





# Peterborough THIS WEEK

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[www.mykawartha.com](http://www.mykawartha.com)

## Are 'they' watching?

*Some names in this article have been changed to protect identities.*

LANCE ANDERSON  
THIS WEEK

Is Anne living a life of paranoia or is there a gang of stalkers following her, watching her every move?

Anne claims a group of people have stopped at nothing to keep her under surveillance. For

her, it's a very real situation that has turned her life upside down.

She claims no matter where she goes, they're there.

They park in front of her north-end Peterborough home, and they follow her to work and to her appointments.

She claims they have even broken into her house and car with the sole purpose of letting her know they are watching.

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[Click here for follow-up article](#)

[www.GangStalking.org](http://www.GangStalking.org)  
[www.CatchCanada.org](http://www.CatchCanada.org)

# Woman's 'gang stalking' fear very real to her

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Anne felt she had no other place to turn when she approached *Peterborough This Week*. For weeks, she had seen drivers in black ball caps all around her. When she arrived at the newspaper office for her interview, a man in a black ball cap followed her to the door, took a newspaper and left.

She had gone to the police but was told there was nothing there. She even hired a private investigator who, in the end, she says, couldn't uncover any clues as to what she claims is happening.

Still, she stands by her story, saying the co-ordinated harassment is very real. So real that she is willing to go public with her story to send a message to her stalkers.

"If anyone wants to come forward, even anonymously, and tell me why this is happening, I'd be open to that," says Anne.

"If they think my actions have caused someone to be fearful, let's work it out. I'm not getting a chance to speak my truth."

Anne has some theories as to why she thinks she's being targeted but she's reluctant to go into detail for fear of what may result. That said, she wants her stalkers to know they are ruining her life. She says she has lost friends because they don't believe her. Her elderly mother is having trouble dealing with the stress.

"I thought it was going to kill my mother; she's 92 and initially was terribly upset when I told her and she became obsessively worried about my safety."

What Anne claims is happening to her isn't a new phenomenon. There are a number of Internet web sites devoted to "gang stalking," also known as terror stalking or predatory stalking. As well, a book titled *Terrorist Stalking In America* sheds light on the issue.

No matter what it's called, a similar thread weaves through each bizarre and hard-to-believe tale.

The stalkers are highly co-ordinated, work in shifts to keep round-the-clock surveillance of their target and act in such a manner to let the victim know he or she is being watched.

Some believe the stalkers are trying to force them out of a community. Others think their actions will eventually lead to a violent climax, possibly death.

Norma Lawrence (not her real name) hosts three gang stalking web sites out of Toronto, attracting approximately 50 hits a day, most of those from the United States. Ms Lawrence also oversees a support group called CATCH via which women and men, who claim to be gang stalking targets, meet monthly.

"I do this to educate people that this stuff does happen," says Ms Lawrence.

"But there isn't a lot that can be done at the moment because people don't believe it happens."

She adds when individuals do go to the police claiming they are victims of gang stalking, the first thing an officer asks is if they are on medication.

City police inspector Ray Vandervele confirms Anne did come forward with a complaint.

"It's been investigated...it's not being investigated now," he says.

Insp. Vandervele won't go into further detail, citing

confidentiality issues.

Following the police investigation, Anne says she checked herself into the mental health unit of the Peterborough Regional Health Centre. She says she went there to get away from her stalkers and to deal with her stress. While there, she claims her stalkers circled the wing every

15 minutes to the point that even other patients noticed their presence.

With no prior knowledge of Anne's story or gang stalking, Bruce Whitney, the director of mental health at the Peterborough hospital, says Anne's situation could be classified as a form of paranoia.

"Paranoia has characteristics of fear and a perception that people are out to get you or are watching you," he explains.

"But for a person experiencing this, it is 100 per cent real and not fabricated. It becomes a person's reality."

The term "gang stalking" is so new that city police sergeant Walter DiClemente, the force's media spokesperson and a veteran officer, hadn't heard of it when asked.

He says numerous stalking investigations are conducted but they are usually domestic-related where the victim and suspect know each other.

After hearing Anne's story, he said it sounded like a form of harassment or bullying. Sgt. DiClemente adds the force would take such a claim seriously because the suspects and their motive(s) are unknown.

"There are a lot of incidents where people say they are being followed or there are people watching their house. Often it turns out to be a legitimate investigation by a private investigator."

But Ms Lawrence says gang stalking goes beyond that.

With her, it started when e-mails went missing and phone messages were deleted. She noticed other strange things but never realized its extent until she posted her first web site.

"I didn't completely believe gang stalking was happening...it sounds pretty outrageous," says Ms Lawrence.

"But there were some obvious indications to let me know it was going on."

For Anne, the indications present themselves daily. She says her stalkers follow her in teams in cars that are missing hubcaps and have dark-tinted windows. She adds most of her stalkers wear the same coloured ball cap, either navy blue or black. Anne says one stalker even tried to run her off the road.

"I was on the 401 and a guy came right up behind me at a high rate of speed. I nearly lost control of my car. It was meant to terrify me."

She adds her stalkers also flash their high beams in her rear-view mirror.

Anne doesn't know when or how her experience will end but says she's "fiercely" determined to carry on as long as she can.

"I'm afraid it will end with my death but not by my hands."

PTW



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY KYLE GRIFFIN/THIS WEEK

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## Follow-up Article on Gang Stalking

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# Allegation of gang stalking is again being investigated

## Police probe re-opened after This Week story

May 19, 2006

Lance Anderson

City police have reopened an investigation into an allegation of gang stalking.

Sergeant Walter DiClemente says police received a complaint from a woman, sparking them to re-open the case.

An investigation in the same case was conducted earlier this year but no evidence of what the woman claimed could be found.

Following a story about the matter that appeared in the April 19 edition of Peterborough This Week, the woman went back to police, claiming the gang stalking had worsened. The case was re-opened shortly after.

"We are actively investigating her allegations," says Sergeant Walter DiClemente.

The woman, whose name is being withheld to protect her anonymity, is somewhat relieved that police are once again investigating her allegations and hopes they will find those responsible.

Gang stalking is well documented in the United States and detailed on some web sites in Canada.

It typically involves a co-ordinated group of like-minded people who target one individual.

The Peterborough woman claims her stalkers park in front of her home, follow her to and from work, and harass her by flashing their car high beams at her.

She claims, for the most part, her stalkers wear black ball caps and drive cars with missing hubcaps.

Following the story that appeared in This Week, the woman says more stalkers are following her, watching her every move.

"There are more people with black ball caps and they are grabbing them, shaking them and grinning," she says.

She has some theories as to why she's being targeted but is reluctant to go into further detail for fear of what may result.

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Source:

<http://www.mykawartha.com/ka/news/peterborough/story/3504397p-4049298c.html>

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[Click here to view the original article on Gang Stalking](#)

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