



Constable Jim Butler is Community Services officer.

Co-operation helps police help people

by Helen Murray

Co-operation and support of the residents makes the Guelph OPP officer's job a whole lot easier. And in Eramosa township, that support makes all the difference in the world.

With a population of 30,000 (soaring to 52,000 in the summer), 1,597 kilometres of road to patrol and 1,244 square kilometres of area, it isn't always possible for the police to be everywhere at the same time.

That's where co-operation comes in handy, says OPP Community Services Officer Jim Butler. He explains his detachment takes in Puslinch, Eramosa, Erin, West Garafraxa, Nichol, Pilkington and Guelph Townships, plus the provincial highways through the city of Guelph. Having that much ground to cover, it sometimes results in a delayed response time.

To recognize Police Week throughout Canada this week, the OPP is giving tours of their Guelph detachment to school children, and have displays set up in the Fergus area.

Staff at the Guelph detachment consists of one staff sergeant, five corporals, 35 constables, five civilian radio dispatchers, and an office staff of three secretaries. The entire coverage area is divided into four units, with one car per shift in each unit. Because of this, the car may be at the other end of the township when a call comes in.

But, says Butler, "We enjoy good co-operation from citizens in that (Eramosa) area. They are very supportive of us," he said. The officers "depend on people to help them (the police) out."

The Community Services officer explained that the 4,374 Eramosa residents are very good at reporting anything suspicious in their area, which helps the police out.

Patrol officers are responsible for traffic, break and enters, and willful damage, anything else that comes along. He is supplemented by a general law enforcement officer who does the more serious crimes.

A criminal investigation unit available to the detachment looks into homicides, rapes, and major break and enters, and a selective traffic patrol unit looks after complaints in a specific area, such as if there were numerous calls of speeding in one certain area.

Butler points out there are all kinds of resources available for special problems, such as gambling, or other major crimes. Plainclothes men are also available from district headquarters in Mount Forest.

"The equipment in Toronto (at their disposal) is very sophisticated," Butler points out.

In 1981, Guelph OPP handled 255 break and enters, 136 thefts over \$200 and 310 under \$200 throughout their area.

Of the 255 break and enters, 63 were cleared, either in the court room or out of court. Of the 310 thefts under \$200, 57 cases were cleared.

Homeowners have a much greater chance of having stolen property returned, Butler said, if they have some form of identification on goods such as a social insurance number engraved on it.

OPP officers are not only continually learning on the job, but they also take several up-dating courses a year.

Butler explained all officers must be 21 years of age to join. They are sent on a three week orientation course at the OPP training centre in Brampton, and then receive their posting.

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Re-instate import quotas

Commons accepts merchants' petition

The joint drive by business, labor and federal Tories to force the government to re-instate shoe import quotas scored a small victory Thursday when the House of Commons accepted a petition from Acton.

Halton MP Otto Jelinek presented the petition from Acton merchants to Parliament as well as personally to Minister of Trade and Commerce Herb Gray.

With the petition's acceptance, Jelinek says, it means Parliament must consider taking action. Either Gray will act or the petition will go to the Commons Finance, Trade and Economics Committee for discussion.

Jelinek said he hopes Gray will act because if the petition and import quotas issue is sent to the committee it could "stay there for months and I'm convinced the industries don't have months left."

Fellow Tory John McDermid, MP for Brampton-Georgetown, didn't have as much luck with Parliament as Jelinek.

He presented a motion which called on the governments to immediately re-instate the shoe import quotas but got nowhere. His motion required unanimous House consent and the Liberals didn't give it.

McDermid explained he is concerned about the shoe industry because a firm in Brampton, Grebb; formerly Hewitson which many, many years ago was in Acton, is being hurt.

He said he told the House he only wanted the quotas put back on for five more years to allow the industries to complete modernization and compete fairly with the imports.

Noting there are thousands of jobs at stake, especially in Ontario and Quebec, McDermid said he knows Liberal MPs from Quebec who want the quotas put back on.

Ottawa was flooded earlier this year with post cards to every cabinet minister from leather and shoe workers across the nation as well as petitions with names of workers and those laid-off to every MP. There is also intensive lobbying taking place. Beardmore and Heller's workers have been participating in the campaign.

When Jelinek addressed the House last week he noted the bulk of residents in Acton depend on the leather industry and the entire local economy is in danger of "collapsing" if the quotas aren't brought back.

Recently Jelinek sent letters to Beardmore workers stating "I wish to assure you that my colleagues and I are well aware of the concerns shared by those of you who fear losing your jobs as a direct result of the Liberal government's decision to lift quotas on footwear imports."

"I have had the opportunity to meet with representatives of your industry on several occasions since this decision, that flies in the face of the recommendations of the Anti-Dumping Tribunal Report, was made, and have reviewed the names of thousands of employees who have petitioned to have this decision reconsidered.

"My colleagues and I in the Progressive Conservative Party have taken up this cause, both inside and out of the House of Commons, as the attached text from Hansard will indicate, and we can assure you that we will continue our efforts to make the government aware of the impact that this announcement has had, and will continue to have, on employment in your industry."

