

POLICE WEEK 1978

There's more doing for today's cops

By LOUI TAYLOR
Herald staff writer
"There's more to do in police work all the time," Acting Staff Sergeant Len Pickett told The Herald this week.
Last week was Police Week across Canada, and in order to find out more about how the police force in Halton is set up and how it works, The Herald interviewed Sgt. Len Pickett.



SUPT. TAYLOR

The local police force in Halton Hills is Halton Regional Police. The force, which was created in late 1973, is comprised of three districts. District 1 includes Halton Hills and Milton. District 2 is Oakville and District 3 is Burlington.

There are 51 men in District 1. The man in charge is Acting Superintendent W. Roy Taylor, who took over Monday from Superintendent Floyd Schwartz. Superintendent Schwartz will begin a job as chief of police in Timmins next Monday.

District 1 is made up of 3 divisions, and sub-divided into eight zones. In Divisions 10 and 11, which are Acton and Georgetown, there are 28 men, including Superintendent Taylor. Staff Inspector Ray Andress, formerly chief of police in Milton before the amalgamation of the different Halton forces, works mainly from the Georgetown station. Staff Sgt. John Barret works in Georgetown and is in charge of the men stationed in Acton.

There are four sergeants in Divisions 10 and 11. The remainder of the 28 men are constables.

In Milton, which is 12 Division, there are 18 constables, and four sergeants, and Staff Sgt. Eric Hulbeck is in charge. Milton is the largest and most populous division in the District, Sgt. Pickett said.

Not all of the officers are on regular patrol duty. There are a number of specialized groups

which operate within the force, such as the Youth Bureau, the Criminal Investigation Bureau and the Identification Bureau. Each of these groups in charge of a particular area, and sometimes they must work together in investigating a crime.

The Youth Bureau becomes involved in an investigation as soon as it has been established that someone involved is under sixteen years of age. Much of the work of the Youth Bureau involves investigating acts of vandalism and willful damage. Sgt. Pickett said most incidents of vandalism involve youths from the ages 14 to 20, he added. Sgt. Al McQueen and Constable Joe Prasad are responsible for the Youth Bureau in District 1.

Use of illegal drugs seems to be on the decline, Sgt. Pickett said, but he added that he would hesitate to say the problem is dying out, since many crimes go through cycles of scarcity before becoming more prevalent again.

The Identification Bureau in District 1 is the responsibility of Constable Bill McGrath. It involves among other things, police photography and fingerprinting.

Sgt. Pickett said, and plays a major part in the investigation of breaking and entering.

The Criminal Investigation Bureau, which is supervised by Sgt. Keith Robertson, is responsible for any investigations under the Criminal Code, including murder and suicide. In addition to Sgt. Robertson, three constables are assigned to the CIB, Constables Bruce Richards, Ian McNally and R. Welsh.

Summons Officer Ralph Tripp is one of the civilian employees of the force, and he is responsible for the serving of summonses. Mr. Tripp, who lives in Georgetown retired in 1977, after the Donmar plant closed, and was hired by the police force last March.

The two remaining specialized areas are each handled by one man. The safety officer Constable Raj Swaminathan. Constable Swaminathan is responsible for school safety patrols and for police safety programs in the schools. He has worked closely with the Block Parent as well.

Court Officer Arnie Vanchel is in charge of seeing that the court is duly supervised.

Sgt. Pickett said there have been many changes in police work in the past twenty years. At one time, police officers did all their own criminal investigations, and as a result, were constantly tied up in lengthy investigations. Today the biggest part of criminal work is handled by the CIB.

The hiring process has changed dramatically in recent years as well, Sgt. Pickett said. Prior to the creation of the Halton Regional Police Force, new police officers were hired by the local chief of police and municipal council. Now, hiring is done at the regional level, and applicants undergo rigorous assessments to meet the required stand-

ards. "You have to be all things to be a good policeman," Sgt. Pickett said. "You have to be a diplomat, an attorney."

Where a policeman is at a disadvantage is that you have to make up your mind in a split second, where the legal side has a few weeks to decide what they're going to do.

"Sometimes you're out in the field, and you just have to make a decision and hope you're right," he added.

Applicants to the police force are now required to have a Grade 12 education, or the equivalent. Police officers attend the police college in Aylmer, Ontario, for training.

Sgt. Pickett expressed concern about the university graduates who apply to the police force because there are no jobs available in the field for which they're trained.

"They may be hired, but if a job comes along in their particular field, they may not stay with the force," he said.

"A lot of people will make an application to the force, are hired and find out in a year or so that it's not what they thought it was," he added.

