accidents, greater mobility for seniors, less congestion, more capacity, lower insurance rates, less fuel consumption and decreased levels of pollution.

Yet you may recall, if you're of a certain age, how personal computers were going to shorten the workweek and eliminate most drudgery and all paperwork. So how's THAT working out for you? You may recall, too, the grisly collision last May between a man driving a Tesla Model S electric car in autopilot mode and an 18-wheeler. The Tesla driver was reportedly watching a Harry Potter movie as his car zipped (mostly) underneath the truck's trailer.

Perhaps, between distracted driving and not driving at all (yet being behind the wheel), this is what the New Improved Judgment Day® will look like: a remake of the 1958 Disney documentary *White Wilderness*, in which lemmings were pushed into Calgary's Bow River (a stand-in in for the Arctic Ocean).

It almost bears noting that, as yet, autonomous cars can't discern pedestrians and bicyclists, but hey, it's not like most drivers have perfected that, either.

Everything new is old and worse again, or: What is colder than Ice Cube's career?

"The meek will inherit the sequel."

The Bible may have started this terrible trend of sequels, what with Testament and Testament II (later renamed Old and New), so it's not surprising that the word itself never appears in Revelations, or in any other Book for that matter. And while they're not new, the Marianas Trench of sequels may have finally been plumbed with 2016's offerings, leaving pause to seriously consider the possibility that humankind has not one original idea or story left to tell. And what could better herald the end of times than that?

The race to the bottom — or to The End, depending on your level of optimism — began last January, when theatre-goers, figuring that Ride Along 2, starring Ice Cube and Kevin Hart, could hardly be worse than the 2014 original, Ride Along, had their pockets picked to the tune of \$34 million over the film's opening weekend.

The onslaught continued, as Kung Fu Panda 3 begat Zoolander 2, which begat Pee Wee's Big Holiday, then Barbershop: The Next Cut (also with Ice Cube, as he moves toward a new new world order), followed by X-Men: Apocalypse — See? See? — Neighbors 2, Independence Day: Resurgence, The Conjuring 2, Now You See Me 2, Jason Bourne, Ice Age: Collision Course, Star Trek Beyond, Ghostbusters, Mechanic: Resurrection (a sequel to a remake), Jack Reacher: Never Go Back and, most recently, Bad Santa 2, which at least tries to give you a hint in its title. There were others, but who wants to be reminded? Oh, some may argue that Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Out of the Shadows was better than its predecessor, 2014's Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, but that's like saying boiled Brussels sprouts are better than anything Arcade Fire has done in the past decade — sure, but you don't have to like either of them.

If the sheer mass of terrible sequels this year is NOT an actual sign of the soon-to-be-released Big Bang 2[®], then it's certainly an argument in favour of it, as is next July's release of Spider-Man: Homecoming. C'mon, kids, we can stop this, but we ALL have to make the ultimate sacrifice.

Pokemon Go is the new orange is the new black

Time will reveal whether the recent downtick in Pokémon GO's popularity is simply the result of winter's approach, to be continued when global warming really kicks in, or whether, in fact, mankind has again just narrowly escaped a calamitous extinction, this one marked by the deadened expressions of half a billion players (judging at least by the number of downloads) at anti-social public gatherings, each rationalizing his participation by saying "At least it gets me out of the basement and into the outdoors with other people," in what, as one after the other repeats the exact same phrase, increasingly chills listeners in a Stepford Wives kind of way.

Clearly there is another more sinister, zombie-like game afoot here. In Holland, players were found walking on train tracks, and congregations had to be cleared from in front of fire stations. Residents of a suburb of Sydney, Australia, began water-bombing players to make them leave. In Bosnia, players had to be reminded to stay out of maybe-not-decommissioned minefields, while in New York State, sex offenders are banned from playing the game while on parole.

Two players in Guatemala were shot, one fatally, while playing the game, with police speculating that the shooters used the game's GPS to find their victims. In late August, a Japanese farmer who was playing the game while driving his truck errantly hit two women, killing one. It was, according to Japanese authorities, the 79th Pokémon GO-related accident in that country since its release a month earlier.

