

'Dark shadow' - Chief

CARRIER OF THE MONTH



Geoff Weldon

Herald carrier of the month for April is Geoff Weldon, 13, son of Dave and Eileen Weldon of Baylor Crescent in Georgetown.

Geoff is a Grade 7 student at Centennial Middle School. He is interested in sailing, canoeing, models and baseball. He will be taking part in the school trip to Ottawa and in the French exchange program as well.

Geoff has been delivering The Herald for four years, currently serving 75 customers on Baylor Crescent, Hall Road and Guelph Street. He also delivers advertisements for Sears, pamphlets for A.E. LePage and other advertising flyers.

Geoff will receive McDonald's Restaurant gift certificates for being chosen carrier of the month.

Permissiveness blamed for rising crime

By LORI TAYLOR
Herald Staff Writer
Halton Regional Police Chief W.I. (James) Harding blames a permissive society for the rising crime rate.

At a press conference in Oakville Thursday afternoon, called to release copies of the 1979 annual report on the force, Chief Harding said that as long as society continues to accept a higher crime rate, police will have a problem keeping crime under control.

"One of the problems with permissiveness is that it allows a dark shadow to cross freedom," Chief Harding said. "The more permissive we are, the more society tends to accept a high crime rate."

"We had 80 robberies in Halton last year, but where is the uproar? Where are the citizens crying for these felons to be arrested? I'm not against rehabilitation, but I think we should put the punishment back in our penal system."

There were 23,461 reported crimes in Halton in 1979, including infractions of municipal bylaws, representing an increase of 11.37 per cent over 1978. The percentage of crimes which were cleared up, by charges or by another

method, was 42.46, about seven per cent above the national rate.

YOUNG REPEATERS
Juvenile crime is becoming a concern of all police forces, particularly in light of the number of repeat offenders, Chief Harding said. Halton youth officers try to keep the young offenders "out of the judicial process", he said, at least on the first offense.

Chief Harding quoted a section of the annual report in which officers from the force's Youth Bureau expressed concern "for the apparent lack of control within the parental home and see this, together with a strong indication that much of the juvenile crime is committed for supporting the illegal use of drugs and alcohol, as the main causative factors in the rising rate of juvenile offenders."

"That's something we in the community should be all concerned about," the chief

said. "Parents must become again parents, first and foremost. It's wrong that parents abdicate their responsibility and that the first time little Johnny is told 'No, that's wrong, you can't do that,' is by a police officer on the street corner."

"And really, what else can we expect, when we've taken away the right of teachers to discipline in the classroom as they see fit, when our churches are empty on Sunday morning, and when there's no direction for the teaching of truth, love and understanding, what else can we expect?"

COMMUNITY AWARE
"One of the things that really gladdens me about Halton, and it really brings me personal comfort, is that we have a community that is aware, we have a community that is involved and we have a community that is prepared to do its duty," Chief Harding said. "I don't feel, as I have

seen in some areas, that the community has abandoned its lot."

The chief said the force is continually getting letters asking for police officers to speak about crime prevention, "not only from isolated citizens, but from many service clubs and community organizations". He said the force is getting requests from all groups and organizations, asking how they can participate and help prevent crime.

Halton police responded to 18 strikes and labor disputes in 1979, a number which represents "a tremendous drain on the manpower of the force," the chief said. A new order has recently been published to assist the officers in responding to strikes and picket lines disputes, he said.

Three strikes in Halton now are being monitored by police, at Dufferin Quarries, Nelson Crushed Stone and Rockwell International, all in the Milton area.

"All three have produced horrendous situations for police officers to deal with," Chief Harding said. "There is tremendous violence, and tremendous threats, of violence, from nails on the road, to shots being fired through windshields."

Strike situations are very difficult for police officers to handle because neither side is always convinced that the officers are acting objectively, the chief said.

REAL STRAIN
"Strikes are a real strain on the police officer attending them, and I wish the public would bear that in mind when they read about strikes in the media and about how the police handled the situation," the chief said.

One of the problems which has dogged the force in becoming an effective police department is the difficulty of amalgamating the area police forces into a regional force. "We're still in the learning

process," Chief Harding said. "We're still learning to function as a team." "We've tried to bring solidarity to the force by stabilizing our manpower, by increasing the posture of our training and by increasing the posture of our supervision, and hopefully we can increase our posture of efficiency," Chief said. "I might add that I'm very pleased with the efforts of our officers."

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About the Hills
Park expansion funds
The Credit Valley Conservation Authority will utilize a \$1,457,500 grant from the provincial ministry of natural resources to continue acquiring land adjacent to the Silver Creek Conservation Area north of Georgetown. The long-range park development project is estimated to cost \$2,650,000.

General Wolfe open house
Oakville's General Wolfe High School is holding its annual open house, designated as "Voc-Ed in Action", next Wednesday between 6:30 and 9:30 p.m. As well as a variety of door prizes, the exhibition and display will feature a bake sale, horticultural work, a book fair, science shows, a Shakespeare pageant and old-timers volleyball. Tickets are 50 cents for the open house at 55 McCraney St. East in Oakville. Contact 845-8662.

Luggage winner
Shirley Keas of Chelvin Drive in Georgetown is off to Las Vegas this week carrying a brand new set of Stradellina luggage she won at the "Vinyl Village" exhibit at the recent National Home Show in Toronto. Vinyl Council of Canada president Jeff Coulson presented Mrs. Keas with the luggage Friday in time for her planned trip to Nevada.

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