

Trussed-up turkey police uniform may disappear

Halton's "boys in blue" will stay in blue but there is a chance they could look a lot different before too long. The force wants to move away from the "trussed-up turkey" look. Thursday, Chief Ken Skerrett showed Halton Police Commission members a new type of jacket, a little like a ski jacket or parka, which may replace the formal tunic. The commission held off making any decision on the new patrol jacket until the budget is set. Skerrett said the patrol jacket would, in the long run,

save the force money and be more comfortable for the officers but in appearance it isn't nice as the tunic. "There is little doubt that a police officer wearing full uniform, fitted tunic and full Sam Browne belt, clean and polished, presents a fine appearance, especially when on parade or dress occasions. However, the majority of police officers' time is not parading or special occasions. His daily routine of driving a vehicle, walking a beat and physical contact with other persons requires a

freedom of movement, not provided by a fitted tunic and Sam Browne belt, which actually restricts body movements in these routine duties. "Other duties, more serious in nature, such as pursuing of violators on foot, and the physical body contact often required when arresting or subduing a violent person are more difficult when the officer is trussed up in the present style of uniform." The new uniform has really caught on in the west but in Ontario only the Petrolia police have changed. The patrol jacket is a loose-fitting tunic length jacket with two removal linings, so it can be used in any kind of weather. It would mean both tunics and pea jackets wouldn't have to be replaced nearly as often. This combination of uniform costs \$116.25 while the patrol jacket costs \$79.50. Tunics and pea jackets last about two years while patrol jackets don't wear out for four or five years. Tunics would be retained for special dress occasions. Skerrett reported it would cost \$16,000 to \$18,000 to outfit the entire force with the new jackets.



TO COMMEMORATE his installation as Worshipful Master of Walker Lodge, William Near was presented with an engraved gavel by his brother-in-law John Logan of St. Clair Shores, Michigan, husband of the former Marjorie Near and a member of Jefferson Lodge there. The gavel was made by Mr. Near's nephew Charles Harwell from wood grown by his grandfather, and was a gift from the family.

Acton Hydro

Commissioners won't seek member

Acton Hydro Commission chairman, Will McEachern told the Free Press there would be no replacement sought for vice chairman Ted Tyler Sr.

Mr. McEachern said that the commission was originally a five man board consisting of himself, Mr. Tyler, Bob MacArthur, Orville Brown, and the mayor, Les Dudy. However, when regional government came into effect, Halton Hills mayor Tom Hill was automatically put on the commission, but all other members were frozen. This meant both Mr. Dudy and the present mayor were on the board, and this brought the commission up to six members.

Unfortunately, they were back to the five man group. It will be decided at the next meeting who will fill Mr. Tyler's position as vice chairman of the board. Mr. Tyler served on Acton Hydro Commission for 25 years, and just a few weeks ago received a cuff-link set from the Ontario Municipal Electrical Association to mark his quarter century of service.

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Course for buses

A one-day defensive driving course for school bus drivers will be held Saturday, March 5 at the Oakville Campus of Sheridan College. The special course has been designed and approved by the Ontario Ministry of Transportation and Communications as satisfactory training for the relicensing of the province's school bus drivers. Recent provincial government changes in the licensing of motor vehicles now require a special licence for school bus operators.

To obtain this new licence, all school bus drivers in Ontario must successfully complete a defensive driving course and be retested by the Ministry's Motor Vehicle Branch by Sept. 1, 1977.

Icy fingers

Acton Citizens' Band took part in the Bonhomme carnival in Georgetown on the weekend. It was cold parading and some of the instruments froze up.

Male teachers encourage classroom activity more

Male teachers encourage classroom activity more than female teachers, a report to Halton Board of Education says. Last week Edna MacMillan, who took a leave from classroom duties to study gifted and regular students and how they relate to teachers at The University of Georgia two years ago, has studied the situation in Halton. She said her study showed

there are some sex-related differences between male and female teachers in the ways they act in the classroom. Miss MacMillan explained the difference between male and female teachers is in their approaches and styles but doesn't relate to the sex of the students at all. "We have found that active participation by the students was followed by the male teacher accepting feelings, asking questions and giving

directions to a significant extent more than the female teacher. "Following passive student behavior, the female teacher lectures and praises more than the male teacher. "It would seem that the male teacher encourages a more active classroom situation than the female teacher. Bliss MacMillan said the study should be considered in teacher training and noted her study indicates needs for assistance and guidance may "vary considerably" for female and male. Trustee Bill Lawson described the findings as "intriguing."

