

IODE help . . .

(continued from page 1)
 donation of Christmas candy from Tyler Travel Service.
 Mrs. Spruiell said the committee starts working on the hamper program in November, when they get the list from the ministry.
 This year the IODE will be packing and delivering 25 to 30 hampers. That's about the same as last year's total.
 The Lakeside Chapter of the IODE has been running the Christmas hamper program for the past 20 years. They raise the money through their annual bazaar, while the Rotary Club has many money-making projects during the year.



Terry Grubbe and Dave Whiting ham it up at the water show.

Chief welcomes Acton's input . . .

(Continued from page 1)
 He and his associates noted few people ever stop by a police station, when people have a problem they use the phone, and cruisers aren't dispatched on calls from a local station, but from the force's ultra-modern communications centre at headquarters in Oakville.
 When the force first set up in Acton there were detachment commanders in the office during business hours and they rarely had visitors, Barratt, a former staff sergeant here, pointed out.
 There simply isn't the criteria, workload, for a full-time Acton station, Harding said, but if the community grows then there would be a need.
 So, while the force doesn't envision a full-time station in the foreseeable future Harding says he "will listen to input from the public" on this issue.
 "I think the public is comforted by the presence of an open station," he said. Harding said possibly the commission and region should consider spending money on expanding the hours of operation of the Acton station.
 If that's what Actonians want he urges them to contact the District Commander, the chief himself, Police Commissioner members like Glenn Magnuson of Georgetown and regional councillors.
 Lobbying for expanded hours, the station could be open in the evenings and weekends for example, won't guarantee a change, if funds aren't available, they warned. But the chief is receptive to considering the idea. However, they haven't heard the request for the station to be open here longer hours very often.
 "They (the region and Police Commission) might expand the office hours for the comfort of the community to help create a sense of confidence in the police in the community," he said. The commission does listen to his ideas and spend funds accordingly.
 The force knows more people than just Lorne Doherty are concerned about policing here. At the same time they say they haven't any indication discontent is as deep as some suggest.
 They say they're receptive to hearing much, much more from Acton so they can get a handle on how people feel about the matter and what needs to be done.
 "The community must identify its needs for us. The police and community must share its concerns more."
 They'd like calls, letters, any form of communication from Acton, from people who aren't happy about policing here and those who are satisfied. Without much more communication from Acton the police won't ever know what people here want from the force.
 Harding admits the

police are sometimes slow in responding to calls. In fact a survey in Acton last month on Fridays, usually the busiest day for the force, showed sometimes the officers took over 30 minutes to respond to a call. However, on the average the survey showed a 4.9 minute response time.
 He said the force would welcome specific questions about residents' complaints about slow response time. Harding said calls will get stacked up and a priority basis. He can see no need to spend money rushing an officer to a home to pick up a found bicycle. One call they were concerned wasn't answered more quickly involved a suspicious person but investigation showed the resident was reporting the suspicious person a day after the incident.
 Harding explained police don't view a complaint as a disaster, but instead something to be explained to the public or a chance to correct a problem. When people have complaints about slow police response to calls they shouldn't ask the officer about the problem since he doesn't see the entire picture, but contact district headquarters in Georgetown and speak to the duty sergeant.
 The chief believes if people took their complaints to the brass it would "help us develop a better relationship with the people up there."
 Halton Hills is divided into five zones. Acton is split into two zones with part of Esquevas added onto each zone. That means there is a minimum of five officers patrolling in Halton Hills 24 hours a day. However, there are peak activity times for the police from 10 a.m. to about 2 a.m., so by bringing in extra officers on a special shift, the force can have rovers helping out where needed during the busiest time, 8 p.m. to midnight. These

extra officers aren't on every night, most weeks though they are out four of seven nights.
 To cover a zone the police need 5.5 men because of days off, vacation, training sessions, sick days etc. Then the force needs a cruiser, a car radio and a mobile radio. Wages, equipment, benefits, uniforms, cruisers and other expenses bring the cost of covering just a single zone to over \$150,000, and that's a conservative figure. That's why the force can't have back up men in each zone to handle overflow of calls so every call must be handled on a priority basis.
 "We have to use our resources carefully. We have to look at our needs and justify spending on the most pressing."
 Since coming to Halton Harding has worked hard to improve the quantity and quality of training officers receive, in the hopes better officers can serve the community better. He has also made strides in improving the supervisory and management skills of the senior officers like sergeants. Stations are being upgraded and the communications and records systems, crucial aspects of the operation of the regional force, have been impressively improved.
 Looking ahead, if he can get the funding and Police Commission approval, Harding wants to beef up the special squads and create more patrol zones in north Halton. Soon the north district will be reduced a little so Oakville and Burlington have more area to cover and officers in the north don't have to patrol quite as vast an area.
 Harding wonders why more people in Acton don't know the officers, especially since they are involved in community activities in Halton Hills. Seven officers live right in Acton.
 He explained he can't leave all the local officers

in Acton, particularly since officers ask for transfers to other parts of the region, not because they don't like it here, but because they thirst for more challenging police work.
 The force tries to have one of the Acton zones covered by an officer familiar with the town every shift. The force wants officers who are familiar with all areas of Halton Hills and this necessitates moving men around. The chief says the force will look at stabilizing the postings so the same men are seen in the community more.
 He agreed keeping the same officers in Acton for longer periods of time might help the community get to know them better, but at the same time they feel communication is a two way street. The police would like to see the public asking officers more questions, showing more of an interest in what the police are doing here.
 One complaint often heard is about two cruisers parked in the Becker's or arena parking lots. When a sergeant comes to meet an officer it takes place in a parking lot. When officers meet to exchange information it is out in the open in a parking lot.
 Many residents think the officers are loafing, and the brass admits sometimes they may be but often they are holding a meeting with work.
 The officers are instructed to hold meetings in plain public view so people can find them if they are needed.
 The brass would be happy to hear from people who are annoyed by this so that they can find out if the officers were holding a work meet or are goldbricking. They also are instructed to meet in areas of high crime, like the arena parking lot close to the park concession stand which has been frequently vandalised.

