

# Thieves steal 30 guns from lawyer's home

Uzis Taken; 200 firearms were properly stored: police

**Matthew Coutts, National Post**

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A veteran lawyer and gun enthusiast lost 30 semi-automatic handguns, including Uzi submachine guns, after thieves raided his massive collection stored in his downtown apartment over the weekend.

Calvin Martin, a 77-year-old Queen's counsel lawyer and member of two local gun clubs, kept as many as 200 legally registered guns in his fourth-floor apartment on Isabella Street near Church Street. Included in his collection were shotguns, rifles and Uzis.

Police say someone broke in between Feb. 18 and midnight on Feb. 21. Mr. Martin is staying in a convalescent hospital following a stroke, but had someone checking on his apartment while he was away.

Toronto police Inspector John Tanouye of 51 Division said Mr. Martin's collection was maintained to the letter of the law.

"This guy was a registered gun collector. Lawfully, he had permits. There were 200 registered firearms. They were properly stored, but it appears 30 semi-automatic handguns were stolen," Insp. Tanouye said.

Officers are investigating it as a case of break and enter and are canvassing the neighbourhood. Insp. Tanouye said the division's major crimes unit is leading the investigation, adding it is not clear if the apartment was targeted or hit randomly.

"We just know they broke in. When they got in, they got into the vault and the safes, broke them open and made their escape with the guns."

According to Mr. Martin's website, he began shooting at the age of 10.

He is a life member of the Ontario Handgun Association, now known as the Canadian Shooting Sports Association, as well as former director and current member of the University of Toronto's Hart House Revolver Club and the Sharon Gun Club.

He also designed and taught pistol, shotgun and sniper courses to the Guatemalan military in 1987.

Members of the Sharon Gun Club said he was one of the club's more frequent visitors, and handled his gun collection with care.

Tony Bernardo, executive director of the Canadian Shooting Sports Association, described Mr. Martin as a meticulous gun collector who, as a lawyer well versed in the gun law, kept his collection under appropriate guard.

Mr. Bernardo said the biggest problem people with large collections face is the "leaked disclosure of confidential information contained in the gun registry." He said the registry reads like a "shopping list" for anyone looking for weapon collections to steal and sell on the street.