Stay impartial

No vote for region chairman

Regional Chairman Ric Morrow will not have a vote at committee meetings, but some regional councillors aren't happy about it.

Burlington Councillor Jack Raftis said, "The only way to show leadership is to speak and vote on issues. I want to know where he stands. Give him a voice and a vote on committee. As chairman he has access to information that we don't have."

Councillor Tom Sutherland said the chairman should vote and have full participation at the committee level. "I don't think it matters how you feel about it. We are making a policy for the office, not for a person," Mr. Sutherland told Chairman Morrow.

Chairman Morrow had earlier said he did not want to have a vote in committee. He felt it would be easier to be an

objective, impartial chairman if he did not have a vote in committee and wasn't subjected to councillors looking for support on items.

Councillor Pat McLaughlin said he didn't think "it mattered a hill of beans" whether the chairman had a vote or not because committees are only recommending bodies.

Councillor Carl Eriksen suggested the chairman couldn't be entitled to a vote because he doesn't have the status of an elected member.

In one of his frequent efforts to add levity to the meeting, councillor Jim Watson said that he had had the privilege of attending some public works committee meetings chaired by Councillor Raftis.

"No one votes on that committee, Jack does it all."



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Teacher talks underway

Negotiations between Halton Board of Education and its teachers for a new contract are underway. The board announced last week negotiations got started February 3 with bargainers for both the Halton Elementary Teachers' Federation and Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation, District 9 Halton, involved. The board's negotiators are

Oakville Trustee and former board vice-chairman Bill Herd and Superintendent of Program John Boich. Talks will deal with salaries, fringe benefits and working conditions. One subject which is sure to come up is the teachers' opposition to the planned change from the department head system to chairmanship at nine Halton high schools this fall.

Nurses, board still in stalemate

A year-long stalemate between Halton Public Health Nurses and Halton Regional Board of Health is no closer to settlement.

George Gray, newly elected chairman of the Board of Health, said the nurses have been working without a contract for a year. Approximately a year ago the nurses walked out for a week, and then in turn, were locked out for another week by the Board of Health. Since then there has been no contract.

Mr. Gray said the last offer made the nurses of appointing a single arbitrator was rejected by the nurses last week. He said the nurses want compulsory arbitration. Another meeting is scheduled March 7, in the

hope of coming to an agreement, said Mr. Gray. Loveday Tuck, chairman of the negotiation team for Local 1, Ontario Nurses Association, said the nurses rejected the idea of a single arbitrator because they felt there were too many restrictions on the arbitrator. She said the nurses went a tri-party arbitration board to settle contract disputes. She said the union and management would appoint a representative each, then a neutral chairman would be appointed. She said the decision would be binding upon both parties.

Mosquito program

Final approval of the mosquito abatement program in Halton has been deferred, pending assurances that the chemicals used will have no detrimental effect on the ecology.

Halton Region's Community Services Committee asked staff to go ahead with arrangements for the program but withheld final approval.

A seminar on mosquito abatement, is planned for Feb. 23 in Burlington. Staffers were instructed to get the assurances the committee wanted and report back. Medical Officer of Health Dr. J. H. Chamberlain said the program ran last year and there were no harmful effects reported.

MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION In recognition of the Red Cross contribution to the cause of humanity, and to direct the attention of the Halton Hills citizens to the many outstanding services of the Red Cross, I, by the power vested in me, do hereby proclaim the month of March 1977 to be "RED CROSS MONTH" Thos. J. Hill, Mayor

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Cable 4 this week WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23rd 6:00 The Bible's View 6:30 The Toronto Olympiad 7:00 The Rud Whiting Show The Questors Part II 7:30 Karate in Action - Bill Pickles 8:00 Scouting in Halton 8:30 Backstage - Georgetown Little Theatre WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2nd 6:30 The Bible's View 7:00 Rud Whiting Show 7:30 Karate in Action 8:00 The Questors

Is spring here yet? Has spring finally arrived? Recent signs, bare roads and the sun shining would indicate the end of winter... but don't hold your breath.

Pictures Pictures of last night's Scout and Guide banquet will appear in next week's Free Press. The story can be read in Scout and Guide News in the same issue. **FOR ALL OF CANADA'S BUILDING NEEDS** MACKENZIE BURDAHL GEORGETOWN ACTON 877-2217 853-1668

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