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Police are part of, not apart from, the community. We can do things more effectively and efficiently with people's help. Communication is a two way street. The pros and cons, we want to hear them all.
 "We would welcome ideas of how to make the police more visible in Acton and how we might more readily participate in the community."
 "We will build a better police force only when we do so with the community's help, assistance and input."
 "We believe we are public servants and are prepared to serve to the best of our capabilities within the bounds of available resources."
 "Policemen are approachable. Approach them."
 "We should be able to provide a darn fine police force because we are serving a darn fine community."
 Despite having only 25 to 27 per cent of the workload in the region, District One (North Halton), has 31 per cent of the manpower of the force. Even though an Ontario Police Commission probe of the regional police operation a couple of years ago recommended a reduction in the number of officers working in the north the brass decided against it. Harding notes the force must cover a tremendously large area in Milton and Halton Hills and that presents "considerable problems."
 "The north end presents a far greater policing problem. The geographical set-up makes it a real monster."
 If he was still a front line officer instead of an administrator Harding says he'd like to work in the north where you can do real community police work. Officers assigned to Acton are expected to spend part of each shift walking the streets. During a seven day period this month officers put in 24 1/2 hours walking the beat in Acton. "That's considerable activity," Chief said, while adding he'd like to see the officers being able to walk around and talk to people even more. Currently the force is 11 men over strength in the north in relation to the workload.
 Next year he wants at least 15 more men added to the force and hopes to use them in special squads dealing with drugs, vice, fraud, organized crime and he also plans to re-implement the tactical and rescue squad in case of a kidnapping or hostage taking incident involving one of the many prominent politicians or business people living in Halton.
 Harding admits the



Plenty of Christmas gifts were on sale at the Share bazaar and bake sale Friday morning at Family Cleaners on Mill St. Beatrice Cooper and Mary Van Dam show off some of the wares. Proceeds of the sale went towards the Halton Lung Ass. sociation.

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 10.30 a.m. - Choral Eucharist
 10.30 a.m. - Church School Nursery and Baby Care
WEDNESDAY
 10.00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist
 ALL WELCOME
SALVATION ARMY
 Gospel Service every Sunday at 7.00 at Trinity United Church, Acton.

Bands' concert . . .
 (Continued from page 1)
 sixth number was 'Christmas Eve Tattoo' from Act II of La Boheme, a scene about a Christmas celebration in the streets, a Yule parade.
 Christmas in the sunny isles of the Caribbean isn't different just because there's no ice or snow, as evidenced by the seventh band piece "Sleep Little Tiny King", an example of Yule calypso music.
 "Colonel Bogey" written by Kenneth Alford for a golfer, was the final piece performed by the Citizen's Band and was conducted by Wright. Everyone in the audience may not have known the title, but they certainly knew the music as the march theme from the classic film Bridge Over the River Kwai.
 Next it was the Acton High School Band's turn to entertain, under the direction of Dave Sale.
 The band with over half of the members making their first major appearance, played "Dunbarton's Drums" first. This piece is a folk song designed to highlight drums and trumpets and featured interesting scoring.
 Next the band played "Un-Jour Il Viendra Mon Amour" (Here and Now). It brought a bit of Canada's other dominant culture, French Canadian, to Acton. The author of the song, Francoise Coudineau, is very popular in Quebec, but his music is rarely heard in English Canada, which made the AHS Band's offering a real treat.
 Sale compared the music of the third piece "T-SOP" - The Sound of Philadelphia, to a chugging steam engine, starting off slowly, then roaring along and then finally slowing down. "T-SOP" was a hit parade favorite a few years ago and the theme of the short lived television series, Soul Train.
 The Christmas spirit filled the air in the second half of the concert as the combined bands, first under Elliott and then Sale, performed the traditional carols and Yule pops.
 A Huron Indian carol of Christmas, "Twain in the Moon of Wintertime", provided a different view of the birth of Christ.
 Elliott conducted the combined bands in a seven number rendition of traditional holiday season carols and songs with the audience joining in for an old fashioned singsong.
 The evening ended with "O Canada".

Lindley retiring
 After 35 years in school financial management Bruce Lindley is retiring from his post as superintendent of business and finance for Halton Board of Education.
 In a letter to director of education Em Lavender Lindley said his resignation will be effective April 30 and noted his years of work in Halton education have been "interesting, challenging, rewarding and fulfilling."
 Over the years Lindley has seen "numerous and significant" changes in education and said he has had the privilege of working with many trustees, "all of whom have been dedicated and sincere persons working conscientiously in the interests of the pupils in the schools and being cognizant of the rate-payers whom they represent."
 Paying tribute to the retiring senior administrator, Trustee Bill Priestner said Lindley treated the public's funds as if they were his own. "Because of Lindley's strong positions on financial restraint", Halton has long had one of the lowest cost per pupil ratios in the province.