Still time to support cancer camp swim

It's not too late to donate to Oakville swimmer Joy Greene's fund to raise money for Camp Oochigeas, Canada's first residential cancer camp for children.

On Saturday, Greene will swim the 22-kilometer length of Lake Rosseau - just has she has for the past several years and end at "Camp Ooch." Donations will be welcome, of course, even after the event.

So committed is Greene to her cause that in 1999, she made the swim in nine hours and 14 minutes with a broken hand. In 2001 she completed the swim a year after seriously breaking her leg while skiing.

Anyone wishing to donate to the camp (it receives no government funding) can make cheques payable to Camp Oochigeas, 60 St. Clair Ave. East, Suite 201, Toronto, Ontario, M4T 1N5 or call 1-888-GO-4-OOCH.



Call 905-333-4498 or 1-888-334-4449

DATE: Saturday, July 19 TIME: Boarding 6:30 p.m.

COST: \$70 (Bus transport \$20 return) Tickets confirmed with Visa

RESEARCH STUDY PARTICIPANTS NEEDED

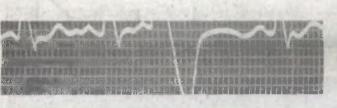
High blood pressure, or hypertension, is the most common of all cardiovascular diseases. It is the leading cause of stroke and a major cause of heart attack.

Are you at least 18 years old? Do you have high blood pressure?

Eligible study subjects will receive study-related medical exams, study medications, and laboratory tests at no cost. You may also be reimbursed for your time and travel expenses.

For more information, please call:

Dr. Ronnie Aronson 905-337-0040





FISHING FUN: Bronte Creek Provincial Park Nature Centre interpreter Emily Deeth (centre) helps youngsters (left to right) Nathan Ebel, 10, Dean Woodall, 10, and Rebecca Woodall at the fishing pond. Also helping out were Craig and Allison Woodall. The fishing pond was part of the Camping Crazy event at the park last weekend.

Study will examine police workload

(Continued from page A1) these were simply not as "all-encompassing" as the current one.

"This is just good business," said Insp. Taylor. "We're just trying to capture what the actual workload is."

In November 2002, the HRPA formally called for what it characterized as a long-overdue workload and staffing analysis for front-line officers to address chronic shortages on the street.

Factors influencing the mounting workload, Atkinson explained, range from a host of mandatory and prescriptive legislation outside of the service's control to growth, onerous evidence collection requirements and adequacy standards. Occurrence reports and Crown Briefs, for example, can now take hours to complete; says Insp. Taylor.

The most recent statistics show that Halton officers respond to 95,000 calls for service a year, 18,000 of which are criminal offenses. In 2001, Halton officers each

averaged 36 Criminal Code incidents a year - as opposed to 32 each in Toronto and 29 in Peel Region - in addition to their other duties.

"This only reinforces our position," said La Course.

Officers must also provide court protection and prisoner transport plus deal with hundreds of calls at Milton's Maplehurst Correctional Facility. The impacts of this include increased stress, longer response times and rampant overtime.

Atkinson - who has continually pledged to play an active and constructive role in any study - is adamant that the HRPA's appeal for a workload and staffing analysis is not some union muscle-flexing, but a request born of concern for officer and public safety.

In December 2002 the Halton Regional Police Services Board agreed to consider the workload and staffing analysis. The study was officially given the green light earlier this year and the HRPA hopes it will be completed before 2004 Budget deliberations commence this fall.

According to Insp. Taylor, it is unlikely the full study will have wrapped up by then, although preliminary reports will be issued to Administration.

As part of the study, Constables and Patrol Sergeants were asked to account for every 15 minutes of their time on the job from June 14 through 24 in order to get a firm handle on their workload. Atkinson said that officers were encouraged to participate fully in all informationgathering.

"We're asking them to tell it like it is," he said. "This is the process we asked for."

For Insp. Taylor, this survey will help determine the "variety of activities front-line members face" which can change rapidly in a 15-minute

In addition to the front line, the study will include interviews with senior management and HRPA representatives plus examine aspects of force ranging Communications, Training and Recruiting to Fleet and Finance. Atkinson said the HRPA did not specifically ask for such a wide scope but he is gratified regardless.

"We're absolutely pleased with the commitment so far," said Atkinson.

In addition to interviews and surveys, the study will encompass statistical comparators, the impact of legislation, growth, unmet needs, shift schedules, use of technology, census information and more.

When completed, says Atkinson, the analysis should have "teeth" and its results must be implemented not sit and "gather dust."

Insp. Taylor said it will be up to top brass to decide what to do with the results.

"Senior management has always been respectful to the needs of front line staff," he said.

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