

North not in police program — size and distance reasons

by Diane Hart

For an undetermined length of time, Georgetown, Acton and Milton are not going to be included in a new police program, which could signify a different way of policing in Halton Region.

The size and difficulty in maintaining a visible police presence in the three towns are the reasons for their exclusion, Police Chief James Harding told the board of commissioners on Thursday afternoon.

The program, emphasizing preventative policing, is slated to start on April 1 in Oakville and Burlington. Commissions voted unanimously in favor of the program. New Commissioner, Halton Hills Mayor Pete Pomeroy asked the chief when the north could expect the program.

"As soon as possible," said Chief Harding. "The north is tremendously

difficult to create a police presence. But we intend to get it (the program) to the north as soon as possible."

The new program will take the force, says Harding, "a giant step forward." "It is exciting and adventurous for this force," he told the commissioners.

Basically, the program's main thrust is to get police officers to get to know the people in the community. In this way, they can try to prevent crimes happening by encouraging people to report suspicious things before the crime happens.

"The efforts are structured for high profile in the community," said Staff Inspector John Barratt, who presented the program to the commissioners. "We are moving from a reactive role to a proactive one and getting back to the people."

"The officer will rotate in each zone to get to know the community," ex-

plained Inspector Roy Wilkinson, adding people will respond more once they know their officer.

During a break in the meeting, Mayor Pomeroy commented on the north being excluded. "It's a lot easier to implement the way it is," he said, "but as long as I'm on this commission it will be as soon as possible."

After the meeting, Chief Harding explained why it was difficult to initiate the program in the north. "The public is going to have to understand that resources are limited and up there we have to cover about 250 square miles which makes it very difficult to have a visible presence," claimed the police chief, adding that the size adds to the difficulty in doing preventative programs.

Georgetown Inspector Matt Macpherson said he did not think there was a need at this time in the north for a program being started in Oakville

and Burlington.

"They have a densely populated area to work with," he explained. "It will be easier for them because of that."

But he maintained the police officers in the north do proactive policing all the time. "We won't be pushing for it (the program) because our officers aren't as busy as the ones down there and have the time for proactive policing," he said.

On Friday, Metro Toronto Police Chief Jack Ackroyd announced the Toronto force will be doing their own type of preventative policing, questioning people walking in the streets to try to get closer to the community.

He told the Metro Board of Police Commissioners that this will help the police officer "stay in tune with the community" and help them fight crime.



Police Chief James Harding

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ACTON ONTARIO

newsmakers

Georgetown/Acton, Wednesday, February 2, 1983

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MacNabb sheriff only four months

Halton Sheriff Robert (Mac) Sprowl has researched the history of all 10 Halton sheriffs since 1856. This is the fourth in the series.

by Mac Sprowl

Following a major operation in the Guelph General Hospital, Archie Linford MacNabb, prominent business man of Milton, died on Monday afternoon July 26, 1937.

He was born on a farm in Esquesing Township, son of Mrs. MacNabb and the late Alexander MacNabb, a pioneer settler of Halton County. For the last 17 years of his life he was a businessman. On July 20, 1937, he assumed the duties of the Clerk of the County of Halton when he was suddenly stricken.

For a number of years he was secretary of the Halton County Agricultural Society, a member of the Milton Lawn Bowling Club, IOOF and Past Master of St. Clair Lodge A.F. and A.M., a past first Principal and Scribe of St. Clair Chapter R.A.M. He was a member of St. Paul's United Church, Milton being on the Board of Stewards at the time of his death.

The funeral, which was one of the largest seen in Milton, was at Evergreen Cemetery, Milton. Sheriff MacNabb was buried with Masonic honors. After a private service at the home, a public service was held in St. Paul's United Church conducted by the Pastor, Rev. A.B. Irwin.

Nearly 100 members of Milton and other Masonic Lodges were present at the Masonic services at the graveside in Evergreen Cemetery.

Archibald Linford MacNabb was born December 8, 1886, on the Second Line of Esquesing Township in the County of Halton, the elder son of A.C. MacNabb. The farm had been acquired by a grant from the Crown to his great-grandfather in 1825. At the age of 12 years, Archie had passed his entrance exams, and his father having had an accident, Archie took over the work of the farm. With the help of his brother Gordon, the advice of his mother and father, and the teasing of his five sisters, Archie managed to work the farm.

