



The young men of Notre Dame de Beaugard, Therese St. Jean's apple farm south of Georgetown, made national headlines in 1957 with reports of strict disciplinary measures imposed by their "foster mother". Jean Paul Roby, who spoke with The Herald this week, is shown at right, front, several years before fleeing the farm. Miss St. Jean, who died Monday, was well-known and much respected for her work with Georgetown's French-speaking citizens and for her efforts in helping establish both Holy Cross Separate School and Sacre Coeur Roman Catholic parish. (Photo courtesy Jean Paul Roby)

Halton police form bureaux to improve force's operations

By LOUI TAYLOR
Herald staff writer

The Halton Regional Police force has formed three new bureaux for public relations, crime prevention and the handling of complaints.

Prior to the establishing of the new complaints bureau, complaints about the conduct of police officers were handled by the senior officer on duty when the complaint was made.

Sgt. Norm Ryall of Oakville will head up the public relations bureau. Sgt. Wayne Jessop of Ballinafad will be in charge of the crime prevention bureau and Sgt. John VanderLelie of Burlington will be in charge of the complaints bureau.

The crime prevention bureau's duties will include encouraging the public to take an active role in crime prevention, increasing public awareness to current crime trends, facilitating the recovery and identifications of stolen property, educating the community

liaison with the local media, co-ordinating a speaker's bureau of police personnel to address community organizations and schools, maintaining an inventory of films and literature to assist the speakers, co-ordinating police involvement in various community activities, setting up public service and crime prevention displays throughout the region, providing general information to the public on the operation of the force and assisting students with school projects on police-related subjects.

The complaints bureau will be responsible for investigating and resolving citizens' complaints against officers of the force, bringing to the attention of senior officers any complaints which can be reduced through training methods or force direction, and investigating internal problems dealing with police conduct.

The complaints and public relations bureaux will be managed solely by one officer for the time being, Sgt. Jessop will head up the crime prevention bureau with the assistance of three officers, one in each district, who will collect information and statistics on crime, in addition to their regular duties.

Sgt. Ryall said last week the complaints bureau will be handling complaints ranging from those about an officer's attitude to any which might result in charges against the officer under the Police Act. Sgt. VanderLelie will also be handling discipline problems and internal complaints.

"John (VanderLelie) is a very capable, very fair kind of guy," Sgt. Ryall said. "People might not enjoy their encounter with him, but he'll deal with them fairly."

Sgt. Jessop joined the Georgetown Police Force in 1972. Since joining the force, and becoming a member of the Halton force with regionalization in 1974, he has served in uniform patrols, youth and criminal investigation. He is a native of Windsor, Ontario, and now lives in Ballinafad with his wife and two children.

Obituary

French community leader was admired, respected

A dynamic community leader, particularly among French Canadian residents of Georgetown during the late 1950s and early 60s, Therese St. Jean has died at the age of 74.

Relatives, friends and acquaintances from around Ontario and Quebec are expected to gather in Brampton and Georgetown for tomorrow's (Thursday's) funeral services.

Among those paying tribute to Miss St. Jean will be several men who, as teenage boys, lived and worked with her on the Main Street South apple farm known as Notre Dame de Beaugard.

The 52-acre orchard just south of Georgetown is now maintained by the Cistercian monks from Oka, Quebec, to whom Miss St. Jean sold the property two years ago.

Miss St. Jean died Monday morning at her Valleyview Road home, leaving behind numerous friends and admirers, many of whom had first come to know her as a popular driving force behind Georgetown's French-speaking community during its formative years in the late 1950s.

She was born near St. Hyacinthe, Quebec, moving to St. Catherine's in 1936. The year earlier, her uncle and employer, Father Clovis Beaugard, had established Notre Dame de Beaugard near that city as a home and business for many teenage boys and young men selected from broken homes and orphanages; mostly in Quebec.

That year saw the Toronto Star Weekly, now the Canadian magazine, describe Notre Dame de Beaugard as an admirable hostel for otherwise homeless youths where strict discipline was a way of life.

It was not until 1963, however, that a clearer picture emerged as to the extent of Miss St. Jean's discipline. Although claims were never fully investigated and no legal action was ever taken, the farm made national headlines that year when four of the boys told reporters, including Fraser Kelly, then with the Toronto Telegram, that their discipline included "beatings, humiliation and dawn-to-dusk labor".

