

# Police contract talks break down

by Alex Matheson

Contract negotiations between the Halton Police Association and the Halton Regional Commissioners of Police have broken down with the officers rejecting the commission's "final offer."

Both sides agree that the main issue in dispute is the interrelationship between the contract for the officers and the contract for the police department's civilian employees.

Treasurer of the police association Sgt. Gary Bogue said that the commission is trying to force the officers to accept something they don't want in order that the civilians be given something they do want.

Bogue stressed that they are two separate contracts.

One of the main issues for the officers is the reduction in pay demanded by the commission for constables working as detectives in the criminal investigation bureaus.

Currently they have been paid sergeant's rates, which is about \$2,200 a year more than the \$31,285 that first class constables

get, said Bogue.

He said the commission wants these detectives to accept pay at a rate between the two. That would mean a loss of about \$1,100 per man and it would affect about 40 constables.

If the commission wants concessions in this area it must be prepared to give the benefits back somewhere else, added Bogue.

The number of officers involved accounts for about three-quarters of the strength of the CIB units, he said.

The commission is countering this refusal to agree by putting the detectives back in

uniforms to do essentially the same job, he said.

He said this is being coupled with a change in title for the investigator.

Now the public, instead of being told that a "detective will be around" are told that "the investigating officer will be around," said Bogue.

The arrival of a police officer at a person's home is now more conspicuous, added Bogue.

For the civilian staff an increase of \$1,000 annually can be granted for those making less than \$20,000. Others are bound by a limit of a five per cent hike, said Bogue.

He added that pay increases have been in effect since the first of the year.

Bogue said that the commission wants to tie the \$1,000 increase to civilians with the officer's contract. "It is not bargaining in good faith if agreement on one contract hinges on another," he added.

The commission's final offer was brought to the membership and rejected by the majority at a meeting, said Bogue.



The entire ice surface at Alcott arena was covered with Halton Hills works equipment for the Public Works Week exhibit, which was held from Tuesday until Friday. More on Page B8.

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Gretchen Sankey with some of her work.

## Gretchen Sankey starts long climb to top in art

A Speyside area teenager is one of the four per cent of foreign students accepted into the prestigious Rhode Island School of Design.

Gretchen Sankey, R.R. 4 Acton, will be studying art in the Providence school, a continuation of her work of the past four years.

Gretchen has also studied art in England for part of grade nine and 10 while her mother Deborah was taking a landscape architectural course. Upon her return to Acton High School, she found she could no longer fit into the regular classroom routine, and was not challenged enough by the academic program. She has since been studying independently at Ind EC, an alternative school in Bramalea.

Gretchen describes Ind EC as a college type atmosphere, but at the high school level.

She is now living in Toronto and has her own art studio. She has just completed grade 13, and her marks show she will be an Ontario Scholar, earning an average of 80 per cent or more in her final year.

The Rhode Island school was chosen by Gretchen, she explains because she wanted

a balance of the humanities (sociology and philosophy) with fine arts. Rhode Island provided the balance she was seeking. She has already been accepted to Brown University, an affiliate of the school of design, where she will study political science.

American universities are only allowed a foreign student population of four per cent in the freshman year, Gretchen says, and she is excited about being in that small percentile. Only two others were selected from Southern Ontario, she says.

At 19-years-old Gretchen already has done a lot of work in pastels and gouache (water based tempera), and acrylic paint on paper. She is just starting on canvas.

Gretchen's work is difficult to define, she admits. To best describe it, she says, she makes physical that which is unintelligible, such as emotions. She takes universal emotions, like loneliness and pleasure, and puts it on paper. "I want people to look at my paintings and feel something in their hearts."

Gretchen is fond of German expressionist and post impressionist work and especially admires work by Vincent Van Gogh.

Already Gretchen has sold some of her pieces, and currently has an exhibit in Mississauga, where some of her most recent pieces are on display. Last year she was commissioned to do a mural in Toronto.

