



And the walls came tumbling down! Halton Hills works department employees were on the scene of the tragic fire at the Dominion Hotel Sunday morning. Works department employees removed any rubble that could have been considered dangerous from the scene including the lone standing wall at the buildings north end. After the fire was under control the wall, seemingly held together by the fire escape, was toppled by the machine.

## Former Acton police officer resigns after charges laid

by Pat Zampern  
A veteran Peel Police Detective has resigned from the force following allegations that he stole approximately \$1,300 worth of property from a Divisional storage room. The officer's resignation was tendered last week after Peel Police laid criminal charges against the 15 year veteran of police work.

The charges came after a two week internal investigation headed by senior personnel in the police department. The stolen items, unclaimed merchandise from previous police investigations, included electrical equipment and clothing. None of it would have been needed for future trials, police said, and would probably have been disposed of by auction. Entry to the storage room was gained with a key readily available to all senior personnel at the division. Officers at the Mississauga station at Hwy 5 and 10 discovered the merchandise was missing at the end of July.

The detective ultimately charged with the theft had left earlier in the month for a planned vacation with his family in Britain. Following the reported theft an internal investigation headed by Staff Superintendent Bert Collins, Inspector James Wingate and Detective Dan Danting was launched at the beginning of August. A warrant was issued August 6th for the arrest of Detective Roy Wood, 41, of Georgetown, Ontario.

Wingate travelled to Britain last Monday to execute several search warrants, and returned this week. Searches were also conducted at a number of residences in the Toronto area, Collins said, and resulted in the recovery of most of the stolen items. Investigators believe the goods were given as presents and not sold for profit. No one found in possession of the merchandise has been charged with a criminal offense.

The detective, a British subject, remains in the United Kingdom although his family has returned home. According to law, a British subject charged with a criminal offense in Canada cannot be deported. Extradition proceedings are possible but are only allowed after petitions to the Federal Crown Attorney and hearings between the two countries. It is not known whether Wood will return voluntarily to face the charge. The 41 year old detective joined the Peel Police Force in Jan, 1974. Previously he spent years with two other police forces in Ontario, including a stint in Acton.

## Chief told to nail speeders

by John Robinson  
The fight to slow down automobile speed freaks in Halton has been stepped up. Complaints by Oakville residents of hot rodders terrorizing the elderly in sections of town made some noise at the Halton Police Commission meeting Thursday in Oakville.

Acting Halton Police Chief James Harding was told to increase his efforts to nail trouble-makers through better publicization of the role the public can play. Harding is issuing instructions to his district commanders to help residents help the police. When callers phone in to complain they will be told they can aid by coming forward with information—license numbers, car and driver descriptions, times and dates—and by appearing in court at conviction time.

Commissioner Alf Oliver suggested Harding shorten his instructions and make them available to the public through a news release; other Commission members agreed. The Oakville delegation from Stewart Street that appeared before general committee last week to complain about speeders was not sure public cooperation was the answer.

"We do call the licence plates in and the police says it's off a stolen car," said Reg Adam. "Rick Hill said he didn't like being asked to do a policeman's job. 'I've got my own job to do.'" Oakville mayor and police commission chairman Harry Barrett says "it's going to take a little bit of sacrifice on people's part to clean this thing up."

A petition brought by the Stewart Street delegation stated, "if no attention is given to this matter immediately, the residents may take the matter into their own hands." In a telephone interview Barrett said "I don't want people to get

## No interest — no Mug!

Teenagers alert! Do you still want your drop-in centre, The Mug? After 18 months of operation and considerable birth pangs in the spring of 1978, it seems as if there isn't the need for a drop-in centre as originally indicated, according to Helen Friedman, Children's Aid representative who operates The Mug.

Wednesday night dances have been attracting fewer and fewer teens. Last week's dance, the fate hinger, was attended by about 20 youngsters. A meeting will be held this Wednesday at 7:30 at the Mug with the board, the Opti-Mists Club, who are interested in keeping the coffee shop going, a co-ordinator from Used Network Service who will advise, and a group of interested teens. Any other young people who care about the drop-in centre are welcome, Friedman said.

Funding for the Mug is not a problem, explained the operator, unless special events are requested. The dances pay for themselves when enough participants attend. "I'm not sure the need is there for a weekly dance, perhaps we should run a monthly one," she commented. Active in the inauguration of the drop-in centre were Mark and Kathryn Beaton, Debbie Wellwood, Susan Mellor and Rick Van Fleet.

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ALL NEW ADVENTURES!  
THE APPLE DUMPLING RIDES AGAIN GANG

Barrett admitted it was difficult sometimes to get information. "It's pretty hard to take down a license number when you're getting run over." Acting chief Harding said at the commission meeting he did not want to give the impression people had not been reporting incidents. In Halton this year there have been 443 complaints of "moving traffic violations" and 41 per cent of these have been cleared, through cautions or court action, by Halton police.

"We have all kinds of complaints about furious driving from residents in Burlington... it's very prevalent in Acton and it's a problem in Georgetown," said commissioner Barrett.

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## Marons get severance

An R.R. 4, Acton farm family got exactly what it wanted from the Region's Land Division Committee (LDC) last week, despite a report from Halton planners. The LDC granted the application of Adolf and Elsie Maron, northeast half of Lot 21, First Line. The Marons split about five acres from their 100 acre farm for the use of their daughter Trudy and son-in-law.

Much of the Maron farm is rolling field with stone. Trudy Lemiski, the daughter, told committee she and her husband had not decided exactly what to do because of the nature of the land. She indicated they want to either add to the lot or buy out the farm. "We're not interested in severing. Father would not like a stranger

living beside him," she said. The parents were at the meeting. The town planning department had no objection to the severance, but as its report states "the parcel is overly large and will be susceptible to further fragmentation." The planner recommended a frontage of 125 feet.

LDC member George Harrington observed that if Maron wanted to fragment the lot, he would have asked for the 125-foot frontage. Fellow member Joe Willmott said the request for five acres is legitimate because there is no lot size specified in the Esqueving Official Plan. Mrs. Lemiski also pointed out she preferred the larger lot. The 125-footer would be hazardous because it would mean a driveway

opening onto the road with a steep hill. A Maron neighbor, Linae Van Der Venn, R.R. 4, Acton, spoke in favor of the severance application to the committee.

LDC member Harrington, a former Burlington mayor, also took issue with the regional planners report which states the bid meets the Region-

al Plan "if the applicant establishes that both he and the son-in-law are full-time employees for the farm." "What kind of nonsense is this?" asked Harrington. "Where in the official plan does it say you have to be a full time employee?" The committee chairman agreed with him. There are no previous severances.

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