

Halton Police starting 12-hour duty shifts

By ALEX MATHESON
A need for a shift system that would provide better working conditions prompted Halton regional police to implement 12-hour shifts for most of its uniformed officers and much of its civilian staff.
The 32-week trial program, due to end Jan. 2, 1984, will be evaluated by the participants three times.
The results of the first questionnaire will be known about Sept. 1. It was circulated for response by July 15 but is being extended, said deputy-chief Bob Middaugh.
One of the main concerns with the shiftworkers was seven or eight midnight shifts in a row every 28 days. Along with this was a desire to get better days off, he said.

With the new schedule, officers work two days, followed by 24 hours off then two nights followed by four days off. Nobody has to look forward to more than two days work without a break he said.
Although fatigue can be a problem at the end of the second 12-hour shift, the prospect of time off motivates people to keep on going, he said.
About 75 per cent of all people working for the police force are participating in the 32-week trial program. It was instituted on May 30 for the officers, said Middaugh, and was requested by the records bureau. It began there on June 27.
In Ontario, this system is used in Orillia, Barrie, Midland and Lindsay. Halton's participation makes it

the largest force using the system. Eleven out of 12 forces in the greater Vancouver area also employ the 12-hour shift.
There is total support in Orillia. Locally, the trial program was approved by just over 50 per cent of the police association, he said.
However, he has had reports of favorable response. One Burlington officer said if she had been at the vote, she would have opposed the 12-hour shift, but having now worked it, wouldn't choose any other.
So far, one office worker has quit, unable to fit the shift in with her family life.
"Everybody won't be satisfied but we have to try to get something better," he said.

Jelinek gives PM advice

Halton MP Otto Jelinek sent a telegram to Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau suggesting appropriate responses for the Canadian government to the Soviet Union air force destruction of the Korean Airlines passenger jet.
Following is the text of the message Jelinek sent Trudeau on September 1:
"In light of the intentional and unforgivable action perpetrated by the Soviet Union against a Korean Airlines 747, killing 269 innocent and unprotected passengers and crew, including a number of Canadian citizens, I urge you to dispense with your traditional and simple diplomatic protest and instead take a more stringent and effective position, by immediately recalling our ambassador from Moscow. Further, I urge that you order an immediate freeze on all ongoing negotiations and agreements with the Soviet Union until such time as Moscow offers an acceptable, international, iron-clad guarantee, which would cease any further actions of piracy, intervention and infringement on human safety, freedom and rights."



Otto Jelinek Perrin Beatty John McDermid

Jelinek, McDermid in Tory shadow cabinet

Local MPs Otto Jelinek and John McDermid have both been named to new Opposition Leader Brian Mulroney's shadow cabinet.
Jelinek, who worked for a leadership review vote at the convention in Winnipeg and then backed Mulroney in Ottawa, was named the Tory critic for Small Business and Tourism.
Brampton-Georgetown MP McDermid made it to the shadow cabinet for the first time, despite being a Clark loyalist. McDermid will be the Conservative critic for Indian Affairs.
Perrin Beatty, the MP for Wellington-Dufferin-Simcoe, was named critic for National Revenue. Beatty backed former leader Joe Clark in Ottawa, but still retained a "shadow cabinet post". A member of the short-lived Clark cabinet in 1979-80, Beatty was the youngest cabinet minister ever in Canada. He was formerly Tory critic for Communications.
Former cabinet minister and leadership hopeful, Sinclair Stevens, who was born in Esquesing, was named External Affairs critic. He was another Mulroney supporter at the leadership convention.
There are 34 MPs in the "shadow cabinet".

Board briefs

Wants Program
After receiving a letter from a concerned taxpayer and parent, Halton Board of Education and Georgetown trustee Betty Fisher has requested investigation of a program dealing with child molestation.
Fisher explained that in light of the letter and a delegation to the board a while ago, she would like to know the feasibility of introducing such a program.

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