

Police bare gun butts with new holsters

Aware of the danger of someone grabbing a police officer's gun, Halton Police have issued new open security holsters at a cost of about \$13,000, according to administrator Robin Hale.

The new lightweight, plastic holster—estimated to cost about \$50 each, reveals the butt of the gun, but only the officer knows how to release it.

All 230 uniform officers were issued the open holsters last week.

Halton firearms training officer Eric Bullock bluntly describes the new holster as being "the best damn security holster on the market."

"The gun is locked in such a way that there is no way to get it out and a person standing behind can't possibly lift it out of the holster," he said.

Bullock mentioned a case in Georgetown about a year ago when a woman involved in a family dispute grabbed the gun from an officer's holster and began "waving it around."

According to Bullock, there have been many fights when people have tried to get an officer's gun but the officer "has been able to overpower them."

He added the force has had to accept countless damaged guns, resulting from being dropped from the old style flap holsters. "There are lots of cases when an

officer is running and the gun has fallen out of the flap holster," the firearms officer said.

He disagreed with the idea that the open holster was an invitation to grab the gun. "If you look underneath the butt of the gun, there's a plastic guard over the trigger and there is no way you can pull it out," he stressed.

The approval by the Halton Board of Police Commissioners was a result of a year long test of the holsters by Halton police officers.

"I think about 12 officers had them as an experiment and all of them said they were 100 per cent more secure than the others," he claimed.

Mayor Peter Pomeroy, a police commissioner, said he believed the new holster was "far superior" to the old flap one.

He disagreed with the idea of the new holster underlining the fact an officer carries a gun. "There is no detrimental effect on a public image basis," the mayor argued. "Everyone knows a police officer carries a gun."

Police administrator Robin Hale confirmed the force is contemplating changing the color of the butt of the gun so that it blends in with the color of the belt. "We are considering changing them from brown to black to blend in better," he said.



Constable Bruce Mitchell shows the new open security holster which reveals the butt of the police officer's gun, issued to Halton officers last week. Police officials say it is more secure than the old flap shown on the right in this photo.

No change in region's birth control policy

Regional council made a final decision about the birth control issue which has plagued them for months, opting to stay with the same policy which allows people under 16 years of age to acquire contraceptives without their parents' knowledge.

Milton councillor Bill Johnson stridently opposed the policy saying it would promote promiscuity among teens. "Regionalism has many black marks, but this deliberate erosion of the family is the region's darkest hour," Johnson maintained.

But Oakville councillor Peter Arch pointed out to council that 85 per cent of the clients who visit the birth control clinics are already sexually active.

Arch maintained the region's program was one of "prevention, not promotion."

In a recorded vote, council voted 17 to 3 in favor of the policy. Halton Hills' representatives, Mayor Peter Pomeroy, Dave Whiting, and Mike Armstrong cast their votes in favor of the policy.

John McDonald was absent from the meeting, while Russ Miller left before the vote was taken.

At last week's health and social services committee meeting, about 10 people argued emotionally for and against the current policy, as outlined by the Ministry of Health in 1975.

Committee voted unanimously in favor of the policy at that time.

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Yoshimi Tamamura, second from left, is enjoying her visit to Canada and Halton Hills. Here she spends an afternoon with members of the Bristow family from the left, Penny, Yoshimi, Vicki and Vic. Both Vic and Penny are members of Georgetown Lions Club.

Attractive Japanese visitor is here on Lions' youth exchange

When attractive Yoshimi Tamamura, 21, first arrived from Japan last week her impressions of Canada were: "very large, lots of trees, green, lakes, beautiful."

As a participant in the Lions Club International Youth Exchange, Yoshimi is visiting Georgetown and at the homes of various Lion Club members. When interviewed last week she was staying at Ron Lacey's home and visiting at the home of Lion Vic and Lioness Penny Bristow at their home on the banks of Fairy Lake, Acton.

She is here for six weeks and during that time she will be shown all the sights Lion Club members can manage to work in, including Niagara Falls and Canada's Wonderland, two attractions Yoshimi has first on her list.

Last Wednesday the Bristows and daughter Vicki toured the high points of Halton Hills with Yoshimi, took her shopping in local stores and to Stone Road Mall, Guelph. They lunched at Jack Tanner's Restaurant in the Olde Hide House in Acton and had a leisurely dinner at the Bristow home.

Food here, Yoshimi said, is not much different than what they eat in the area of Japan where her parents live. Lunch, at home, she explained, would likely consist

of a hamburger or spaghetti with lots of rice at dinner.

"But she likes apple juice and Kentucky Fried Chicken," Lion Vic taunted. Yoshimi admitted it was true, and more readily available here.

Yoshimi's father manages a health company in Japan and her mother has a coffee shop in her native city of Fukui which is across the island from Tokyo. She attends a private university with a course for stewardesses, in Tokyo. English is one of the school's requirements.

Yoshimi has been studying the language for nine years and although she can read English rather well, she admits that outside of a coffee shop in Tokyo she frequents, where English is mandatory, there are few other occasions she can converse in the language.

The trip to Canada is enriching her capacity for a second language but she also keeps a Japanese-English dictionary she dubs "her friend" nearby for awkward occasions. Visiting the Bristows she was fortunate because Vicki is about her age. The two struck up an easy friendship, which encouraged conversation.

Yoshimi arrived in Canada just in time to experience the hot humid weather Ontario suffered but it didn't hamper her

enjoyment.

"It is hotter here than Japan," she said, "but it is more humid in Japan."

She was also impressed by the friendliness of Canadians. "The Japanese don't smile as much as the Canadians and Americans," she observed. "We are a shy people."

