

Team policing concept ends after five years

Halton Police Commission has voted to terminate an experiment in team policing in Burlington which was designated to make police more accessible to the public. The action was taken on the recommendation of Halton Regional Police Chief Ken Skerrett.

In his report to the commission, Chief Skerrett said, "Team policing has been successful in some of the

things it has attempted to accomplish and failed in others." He added that some of the aspects of the team policing concept would be incorporated in the force's more structured platoon organization.

The team policing experiment has caused disciplinary and supervisory problems, due in part to the large number of young officers on the Halton Regional force,

the chief said. The experiment was also hampered by a lack of portable radios and other equipment.

When commissioner David Coons asked Chief Skerrett if he supported the concept of team policing, the chief replied, "I believe in team policing, but one area kind of scares me. I feel that the police are the last thin blue line barrier between a normal way of life and the tendency

towards chaos." "If the authority goes, the barrier is down, and the thin blue line, the last bastion against our society, starts falling apart. The churches and schools can't control it," he said. "Can a policeman maintain his following in the neighbourhoods and still say, 'I am law and order, don't push me too far'?"

In his report Chief Skerrett said that since the officers had

spent more time in one area, they became more knowledgeable about it, resulting in improved relations with the public. Geographical stability is one of the aspects of team policing which intends to incorporate in the platoon structure.

Mr. Coons the newest member of the commission was insistent in asking whether the concept would be more effective if the program was

supplied with the men and equipment needed to function effectively.

William Hourigan, chairman of the commission, said "You cannot buy discipline with dollar bills. You cannot buy supervision with dollar bills. We have a very young force. The experience necessary to run this type of experiment is a little light. A lack of supervision and a lack of discipline could very well cripple this

force."

"I'm just trying to ask the chief-given the extra men, extra cruisers and whatever else is needed, would team policing work better?" Mr. Coons asked.

"Yes. It would," Chief Skerrett said.

"Five years is long enough to experiment," Commissioner Harry Barrett said. "There comes a point in time when you have to decide. I'm

quite prepared to back the chief and cut the program." When the decision was made to terminate the program, Commissioner Coons said, "I'm very disappointed, Mr. Chairman."

"We all are," Mr. Barrett said. "We worked very hard to get it to work."



COMMISSIONER HONORED
Halton Hills Coun. Les Doby was honored by the Ontario Municipal Electric Association for his 15 years of service on the Acton Hydro-Electric Commission. H. D. Hamilton, president of the association, presented Mr. Doby with a framed certificate at the group's annual meeting in Toronto.

Charges withdrawn

Charges of possession and cultivation of marijuana against a Burlington school principal have been withdrawn following a finding in court of not guilty of trafficking in the drug.

Robert Gordon Kearns, 38, was the principal of Maplehurst public school Sept. 22 when he was charged along with a tenant, John Stanley Richards, 32, on a number of drug counts.

Mr. Kearns, who was transferred to an administrative post after charges were laid, still faces a trial Feb. 17 in connection with possession of about 4,000 chloridiazepoxide pills, which are restricted under the Food and Drug Act.

Richard pleaded guilty to cultivation of about a dozen plants in Mr. Kearns' backyard and was sentenced to one day in jail and a \$500 fine.

Club receives grant

The Log Cabin Bowlers of Georgetown will receive a \$1,618 grant under the New Horizons Program for Senior Citizens, Halton MP Dr. Frank Philbrook has announced.

The grant is phase two of the group's project, and will allow the members of the group to enjoy such year-round activities as euchre, pot-luck suppers and other social activities, in addition to lawn bowling.

For a group to be eligible for a New Horizons grant, the group must be a senior citizens' club. The grant is to cover activity projects, which must keep at least 10 senior citizens active. The project must also be done entirely by senior citizens.

Dr. Philbrook said approximately a dozen senior citizens' certificates were given out in Halton last summer.

Ashgrove social notes

By Mrs. JOHN BELLBODDY
Herald correspondent

On Tuesday afternoon Jan. 17th the Education and Cultural Activities meeting of the Women's Institute was held in Hillcrest Church with Mrs. Percy Cox as hostess.

President Mrs. J.H. Hunter presided and opened in the usual way.

The December minutes were read and Roll Call answers were read with a modern educational advantage I missed which proved very interesting.

More thank-you letters had been received from Cobalt and were read, also Mrs. M. Bird reported on thank-you notes from shut-ins who had been remembered at Christmas.

Mrs. T. Blackett presented the proposed changes in the by-law concerning the duties of the flower committee and all were in favor of the revision.

It was announced the W.I. euchre will be Feb. 10 and the dance April 1.

Program was turned over to Mrs. F. Wickson and Mrs. G. Gillard who gave some thoughts on Education, skills at school and work.

The guest speaker was introduced Rev. Garyn, is a minister in Strathcona Presbyterian Church, also serving as chairman on Halton Board of Education gave us some interesting highlights of school problems.

Halton is one of five large school boards.

There is an increase of students, more are entering universities, the three R's are most important from Kindergarten on up, he said.

The motto the three R's Respect, Reverence and Responsibility was well given by Mrs. Vern Pickel.

Mrs. H. Hatst gave the courtesies and thanked anyone who had contributed to the meeting.

After singing O Canada meeting closed with a social hour.

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