Also in August, a young Cambodian girl was struck and killed by a car as she attempted to capture a Pokémon on a street. The game has caused numerous stampedes worldwide, and has been banned in thousands of public and government sites. It has been alternately described as an espionage weapon and a tool of Satan.

Now, admittedly, I was wrong in 2015 when I predicted that man buns, which the Qing Dynasty had outlawed in the mid 1600s because they looked terrible on warriors (and everyone else, including Brad Pitt), were the straws that would break mankind's back. I similarly erred in 2014, when I was convinced that the Oxford English Dictionary's addition of "hashtag" to its lexicography would be our undoing.

I confess, too, that Drake's use of the acronym YOLO in his 2011 song The Motto was not as serious as I first imagined, while selfie sticks and folk art didn't cost as many lives as I, and others, originally anticipated. Similarly, there was no way to predict that the 2007 introduction to Canada of Movember, only four years after Oprah sent sales of UGG boots through the roof, would prove as benign as the Crocs/televised poker crazes that surfaced almost simultaneously in 2002.

But I'm equally convinced we've never before seen as perfect a storm as we're witnessing right now. We've watched as the four horsemen make deliveries of KFC right to our front doors. A fifth rider thunders in the distance, bringing us a Blu-ray of the next Spider-Man movie. I can't wake up my Golden Retriever. The clocks are striking 13. War is peace. Ignorance is strength.

Is this it?

Former Burnaby school bookkeeper found guilty of fraud

[Burnaby Now](#), 9 December 2016

More than four years after she was first charged, a former Burnaby school bookkeeper has been found guilty of defrauding a local high school and a Vancouver real estate consulting firm.

Jodi Fingarsen was first charged with two counts of fraud over \$5,000 in July 2012 in relation to incidents at Alpha Secondary School between July 2008 and July 2010 and at the Altus Group in Vancouver between July 2011 and October 2011.

She was found guilty of both counts in B.C. Provincial Court in Vancouver Thursday.

The case against Fingarsen centred around 85 cheques, including bogus Alpha Secondary cheques made out to her directly, third-party cheques made out to businesses and individuals owed money by Alpha, and third-party cheques made out to the Altus Group from clients for services rendered.

Worth a total of nearly \$99,000, they were deposited into Fingarsen's personal accounts at automated teller machines.

She, however, testified she had neither deposited the cheques nor ever noticed the thousands of extra dollars circulating through her accounts over nearly three years.

And her lawyer, John Banks, argued there was no video or photo evidence proving Fingarsen herself had made the deposits.

In his decision Thursday, Provincial Court Judge Joseph Galati acknowledged the Crown's case, presented by prosecutor Jennifer Horneland, rested on circumstantial evidence.

But – other than Fingarsen's testimony – he said, there was "absolutely no evidentiary basis or evidentiary gap from which to reasonably infer that Ms. Fingarsen was only responsible for those transactions (in her bank account) which do not incriminate her and that all of the other incriminating transactions were done by someone else."

Galati went on to say Fingarsen's testimony was "not credible" and that at times she "appeared to be making it up as she went along under cross-examination."

"It does not raise a reasonable doubt that it was Ms. Fingarsen who deposited the Alpha cheques into her bank account. It does not raise a reasonable doubt but that Ms. Fingarsen knew she was spending money that did not belong to her," Galati said.

More than four years after being charged, Fingarsen will now have to wait till at least the end of January to hear her fate.

Galati has ordered a pre-sentencing report with a “psychological component,” and that work is expected to take at least six weeks.

After that, Fingarsen still faces a parallel civil claim launched by the school district in 2012.

Fingarsen, meanwhile, still faces a parallel civil claim from the Burnaby school district, launched in June 2012.

Police seek suspects in bowling alley break-in

[Ottawa Sun](#), 8 December 2016

Ottawa police are seeking public assistance in tracking two suspects who broke into a bowling alley on the 2000 block of Walkley Road on Nov. 27.

The thieves took an undisclosed amount of cash, but weren't able to crack an ATM onsite.

The suspects are described as Caucasian, the first five feet 10 inches to six feet tall with a medium build, wearing a black jacket with a grey hooded sweater underneath, "greenish brownish" pants, black shoes, black gloves and a black balaclava.

