

Police offices too old, crowded: report

The Halton Regional Police Association made 40 recommendations in its survey and evaluation of the force.

Many of them would mean changes for Milton, Georgetown and Acton.

They include: obtaining the Halton County Health Unit Building at Milton for use as District 1 headquarters and 12 division offices.

District 1 takes in the north of Halton and headquarters in Georgetown.

Another recommendation calls for the renovation of the Georgetown office for use of both its own officers and those now working out of Acton. It would, therefore, mean

closing the Acton precinct. The recommendations also call for consideration of splitting District 1, and making a new district. Under the scheme, Milton would be separate from Georgetown-Acton.

Looking at the Georgetown office, the report calls for a fairly new building to replace the old one. Having all Acton and Georgetown officers work together would improve esprit-de-corps, and enable better utilization of personnel.

Halton Hills should be policed out of one building; the two buildings only serve to separate the men and increase costs," contends the report. Recently the Halton Police

Commission ordered the landowner of the Georgetown office, Hy Gladman, to make changes to the appearance and structure. According to the commission this work has been done. However, the police officers' report states the following:

The officers' locker room is in the cell block. This means the officers put up with the stench and abuse from prisoners when they are changing. The locker room is overcrowded.

The cell block itself is the only one to accommodate prisoners from Milton, Acton as well as Georgetown. Prisoners are not segregated. Female prisoners cannot be

accommodated if the cell is already in use. "There is a crash bar exit door within 10 feet of the cell (escape). There is no privacy in the lunch room, this room is part of the common hallway which leads to the second floor offices.

Also, in the fall of last year the police administration ordered coffee and pop machine be removed from the lunch room because we would not supply the Commission with 5c per item sold. The administration has not offered an alternative since the machines were removed.

The Breatherizer is in the locker room and next to the men's washroom. Privacy

while doing the tests is virtually impossible and goes against all the guidelines set down by the Centre of Forensic Sciences.

Interrogation Room. No room is set aside for this purpose.

Parade room. This is an old bank vault in the basement and is never secure. Consequently to preserve evidence the officer must keep it in his locker.

Parade room. The facility just does not exist unless you use the report room, lunch room etc. (there is absolutely no privacy).

Through the week parking spots are extremely limited at the four-o'clock shift; it is not uncommon to wait for a parking spot to be vacated.

The situation in Acton has improved recently, according to the report, by moving the men from the old town hall into the YMCA building on Mill Street. "The condition of the old building was known by the Police Commission, yet they allowed the men to work in this deplorable building without consideration for the men who worked there. Under the new situation, parking for personal vehicles is still a problem; the town will only allow two parking spaces for department vehicles on Mill Street."

The building at Milton is the best of the three, according to the report, it is also 100 years old, not properly wired and has outdated heating systems which continually breaks down.

The women's washroom is located beside the sergeant's office on the main floor and is not very private.

The men's washroom, which does have a shower stall, is located on the second floor, next to the juvenile and court offices. If one has to shower, he has to go across the hall to the locker room, to change.

There is no phone in the lunch room on the third floor. Officers are continually called on the phone must leave the lunch and go down a flight of stairs to answer calls.

Security: the building is locked up after 5 p.m. which leaves no one in the building. "Several officers leave their



RUELENS talks to reporters after Thursday's commission meeting.

guns in their lockers on completion of the shift. If 2 Division was ever broken into the department could have a very embarrassing situation if several revolvers were stolen."

Elsewhere the police association would like the regional headquarters building at Oakville used as a police station instead of housing the administration.

"(The building) is the only police building in the region and is not being used for that purpose."

In Burlington, the report recommends putting the three divisions in one central building.

"The administration and the commission should be ashamed of our operational buildings," states the report. "When our own officers walk into these buildings to report for duty, their morale drops out of sight. Do we, in all fairness, have to work out of old and inadequate buildings when other branches of government, both locally and regionally, have much newer and better facilities. As examples please compare the fire departments, the town, regional employees."

The men in blue speak

The following dozen excerpts are from the Halton Regional Police Association's morale report. They are what the officer on the street told the association.

"I can't remember the last time I was proud to have someone visit our police station. After all, who's proud of doing police work in someone's old bedroom?"

"Can anyone tell me why we need an office in Acton? Isn't it nice we can afford to keep up this office for a town of 7,000 population? Could we please have an office for Campbellville?"

"Isn't it nice of the Chief to let us use the cells at R.H.Q. (Regional Headquarters)? I guess he figured since it is the only true police building in the Region we should have access to it. Wouldn't it have been simpler to put the real policemen in a real police building and let the Administration use an office building? The Chief probably figured that one day he'd make an arrest and he would need the cells close by!"

"We have a man in the region trained in bomb work. He has no equipment, but if a bomb does come up we'll call him and he'll confirm our suspicions that it's a bomb. In that way we won't give Peel Regional Bomb Squad any false-calls!"

"Instead of us asking Peel Police for the use of their dogs or bomb squads, why not

have the Chief do it? Then we won't suffer the embarrassment of asking."

"Many personnel on the force still have not met the Chief since regionalization."