Gretchen is prepared to starve for quite a while, realizing it takes a long time to make a name in the art world. However, she has already decided she does not want to work as a commercial artist in the interim. She tried it once at Harbourfront working in the Graphic Arts department. She found it deviated from her definition of art, "which is the soul."

To pay the rent, Gretchen paints houses—literally. She jokes about the day when her name will be as well known as other artists, and a few homeowners can say the artist Sankey did their home.

For the next four years, Gretchen will be busy taking her course, probably only making it home at Christmas. In her fourth year of study, she will be in Paris, France, or Florence, Italy studying various artists. She may spend a fifth year taking art education, so she can teach. But like everyone else, she can't predict the future.

## Group irked over Board of Education's lack of communication

The Board of Education's apparent lack of communication with a group, the altering of criterion used to identify gifted children and the rumour that two consultants could be dropped in the next couple of years has irked the Halton Chapter of the Association for Bright Children (ABC).

Speaking at a gathering of about 35 people in Georgetown last Tuesday evening, ABC president Liz Wallace said that there were many concerns the group had about the actions of Board of Education.

"We have grave concerns about the changing of the criterion," said Wallace, explaining the Board recently increased the I.Q. levels for the gifted program from 130 to 135. "Does this mean 42 children that would have been gifted are no longer gifted? This was done very quickly at a most inappropriate time."

She went on to say that she "has it on good authority" that two gifted consultants are going to be phased out in the next two years. "Why, when the separate school board has just hired a consultant, is this Board taking such a regressive step?" she asked.

"And there has been a breakdown of communication with the Board which was not on the same level it was in February," she added.

But Heaver, now Superintendent of Curriculum Services, which includes Special Education, said that "if anything, communication has improved" and that there were no problems.

"There were initial difficulties, but they have been overcome," he said.

Asked about the possibility of the consultants being phased out, he replied that there may be a reorganization within the Board.

"A reorganization is certainly being considered and all the consultants will be looked at, but no decision has been made at this time," he said, adding anything like that has to be approved by the Board.

According to Heaver, the altering of the criterion was not because the Board wanted to restrict the numbers of children in the classes, as was suggested by ABC at the meeting.

"I realize that was their (ABC's) feeling, but it was not our motivation," he asserted. "It was changed to provide a program for truly gifted children."

He explained that normally, the Ministry of Education sets the criterion for all "exceptionalities." "But the Ministry does not set out I.Q. levels, which I might add, are only part of what is used to choose a child for the program. Other information is used as well."

He went on to say that the Board "may make any decision it wants."

"And, after all the controversy, this is one where it will set the I.Q. levels," he stated.

He added that many parents want their children in these programs, unlike other "exceptionalities."

Present at the Tuesday evening meeting, Special Education and Special Services

Coordinator Lorna Scott, stated that the criterion was altered not to reduce the number of students, but to equalize opportunity.

"We wanted to offer total equal opportunity to students," she said.

As of February of this year, there were 700 gifted children enrolled in the programs—164 were from Milton and Halton Hills, Oakville had 223 children enrolled while Burlington had the highest number of children, 308, in gifted programs.

### Gifted expert says...

## Higher marks not the issue

An expert on gifted students told about 35 people at Georgetown High School last Tuesday evening that she was "fed up" with the competition for marks, which she believes is ruining classes.

Dr. Helen Woodliffe, Special Education Coordinator for the Borough of Etobicoke Board of Education, said the importance of offering programs for gifted students is not to have them receive better marks.

"I'm not interested in getting them better marks, so that they can get better jobs and make more money," said Dr. Woodliffe, author of the book Teaching Gifted Learners.

She was speaking about gifted children to interested parents and teachers. The evening was sponsored by the Halton Chapter of the Association for Bright Children (ABC).

Stressing the need to recognize people as individuals, Dr. Woodliffe stated that gifted are important to society.

"It is important to better our society so that there will be cooperation," she said, adding that the present competition for marks underlines the idea "I am better than you are."

She claimed the type of education that can aid the gifted child to free his or her mind is "crucial."