The second man was described as five feet six inches to five feet eight inches tall with a thin build. At the time, he was wearing black-and-brown winter jacket with some white in the middle over a black hooded jacket with a logo on top, blue jeans and white Nike shoes with black Nike "swoosh," and black gloves with yellow lines.

Anyone with information is asked to call Ottawa police robbery unit at 613-236-1222, ext. 5116. Anonymous tips can be made to Crime Stoppers toll-free at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS).

One man suspected of three ATM muggings on Mountain: Hamilton police

[The Hamilton Spectator](#), 7 December 2016

Police say one man is behind three bank machine muggings on the Mountain and are asking the public to help find him.

In the robberies, a masked man with a weapon mugged women who had just withdrawn money from automatic tellers.

"Detectives are investigating all of these incidents and believe they are related," police said in a press release Tuesday.

In the latest robbery, a man demanded a 45-year-old woman hand over money after she exited the TD Canada Trust Bank on Upper James Street and Mohawk Road West just before midnight Sunday.

She screamed and ran away, police said.

On Nov. 24, just before 10:30 p.m., a 19-year-old woman who'd withdrawn money from the same branch was grabbed from behind and threatened with assault if cash wasn't turned over.

"The victim turned over a small amount of cash and the suspect ran away from the area," police said.

On Nov. 15, just before 8:30 p.m., a 35-year-old was robbed inside the ATM vestibule at the Royal Bank at Upper James and Mohawk Road West.

She'd just taken out money when a man approached her from behind to rob her. She relinquished "a small amount of cash" before the suspect ran away, police said.

None of the mugging victims were injured, police said.

The suspect is described as a man in his 40s, about five-foot-seven and with a heavy build. He was wearing dark clothing and his face was covered.

Anyone with information is asked to call Det. Jason Sorbara at 905-546-2377 or Det. Kevin Heyink at 905-546-2389. Tips can be submitted anonymously through Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

Cape Breton woman who lost \$200 to ATM thief overwhelmed by donations

[CBC News](#), 6 December 2016

A flood of human kindness has turned around the fortunes of a single mother of three in Glace Bay, N.S., who had her bank account nearly emptied by a thief after she had accidentally left her debit card in an ATM.

On Nov. 15, April MacKinnon, a clerk at the Glace Bay Library, received a call from the local credit union telling her she had left her card behind. Shortly after retrieving it, she went to Foodland for groceries.

Her card was denied and she found out later that only \$30 was left in her account. Someone had stolen \$200.

Once her story hit the media, acts of generosity quickly followed. Staff at the Glace Bay Credit Union took up a collection and replaced the \$200. Cash, cheques and gift cards started coming in from other people.

"Can't thank them enough," said MacKinnon. "It's been very overwhelming."

Then on Tuesday morning a Sydco Fuels truck arrived in front of her house. Minutes later her tank was full, courtesy of the heating oil company.

"The last thing April needed was to worry about her heating oil," said Sydco owner Mike Pace, who had seen her story on television.

The general manager of the Glace Bay Credit Union, Patricia Morrison, praised her staff for their contribution to the cause, noting donations had come from credit union members across the province.

So much has come in that MacKinnon is now appealing for donations to stop and be redirected to other causes such as the food bank or SPCA.

"We're fine; we're good," she said.

She also suggested sending donations to Ovarian Cancer Canada, as she has lost two family members in the last two years to the disease, or to the IWK Health Centre in Halifax.

"Thank you, sincerely, thank you to everyone," she said, satisfied that she and her three children are assured a comfortable Christmas.

Cape Breton Regional Police told the Cape Breton Post officers have retrieved video surveillance from the Credit Union and hope to identify the culprit soon.

ATMs easy target for hackers, say experts

[South Asian Focus](#), 5 December 2016

At a time when serpentine queues continue to grow outside ATMs across the country following the demonetization move, a top executive of Intel Security has warned that ATMs in India are susceptible to security breaches.

Intel Security, with its McAfee product line, is the world's largest dedicated security technology company.

