

Halton police spending is the lowest in Ontario

Halton Regional Police have the lowest per-capita spending of any of the 35 regional and city police departments in Ontario, the Solicitor-General's annual report for 1978 says.

Solicitor-General Roy McMurtry's report also says Halton had fewer officers and civilian employees than any other force on the basis of the population served.

Halton spent only \$39.38 per capita on policing last year, compared to the average for all ten regional forces, including Metro Toronto, of \$52. The average per-capita spending across Ontario was \$50.20.

Per capita spending was highest in Haldimand-Norfolk,

at \$76.42. Peel spent \$44.91 per-capita, while Hamilton-Wentworth spent \$56.83.

The Halton force had one officer for every 176 people in the region, the lowest ratio, while Metro Toronto has the highest at one for every 421 residents.

Oakville Mayor Harry Barrett, chairman of the Halton Regional Police Commission, said he believes the low per-capita spending reflects the efficiency of the force.

"Our force is well above average in the clearance rates for crime," he said.

The report may indicate Halton has the least number of officers per population of any of the forces, Mayor Barrett

said, but the report by the Ontario Police Commission into the operation of the force said the force needed only re-organization of the workload, not additional manpower.

"Some officers were only handling two calls in an eight hour shift," the mayor said. "The police officers are performing well and clearing crime. We have a good department and we're getting the job done."

Mayor Barrett said it's not logical to compare on the basis of police per population; the comparison should be on the basis of the officer's workload.

"We're going to need more capital money for buildings and other kinds of re-organization, and we've gone to the region to talk about that, and here's no problem," he said. "We don't happen to subscribe to the theory that more money buys efficiency."



NEW BRIDGE

Regional works crew are hard at work replacing the old concrete bridge on Regional Road 15 west of Stewarttown with a new structure. The old bridge was limited to a two-ton capacity

last year after part of one side broke apart and fell into the stream below. The road adjacent to the bridge will also be re-aligned as part of the project.

(Herald photo)

Woman enjoys island tour

By MRS. A.W. BENTON
Herald correspondent
Miss Gail Sutcliffe of Devon, England, has been visiting her friend Mrs. T. N. Anderson. Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lister (nee Judy Lafferty) who were married in Guelph on Saturday. Congratulations to Jonathan Lister who graduated from Grade 13 with 87.2 per cent in the January class, Georgetown.

Mrs. John Glynn has returned from an enjoyable tour of the Channel Islands, England, Scotland and Ireland.

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Region considers ban on parking on median

Halton regional council is expected today (Wednesday) to ban all parking along the central median of Georgetown's Main Street, a move suggested by the board of management for the downtown Business Improvement Area (BIA).

Discussion about the BIA request at last week's regional

public works committee meeting also saw some consideration given to the concept of returning jurisdiction for Main Street to Halton Hills. The committee directed regional staff to prepare a report on the feasibility of transferring responsibility for the road back to the town after five years of regional control.

Although he could not attend the committee meeting, vice-chairman Mike Armstrong of Halton Hills expressed confidence later that the concept, already discussed on several

occasions, will not be realized in the near future, regardless of the town's wishes.

The BIA board of management requested the 24-hour

parking ban along the central median between Church and James Streets in the hopes of making downtown beautification work more effective. Workmen have been extending sidewalks slightly into the road allowance at three locations along Main Street to make room for benches, planters and waste bins.

"It is the opinion of the board that commercial vehicles can load and unload at the rear of the stores," public works director Bob Moore reported. "With (the BIA-sponsored) improvements, it becomes imperative that commercial parking in the median be restricted so that congestion on the road be minimized, provide improved visibility and to allow for snow removal in winter."

Bank will accept donations

Georgetown residents who are unable to sponsor a family of Vietnamese refugees, but would like to give some financial assistance, can now make donations through the local branch of the Royal Bank of Canada.

The bank is setting up a general fund for the use of Operation Lifeline, the organization devoted to providing assistance for the Boat People. Brenda Gogan, a member of the Georgetown Boat People Committee, said money donated in Georgetown will be used for the assistance of any refugees who settle in this area.

