

Halton Police budget up 7.6%

by Rod Jerred
The Halton Regional Police Force has set its sights on a \$17.1 million budget this year—a 7.6 per cent increase over 1982. The request, which will be sent to the region for approval, actually represents an 8.2 per cent spending increase. In 1982, Halton Police were allotted \$15.8 million, but spent only \$15.7 million. The budget request, which was reduced by 0.2 per cent by the Halton Police Commission Thursday, will be sent to the region for final approval. Under the

Ontario Police Act, however, the region cannot trim the budget. The budget includes provisions to increase the force's civilian staff complement by seven to 108 personnel. The uniformed complement will be reduced by two to 301 police officers. The total strength of the force will be 409 uniformed and civilian personnel. Training Service The largest spending increase will occur in the training services program which will double from \$129,029 last year to

\$262,576 this year. A large portion of this increase is slated for the services of an audio-visual technician and equipment to develop an audio-visual training unit. Manpower deployment Although the uniformed manpower will not be increased, Harding stated in his report that manpower deployment studies conducted in 1982 will enable better deployment of officers. In his long-term goals, Harding identified needs for traffic, fraud, auto theft,

computer fraud investigation and underwater search and recovery squads on the regional police force. It is impossible, however, to form any of those squads with the current resources without seriously depleting the patrol strength, said Harding. "Without the services of such squads we must accept that we cannot truly claim to be a force professionally equipped and prepared to meet all demands our public might make of us," he said. Harding added 1983 will mark the force's

move towards a greater stress on crime prevention policing in Oakville and Burlington. Details of the plans will be unveiled to local politicians next Thursday. Milton will also receive the addition of one crime prevention officer. Halton police will continue a move towards computerization with services implemented in the records bureau this year, utilizing a computer aided dispatch next year and field support applications in 1985 and 1986.



newsmakers

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Rub-a-dub-dub

Rub-a-dub-dub three men in a tub! People are already making enquiries into the 1983 version of the Georgetown Jaycees Crazy Boat Races and the local group is in full gear preparing for the April 9 run on the Credit. L. to r. are Race Committee members Jack Wallinga, Bob Sullivan and Hans Van Klink. For more information contact Bill Lee at 877-1011 or Jack Wallinga at 877-9254.

Financial restraint

Manor is losing some programs

By STEVE ARNOLD
A day care program for senior citizens, improved grounds maintenance and an increased adjutant program at Halton Centennial Manor have all been sacrificed in the name of financial restraint. Members of Halton's health and social services committee decided last week to ignore those programs in setting a budget for the regionally operated home for the aged. Social services director Debbie Oakley and Manor administrator Rick Kaufman suggested a budget of \$6.6 million to operate the facility for 1983. They also submitted proposals to spend an additional \$9,296 in 1983 for those programs, but committee members could not be convinced to add them to the budget. "This has to be a year of restraint for any amount," commented Burlington mayor Roly Bird. Miss Oakley said the need for a groundskeeper on the staff of the Manor was apparent from the increasing public comment received about the poor condition of the Manor grounds. The home for the aged occupies 40 acres on Ontario St., the major southern entrance to the town. "I believe we have to keep the grounds

attractive because that is the first thing people see and it forms an immediate impression of the entire institution," Mr. Kaufman added. The adjutant program, he said, was designed for residents in the Manor's special care unit and would be helpful in maintaining their general health. The committee had approved the expanded programs "in principle" in 1982 and a staff member had already received the required training to assume the duties. The total cost of the program for a full year would be \$19,400 and the provincial government would pay 52 per cent. The 1983 cost would be \$11,700 with the region financing only \$5,616. Last year, the Manor received a provincial award for the quality of the adjutant program offered in other parts of the institution. The day care program for seniors, Mr. Kaufman added, has been urged by the Halton District Health Council and is operated in other parts of the region by different agencies. Councilors passed a motion to get a further report on the need for a groundskeeper but made no mention of the other programs.

Crime dropped 5.3% in '82

Crime went down 5.3 per cent in Halton Region last year while the regional police force improved its crime detection mark by 4.7 per cent. Those heartening statistics were part of the reams of information contained in Chief James Harding's 1982 crime statistics report to Halton Police Commission Thursday.

Homicide
There were two murders in Halton last year, one first degree and one second degree. Both homicides were in Oakville and one has been solved. There were three murders, all solved, in 1981. In addition last year there were three cases of attempted murder, all solved. There was one more attempted murder case in 1982 than the previous year.