In banks, a breach can happen at multiple levels — like at an ATM, data centre, network or through mobile banking. "The ATM today is an easy target for hackers to hit a network," Anand Ramamoorthy, Managing Director, Intel Security, South Asia, told IANS in an interview.

ATM attacks have affected several countries in the recent past. A hacker group called Cobalt targeted ATMs across Europe last month and remotely attacked the machines using malicious software that manipulated the systems which led the machines to automatically dispense huge amounts of cash.

Banks in India will have to make efforts to ensure that ATMs are protected with multiple levels of authentication and industry-standard encryption, ensuring data security at all points of a transaction.

According to experts, banks need to work towards gradually enabling EMV chip and PIN-enabled card acceptance and processing at ATMs to enhance the safety and security of transactions.

"It is time that magnetic-stripe cards issued by banks for ATM transactions are replaced at the earliest. While the affected banks are blocking debit cards to minimize the impact, the already ongoing replacement of mag-stripe cards with EMV chip cards will help the banks and consumers," Atul Singh, Regional Director-Banking and Transport (India Subcontinent) at the digital security giant Gemalto, told IANS earlier.

EMV — which stands for Europay, MasterCard and Visa — is a global standard for credit cards that uses computer chips to authenticate (and secure) chip-card transactions.

"We have seen a big focus on ATM attacks in the Asia-Pacific (APAC) region, including India. ATMs in underdeveloped countries are particularly vulnerable as those countries still have old ATM software and are running Windows XP. This makes them the perfect target for an easier score," US-based cyber security company FireEye said recently.

In a tweet, Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently urged people to "embrace e-banking, mobile banking and more such technology", but Ramamoorthy warned that as mobile banking becomes popular, it will involve greater risks.

"You have to become aware as you become more digitized," noted Ramamoorthy, adding that mobile has become more of a financial gateway and its implications are huge for the country.

Earlier this year, following a malware-related security breach, the State Bank of India (SBI), HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Axis Bank and YES Bank blocked millions of debit cards that were compromised in one of the biggest data breaches in the financial sector.

"To protect ATMs from cyber-attacks in the future, Intel Security has deployed an 'Embedded App' control which not only protects ATMs at the site but also the network which it is connected to," Ramamoorthy said, adding that the app is set for an update in 2017.

Freed: Forget hacking fears, your cellphone is a molecular tattletale

[Montreal Gazette](#), 3 December 2016

The sensitive information on your phone's screen — from years of microscopic dirt that reveals your habits and lifestyle in a trail of biological crumbs.

Just one tiny swab of your phone screen can reveal what food you like, what drugs you take, what cosmetics you wear, what sports you play — even which lovers you have, according to a new study from the National Academy of Sciences.

Apparently, tiny chemical traces of everything we touch collect on our cellphone screens — from microscopic mustard bits to pool chalk, hair dye, alcohol, marijuana — even skin follicles from whoever you've held hands with in recent months.

Your whole messy bacterial life is lounging about on your phone screen for anyone with a good microscope to see. It's actual dirty data — and it won't be long before the cops start demanding cellphone samples, instead of blood samples.

“Hey Inspector, look-it this phone. This guy loves steamies and poutine, plays tennis regularly, wears Brut cologne, takes diabetes pills, does coke and is spending intimate time with three woman whose skin follicles aren't his wife's ... Arrest him!”

Even if you don't own a cellphone, it's a similar problem with your ATM cards, according to another New York study. They gather incriminating evidence too, with your life history written on them, in bacteria.

In our privacy-threatened world we already worry that Amazon tracks our purchasing habits, Facebook tracks our personal lives and hackers steal our financial data, while our cellphone is a tattletale that reveals our exact location every moment of the day.

But now we have to worry that our phone is a molecular tattletale, too.

What secrets would they find out about you if they examined the bacteria on your phone screen? Are you a vegetarian who secretly eats meat? A food snob who only eats Dijon in public, but has French's mustard molecules all over your phone?

Would Donald Trump's phone reveal an embarrassing array of different women's microbes? Would Justin Trudeau's show traces of Castro's beard?

Mine is probably just smeared in chocolate.