"But it also needs teachers who de-emphasize competition in favor of individual development," she noted. "We are at Orwell's 1984 and we need these people to help us with the continual change and growing technology."

A teacher for 20 years, Dr. Woodliffe cited a notion of the gifted as being elitist. "There is always continued concern about elitism and the general conception remains that is too elitist," she said, advising teachers to not treat the students as superior.

Dr. Woodliffe summed up the need for education for the gifted to aid them in developing self-concepts; relationships; skills at their own level and to keep alive the joy of learning.

"Help them learn to learn," added Dr. Woodliffe.



Dr. Helen Woodliffe, BSI French, Glen Duff, Leonard Kay and Liz Wallace answered questions from the audience at a forum on Gifted Children and educational programs last Tuesday evening at the Georgetown High School. People from all over Halton gathered at the information session.

### Comedy of errors

## Bank robber gets three year sentence

A calamity of errors during an armed bank hold-up in Campbellville in March has led an 18-year-old youth to a three year prison sentence.

Michael McDonough, R.R. 1, Acton, pleaded guilty recently to armed robbery, use of a firearm while committing an indictable offense and two counts of possession of a narcotic. All this because he was trying to get money to go to Sheridan College where he could better himself.

Crown Attorney James Treleven explained that on March 14 McDonough entered the Bank of Nova Scotia in the small hamlet, with a stocking over his face, and a motorcycle helmet on his head. He had previously acquired a shot gun and sawed off the end.

While in the bank demanding money, McDonough raised the weapon and waved it. It was later learned it was not loaded, but in working order. The accused had a gym bag with him, in which he placed \$1,000, handed over to him by the teller.

During the robbery, McDonough's

stocking fell from his face, and he stepped on a calendar which had fallen to the floor, leaving an imprint of his shoe. Part of the weapon also fell off.

Treleven continued that after he fled the scene on a motorcycle, he tossed the rifle away. However, he soon ran out of gas, and had to take a taxi which dropped him off at the Rockwood Hotel.

He was arrested two days later, at his home on the Sixth Line of Nassagaweya, and in his possession was found one ounce of marijuana and a vial of hash oil.

Only \$418 was recovered from the stolen money, Treleven said. Some \$160 had been spent on taxis and liquor in Toronto, \$140 went to purchase drugs, and another \$110 to Sheridan College, part of which was returned by the College Thursday the day of the sentencing.

McDonough's lawyer, Fred Forsythe cited many precedents setting cases in attempts to get his client a lighter penitentiary term, or a reformatory sentence. He noted his client had a alcohol and drug problem,

which according to a psychiatrist's report he is unwilling to accept.

Court learned McDonough is on probation for a break enter and theft conviction from September, 1981, but has never been in jail. Forsythe indicated a penitentiary stay is pretty harsh for a first time incarceration.

Treleven told Judge Carnwarth, McDonough said he would like to go to Maplehurst Correctional Institute in Milton to be with some of his buddies.

Federal prosecutor Tom Sutherland reminded the judge McDonough's presentence report is not good.

Upon delivering his sentence, Judge Carnwarth noted he took into consideration McDonough's age, the fact this would be his first time in jail, the 2 1/2 months he has already spent in custody and his criminal record. He sentenced the teenager to two years in prison for armed robbery, one year in for the firearms charge, to be served consecutively with the other charge, and 30 days for each narcotic possession charge, to be served concurrently.

## Permits up \$1.8 million

The construction picture in Halton Hills brightened in the first four months of this year, with a total of \$3.8 million in building permits issued, compared to \$2. million last year.

Housing starts in April were up 13 from the same month in '82, with 17 this year and four last year. The value of house permits

rose from \$387,000 in '82 to \$3.2 million in '83. The 13 houses are in Ontario Place, Heslop Court, and Clendebark Drive.

Additions and alterations to existing homes is becoming a more and more popular way of gaining extra space. In the first four months of '83, 57 such permits were issued compared to 38 the previous year.