Sex offenses
Sexual offenses decreased in 1982. Last year there were 76 sexual offenses reported to police, but 10 were classified after investigation as "unfounded." Of the 66 cases, 25 were cleared by charges against 22 men and three juvenile males. Twenty-eight more sex offenses were cleared by means other than a charge. In 1981 there were 89 sex crimes in Halton. Among the sex offenses there were nine rape cases, 45 indecent assaults on females, nine indecent assaults on males and three other sex offenses.

Assault
Assaults and woundings also decreased last year. There were 1,099 assaults in 1982 compared to 1,116 reported in 1981. Of the 1982 total, 17 cases were woundings, 284 were bodily harm assaults and 37 involved assault of police. There was also one assault on another type of peace-public officer other than police and 780 other assaults. For all assault cases there were 277 people charged while another 656 cases were cleared by other means.

Robberies
Robberies, surprisingly considering the hard economic times, also dropped. The number of robberies slumped dramatically from 70 in 1981 to 36 last year. Of last year's robberies, 15 involved thieves using firearms and in six cases the culprits used other "offensive weapons." In 10 cases of robbery charges were laid and three others were cleared by means. In one case a woman was charged.

Burglaries
Break and enters or burglaries also dropped in Halton last year. There were 2,406 burglaries in 1981 and 2,359 last year. There were 1,010 homes broken into and 1,061 businesses. In addition there were 288 burglaries at places like schools and churches. In connection with break-ins, 341 people were charged, including 77 juveniles, and 599 other burglaries were cleared from police books by other means.

Auto thefts
Vehicle thefts also showed a decline, from 760 in 1981 to 614 in 1982. Last year 381 cars were stolen as well as 99 trucks, 88 motorcycles and 46 other vehicles such as snowmobiles. Eighty-nine vehicle thefts resulted in charges being laid while 107 were cleared by other means.

Thefts
Thefts of goods valued at over \$200 dropped last year to 2,746 cases compared to



Police Chief James Harding

2,772 in 1981. Among the thefts over \$200 there were 1,366 cases of items being stolen from vehicles. In addition there were 54 cases of shoplifting and 274 bicycles stolen. A total of 132 people were charged with theft over \$200 while 285 other cases were cleared by other means.

Theft under \$200 cases dropped from 4,514 cases in 1981 to 4,357 in 1982. Thefts from

cars in this category totalled 1,481 and there were 1,157 incidents of shoplifting. In addition 1,953 bicycles worth less than \$200 were stolen. Police laid 836 theft under \$200 charges last year and cleared 1,025 cases by other means.

Cases of possession of stolen property were one of the few areas which increased, demonstrating improved crime detection. Last year there were 130 cases of possession of stolen property compared to 111 in 1981. Police charged 89 people with possession of stolen property.

Fraud
Reflecting tough economic times, fraud cases jumped in 1982. Frauds climbed from 927 cases in 1981 to 1,131 last year. Investigations of fraud cases produced 398 charges and 400 additional fraud cases were cleared by other means. But cheques were involved in 822 cases last year and credit card fraud totalled 77. Also there were 231 other fraud cases in Halton.

There was one case of keeping a common bawdy house and one violation of gaming and betting laws last year.

Weapons
Offensive weapons charges leaped from 113 cases in 1981 to 131 last year. In these cases 66 charges were laid while another 39 incidents were cleared by other means. In 14 cases people had explosives and another 30 possessed "prohibited" weapons and 25 had "restricted" weapons. There were also 62 other weapons cases.

Last year there were 24 arson cases, 422 incidents of bail violations, three counterfeiting cases and 129 incidents of disturbing the peace in Halton.

Escaping custody occurred eight times in Halton in 1982 and 203 indecent acts took place.

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Parking for handicapped "very much alive" — Reed

Handicapped licence plates "aren't worth the metal they are pressed on," according to the Acton Friends-in-Deed.

A delegation from the handicapped organization attended the special Julian Reed Wine and Cheese party February 21 at the Acton Band Hall to discuss with the Halton-Burlington MPP the total uselessness of the plates.

The plates were the provincial government's first step into getting special parking considerations for the disabled after Acton businessman Lorne Doberthien lobbied Queen's Park for legislation. Reed and Doberthien met with Minister of Transportation and Communications Jim Snow last year and were satisfied with the disabled designation on the licence plates.

The plates have just recently been available, but, as many disabled persons are discovering, they are not doing what they were intended to do.