This new phone study is just a reminder that privacy is a thin veil that technology can see through like X-ray vision.

In fact, the latest biological tattletale is your face. Consumer tech companies with names like Facereader, Real.eyes and Eye.see are developing sophisticated face-reading technology that can penetrate our innermost emotions.

These machines can now analyze over 100 points on our eyes, lips and forehead to detect whether we're subconsciously happy, sad, nervous, lying — or just secretly in love with the Roomba vacuuming robot they're trying to sell us.

Apparently there are seven different ways a forehead can furrow, each revealing a different hidden emotion — along with countless ways to wrinkle your nose, crinkle your mouth or arch an eyebrow.

Machines are learning to decipher them all — as well as to spot the briefest flicker of desire our pupils betray, as we glance at some product hungrily for a millisecond.

So wipe that smile right off your face now, before some machine cracks it.

We humans have always studied each other's faces to determine if a smile is genuine or false, honest or deceitful? Good poker players and salesmen routinely try to read our eyes, with hit-and-miss results.

But now science has set out to read our minds and bare our souls — and it's not sci-fi. Face-reading technology is reportedly being tested in many stores here and abroad.

Just last week eBay briefly launched the world's first "emotionally-powered shop" in London, to help shoppers uncover their subconscious Christmas shopping desires — based on their facial reaction to online images.

People were shown pictures of 12 products, then face-reading technology analyzed their facial expressions and emailed them a list of which products they emotionally desired.

It was only a two-day trial but many say it's the future of shopping. You'll wander through The Bay and glance momentarily at an outfit on a mannequin — without knowing that a face-reading camera, hidden inside the mannequin, is analyzing your eye movement.

But soon after, it will send you an intimate email: "I couldn't help noticing you were admiring the cashmere scarf I was wearing — and I couldn't help noticing you.

"Why don't we get together soon? I'm yours for only \$1,159."

Eventually all this phone-reading, face-reading technology will lead to new emotion-guarding security systems to protect us from biological invasions.

They will bio-scrub and sterilize our phone and ATM cards every 90 seconds — while molecular makeup masks our smile and camouflages our pupils.

Until then, don't leave your phone lying around near anyone you don't know. It's got all the dirt on you.

No hard feelings for owners who lost store to Queen West gentrification

[The Globe and Mail](#), 2 December 2016

Until Thursday, Sandy Chen and Henry Zhou ran a convenience store on Toronto's Queen Street West. As the neighbourhood around them went from seedy to artsy to trendy, their Queen's Grocery & Variety at the corner of Queen and Lisgar streets remained stubbornly the same.

Year after year, day after day, they stood sentry behind the store counter, cheerfully hawking (as the sign outside proclaimed) "pops, snacks, ice creams, ATM, TTC, Lotto" and other necessities of urban living.

But cities are always evolving and even Queen's Grocery couldn't resist forever. Real estate values have soared on Queen, one of the hottest streets on the continent. Someone bought the building from their old landlord last spring. Faced with a doubling of their rent, the couple, now in their 50s, decided to wind up the business that sustained them for 17 years.

As they prepared to close on Wednesday, a handwritten sign announced "Everything must go!!!" Inside the store, already half empty, Ms. Chen was slashing prices and giving lots of stuff away free. The sound of hammering and drilling came through the wall as renovators encroached. A contractor who looked in said the space would become (what else?) a vegetarian restaurant.

It is a process that is underway on city streets from London to Chicago to Shanghai. Rundown downtown neighbourhoods are reviving. New money and new blood is rushing in. The local hardware becomes a yoga studio, the greasy spoon a coffee bar. This stretch of Queen used to boast two car-wash joints, now priced out and long gone.

It would be easy to paint the demise of Queen's Grocery as a tragedy and Ms. Chen and Mr. Zhou as the latest victims of out-of-control gentrification. It's not that straightforward. Ms. Chen says her feelings are "complicated."

She and her husband will miss their customers, yes, and they wonder just what they will do now that their all-consuming life in the corner store is at an end. But she says her strongest emotion is gratitude. She is grateful to her loyal customers, grateful to the country that took her in, and despite the long hours and hard work, grateful to have had the chance to witness the amazing changes overtaking the city. "I keep on saying, 'We are so lucky.'"