Difference in lifestyle between here and Japan?

"We don't wear shoes in the house," Yoshimi said with a smile, suggesting there were few differences as Japan assimilates western customs. At the university she attends, however, there is only a two month summer vacation. Yoshimi explained it is a private school so they are different from the public universities and they also have two months off in the Spring.

This visitor thinks the Lions youth exchange is wonderful and she has many more Canadian surprises in store as the Lacey's, Ron Breen and other Lions see she has a good time in Canada. There'll be a reciprocal visit to Japan by a Canadian and Yoshimi is also looking forward to that.

Meanwhile she hopes to be more fluent in English when she returns home.

Mandatory sex ed. in Halton?

A regional councillor argued successfully Wednesday afternoon to have the Board of Education consider mandatory sex education classes in Halton high schools.

Oakville councillor Jackie Cutmore said she believed the program was a necessity, due to the risk of teenage pregnancy.

"I must remind you that if a teen gets pregnant, it is five times riskier for her than an adult," claimed Cutmore. "We have to educate our teens. I don't have to remind you of the number of babies found in garbage bags or in puddles."

But councillors Joan Little and Ann Mulvale cautioned council against advising the Board of Education.

"It's really not up to us to ask the Board to do something," said Little.

"Perhaps our health council should speak to the Board," suggested Mulvale.

But council voted 12 to 6 in favor of Cutmore's recommendation, which emerged after the discussion of the region's birth control policy.

Chairman of the Toronto Board of Health Anne Johnston has recently gone on record in favor of family planning programs part of the school curriculum.

Approve deer hunt

Halton region has approved the annual controlled deer hunt slated for November this year at the council meeting Wednesday, despite strong opposition from councillors Bill Johnson and Joan Little.

"I'm not convinced there's a huge deer population," said Johnson.

"The MNR objected to environmentalist Eldon Comfort's severance, but they'll let an army of people run around with guns. It makes you wonder what kind of clown is running things," he added.

He recommended that council must curb the annual deer hunt.

But Halton Hills councillor Russ Miller defended the hunt, saying it is one of the few things farmers ask of council. "I don't know why we can't support the farmers more," stated Miller. "They have gone to great pains to document the damage and the loss they have suffered. There is no sense in saying we don't care about them."

Burlington councillor Joan Little was opposed to council supporting the hunt annually, charging the Ministry was looking at the deer hunt as a "game."

She referred to a Ministry report on the hunt, recommending the 1983 deer hunt because of expected increases in the deer population.

"In 1981, there was a concern of diseased herd," she said. "In 1982, there was no mention of disease, but they said we may as well do it. In 1983, they say there was less deer in

1982, so that indicates there will be more in 1983. It doesn't make sense."

"I know logic doesn't necessarily prevail around council tables, but the bottom line is that there is no mention of diseased herd and I think this has gone too far and we should not support the hunt as an annual event," she added.

But Oakville councillor Carol Gooding disagreed with Little and Johnson, supporting Miller's assertion that region does not support farmers in many things. "Farmers came and pleaded with us to support the hunt, addressing the damage," she maintained.

The deer hunt will be in the Cambridge District, including the northern two-thirds of Halton Region and the townships of Puslinch, Flamborough, South Dumfries and Guelph from November 7-10 inclusive.

The hunters will be again identified by their licence plates, an issue Johnson and others on council attempted unsuccessfully to change this year.

Councillor Ann Mulvale, agreeing with the hunt, admitted the way of identifying hunters is "ridiculous."

"It's absolutely ridiculous to expect people to walk up to a person holding a gun and ask them where their car is parked so they can get the number," she said, provoking laughter from councillors.

The council's request from the Ministry to have large numbers on hunters' backs for easier identification was denied this year.

Pomeroy defends dump policy

Mayor Pete Pomeroy jumped to the defence of regional council Wednesday after a Burlington man expressed disappointment at the council's decision to expand the Burlington dump over four years.

"Halton will have spent over \$2 million by the end of 1986 without taking any real action," claimed Alf Coome, adding that valuable time was being lost by doing a "Mickey Mouse assessment."

"Each municipality should take responsibility for its own garbage," he said.

"This thing of waste disposal has been kicked around for years. Why not send it to Occidental—it's their business," he suggested. (Occidental Corporation is an Energy From Waste plant in New York.)

Pomeroy charged that "the gentleman's solution is to send it to someone else and not handle it yourself."

"You weren't listening to me," challenged Coome.

"I was—I may not like what you were saying, but I listened," replied the mayor.

When Coome added the region must not see how important the matter is if they are going to wait so long, Pomeroy replied, "Nobody understands better than regional council the urgency."

"I'm not happy that our garbage is going

to Burlington," Pomeroy said. "It's tremendously expensive, but for some reason the province said Site F is not the only way to go and we have to do this."

Come then said the government confuses the citizens, after Pomeroy advised Coome to take his complaints and present them to the province.

"This is the type of run-around we always get," said an angry Coome. "We go to the municipality who tells us the region handles garbage, I come here and they say go to the province. Maybe we should get rid of regional government."

Another citizen, Sid Chumley, stood up and said the cost of this is "just out of this damn world," and strongly opposed expanding the Burlington landfill site as a temporary solution.

"We've been going on since 1976 on this and we've just come up with another band-aid solution," he charged.

After the delegations spoke, Burlington councillor Joan Little said it was council's responsibility to find an interim plan.

"The reason we're in this bind is we've had the rug pulled out from under us," she stated. "It's all fine to say don't do this, but give us an alternative—there aren't that many choices."