One excerpt from Hansard was from former Tory cabinet minister Roch LaSalle on April 26 when he asked Gray when he was going to make a decision.

LaSalle observed all industry is in trouble but one sector, the footwear industry, "is not asking for government subsidies but only for a minimum of protection to be able to survive." He recalled Gray has said several times he would reassess the "feasibility" of putting the quotas back on and "after this exercise is the minister today in a

(Continued on page 2)



A scene from the M.L.Z. Bennett spring play 'The Swinging Piper' which opened at Acton High School last night and also runs tonight. Pictured here are Michele Heaps - candle stick maker; Jason Medland - the butcher; Karen Swackhamer - the baker; Colln Virgoe - the mayor; Joyce McIssac - the councillor and Tracy Lynn Barclay-Smith - the councillor.

Nuclear disarmament may be municipal vote question

A referendum on "general disarmament" around the world could be on the municipal election ballot this November.

Monday night Halton Hills councillors backed a call for a plebiscite dealing with the nuclear proliferation issue if the courts or province rule it is legal for such a question to be included on the municipal election ballot.

However, councillors expressed fears that three legal opinions contained in the recent issue of the prestigious publication Municipal World warning the entire election could be invalidated because of the plebiscite might be right.

Georgetown resident Janet Duval, backed by a packed gallery, asked Halton Hills to join the growing list; 35 so far, of Canadian municipalities which are putting the Operation Dismantle, a group based in Ottawa, nuclear referendum question on the ballot for the next municipal election.

Mrs. Duval said a referendum in Canadian municipalities was a first step towards a UN world referendum to force world leaders to be more serious in talks to gradually reduce the stockpiles of nuclear weapons. She said ordinary people everywhere are crying out "enough."

"The nuclear fear won't go away and it involves everyone, she declared, adding the referendum would likely be supported by 70 to 90 per cent of voters and be an excellent forum for thrashing out the issue. With more and more nations achieving nuclear capability and the world's stockpile of atomic weapons at the overkill stage already there is deep "concern building in the hearts and minds" of people everywhere.

She noted some way the nuclear weapons menace isn't a municipal problem, but it will be Halton Hills' problem if Hamilton or Toronto was hit because there would be thousands and thousands here blinded, burned and dying slowly from radiation poisoning.

Councillors are concerned about a citizen challenging the entire election results because an international question is on the ballot, but she pointed out the Operation Dismantle question doesn't interfere and isn't in conflict with any federal or provincial matter. It only canvasses opinion and passes results on to Ottawa. She pointed to a previous legal opinion which was positive for the referendum, adding there are no statutes to prohibit it or a precedent which makes it illegal. If Halton Hills council was still concerned, it could ask the province to make a ruling, just as Toronto has already done.

She said the effort wasn't futile, that small voices around the world could make a difference.

Following is the question which would appear on the ballot: "Do you support the goal of general disarmament and mandate your government to negotiate and implement with other governments, the balanced steps that would lead to the earliest possible achievement of this goal?"

Mayor Peter Pomeroy worried about the legality of the referendum and added he was concerned about poor voter turnout and the impression that would make. He urged the backers of the referendum question work to get the vote out on election day so turnout would be higher than the usual 25 to 30 per cent.

Clerk-administrator Ken Richardson said the referendum would be an added election expense

only in wards where there was no election for council or school board posts, as happened in ward four last time because all candidates were ac-

claimed. Council voted to hold the referendum; a bylaw will have to be prepared and passed to allow it, and hold the referendum if the province or courts rule that both the bylaw and vote are legal.

Councillor Ross Knechtel said the fact lawyers can't agree if the referendum would be legal just shows the "law's an ass." He warned there is a "real danger" the results of the next election could be "tossed out" and would not only result in added cost for the municipality but mean great confusion as there would be two or three months with no council.

He urged Operation Dismantle take the matter to court and get a ruling, warning the province will likely just duck the issue and not give a ruling.

Salvation Army Await clearance for new citadel

Work should commence on the new Salvation Army Citadel at least by October, according to Envoy Douglas Vale.

The drawings have been finished for the new hall, Envoy Vale told the Acton Free Press, and now he is just awaiting clearance from territorial headquarters to turn the sod. All lands have been purchased.

inside

More bad economic news with lay-offs at Indus-min and a four-day work week at Commercial Shearing. Details on pages 5 and 6.