Ms. Chen was a teacher and Mr. Zhou an engineer in their native China. They immigrated here for a better life, arriving with just \$5,000 to their name. They tried to make a living selling Chinese handicrafts. They tried working in a clothing factory, booking different shifts so they could take turns caring for their young daughter. Finally, borrowing \$45,000 from relatives, they bought the business on Queen, a leap in the dark for two people with no experience running a store.

Like so many immigrant storekeepers, they worked crazy hours. They opened at 10 in the morning and didn't close till 11 at night. They stayed open weekends and shut their doors only on public holidays.

Their daughter often sat on an overturned milk crate as they worked or did her homework at a little desk. She could work the cash register by 7. Mr. Zhou went up to the local discount supermarket to buy bulk merchandise to stock their shelves. In the first five years, Ms. Chen says, "it was really tough."

The neighbourhood began to change when the Drake Hotel opened a block down the street, an early outpost of hipsterdom. Art galleries came in, then high-end restaurants and bars. Condos rose across the street. Mr. Zhou says he went on Google Maps recently and found no fewer than 30 new buildings in the area. People may grouse about rising property values, “but for the neighbourhood,” he says, “this is good news.”

A few old businesses hang on despite the rush of change. In a cluttered used-appliances store down the street, the proprietor says he’s not going anywhere. He has worked at the store since 1970. Two little convenience stores are surviving just around the corner from ultra-cool Ossington Avenue. All those condo dwellers need somewhere to buy their duct tape and potato chips. To serve them, a new, modern convenience store with a latte bar in the front has opened opposite the Drake.

Ms. Chen and Ms. Zhou marvel at the transformation of the neighbourhood. They marvel at all the human variety, too. In China, Ms. Chen says, they had never heard of multiculturalism. When they saw Toronto’s mix of cuisines, languages and styles of dress, they thought, “Wow, this is amazing, this is an amazing country.”

Before they took over, their store was run by Portuguese, then Koreans, then Vietnamese, then Vietnamese again. “That’s why I love Canada,” says Ms. Chen, who has bright eyes and a ready smile.

As she speaks, a muscular Cuban who has been carting buckets of renovation debris out of the place next door stops by for a bottle of water. A Portuguese neighbour drops in to say goodbye, remarking that real estate agents keep knocking on her door to offer her a fortune for her beat-up old house.

Girlfriend urged murder suspect to call police

[The Record](#), December 2, 2016

KITCHENER — Hugh McColl killed his roommate Kate Reid with a hammer and concealed her body. Then he carried on with an old flame for two months like nothing had happened, a murder trial heard Friday.

Barbara Conway and McColl dated in high school and reconnected in 2008. She became his on-again, off-again girlfriend from Hanover, where she lived with her brother.

After McColl allegedly killed Reid on Jan. 2, 2015, he romanced Conway, buying her lunch and paying for a hotel room. He gave her an iPad mini. The couple travelled between Kitchener and Hanover to see each other.

Conway found the expensive gift unusual, but otherwise "he seemed like himself, normal," she testified.

On Jan. 26, McColl told Conway over coffee at Tim Hortons that he was leaving the Kitchener apartment he shared with Reid because there was too much noise, drinking and partying. She visited him at his new Kitchener address on Feb. 18 and stayed there overnight.

McColl, 63, has pleaded not guilty to murdering Reid, 51, claiming he struck her in self-defence after Reid attacked him with a knife. He's expected to testify Monday. He has pleaded guilty to indecently interfering with Reid's body.

Court has heard an audio recording of McColl trying to impersonate Reid, to get a new PIN for her credit card four days after he killed her. He used the card to make purchases and to withdraw money from an ATM.

It was March 1 when McColl told Conway something was up. He returned that day to Kitchener after romancing her in a Hanover hotel. The couple conversed by email and Facebook.

Court heard excerpts from the exchange:

McColl: "I happened to go by the old apartment and it was yellow police taped-off and there were a number of police cars in front. ... Evidently my former landlady has been missing for a while and they seem to think I might have something to do with it. ... I quite honestly do not know what to do. ..."

