

Must help police protect property

If more people helped themselves to help the police, vandalism and crime would be easier to curtail.

That was the message Friday afternoon when Halton Regional Police Constables Scott Pringle and David Wallace and Cam Hillmer of the Oakville Community Vandalism Committee attended Councillor's Drop-in to discuss problems in the community.

Programs such as Neighborhood Watch, and Operation Identification and "Target Hardening" are ways in which the public can aid the police in protecting property, Halton Hills Councillors learned.

Hillmer explained that his organization was formed by a group of citizens in Oakville who would help the police and help prevent crime.

Through a budget of about \$10,000 from the region, the Oakville Committee show films, distributes brochures, speaks at meetings, and educates the public on crime prevention.

Hillmer, an Oakville lawyer, told the

meeting participants that he felt the region's money is well spent. He explained that their entire cost is only half that of hiring a policeman to do the same job, with the same results.

Children must be educated early, Pringle said in order to curtail future vandals. He mentioned how a lot of vandalism starts off as pranks, but after the person gets away with it, it turns into something more serious. If that person was reported to the police at the early stage, it might avoid more severe vandalism.

However, he said, many people are reluctant to call the police when they witness something for fear of reprisal.

Pringle noted though that as the public is becoming more educated in vandalism, and the dollars it costs to repair or replace targets, more people are starting to report acts. This reflects in rising numbers of vandalism. Even though the numbers are higher, it does not mean there is more going on.

The best way for the public to help protect themselves against both vandalism and burglaries is "target hardening", Wallace pointed out. He explained making it harder for a criminal to work is one of the best deterrents.

Councillor Dave Whiting explained that the town has already turned to target hardening in their battle against vandalism of lighted street signs. He pointed out the town has now given up on the illuminated versions and have gone back to the metal signs.

Preventing crime is just common sense, Pringle said. Dead bolt locks and lights in dark areas, are the more practical methods. "We readily admit if someone wants to get into your house, he is going to get in," Pringle said. "But by making it harder, he has more of a chance of discovery."

He continued to say that a burglar just wants to get into "A" house, not necessarily "your" house. If entry is made difficult, he will move on to the next place.

To protect your home, Wallace said, the homeowner should look at the house through the eyes of a burglar. Doing this, he said, will show the homeowner an easy door to get into, or an unlocked window.

Hillmer stated Neighborhood Watch is a successful way to protect the home. Each resident on a street gets to know the houses all around him, who lives there, who should be there and who shouldn't be there, the address (in case he has to call the police to send a cruiser there), etc. He also pointed out all this information is on file at the police station.

Hillmer noted there are various levels of punishment, and not always incarceration. Public service work (i.e. sweeping the streets, or cleaning up the park) is embarrassing to the convicted, and could be more of a deterrent for repeats than jail or a fine.

"You cannot just put up signs and expect that to be a deterrent," Hillmer said, "you have to do something about it."



Sergeant Richard Kivell and Detective Bill Riddle are teaching AHS students Corrine Andrews and Suzi Bahr about the Halton Police Force's Youth Bureau as part of grade 12 sociology co-operative.

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Grmace and bear it... Ten-year-old Parrish Jago tries out the bench press during weight-lifting classes at the Acton 'Y'. For more weight-lifting pictures see This Week Thru the Lens on page 4.

Photo by DAVE DORKEN

Canada Battery

Take stiff measures to keep lead down

Canada Battery has no intention of allowing its plant in Acton to be closed because of health safety problems and efforts are being made to decrease workers' lead blood levels.

There have been rumors the firm is going to be closed by the Ontario Ministry of Labor, but a ministry spokesman, Andy Paul, said there have been no "orders" issued recently to Canada Battery by the Industrial Health and Safety Branch and the company has complied with all previous orders.

Canada Battery spokesman George Tichbourne admitted in an interview there have been lead blood levels problems previously, but efforts are being made to solve the problem.

He explained in September 1980 workers' lead blood levels were extremely high and continued to be high right through to December when the Ministry of Labor gave the firm five minutes to clear the building and then closed it for a few weeks.

Lead blood levels dropped in January and February and then surprisingly shot back up in March of this year. However, that increase was later explained by Ontario Ministry of Health Lab testing errors.

Levels continued to drop for April, May, June, July and August and then shot back up again last month. Tichbourne said he believes this is again a testing error, he hasn't even heard from the province about the most recent test increases, but he's taking no chances and is making moves to make sure the October tests are back down to or lower than the August levels. September results, until it's known if there were errors are being treated as a "legitimate and serious problem."

Tichbourne said the company has been able to work with the ministry in the past and he is sure they can again, if there is in fact a real problem. If the levels stay up the ministry will "lock the doors", something Tichbourne described as a "standard phrase" and something he said "is well within their rights and their duty."

Every plant worker, 19 of them, was interviewed last week by Tichbourne. They discussed health and safety measures, which might have changed between August and September, and the importance of everyone working to keep blood lead levels down.

Noting even stiffer provincial regulations take effect next month, Tichbourne said everyone at Canada Battery knows the firm's goal is to meet the letter of the law and go a few steps beyond.

There is an on-going updating of equipment program at Canada Battery; a major addition has helped because there's less crowding in the plant and it's easier to keep areas clean. Dust collectors are being improved and air flow capacity is being increased with the use of fans.

All employees are being thoroughly educated on

the dangers of lead. "I refuse to take chances with the health of employees. There are workers who are habitually sloppy and don't follow the proper hygiene rules and endanger their health." However such attitudes won't be tolerated.