The Georgetown branch of McDonald's has offered its assistance, and plans to hold a "Welcome to Georgetown" party for the children. The restaurant will also have food coupons to be distributed to the refugees.

The Georgetown Boat People Committee is holding a public meeting Wednesday evening at Gordon Alcott Arena at 8 p.m. to provide information to those interested in sponsoring refugees, or in providing some other form of assistance.

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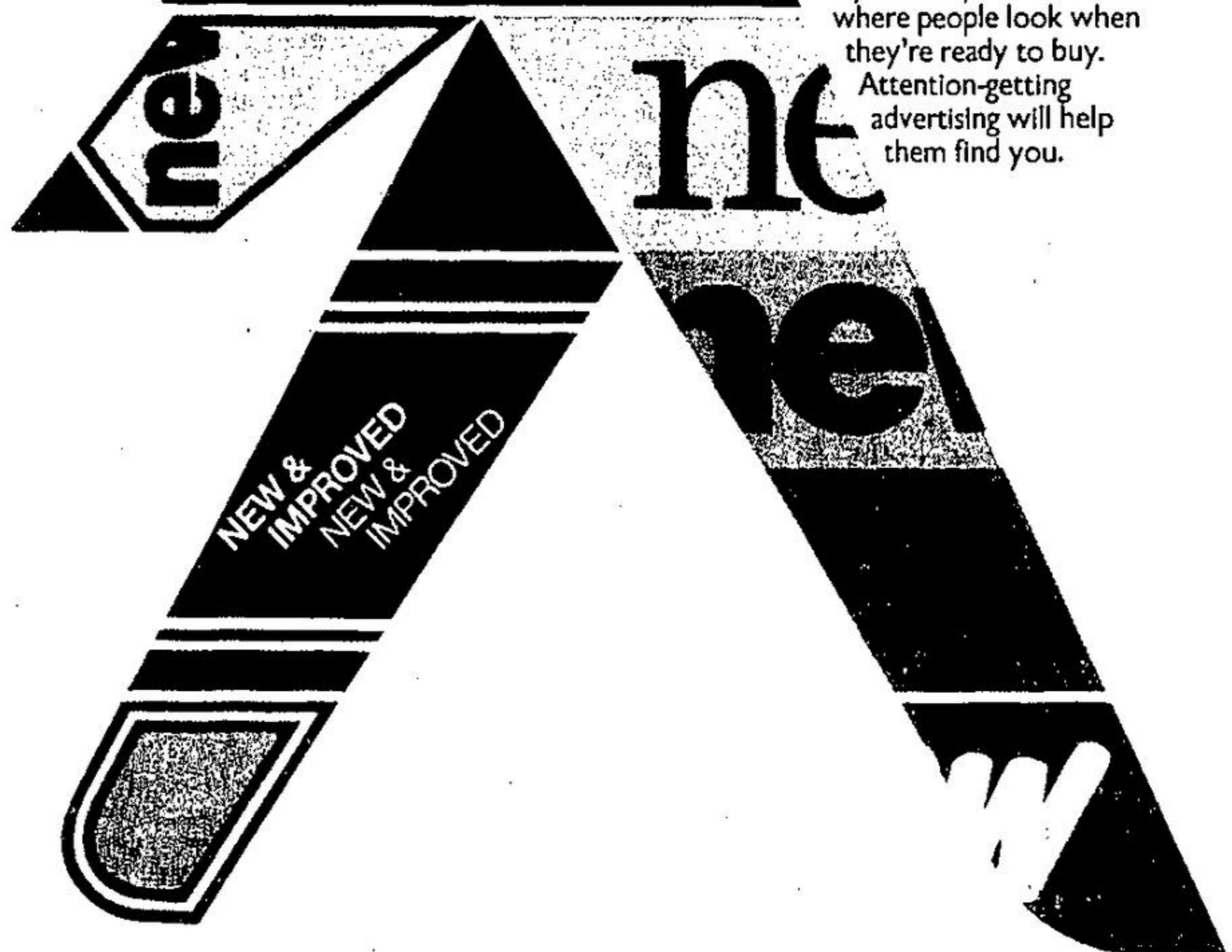
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