"Although I have done nothing wrong, given the number of falsely charged and convicted people in this country, and my history with the system when I was younger, I have little faith in the system."

Conway: "What can I do? Why can't I reach you on your phone? Please let me know. I love you."

McColl: "I turned my phone off because I can be tracked by phone. ... Let me know what you think about this s---storm and what you think I should do. ... Love you."

Conway: "Have they charged you or questioned you? ... I think the best thing you can do is talk to police. When did you move out of that place? She has been missing for two months. I do not know what to tell you. Would you like me to come down in the morning?"

McColl: "Hi sweetie, thanks for the offer, but I think it would be better if you stay out of this for now. ... Love you my dear, thank you for being there for me."

McColl returned to Hanover March 2, inviting Conway to join him for breakfast at a restaurant. She was too ill to go. They exchanged messages while he was at the restaurant.

Conway: "Go to Kitchener. Go to the police and see what is going on. Why avoid it if you did nothing? Go."

McColl: "My experience is that it really doesn't matter whether a person has not done anything wrong or not. If the police have a bird in the hand they will go for it. ... I don't want to take the risk, but I will call them. ... Love you."

It was their last exchange. McColl never called police. Conway later called Crime Stoppers, to help police find McColl. She gave police the iPad he gifted her. She also gave police access to her Facebook account to help investigators try to find him.

"I was worried for him and I didn't want anything to happen to him," she testified.

She struggled to stay composed on the witness stand, acknowledging that at the time, she still had feelings for him. McColl, balding and grey-haired, showed no emotion listening to her testimony.

Police arrested McColl March 7 in Toronto. Reid's body was found March 20. It had been concealed on a balcony before it was found wrapped in plastic and frozen into a snowbank, steps from the Burn Place apartment.

Police seek suspect with 'noticeable mole' in alleged ATM fraud

[Ottawa Sun](#), December 2, 2016

Ottawa police are asking for the public's help to identify a suspect who allegedly committed ATM fraud at a downtown bank in October.

On Oct. 12, at around 8:20 p.m., police said a man was captured on video allegedly committing fraud at a bank on Kent Street, between Sparks and Queen streets. Investigators became aware of the alleged fraud after an initial investigation into a reported robbery.

Police described the suspect as a man with a darker complexion, dark and long, wavy hair and a "noticeable mole" on his face near his right nostril.

Anyone with information regarding this robbery, or any robbery, is asked to call the Ottawa Police's Robbery Unit at 613-236-1222, ext. 5116. Anonymous tips can be submitted by calling Crime Stoppers toll-free at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS), or by downloading the Ottawa Police app.

Also found in:

- [Ottawa Citizen](#)

Hunt ends for man with warrants in the area

[Kootenay Advertiser](#), 1 December 2016

Cranbrook RCMP are pleased to report that Ryan George Stewart, of Jaffray BC, was recently picked up by Calgary Police Service on outstanding warrants from Cranbrook.

Between September 25th and October 1, 2016, the Cranbrook RCMP was kept busy investigating several theft of vehicles, business break- ins and ATM/ coin machine thefts. Starting the end of September, Cranbrook RCMP investigated twelve separate incidents between Jaffray, Fort Steele and Cranbrook. Three vehicles were also stolen within this time span and several businesses were broken into, with cash being the sought after commodity. ATM's were also targeted, with suspects making off with monies from the machines. After a lengthy investigation warrants were issued for two individuals in relation to these crimes.

On November 19th, 2016 Cranbrook RCMP were contacted by Calgary Police Service to advise that they had Ryan Stewart in custody. Stewart and Amanda Secreto, were charged in relation to several break and enters in the Cranbrook area. Stewart is currently in a remand center in Alberta and will be transported to Cranbrook to answer to the charges.

Secreto is still at large and Cranbrook RCMP are still seeking the public's assistance to locate her. She is last known to be in the Calgary area. Secreto is described as being 5'2" and 96 lbs. She has brown hair and hazel eyes. Anyone with information on her whereabouts is asked to contact the Cranbrook RCMP or Crimestoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS(8477).