"Traffic in all towns in Halton is getting very heavy and we need a better set of roof lights and sirens. Ambulance and fire are trusted with them, but why not police? It seems that police are just to be seen and not heard."

"Promotions are not made according to Force procedure. The rank and file start to get the feeling that they must follow the rules or be punished, but the Administration will only follow them if it is to their advantage."

"The fact that a Force of our size can afford to have an inspector working full time investigating members of the Force, during this time of the 'Austerity Program' would lead one to believe that there is something the matter with the priorities of the Force."

"I am referring to supervision over the whole force. How many times have we heard it said, 'Milton does it different from Oakville. Oakville does it different from Burlington. Burlington does it different from everybody.' We are supposed to be one force. We know it is not."

"I believe what I am trying to get across is the fact we have these problems and have had them for four years

with no improvement. It also would appear that we are not going to get any improvement in the future as all we hear is cuts in the budget. It is no wonder that the officers have a low morale or become frustrated when they have to work under these conditions."

"Police work is a very involved business in both technical and human terms. It is a costly business which should not be subject to budget cuts and austerity moves."

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF HINTON'S CONTINUING SALE WITH 10% OFF ALL MERCHANDISE IN STOCK NOT ALREADY REDUCED. ALSO MANY ITEMS FEATURED AT 25 TO 50% REDUCTIONS.



ELK'S MONDAY NIGHT BINGO Door Prizes 45 Mountainview Road Georgetown \$40 Prizes Early Bird Games 7:30 p.m. 5 PRIZES AT \$20 EACH Doors Open 7 p.m. Bingo Starts 8 p.m. 16 Regular Games at \$40 ea. 3 Special at \$70 ea. \$600 Jackpot 52 Numbers (GUARANTEED \$100) Share The Wealth Projects and Deaf Detection in Small Children FREE Bus Service From Acton and Georgetown WINNERS MRS. JARDINE MRS. A. LEIMING

Metro Assoc. president looks at Halton report

Many of the problems mentioned in the morale report by the Halton Regional Police Association can be seen in other occupations. Other workers live with a law for the chief and a law for the Indian, favoritism and the fear to criticize superiors.

In order to help place the issues in the mainstream of police life, Metropolitan Toronto Police Association President Allan Evelyn was asked to comment on the Halton report.

The in-service training in Halton was stopped last autumn because there was no money to cover the cost of overtime while the men were on course, according to the report.

"I don't know how a police department can operate today without in-service training,

with the changes in the laws," Evelyn said.

"No police department operating without in-service training is keeping officers informed and equipped to do its job," said the Toronto president. According to Evelyn, the Ontario Police Commission—which governs all police commissions—has a duty to see that police forces have in-service training.

The Halton police would like a pool of new vehicles to draw on when the ones they use pass the 60,000 mile mark.

The 60,000 mile figure is one used by the Ontario Provincial Police for years, he said. He continued by saying most municipal forces use it. He said he thought it was a realistic figure.

The Halton force is asking that the police association be

part of the police commission so the association can have a say in policy making.

"There is nothing new about associations asking for this type of involvement. There are some inherent problems, such as bargaining," said Evelyn. He said in such circumstances it would be a conflict of interest to have an association member on the board.

He said, however, there is no doubt that changes within the force are much smoother when police chiefs and associations consult.

On the demand that all promotions should take place within 30 days, Evelyn said he could see management screaming about that one. Management, he said, may want to change the status within the force, see if it can make a useful change without filling a position that soon.

"But if they're (the commission) abusing that situation—which I read into (these) responses—they're inviting that kind of response from the association."

Statistics within the report state the ratio of police officers to citizens is 1 per 878.

I didn't realize Halton was that high. Here again, ratios are useless. He said it was like taking the number of summonses an officer gives out and say from that, that he is a good or bad officer. It depends on the community.

"I really can't comment about it being high. But on other things in the report—no in-service training—that indicates to me they have a problem.

The Halton report calls for a hands-off attitude towards police budgets. They should not be subject to cuts or austerity measures, it states.

Evelyn said it is a concern of 99 per cent of the police associations in Canada. He termed the request "pie in the sky".

"What they (the commission) should be doing is

spending money to save money—to find ways of putting police forces back on the track."

"One of the sad things about budgets across Canada is that governments have done nothing to seriously study the impact of police work, on ways to increase police productivity or efficiency. There has been no major study in Canada," said the Toronto association president.

Later in an interview with Halton Police Association President Al Ruelens the question was asked why no mention of wages was made in the morale report.

You can hardly do anything else when the last year and this you have the highest wage in the province, he said.

Last year the wage for a 1st Class Constable in Halton was \$19,177.60. A police officer with the same rank in Toronto made \$19,025.

From what little I've seen of the report, the recommendations are factual, said Toronto's Evelyn. He said he was surprised at some recommendations, from the administration point of view. He said he thought Halton was more advanced.

Police administrators arrogant, elitist: report

The Halton Police Association's morale report zeros in on the administrators—brother officers who manage the force—whose attitudes are mistrustful, paternalistic, arrogant or elitist.

The report disclaims any blanket condemnation of the administration, but states that power is in the hands of a few men who estrange the man in the field from the administration if those few fail in their attitudes or abilities.