APPLE BLITZ

One of the four, Jean Paul Roby, was 20 at that time, having just fled the farm after 10 years. Under a headline reading "Boy made to wash foster mother's feet", the Telegram quoted Mr. Roby as he recalled returning from an apple "blitz" of Toronto at 10 p.m. one evening with the others. Miss St. Jean was so angry that the boys still had 10 baskets of apples unsold, he said, that she ordered them to sell the rest in Georgetown immediately. The boys were knocking on doors until past midnight, Mr. Roby said.

Now 36, Mr. Roby told The Herald this week he has mixed feelings about the death of a woman he knew as his foster mother. One of several former

Beaugard residents who will be attending tomorrow's funeral, he acknowledged that Miss St. Jean accomplished much for the community during her long and noteworthy life.

She was instrumental in establishing Georgetown's first Roman Catholic separate school, Holy Cross, and a few years later created headlines once more by helping to organize a sit-down strike among the school's French-speaking students. The minor demonstration in the school hallway exerted pressure which may have led directly to the implementation of French language classes for the first time.

Still later, Miss St. Jean was deeply involved in the new Sacre Coeur Roman Catholic parish, which formed in the old Holy Cross church and rectory on Maple Avenue.

Miss St. Jean is survived by three sisters: Annette LeMelin of Toronto, Simone Legault of Farnham, Quebec and Marie Martel of Montreal, along with numerous nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by three brothers: Gerard, Rene and Lorenzo.

Miss St. Jean will rest at the McKillop Funeral Home, 173 Main St. North in Brampton, with services to be held from Sacre Coeur church tomorrow at 1:30 p.m. Interment will follow at Brampton's Assumption Cemetery.



SGT. WAYNE JESSOP

and police in crime prevention methods, maintaining an inventory of crime prevention files and literature and acting as liaison with concerned citizens' groups and agencies.

LIAISON BUREAU

The public relations bureau will be responsible for main-

Deputy-chief appointed chief of Halton Regional Police

Deputy-Chief James Harding has been appointed chief of the Halton Regional Police.

Oakville Mayor Harry Barrett, chairman of the Halton police commission,

announced the appointment Friday.

The new chief has held the rank of acting chief of police since last June, when former chief Ken Skerrett retired and accepted a position as consult-

ant to the force.

Chief Harding was an inspector with Peel Regional Police prior to joining the Halton force, and was recommended for the position of deputy-chief some seven months ago by Stan Raika, a former Peel police officer who now works for the Ontario Police Commission (OPC).

Mr. Raika was chief of police in Brampton and deputy-chief in Peel prior to his work with the Ontario Police Commission. He was sent in to assist with an overhaul of the police administration in Halton after the release of a highly critical report on the force by the Halton police association, and

following an investigation of its own by the OPC.

Chief Harding is 45, and a native of Britain, with 23 years of experience in police work.

Dialysis patient needs assistance

Last winter, a Halton Hills resident requiring regular trips to a Toronto hospital for dialysis had to be transported on a stretcher because of the extent of his disabilities.

This year, through courage and determination to be self-sufficient, he has recuperated to the point where he can drive himself to hospital for his treatments, according to Helping Hands supervisor, Barb Stephens.

He still has one problem, however. When winter arrives in earnest and snow begins falling, he's going to need help to clear his driveway for his regular trips. If this man can drag himself back from such severe illnesses by sheer determina-

tion not to be a burden on others, surely someone can be found willing to take a few minutes to give him the bit of assistance he needs, Mrs. Stephens said.

The trip must be made two mornings a week before 9 a.m. and it will be up to the weatherman to determine how many of those mornings will require shovelling. Someone with a snowblower or small plow willing to take a few minutes before going to work in the morning would be ideal for the situation, Mrs. Stephens said, although any volunteers would be greatly appreciated. Anyone willing to help this senior citizen is urged to call Mrs. Stephens at 877-5902.

