

Officer of Month

Tackles jewel thief in mall

Sergeant Bill Puskas was chosen by Metroland Newspapers as this month's Halton Regional Police Officer of the Month for his efforts in capturing an armed robber while off duty.

A shopping trip to Burlington Mall last January for Bill Puskas ended up with him wrestling an armed robber to the ground in



Sergeant Bill Puskas

the middle of the mall.

A member of the Halton Regional Police force, the Burlington sergeant had stopped to chat with another off-duty officer when he heard the cry, "Stop that man!"

Minutes earlier a man had apparently walked into the jewellery shop and requested to view some diamond rings. When a store employee displayed a selection, the man pulled out a small handgun and ordered him to put the rings into a small bag.

He became upset when the employee didn't move quickly enough and threatened him with his life. He stuffed the 10 diamond rings into the bag and the robber dashed out of the store.

In hot pursuit was the employee. A second employee requested help to stop the fleeing man.

"I saw a male party running out of the store and then I think somebody from the crowd must have slugged him because all of a sudden he just spun around and went down," recalls the Police sergeant.

Seconds later he had pinned the man down and started asking questions. "I had to know what he had done... you

do have to protect their rights," he explained.

He got his answer moments later when the store employee showed him the 10 rings he had just scooped off the ground, lost in the robber's scramble from the store.

A 19-year-old Weston youth later pleaded guilty to a charge of armed robbery.

Though out of uniform and unarmed, Puskas, a 25 year veteran of police said he never considered hesitating for a moment, despite the fact he was dealing with an armed person.

"The gun was in his pocket and it turned out to be a starter's pistol," he said.

The fact he had a more serious brush with an armed robber during his police career did not deter him. In 1967, he responded to a bank alarm on Brant St. in Burlington just in time to catch a bullet in the leg from a fleeing robber.

A resident of Burlington, Sergeant Puskas is married with two daughters Jill 14, and Kim 16 years. His wife Joan is a former swimming competitor and the whole family continues to spend much of their spare time in this sport.



Elected, Friday night as the incoming executive of Halton-Burlington Provincial Riding Association are Key Lawson, Al Wilson, Dale Gerrard, Lois Mackenzie, Barry Stanley, Charlie Gibbs, Mike Buse, Rob Kelly, Dolle Moulden, David Steckley, Marion Marshall, Marjorie Powys, Judy Wilson, and Harvey Kirkwood.

Liberals elect executive

Al Wilson was re-elected president of the Halton-Burlington Provincial Liberal Association, Friday night. Secretary is Dale Gerrard, Treasurer Judys Wilson, and Vice President David Steckley.

Directors for the coming year are Barry Stanley, Ehra Ribble, Oriana Currie, Kay Lawson, Lois Mackenzie, Charlie Gibbs, Marion Marshall, Marjorie Powys, Dolle Moulden, Rob Kelly, Don Heath, Mike Buse and Harvey Kirkwood.

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CORRECTION NOTICE: NOVEMBER "TOY MINI-FLYER"

Due to limited supply, the following items may not be available at all locations during our November Toy "Mini-Flyer":

Qty. No.	Description	Page
730-980	Smart Magic Rub-it-up	8
836-328	Duke Backgammon Set/Patch Leather	8

Due to vendors and manufacturers delays, the following items may not be available at all locations during our November Toy "Mini-Flyer":

Qty. No.	Description	Page
896-821	Dem Busters Colecovision Cart.	23
810-527	Attach & Go Drive	18
857-328	Quest For Texas Atari Cart.	OBC
734-127	Millpede Atari Cartridge	OBC
734-146	Pengo Atari Cartridge	OBC
867-292	Jr. Pacman Atari Cartridge	OBC
748-888	Little Pony Dream Cards	1
748-883	Autobot Commodes	3
748-747	Galbat Command Centre	3
114-726	20-Light Pointsettle Set	19
729-871	Barrick Atari Cartridge	OBC
	will be substituted with Battlezone	
728-888	Defender Atari Cartridge	OBC
	will be substituted with Vanguard	



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