

Halton Regional Police have made tremendous strides in past four years

Halton Regional Police have done a virtual turn-about since being blasted in 1978 by the Ontario Police Commission (OPC). Four years later a new OPC audit shows the "shadow cast" by various reports "over the administrative and operational capabilities" of the force have "been soundly dispelled," according to Chief James Harding.

The 15 page OPC audit says the Halton Police have become a force others could learn from and should emulate.

"Our officers no longer stand in the corner with heads bowed low whilst whispering the name Halton because they are ashamed of the organization to which they belong," Harding declared.

The OPC report from K.W. Schultz lauds facility improvements, accounting procedures, numerous administrative changes instituted since Harding took over the helm, the drastic improvement in force morale, etc.

The report also makes 14 recommendations, many of which Harding's written response noted are already recognized and are either being delayed for budget reasons or in the process of being implemented.

Steps taken by Harding's administration to enhance training and career development are applauded. The force is also congratulated about the amalgamation of the old municipal forces which were tossed together when the regional force was born in 1974. There is a "sense of dedication and loyalty among all ranks that had not previously existed."

"Members no longer think of themselves as still being part of the smaller municipalities and now consider themselves as totally immersed in their loyalty and dedication to the Halton Regional Police Force," Schultz wrote.

"The training needs are being adequately met for the police community and Halton Regional Police Force. The training now being afforded the uniform officers of the Force has made significant changes in the morale, loyalty and Esprit de Corps of the Force."

However, Schultz also writes that civilian

personnel feel they have been "overlooked" when it comes to training and he suggests some courses should be "allotted to them."

The force has breathalizer unit, criminal investigation units, an emergency response team, a regional drug squad and a polygraph bureau. Halton's police are among the first to have a polygraph unit. Schultz urged a fraud squad and traffic and hit and run units be established. Harding responded they knew they needed the extra units, but felt the additional 15 officers allocated for this year should be "deployed in the field to secure a greater degree of police visibility."

To reduce costs officers on the day shift must also attend court and their spots are taken on the day shift by policemen scheduled to work the afternoon and evening shifts. "Although this procedure may save court call-backs, the afternoon and night shifts are often seriously depleted," Schultz found.

He reported "urgent" response time is reasonable, but routine call responses are longer. The OPC is going to conduct an "adequacy and work load study" on the Halton police, with the full backing of the Police Commission and Force.

Record keeping is adequate, Schultz wrote, but urged a "retention schedule bylaw" be enacted to improve the situation. "Forms are being stored or destroyed without proper authorization" from the Commission.

A formalized procedure for handling all property is needed, Schultz found. In addition the property receipt tag system needs to be improved, a three copy tag system should be adopted. The Georgetown station's property room is "adequate, clean and all items properly tagged." The drug procedure in Halton is good, but the storage space is inadequate. It is just a filing cabinet with no security locks. The procedure for handling seized liquor hasn't been followed, but Harding said steps are being taken to solve that problem.

The Georgetown police station was applauded for having full video coverage from the entrance to the cells for prisoner surveillance. Other

stations in Halton do have problems in this area. The Acton storefront station doesn't have cells.

Halton has an extensive crime prevention program and the service is "adequate." Besides a sergeant and constable working in crime prevention in each district there also 16 officers working as co-ordinators. There's a school safety program; seminars for the public on security and fraud; Operation Identification and Provident; a race relations program; false alarms are being monitored; special programs in the area of vandalism; all officers attend sessions on preventive policing; and the chief and deputy are out in the community talking to citizen groups and politicians.

The planning and research branch is functioning but understaffed and already there are officers working on improvements in this area.

The police plan for refurbishing cruisers is "somewhat unique" and should interest other forces and conversion of some units to propane has resulted in significant savings, Schultz stated.

Officers are "neat and clean, uniform pressed and leather polished, hair cuts are regulation length with no indication of this causing morale problems."

The hiring procedure for new recruits is "adequate" and there is a "fair ratio" of women officers.

"The Chief and Deputy Chief have many innovative ideas and practices. Participatory Management Practices have been initiated within all ranks of the Force and it appears to be working well."

"A discipline committee involving a member of the Association has been formed and has created a sense of fairness and impartiality that never existed before. This practice could be of interest to other police forces in the province, and may well serve to lessen some of the morale and discipline problems they are experiencing."

"Halton Regional Police Force is a young and vibrant organization, with the continued support of its citizens and governing authorities, can become—in the words as expressed by the Chairman of the Board—"the best police force in the province."