"We have no intention of being closed for even a day; being closed temporarily or otherwise. The September results aren't sufficient to close. But if they persisted they would be." As long as the company is making an effort to solve the problem and some progress is being made it won't be closed.

In the last four months of 1980 the levels were described by Tichbourne as "very high, off the chart." In 1981, except in March and September, test results show increases for office staff, including himself, who haven't shown high levels before, a hint there may have been a lab error. The health and safety committee at the plant has met and can't come up with answers to explain the sudden increase.

Also, September results were very high for some workers, but on average they were within acceptable limits.

The firm intends to not only further improve safety standards, Tichbourne said, but also expand its

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Actario-Restoration group make bid to town for hall

A proposal that the Actario and the Town Hall Restoration Committees take over refurbishing and operating the Acton town hall was received favorably last night at Halton Hills General Committee.

A feasibility study to determine cost involved and available provincial grants will be done, and municipal staff is to report back to council on the legalities of an agreement proposed by the two organizations.

George Elliott, of the Committee explained to councillors both the Restoration and Actario committees, with suggestions from Leathertown Association had come with alternative routes the town could take concerning the town hall. (See Leathertown story page 5.)

Elliott explained that council could lease the building and its site to a board of trustees at a nominal fee for 99 years. The board would then be empowered to proceed with the restoration as far as available funds would permit, and raise and allocate funds for future restoration. The board would also manage the building to generate funds for maintenance and upkeep.

If council were to accept the proposal immediately, Elliott said, the current feasibility study would no longer be necessary. It was noted during the meeting grant monies could only be obtained if the study was done. However, under the Actario-Restoration committee suggestion, granting agencies would no longer have to be satisfied.

However, it was stressed the joint committees would support the councillors decision to go ahead with the study, they were just offering an alternative to spending the \$5,500.

Elliott told the councillors if they opted for no study, and accepted his committees' proposal immediately, restoration could begin almost immediately. He said that with the \$80,000 the committee has now (\$40,000 from Actario and \$40,000 promised by the town, which is the cost of demolishing the structure), enough work could be done to keep the building standing another 30 or 40 years. However, he noted, continuous restoration would be done as the funds became available.

Councillor Roy Booth expressed concern over council's lack of control over the uses of the building, and the lack of parking in the area if needed. Elliott said the trustees would have to be trusted. However, the town still had say when a building permit was applied for.

Councillor Russ Miller commended the committees for the suggestion, and mentioned it was probably the best presentation concerning the town hall ever made.

Councillor Harry Levy pointed out that no matter what course of action taken, the building is still the responsibility of the town. He wondered what would happen if after the committees' money is spent and they ran out of funds, who then is responsible.

Elliott said if the building is ever returned to the hands of the town it will be intact.

Councillor Terry Grubbe said she is excited about the overall proposal and feels it is the only way to go if the hall is to be saved.

Mayor Pete Pomeroy stated he wanted to see a concerted effort made to keep the Wintario grant option open, and by doing away with the feasibility study also closed the books on any future provincial

grants. He said he wanted to see a report from the town staff and municipal lawyer.

Booth wondered whether a municipality can enter into a 99 year lease with anyone. Clerk Administrator Ken Richardson explained that if the applicants can determine in the town's own mind that it is in the best interest of the town, they can okay the lease.

Councillor Ross Knechtel claimed he felt the study was a waste of time. He wondered how soon construction could start. Chip Petrillo, of the Leathertown Association said that restoration could start in a matter of weeks. He explained the time is right now with the present availability of workers, and the fall weather as opposed to the winter.

The feasibility study is expected to be completed by the end of December.

Leathertown Association has big plans for Acton

Former Miss Acton Fall Fairs as well as contestants from this year's competition will be invited to be the models in the upcoming Leathertown fashion show.

This was just one of the ideas which the directors and interested citizens came up with Thursday night at the founding meeting of the new Leathertown Association. About 20 people attended the meeting.

Plans were formulated for the fashion show, Wintario draw, Leathertown Days in May and other upcoming Leathertown projects.

Chip Petrillo was voted chairman of Leathertown with Gord Murray filling the post of secretary, Trevor Roza treasurer, and Don and Fred Dawkins and Ed Wood directors. More directors will be added later.

Ted Tyler, who said he was on hand to hear what's going on and offer moral support for the Leathertown concept proposed a number of ideas for the fashion show and Leathertown Days and found he will be called on to at least offer advice on a number of ventures. Tyler explained he doesn't have the time to get very involved in Leathertown now because of his commitment to Actario.

Much of the discussion centred on fundraising

projects to finance Leathertown information folders, downtown refurbishing plans and development of the Leathertown walking history tour.

It was decided the fashion show, likely to be staged in early November, will be held in the area where the restaurant will be built in the old Hide House. Don Dawkins is heading up this project with Don McDonald assisting and Tyler offering input when asked.

It was agreed tickets will cost \$5 and admission will include two coupons for a glass of wine each and cheese will be served. The Hide House is supplying the clothes and music as well as the facilities. Extra tickets for wine can be purchased at the fashion show and there will be a cash bar.

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inside

Some Acton High School students are getting a first hand view of social work. Read about it on Page 3.

Leathertown drops town hall plan see Page 5. On the Leavell and Outdoors can be found on Page 4, and don't forget to read Profiles on Page 2.



Edna Nellis and Lori Cook spent most of Saturday preparing Trinity United Church for the Thanksgiving Day service. Beautiful floral arrangements, and an abundance of vegetables adorned the church.