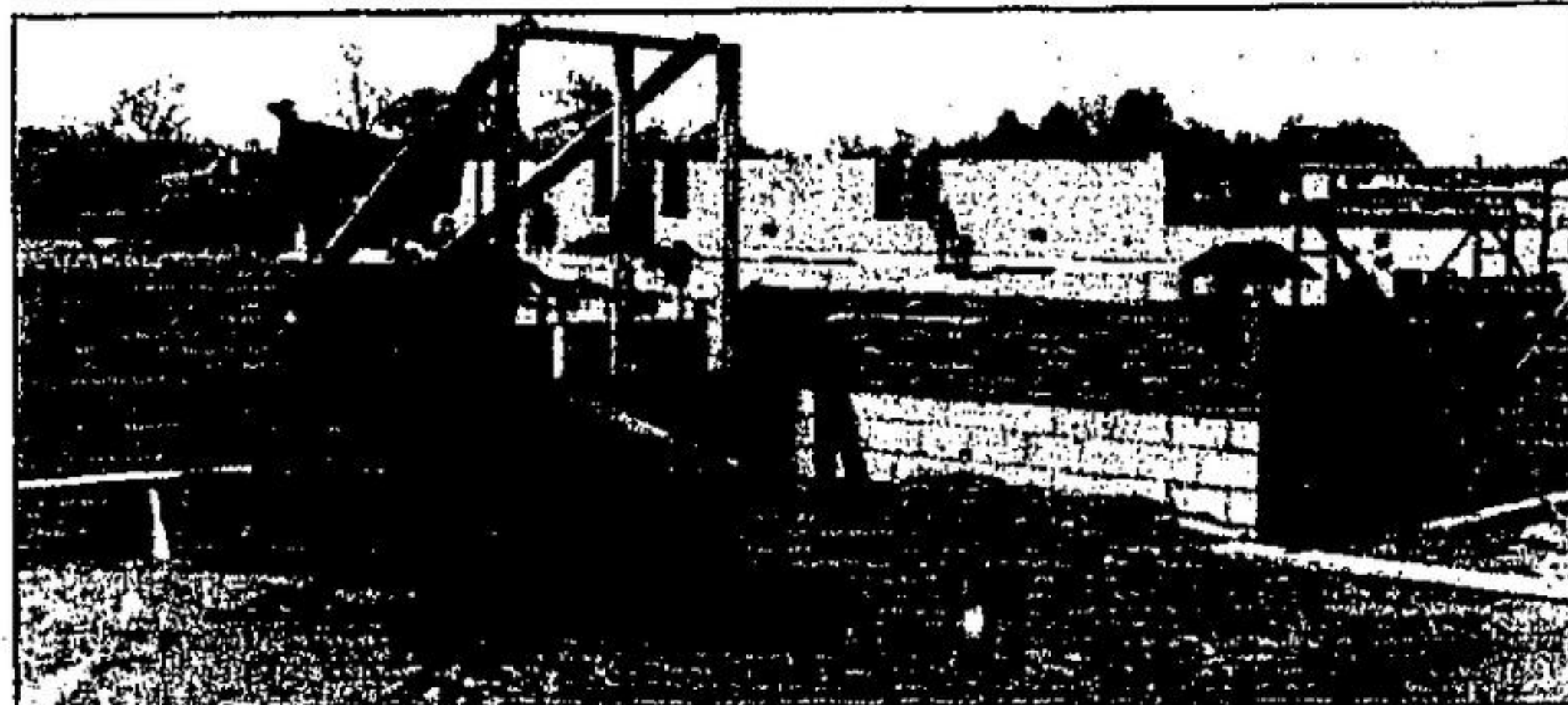
Rents at the Maria St. apartments are going up. More on page 5.

If the Sabres and Gemini decide to merge they'd need permission from the OHA and their league brothers, and that's by no means a certainty. Turn to page B1.

Fund raising and aid for a woman who was burned out of her rural cottage has been successful. See page 3.

Two young Acton lads have created their own summer jobs. More on page 2.

Pension plans are great... if you can afford to live that long.



Board officials are pleased with the progress being made with construction of the new St. Joseph's School.

Additional \$57,190 grant new St. Joseph's School

Halton Separate School Board has been allowed another \$57,190 by the province to build the new St. Joseph's school.

Trustee Irene McCauley reported the board found out last week it now has \$1,246,788 for the new school. Construction began last month and the school is expected to be completed by the end of August.

There has been a change made in the project to make the school main entrance lobby more attractive. An additional \$14,365 will be spent so quarry tile is used for the lobby walls instead of vinyl asbestos tiles. The suggestion to make the change in wall material came from Principal Fred Springer and

others in the community, McCauley said.

She said board official John Birrell reported he is quite pleased with the progress being made on the school. He told trustees, McCauley said, that he is impressed with the way contractors are moving ahead with the work, their diligence and care. She added a number of the trustees have come to Acton to check on the school and are equally pleased with what they see.

McCauley explained the reason the school foundation looks so small, as some parents have pointed out, is because it is a two storey building.



The new executive for the Acton Legion Branch 197 are from left to right: front row, Len Shone secretary; Gord McCutcheon treasurer; Earl Waller 2nd vice; Jim Higgins president; Fred Allan 1st vice; Ed LeBlanc Sgt. at Arms; Back row, Ab Irwin executive; Harry Norson executive; Ed Footitt executive; Terry Englestone executive; and Bob Doyle executive. Missing was Kevin Couray executive.



Award winners at the Legion Monday night were front row left to right, Dave Caperauld VP of the Dominion Command; Vic Patrick Life Member; Ab Irwin Certificate of Merit. Back row, John McHugh 35 Years Pin; Wally Coe 30 Years Pin; Gord James Certificate of Merit and John Goy Sr. Certificate of Merit.