The supervision system in place now in the Force is adequate but changes will be needed as the size of the Force grows, Schultz notes.

A "participatory managing concept" practised by the senior command of the force "is appreciated by constables and is good for morale," and the number of officers quitting the force is "minimal."

Written performance appraisals for officers was viewed as a positive step which should be extended to civilian personnel.

Halton police have an excellent rapport with court officials. Schultz quotes from Crown Attorney Jim Treleaven, who says Halton police have the best prepared Crown briefs in the nation and all criminal cases "are properly investigated and quality charges laid." Treleaven is also pleased with the administrative and organizational progress the Force has made in recent years.

Pedestrian hit, minor injuries

An Acton woman hospitalized after the accident, she was taken home. The driver of the vehicle which hit the woman was Clarence Ida Cripps, 26 Willow Harding, 395 Main St. S., didn't need to be



Kay Hart, centre, is one of the six surviving members of the original Hotchkiss family of Little Rapids, Ontario. 187 members of the Hotchkiss family gathered in Acton at the Band Hall Saturday for their 20th reunion. It was the first time Kay and her husband Bob, Orville Rd., hosted the reunion. Guests came from Toronto, Sault Ste. Marie, Georgetown, Beamsville, Sarnia, Cornwall, Owen Sound, Thessalon, Missouri, Saskatchewan, Mt. Forest, London and Wawa. Pictured here are, front row, left to right, Annie Bailey, Kay Hart, Francis Frost. Back row, George Hotchkiss, Birnie Hotchkiss, and Tom Hotchkiss.

Ballinafad

Visitors here for holidays

by Winifred Smith
Linda O'Connor and her three daughters spent the long weekend camping with friends near Bradford. Amie O'Connor invited a few friends to help celebrate her 12th birthday Saturday July 31.

British Columbia are spending a holiday with her parents Bud and Evelline Snow. Ashley Bird returned home on Saturday after spending a week at the "Teen Ranch" camp in Orangeville.

The winning team will compete with the finals later in Newfoundland. Mrs. Elizabeth Heath is visiting Floyd and Edna Shortill and family. She is from Monahans, Texas, and is a cousin of Floyd.

Drug charge

An Erin Township resident and a Guelph man face charges of possessing a narcotic following a routine police check last week.

Mrs. Louise McClellan and family from

The 16-year-old youth and a 22-year-old Guelph man were arrested July 24 after they were found to be in possession of marijuana, LSD and hashish oil, according to reports from Halton Regional Police.

Nancy Shortill, who plays with the Wilmowdale ladies' softball team, was competing over the weekend with other senior girls' teams from Ontario.

Chicken Club Members!

Watch this space for details of Chicken Club Picnic Wildwood Manor Farm August 21, 1982 more details next week



Sponsored by the Optimist Club Drug Abuse Committee.



Last Wednesday the Acton Public Library held a puppet show and here Stuart Glan, Kelly Shannon, John Fraser, Shannon McAfee and Matthew Glan show off some of the puppets used.

Government policies petitioned by Jelinek

By STEVE ARNOLD

Opposition members of Parliament are going to spend the summer months circulating a petition against the policies of the Liberal government and Otto Jelinek will be in the thick of it.

Halton's Conservative MP said in a telephone interview from Ottawa last week that the petition was developed in response to a growing tide of resentment of the economic policies of Pierre Trudeau.

"I've been asked a hundred times in the last few months just what an ordinary person can do to help change the leadership in Ottawa," he said.

"This may not be the only answer, but I think a lot of public opinion in a particular area can help to jar the government into action."

The petition being circulated by the Conservatives is addressed to the Governor-General and asks him to dissolve Parliament and call a general election.

Social services not high priority

The fact that Halton executive director during the summer months, was one of several members of the CAS professional and social services committee to recently learn the Region's priorities from Regional planner Ed Bab during a committee meeting.

"The whole area (social services) is not yet understood."

actually move the Governor-General to action, Mr. Jelinek admitted "I'm not going to hold my breath waiting."

"It really depends on the results of this petition and others across the country."

As an example of the groundswell of support for a change in government, Mr. Jelinek noted a recent quarter-page ad published in the Globe and Mail calling for signatures asking for a change.

Another man in western Canada hopes to collect \$5 million to bribe Pierre Trudeau into resigning.

In the House of Commons recently, Mr. Jelinek challenged back bench Liberal members to speak out against the economic policies of the government that are doing so much damage to the country.

Simon Fraser

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