In 1917 he married Anna Scott and they had three children, Ruth, Donald and Mary.

Ill health caused him to sell the farm in 1920. He bought the J.B. Scott house in Milton and purchased a shoe store from Eddie Graham on Main Street.

While still on the farm, he had worked with the United Farmers Organization and was secretary-treasurer of the Halton Agricultural Society for over 20 years. In town, he was interested in all sports. On his Wednesday half-day off, he would drive the ball team to where they were playing. He also liked lawn-bowling. He was a member of the United Church and served on the Board.

In 1923 he was appointed Sheriff of Halton County and was Sheriff for approximately four months during the last months of the Drury Government.



SHERIFF ARCHIBALD L. MACNABB 1883-1937



Members of Halton Hills Library Board for 1983 are from left, Education appointee, standing Robert Burnette Board of Education appointee, Irene Wood Separate School Board appointee, and Ken Riley Separate School Board appointee. Ian Carter who has just been appointed by the Town is missing from the picture.

Library Board

Oldest Board in Town

Frequently when boards, commissions or special committee appointments are made at the beginning of the year, residents wonder what do they do and how do they receive appointments.

The Independent will run a series on boards in Halton Hills attempting to explain what they do, who the members are, how they are appointed, and what if any remuneration they receive.

The library board has been in existence longer than any other board in town, but not in its present form.

For the first 80 to 90 years, Acton and Georgetown Library Boards functioned as completely separate units until regional government was introduced in 1974.

Both libraries had their first home in their town halls, and started within a few years of each other. Georgetown library was founded in 1890 and Acton's in 1898.

Georgetown library in the beginning was operated as a Mechanics' Institute, which at that time were all over Ontario. The Institute was aimed at having workers continue their education. But only members could borrow books.

The Acton Library, however, was the offspring of the Public School Board who turned over control of their book collection to the Acton Free Library Board. At that time "free" was a matter of importance in attaining books. Books were not loaned to anyone under 14, according to the 1896 rules.

While Acton continued to use the town hall until 1934, when the library was moved to the YMCA building, Georgetown was fortunate to have the former Congregational Church turned over to the town as a free public library in 1913.

At that time the Congregationalist amalgamated with their next door neighbors in Knox Presbyterian Church.

Through the years the library board members and library activities have changed, but one thing has remained the same.

The library board is one of the few, if not the only board, where the members receive no pay at all.

Unique also is the set-up of the board, with three members appointed by the Town of Halton Hills, three appointed by Halton Board of Education, and two by Halton Separate School Board. The mayor or his appointee is an ex-officio member.

This complicated membership originated with the Public Libraries Act, which was initiated in large part by Eggerton Ryerson, for whom Ryerson Polytechnic Institute is named.

So how are appointments made? For the past perhaps ten years vacancies on the board have been advertised in local newspapers and anyone who is a resident taxpayer and a Canadian citizen can send in an application. Council then chooses the new members. The terms are from one to three years so a whole board is never up for appointment at the same time.

This method was introduced after complaints only people who were known to council or library board members were being appointed. Of course, when both towns were smaller, everyone was known so the problem did not arise.

The function of the board is that of any board of directors of a company. They set policy, establish the budget, and hire the chief librarian. The budget is subject to the approval of Halton Hills council, who usually send back the first draft, for revision, downwards of course.

But not all the library board's funds come from the Town. The Province of Ontario grants \$1.95 per capita, based on the population shown on the most recent enumeration. The difference between this amount and final budget figure is the Town's share. Last year the library board's total budget was \$350,616.

Acton charming library on the edge of a creek with a rustic bridge approach was completed in 1967 as a Centennial project, and Georgetown's now part of the Halton Hills Cultural Centre, was finally built in 1981, after years of controversy.

Before and during the building of Georgetown library the board members were caught up almost entirely in the project, but now have a chance for long range planning.

An innovative suggestion may see the libraries staying open Sunday afternoons. Doug Magwood, board chairman, said other libraries which remain open Sundays report it's one of their busiest days.

"With the theatre and the gallery, the numbers coming into the Georgetown library are increasing every day," says Magwood. "Many times there's almost a traffic jam in the lobby when there's something scheduled in the theatre or gallery. I am delighted to see the library become such a hub of activity in town."

It should be emphasized the library board has no responsibility for the theatre or the gallery and must rent that space like any other taxpayer when using these areas for library events.

