



Inspector Matt MacPherson is the new commander of Halton Regional Police Force District One. Inspector MacPherson started in the position Monday. He took over from Actin-Inspector John Barratt.

North Halton police boss

Halton Regional Police have appointed a new district commander for North Halton.

Inspector Matt MacPherson replaced Acting Inspector John Barratt Monday at the Georgetown headquarters for One District.

For 25 of his 44 years, Inspector MacPherson has been a police officer. For the past year he has been duty inspector at the regional police head-

quarters in Oakville. Acting Inspector Barratt is to enroll in a course and then assume duties at regional police headquarters in Oakville.

Inspector MacPherson's experience includes work in the uniform section, identification, criminal investigation and internal police investigation.

For three years he was head of criminal investigations in Burlington.

Quick thinking saves lives at works garage

Quick reaction by Danny Hillier of Halton Hills works department averted a possible tragedy, Wednesday morning March 5, when mechanical failure caused a garbage packer to crash through the works garage wall.

Hillier lives in Acton. Hillier had started the garbage packer and was creeping out of the garage when a solenoid in the packer which revs up the engine to operate the packer shorted out two wires.

Immediately the garbage packer, revved up to full speed, jumped ahead, while three of the men were walking across in front.

Hillier slammed the gears into reverse and applied the brakes, but they would not hold with the engine at full speed, sending the packer crashing through the back wall.

Town Engineer praised Hillier's reaction, saying, "Quick thinking on his part undoubtedly saved the men from injury."

Police favor hanging killers

Murderers should be executed by the state, according to Halton's Regional Police Commission.

Commissioners and police chief James Harding took that position on the subject of capital punishment in response to a formal motion by Waterloo's police commissioners.

Waterloo supports the immediate re-instatement of capital punish-

ment in cases of the murder of police officers and prison guards.

Halton enlarged on the statement to include every victim. "The little old lady down the street is just as important as the police officer. And I'm no hawk," commission chairman Harry Barrett said.

"I think that is the general feeling of police officers too... everyone's life is sacred," commented Chief Harding.

Post office lobby closed off-hours

Starting March 28 the Acton Post Office lobby will be closed on week-ends and every night from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. Box holders will be able to purchase a lobby key for off-hours.

Vandalism is the key reason for necessitating the closure. The Thanksgiving fire in lobby mail slots concerned post office officials. The increase in nightly transients using the lobby as sleeping quarters is another worry.

Although the lobby will be open daily Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. once closed on Friday evening the

lobby will remain closed until 6 a.m. Monday.

Box holders may obtain lobby keys from the post office counter for the sum of 75 cents.

Thieves hit

A quantity of tools, an air compressor and battery charger were reported stolen from York Auto Wreckers, Lot 22, Concession 4, Saturday.

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Student Chamber survey starts

A group of Acton High School students will be out visiting businesses in Acton starting next Monday.

The urban geography class is carrying out the

field survey and will prepare a directory of Acton for the Chamber of Commerce.

Chamber official Janet Fleming said the reason for the survey and dir-

ectory is she didn't have information to properly answer all the questions about Acton directed to the Chamber of Commerce the past two years.

Since the Chamber didn't have the manpower or time to prepare a detailed directory they enlisted the help of Acton High School. Mrs. Fleming noted principal

Wally Watkins wants the school to be involved in the community. "Projects like this not only make school more relevant for the students, but can also make their education more meaningful," Mrs. Fleming declared.

She recalled two years ago the students did a business survey for the Chamber, so this survey and directory is detailed a follow-up.

"When I was at the school it was evident the students were enthusiastic about this project and eager to be involved," Mrs. Fleming said.

The field work will start this Monday. The town has been broken down into 24 sections and not only will stores and industries be surveyed but also businesses, homes and professionals. What goes into the directory, if anything, will be up to the individual business, Mrs. Fleming noted.

Acton school tax bite \$43

Taxpayers in Halton Hills can expect to dig deeper into their pockets to pay this year's education tax.

There is top tax hike of \$44, which translates into 13 per cent, according to

Halton Hills Treasurer Ray King.

All three areas within the town will pay \$364 based on different assessments.

Esquering residents, based on an average

assessment of \$4,662, face the lowest increase, \$40. Last year their bill was \$324.

Acton homeowners are in the middle of the boost. The hike, based on \$4,522 assessment, is \$43.

New provincial equalization factors have increased the levy here and in Milton, according to treasurer King.

The province limited the rise, due to the new factors, to five per cent.

Won't pay water rebate

There will be no rebates to those people who have been billed twice under the new Regional equalized water-sewer rates.

If full rebates were paid out, residents in Acton would be returned \$20,000; Georgetown, \$42,000; Oakville, \$250,000; Milton, \$293,000; and Burlington, \$293,000, for a total of \$621,000. That works out to about

\$17 per household.

A special meeting of the Water-Sewer Committee decided Monday to stop any payments after it was found out the amount to be paid out would be far more than the revenue expected to come in under the new form of taxation.

The trouble began shortly after the bills for the system, which went

into effect Jan. 1, started arriving at Halton households.

In Burlington, Oakville, and parts of Halton Hills, residents had paid up to the end of December 1979. The January bills included charges for October, November and December. Residents began to complain to the Region about being double billed.

The problem deepened after it was found out the revenues brought in had been disbursed before the double billing problem had become acute.

The problem of how to pay back the ratepayers went through several committee meetings, during which Region Treasurer Don Farmer said a rebate would probably have to be paid and this would be done in the form of a cheque.

In the meantime the seriousness of trying to make up for the money already disbursed resulted in a meeting last Monday at which time Mr. Far-

mer said that about \$600,000 would have to be rebated.

Mr. Farmer said once the money was paid out, the Region would face a serious cash flow shortfall, which would probably mean instituting a 20 per cent extra surcharge on July 1 to recoup the losses.



Nurse Renee Sutherland checks Dugald Dick's blood bag at last Thursday's blood donor clinic at the Acton Legion.

BIA dinner Tuesday

The Acton Business Improvement Area (BIA) will hold its annual meeting and dinner next Tuesday at the Acton Legion.

An official of the Ontario Ministry of Housing will be on hand for the meeting and show slides of downtown revitalizations.

Also Paul Nielsen will give a slide show of the changes in downtown Acton over the years. Cocktails at 6 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$6.50 a person.

Legion mortgage burning

The Acton branch of the Royal Canadian Legion will burn its mortgage Friday.

The Legion, Branch 197 is holding two days of events to mark the occasion. Saturday night parties can witness the burning of the mortgage.

Saturday afternoon from 1.30 p.m. to 5 p.m. the ladies auxiliary presents entertainment plus a complimentary buffet.

Friday night, by invitation only, a special dinner is planned to honor the guarantors of the mortgage.

Erin fire

Acton fire fighters were called to an Erin Township chimney fire around lunch time Monday. The fire, however, was extinguished by the time the truck and van arrived.

Fire department Chief Mick Homes said there was no damage in the fire at the S. Smith property on Lot 2 Concession 3.

AIR CANADA ✪

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