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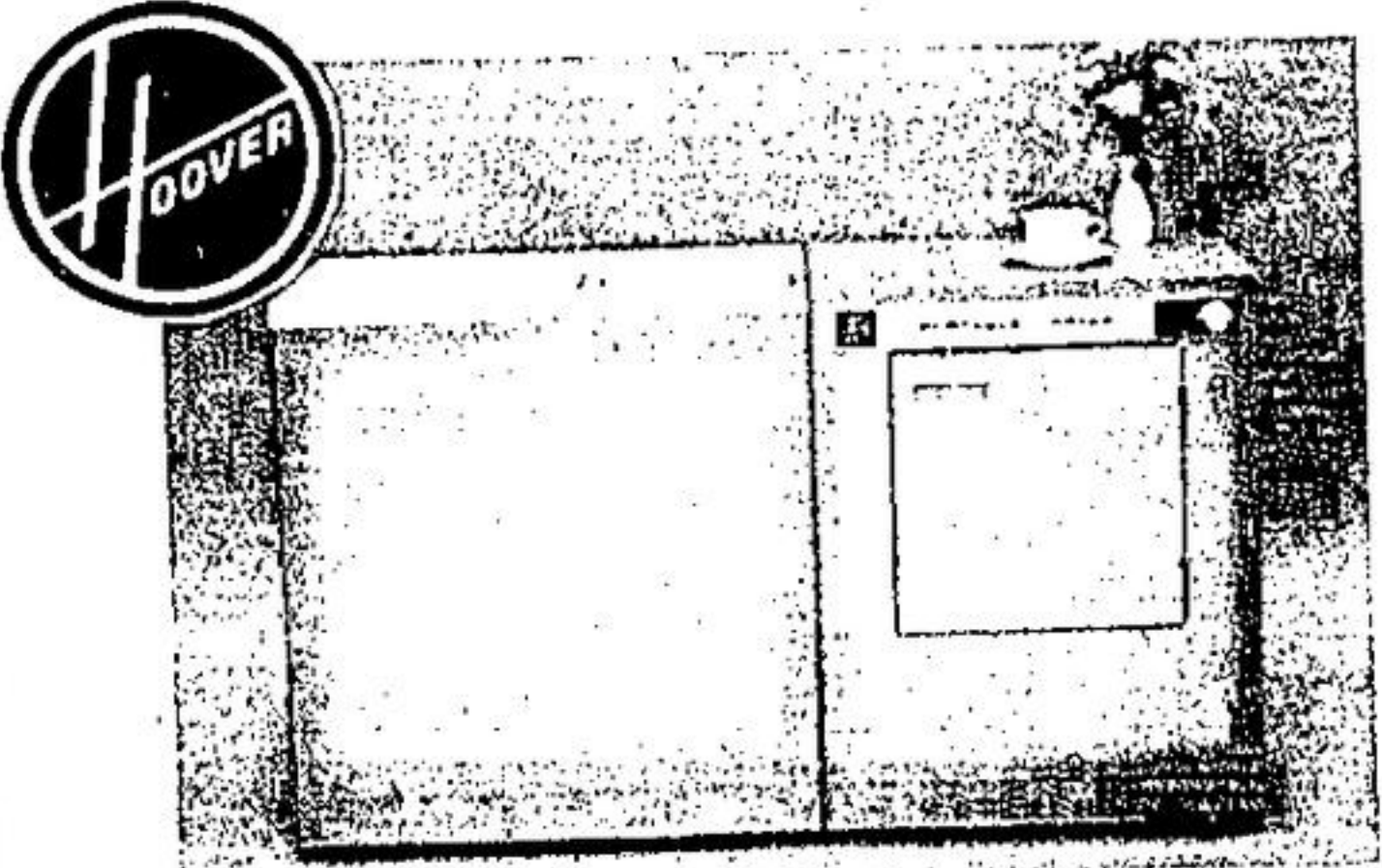
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Information workshops

The Niagara Escarpment Commission will be holding an information workshop at the Milton Public Library to answer the public's questions about its proposed plan for the escarpment. The workshop on Halton will be held December 18 and 20, from noon to 8 p.m. at the library, on the corner of Pearl and Bruce Streets. Copies of the plan will be available to the public and information staff and planners will be present to answer questions about the plan.

Truck bylaw considered

Halton regional council has requested staff to investigate the feasibility of a bylaw restricting truck traffic on Mountainview Road in Georgetown, between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. The restriction would be limited to the section of the road between Regional Road 10 and Highway 7.

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