

No proof of police brutality yet - crown

"Nobody has satisfied me there are instances of police brutality," Jim Treleaven, Halton Crown Attorney told this newspaper.

Mr. Treleaven is waiting for a final report from the Ontario Provincial Police investigation into one instance of alleged police brutality, by Halton Regional Police.

The investigation was called by Mr. Treleaven after receiving a letter from Peter McWilliams, a Milton lawyer, outlining a case of alleged police brutality. Mr. Treleaven then spoke with Ken Skerrett, police chief, who stated he would welcome the investigation.

"I expect the report will be wrapped up soon, but I cannot release any information until the report has been released," said Mr. Treleaven.

He further said there are rare instances of police brutality and "there is certainly not a lot of it going on here," in reference to Halton.

Mr. Treleaven stated should there be proof of misconduct or a case of brutality, by a Halton Regional Police officer, a further investigation would be carried out. "There is no place for a police

officer with brutal conduct," he said.

Mr. Treleaven said he would confer with his superiors if he felt the need for a broader investigation.

"At the moment we are not investigating the Halton Regional Police force, but rather one case involving an alleged police brutality."

In an interview, Mr. McWilliams stated he knew of dozens of cases during the past two and a half years where cases of police brutality occurred.

"The officers involved in police brutality are a minority, but they are not getting adequate instruction from their superiors concerning restraint when making arrests."

Mr. McWilliams stated in the majority of the cases, the arrest was for a drunk, "where the younger officers don't have the time of day to deal with them without using force."

He referred to one case involving a man charged with impaired driving, who suffered two broken ribs from police force, according to Mr. McWilliams. "He might well

have resisted arrest, but there is no cause for brutality. I hold police to a higher standard than the persons they are dealing with."

"The police are supposed to be a disciplined group and should be able to restrain themselves."

Mr. McWilliams spoke of another case involving an epileptic, in Georgetown. "He was beaten up by police officers during an arrest for drunkenness." Earlier this year, the same man was again arrested and charged with "interfering with a search," according to Mr. McWilliams.

"He was a passenger in a car driven by a friend. Police stopped the car, ordered him out and told to get into the police cruiser," Mr. McWilliams said. "He requested several times to know why he was being arrested, but no reason was given. When he was taken to Georgetown jail, he pushed the officer. He did not want to go to jail, especially when there was no apparent reason. The officer struck him

across the forehead with a billy club, causing him to go to the doctor two days later, complaining of headaches. A day later, he passed out, gashing his eyebrow and required six stitches."

He was charged with obstruction and assaulting a police officer. Mr. McWilliams stated the obstruction charge was dismissed and the assault charge was withdrawn.

"Somebody will have to complain, and my purpose is to make the Halton Police Commission aware of my concern," said Mr. McWilliams.

As well as writing to the Police Commission and the Crown Attorney, Mr. McWilliams has written letters to Halton MPP Julian Reed and Ric Morrow, Halton Regional Chairman.

Sept. stats

District leads solving crimes

District One police officers continue to clear up crime at a rate higher than the one set throughout all Halton Region. According to the September statistics the 40.5 per cent clearance rate for the region, including the work done here, trails the pace set by officers in Georgetown, Acton and Milton, by about 15 per cent.

About a quarter of the reported crime in Halton Region takes place in District 1, according to last month's numbers. Of the 417 reported crimes listed, 188 remain unsolved, according to District One superintendent Floyd Schwantz.

The figure of unsolved cases for September, from manslaughter to by-law infractions, should draw public attention, according to superintendent Schwantz. "The public has to be more alert to the problem to assist police in stopping those persons who are intent on breaking the law," he said Friday.

He added that the statistics do not demonstrate the whole

picture of police service to the community because no traffic offences are shown.

This area's rural setting, plus the hunting season, accounts for the three weapons occurrences this month, ac-

ording to the superintendent. There were three weapons occurrences here, and two of them are solved. The rest of the region added three other such occurrences to the September stats.

The normal difference in rates between clearances of thefts, under and over \$200 continued last month, according to Schwantz. There were 83 thefts under that

value here, and police cleared up 18 per cent of them. Throughout all Halton there were 467 such occurrences, with a 9.8 per cent clearance rate.

There were ten thefts over \$200 in District One, and 44 per cent were solved. Overall there was a 19.6 per cent clearance rate on the 61 thefts in Halton.

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More mushrooms getting to the table

Mushroom production in Ontario has tripled in the past decade and is expected to take another leap forward in 1978.

Dr. T. J. Blom, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food mushroom specialist, is predicting a 10 per cent increase in mushroom production next year.

Ontario mushroom growers produced about 26 million pounds in 1976, valued at \$18.5 million, making Ontario the largest single mushroom producer in Canada.

Ontario now produces about 60 per cent of the total national production followed by British Columbia with 18.5 per cent, Quebec and the Maritimes with 14 per cent, and the Prairie Provinces with 7.5 percent of the total. The projected Ontario

production for 1977 is 27.5 million pounds, up about five percent from the previous year. A spurt of growth can be expected next year as many large companies which expanded facilities this year come into full production.

Mushroom farms in Ontario vary considerably in size, ranging from small family operations to large corporations.

According to Dr. Blom, there are approximately 50 full time mushroom growers in the province with a total growing area of 3.2 million square feet. Several of them are near Acton.

Ontario's mushroom industry is primarily located in the Golden Horseshoe area because of its proximity to the large fresh markets. The heaviest concentrations of

farms are found in the regions of Halton, Peel, York and Hamilton-Wentworth.

Dr. Blom says the historical concentration of mushroom farms near metropolitan areas is due to the product's perishability.

"Fresh market requirements for mushrooms increased 10 percent between 1975 and 1976, with more than 60 percent of present production geared to the fresh market."

"Smaller operators cater mainly to the fresh market, which offers the highest returns, while larger operators produce most of their crops for the processing market. Some of the larger farms in Ontario have expanded their operations to include processing facilities."

Commercial production of mushrooms requires substantial capital investments and, according to a 1977 report by the Economics Branch of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food, the average cost of production ranges from 60 cents to \$1.55 per square foot of area harvested.

The report identifies labor as the most expensive item of input, averaging 40 percent of the cost per pound of mushrooms produced.

Dr. Blom says approximately 900 people work as full time employees on Ontario mushroom farms. During peak periods this number increases to more than 1100.

Marketing surveys by the Canadian Mushroom Growers' Association report Canadians consume about four pounds of mushrooms per capita each year.

Tenders over delay building

To build or not to build, that is the question for the Credit Valley Conservation Authority.

A two hour meeting recently saw the Authority kicking around the problem of the proposed new administration building on Authority owned land in Meadowdale.

Trouble has arisen from construction tenders coming in way over estimated costs. The low bid of \$548,000 exceeds the \$350,000 Authority members feel they can spend on the first stage of a long term two stage building.

Trying to keep costs down well below the \$700,000 total originally thought of as necessary for the complete building and surroundings the Authority argued round in circles finally voting to request a report from the low tender contractor on how much could be completed for this year's budget of \$350,000.

Bob Harrison, who is by profession an architect, said some features can be deleted.

Most members felt that if the building could be started within budget and completed as money became available, the original plans should be kept.

Halton Hills member Gail Maltby voted against constructing the new building while the other local Les Duby, voted for sending the plans back to contractor for possible compromise. Halton Hills mayor Tom Hill wasn't present for the vote.

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