While vandalism and malicious mischief are major problems in District 1, breaking and entering and theft are also causing difficulties. Breaking and entering with theft is one of those crimes which seems to go in cycles, Sgt. Pickett said.

"Sometimes for a week or two at a time, there'll be very few or no break and enters, then, on one weekend, you'll have a number of them," he said.

The full moon has a definite influence on the amount of crimes, Sgt. Pickett said, although it's impossible to say whether there is any real physical effect, or whether it's because people believe in the mystic properties of the full moon.



The annual police auction of found articles, mostly bicycles, was well attended Saturday morning. In the foreground, a woman raises her hand to make a bid on a junior-sized bicycle. About 120 bikes were offered at the auction.



Halton Regional Safety Officer Constable Raj Swaminathan took Kenny the 'Talking Police Car' to Robert Little school and St. Joseph's school in Acton last week as part of the program planned for Police Week. Kenny and Constable Swaminathan went to a number of area schools to talk to students. Constable Hod Donaldson, Acton, was responsible for creating Kenny's face, and also provided Kenny's voice, with the help of General Electric. Kenny was on display at Milton Mall last Thursday, Friday and Saturday with other exhibits set up by Halton Regional Police.

"During the full moon, you'll get an extra burden of crime, particularly with domestic disputes," he said.

Domestic disputes are handled by the investigating officer who is usually a uniformed officer investigating a complaint. Sgt. Pickett said District 1 has about the same number of domestic complaints as any other municipality he said.

The action taken by an officer investigating a domestic dispute depends on whether an assault has taken place. It is left up to the party assaulted to lay charges.

"Quite often when there are injuries involved, they don't want to press charges, and that closes it for us," Sgt. Pickett said. "If they don't want to lay charges, then there's nothing we can do about it because we have no evidence."

Most domestic disputes involve alcohol, Sgt. Pickett said, but District 1 has no major problems with drinking drivers.

"I feel when you have a community where's its pretty well policed, with routine checks of the hotels, bars and so on, and police out on the road, the problem of drinking drivers is curtailed," he said.

Police are also involved in keeping track of parolees and suspects released on bail. In many cases, parolees and people out on bail are required as a condition of their release to report to the local police station at certain appointed times. They must report in person, and a telephone call is not acceptable. When the parolee comes in, the time and date is noted on a report which will be submitted to his parole officer. If the police are aware that the parolee has been frequenting establishments which are off-limits to him during his parole, or associating with wrong people, that fact is noted in the report, and his parole may be revoked.

The police department also keeps track of known criminals in the area.

"We like to know what they're doing and who their associates are," Sgt. Pickett said.



Police Superintendent Floyd Schwartz displays one of the gifts presented to him by his fellow officers and members of the Halton Hills community during a roast held last week in his honor. Supt. Schwartz begins his new job as chief of police for Timmins Monday. The dinner and after-dinner 'fiction' demonstrated the respect both his fellow officers and the public at large have for the senior police officer. The present displayed above was presented by former deputy chief Jeffries. It is a Second World War souvenir, a leaflet dropped over Germany during the early stages of the war by the allied air forces.

Halton Regional. Three weeks ago, he was transferred to 11 Division (Georgetown).

Each district is different, Sgt. Pickett said, but the policing itself is essentially the same. The zones, which are the areas under one division, vary

in size, according to population. The more sparsely populated rural zones are bigger than the urban zones.

Urban areas require more patrols than rural areas, Sgt. Pickett said. With one car in a big zone in a rural area, it's sometimes pretty difficult to find the person responsible for damaging property, he said.

Several police officers have been awarded commendations by the community in past months. Constable Brian Farrell received a Queen's Silver Jubilee medal for his action in saving a young boy from drowning. Constables Alex Fishbein and Barry Holland received awards from the Georgetown Optimists during their Annual Respect for Law Week.

Constable Fishbein, while off duty, assisted at the scene of the accident in which Frank Toth of Acton lost a leg last January, and by his actions, helped save Mr. Toth from possible death through massive bleeding. Constable Holland, while off-duty, foiled an attempted rape in a Burlington apartment building and apprehended the rapist.

Sgt. Pickett said the Halton Regional force does not award medals as such, but an officer performing in a manner above and beyond the call of duty may receive a commendation from Police Chief Ken Skerrett or from the community.

"As far as I'm concerned, in a situation like that, a letter from the community or a commendation from the chief is nice, and this has been done by this department," Sgt. Pickett said. "Police work is easiest when you have good relations with the public in the community, and the backing of the people in your community. I would say we have that here."