Between the two libraries, the board employs the equivalent of 23 full time staff members, with Kathy Lepki the Acton branch manager and Pamela Payne the Georgetown equivalent. Joy Showell is the Assistant to the Chief Librarian Betsy Cornwell.

From the board's inception when whispering and one book at a time were the order of the day, the libraries are full of activities, displays, records, films reference sections talking books for the blind, shut-in service and 18 course books.

But all of the changes came about because of boards who through the years were and are willing to make changes to keep pace with the interests of their community.

Multilingual reader survey to help offset library cutbacks

Recent cutbacks by the provincial government in the support of multicultural services are having adverse effects on libraries in Georgetown and Acton.

The Halton Hills Library Board has never authorized the expenditure of book funds to provide materials in languages other than English. Up to now the libraries have relied on the more cost effective method of shared, rotating collections of various language books which have come from the National Library in Ottawa and Hamilton Public Library.

The administrative costs of handling these materials as well as some purchases have

been borne by the South Central Regional Library System which receives its funding directly from the province. Magazine and newspaper subscriptions in other languages have also been provided on the basis of special provincial grants.

One of the recent financial restraint initiatives has been to eliminate the funding of these services through the regional library systems; thus depriving the smaller centres of a particularly cost effective method of serving their multilingual users.

Late in 1982 the province announced a "Resources enrichment fund" as part of the BILD program and one of the areas in which

these funds may be spent is that of multilingual materials. The Halton Hills Libraries managed to qualify for \$5,100 under this program on the basis of our purchases of large print and reference materials.

If the grant is offered again in 1983 the libraries will be able to use it to assist in replacing the loss of some of the Regionally funded language services, however, they are anxious to put the money into those areas of most need. It is for this reason the are conducting the survey. All library users who want to read materials in languages other than English are being urged to fill out the survey form (available at both libraries)

Hire officer?

Region wants to curb fraud

A hefty increase in Halton's projected 1983 welfare has prompted a request from the social services department to hire an eligibility officer to curb welfare frauds.

The position would pay itself two times over by detecting welfare fraud in the first stages and identifying cases of over payment, social services director Debbie Oakley said Tuesday. Her experience at the provincial level has shown returns "as high as eight to one," she said.

Halton Region should see a return of about two to one in the first year, said Oakley, noting: "If they make an investment of \$8,000 they should get a return in the area of \$16,000."

The request for the eligibility officer will be presented to regional council as part of the entire social services department's budget March 30.

Welfare cases increased 22.6 per cent last year and are expected to increase by an additional 29 per cent before the end of 1983 amounting to an increase of more than 50 per cent in the two-year period.

Five cases of welfare fraud were detected in Halton last year (out of a caseload of 9,500), said Oakley, admitting there could have been more cases which went undetected.

"We don't have the expertise to keep tabs on it," she explained.

Oakley said experience is an important criteria because the person would be hired on a contractual basis for eight months.

"When you have only eight months, it's better to hire someone who knows what they are doing to get the maximum returns," she said.

Burlington Mayor Roly Bird suggested hiring a police officer who is close to retirement rather than taking on another staff member.

Halton Hills representative Dave Whiting questioned the need for another staff worker: "We just hired another staff member last year, we just can't keep hiring them every year."

Silent protest by teachers on slow talks

An estimated 400 elementary teachers crowded into the Halton Board of Education offices in Burlington Thursday night in a silent protest against slow contract negotiations between the federation and the trustees.

The teachers have been working without a contract since September. For most of the educators, the main bone of contention is a lower pupil-teacher ratio (PTR). According to teachers at the board meeting Thursday, the high class room sizes are hurting the students, who are the main concern.

The teachers came from all over Halton, many riding buses from Milton, Acton and Georgetown.

The teachers sat quietly as Oakville resident Rod Bird chastised the board for their spending practices in the wake of factory closures and business cutbacks.

Bird contended that no private business could afford to give their employees the high pay and benefits the teachers in Halton receive, for the amount of days they work.

Bird told the trustees in light of the high unemployment figures, they should not be afraid to lose their best teachers to other school boards. There are always good workers out of work to hire as replacements.

He told the trustees with salaries of \$43,000 for vice-principals and \$49,000 for principals. "These people need no more to live on." They are just greedy, he said.

Bird said now is the time to maintain "the status quo."