Anne Dodds, of the Friends-in-Deed, explained to Reed that municipal by-laws are needed to enact restrictions on the parking. However, not all towns have such by-laws, and a special permit is needed for each town. There is no provincial legislation governing handicapped parking. If a person was taking a trip across Ontario, they would need a permit for each and every municipality visited in order to legally park in the disabled spots provided.

She contended it was too easy to obtain a handicapped plate and permit and suggested people may be abusing the privilege. She pointed out all a person has to do now if they want the special plate is to check off the

proper square when renewing their licence stickers.

Mrs. Dodds suggested if it were harder to get the plates and permits, such as a doctor's certificate, then province-wide laws could be better enacted and thus policed.

Reed explained Snow's intentions were good when he drew up the plan, and admitted the minister was still dealing with the situation. The MPP said Snow's department has drawn up a sample by-law for the municipalities to adopt, but only some have followed the government's lead. Reed suggested an amendment to the Municipal Act could include provisions for handicapped parking so that it is uniform across the province. He could not see any reason why a municipality would object to uniform legislation on this matter.

There are two problems with the system the way it is set up now, Reed said. He noted in the municipalities where the legislation has been adopted, the plates mean something different in each town. And in the areas where it has not been adopted, the plates mean nothing at all. He hopes the amendment to the Municipal Act can be discussed when caucus returns in April and universal legislation is considered.

Reed emphasized that he has not let up on the push for legislation on handicapped parking, but admitted the trust company mess has overshadowed most items at Queen's Park lately. "But it is very much alive," he stressed.

Reed noted he was natural resources critic, which resulted in Mrs. Dodds quipping "then use all of your natural resources (to get the ball rolling)".



Halton Burlington MPP Julian Reed held a wine and cheese party recently to give his constituents a chance to drop in and discuss their problems with him. Left to right Anne

Dodds, Linda Smith, Reed, Mary Daigle and Sophie Oedrich, of the Friends-In-Deed group discuss handicapped parking.

Wm. Robertson sheriff 12 years

Halton Sheriff Robert (Mac) Sprowl has researched the history of all 10 Halton sheriffs since 1836.

by Sheriff Mac Sprowl
Sheriff William J. Robertson was born near Goderich in Huron County in 1883. He came with his parents to Campbellville, Halton County, as a baby and went to school in Campbellville. Sheriff Robertson married in 1907 to Miss Frances Ann Bell and took over her grandfather's farm at Lowville, (the Bell farm). He was active in the community and served as a councillor and reeve of Nelson Township, Halton County. In 1946 he was appointed Sheriff, Local Registrar of the Supreme Court, County Court Clerk, Surrogate Registrar of Halton and served in this combined position until 1958. He was the last Sheriff to serve Halton in this combined position. Sheriff Robertson was a member of Lowville United Church and a member of the Masonic Order. He died on February 24, 1970, at the age of 87 years and was survived by his children, Russell and George Robertson, Marjorie Coulson, Ruth Morris, Jean Miller and Wilda Cupido.



SHERIFF WILLIAM J. ROBERTSON 1946-1958

Schools offer immunization

From March to June, the Halton Regional Health Department will be offering immunization to both elementary and secondary schools to students who require it. A consent form will be sent home if your child requires immunization according to our records. Please be sure to: read the information sheet thoroughly, complete the consent fully if you wish your child to receive the vaccine in school, or take your child to your family doctor to receive the vaccine, or if he/she has already received the vaccine, return the consent with the date received marked on it so that his/her records can be updated.

Which Vaccines will be offered? Measles, Mumps, Rubella (German Measles)—(MMR) combined Vaccine for Kindergarten, Grade 1, and Grad 9 to 13 Diphtheria, Tetanus and Polio combined Vaccine are offered every 5 years up to age 18 years.

Please note that it is now legislated through The Act to Protect the Health of Pupils in Schools, Bill 142, that pupils must be immunized in order to attend school. Pupils may be exempted only for religious or medical reasons. This will apply to kindergarten pupils in 1983 and all pupils up to grade 8 by January 1984. Preschoolers immunization is available through the Health Department monthly clinics in Oakville, Burlington, Milton and Georgetown. Adults may also attend, and they should be sure that they receive Polio vaccine every 5 years, and Tetanus Vaccine every 10 years.

Women should be assured that they have had either the disease Rubella (German Measles) or the Vaccine before becoming pregnant.