"Myself, I'm very happy with the people in the community who will get involved and I feel that we're very fortunate in the smaller communities to have the kind of co-operation from the public that you don't have in the larger communities," Sgt. Pickett said. "When the public comes forward to assist us, it's very rewarding for a policeman."

Acton man receives award for action

An Acton man who volunteered to drive an injured man to hospital in Guelph during the severe snowstorm January 26 has been awarded a civilian citation from Halton Regional Police in recognition of his assistance.

Ken Chappel, 34, of Acton received the award in a ceremony at Burlington May 16. Twenty other civilians citations were awarded, but none of them were awarded to residents of Halton Hills.

The day of the snowstorm, service station owner Frank Toth, 55, of Acton was out on a tow call. He was struck by a car while attempting to pull a Halton Regional Police cruiser out of a ditch on Hwy. 25. When the word of the accident reached Mr. Toth's garage, Mr. Chappel and off-duty Halton Regional Police Constable Alex Fishbein were in the

building. They immediately left in Mr. Chappel's station wagon for the scene of the accident.

Dr. T. B. Moore attended Mr. Toth at the scene of the accident, and supervised the splinting of his legs. Mr. Toth was then put in the back of Mr. Chappel's station wagon and Constable John Liver escorted the station wagon to Guelph General Hospital in a cruiser.

The ambulance arrived on the scene shortly after Mr. Toth was resting in the station wagon, but the delay which would have been caused by transferring him to the ambulance was considered dangerous. The trip to Guelph took about 50 minutes, Mrs. Chappel estimated.

Mr. Chappel and his wife and have two children, and are long-time Acton residents.



RECITAL

Laura Rogers, 9, played a French Menuet, for parents and friends who attended a piano recital in St. John's United Church last week. Ten students aged 7 to 11 took part in the recital. Their teacher is Adrienne Beccaker.

June decision on school fate

If Halton Hills council accepts the recommendation of the Norval Community Association, Norval's original brick school will be torn down. Representatives of the association are expected to approach council with the suggestion in June.

Coun. C.F. Patterson says the old school has been assessed for repair and

restoration and the costs are prohibitive.

"There's no question that people would like to see it fixed up," he says, "but the cost would be extremely extensive - \$60,000 to \$70,000. Research was done some time ago on getting a Wintario grant and help from the Ontario Heritage Foundation but the bulk of the money would have to come

from the community. People would help but I'm sure they wouldn't be prepared to pay that much."

Mr. Patterson says he has been told there are beams down in the old building and it is becoming dangerous to leave it even though it is boarded up. The building was closed in 1953 when the new school was opened. The reporter was unable to learn

exactly how old the structure is although the date on the bell which once hung in the school steeple is 1840.

Coun. Patterson says that the community association recommends installing tennis courts or perhaps lawn bowling facilities on the site if the old building is removed but there has been no comment yet from the recreation department.

Ballinafad news

By WINIFRED SMITH
Herald correspondent
Congratulations to Jimmy and Alice Sanderson who have just become parents of a little son, a brother for Lisa and Laura.

We were fortunate to have ideal weather for the holiday weekend. Many took the advantage to put in their gardens.

Miss Connie Knights and

Mrs. Dorothy Knights from Inswich, Suffolk, England are spending a holiday with cousins Mr. and Mrs. Frank Smith they also will be spending some time with other relatives before returning home in July.

Some interested citizens are organizing a ball team for the youngsters in the village. Be on hand at the ball diamond Saturday mornings at 10 a.m.

No parking

Halton regional council has imposed greater parking restrictions in Ashgrove. The restrictions, which take effect when the no parking signs are posted, are to be on both sides of Trafalgar Road 100 feet north and 200 feet south of Regional Road 10. The parking restrictions are for 24 hours a day.

Young Tories meet

Progressive Conservative candidate for Brampton-Georgetown John McDermid addressed a large membership meeting of the PC Youth federation May 15, president Jay Mathers says.

The meeting held in Brampton, was to acquaint members of the federation with the candidate's views on issues facing the country. The Youth federation will be taking an active part in the campaign once the election writ is proclaimed.

Dianne Sutter, a spokesman, says a newsletter is being prepared for the more than 200 members of the federation. She says new members are welcome and can join by calling Mr. Mathers at 457-2476 or Dave Baker in Georgetown at 877-4222.

The group will be engaged in fundraising events which include the sale of T-shirts and Progressive Conservative ballpoint pens. A social committee has been formed and a trip to Ottawa may take place in June.