A couple of samples of what field officers stated in the report are: "Mistrust is pulling the Force apart..."

And this one "...the members don't feel a trust in the Administration, chief and deputy chief and regional headquarters inspectors, and their ability to deal with fairness and impartial manner, regard to discipline, investigations and more important general attitudes..."

The report pointed out that examples of what it termed administrative shortcomings "are too numerous to list. Such shortcomings included the reluctance of some senior ranks to make a firm decision on their own and an apparent discrepancy between the treatment given lower ranks as opposed to senior officers for violations of force policy."

The Halton Regional Police Association would like to see the para-military concepts of the present force set aside, and replace them with the notion of police being a profession of "sophisticated public servants."

The report draws on two sources to push the idea of having police association members on the governing police body—the Halton Regional Police Commission.

The first source, a professor's report, contends that neither commission or association members are equipped for management or industrial relations. The professor also calls for a new method of involvement where executive members of the association are involved "in appropriate decision making in the police force."

The second source, a report to the government, recommends the police chief and the president of the association sit on the board which governs the force.

The letter stated wind blown debris had been collected, an extension to the leachate system installed and the Region will do additional monitoring to ensure standards are kept up.

The letter stated wind blown debris had been collected, an extension to the leachate system installed and the Region will do additional monitoring to ensure standards are kept up.

Dump cleaned

A letter from Halton Region assured members of the Credit Valley Conservation Authority's executive committee that preventive measures had been taken to solve leachate leaking into the Credit River from the Georgetown dump.

The letter stated wind blown debris had been collected, an extension to the leachate system installed and the Region will do additional monitoring to ensure standards are kept up.

HALTON MUFFLER LTD.
877-7042
348 Guelph Street Georgetown

GUARANTEED

877-1963 **MARO POOLS** 877-1963
GEORGETOWN

COMPLETELY INSTALLED from **\$3,895**

Installed with a Jacuzzi filtration system, automatic skimmer, centre drain, 30 mil. sanitized vinyl liner with a 20 year warranty, 12" tile printed border pattern, all necessary cleaning equipment, reinforced Bestulux hard bottom, 7" bulbous coping, all necessary hoses and fittings, full excavation and fill removal, back filling with clear sand, PLUS Our complete satisfaction policy. Order yours today!

24' ROUND DELMAR BY **COLECO** \$889

Package includes:
• Heavy duty 6" top rails
• 3/4 h.p. fibreglass sand filter with 8-way dial valve (10 year tank warranty)
• Decorated litho wall design
• 20 gauge winterized vinyl liner (15 year warranty)
• In wall skimmer and return
• Deluxe vacuum & maintenance kit

ORDER NOW FOR IMMEDIATE INSTALLATION

CHEMICALS

5 lb. pool stabilizer	\$12.55
5 lb. stabilized chlorine granular	13.00
20 lb. stabilized chlorine granular	47.20
5 lb. 70% chlorine granular	7.36
25 lb. 70% chlorine granular	31.00
50 lb. 70% chlorine granular	58.20
100 lb. 70% chlorine granular	106.00
5 lb. 70% chlorine tabs	7.40

Pool Blankets
24' Round Above Ground Pool Blanket **\$139.00**
16' x 32' Rectangle Inground **\$138.00**

IDA DRUG STORES
"Well Worth Looking For"

Summer PARADE OF VALUES

KLEENEX BOUTIQUE TOWELS ONLY **88¢** While They Last!

DARE COOKIES ONLY **99¢** EA. While They Last!

- OAT SUPREME 425g
- DIGESTIVE 397g

SCOTT FAMILY NAPKINS 99¢ Assorted Colour Choice 180's

BAN Super Dry ROLL ANTI-PERSPIRANT 99¢ 43ml

CHLOR-TRIPOLON 4mg 36's or 8mg 18's \$1.49 EA.

FACIAL TISSUES 59¢ 200 2-Ply White Only

BACTINE FIRST AID SPRAY 99¢ 4oz

FONDA GREASE RESISTANT "Sno-White" PAPER PLATES 99¢ 70 9" Plates

FOIL WRAP 99¢ 18" x 25 FEET

WRITING PAD 77¢ EA. 10" X 8" (Letter Size) ENVELOPES 40 Size No. 9 OR 75 Size No. 11

NEW FREEDOM MAXI PADS 30's \$2.19

New CLAIR-MIST by Clair 225 ml NON-ALCOHOL HAIR SPRAY \$1.49

Clair NICE 'N EASY SHAMPOO WITH HAIR COLOUR \$2.07

Baby Scott DISPOSABLE DIAPERS \$1.99 EA. REGULAR 30's SUPER TODDLER 24's

SAVE 50¢ AT ANY IDA DRUG STORE off our regular price for developing and printing your roll of colour print film. ONE ROLL PER COUPON PLEASE.

glenlea drug mart
294 Queen Street East • Acton • 853-2220

Opening Wednesday, July 5th

Acton Pet Food and Supplies

ON RIVER STREET
OPPOSITE THE LIBRARY

Featuring Major Pet Food Brands