

Better cop service up to us

By CHRIS AAGAARD
 Herald Staff Writer
 Greater co-operation between citizens and police could substantially reduce Halton's increasing crime rate, according to a top-ranking regional police official.

Addressing Georgetown Kinsmen at the Newfoundland Club last Wednesday, executive officer to the chief of police John Barratt explained that programs such as Neighborhood Watch in Georgetown have been effective in reducing residential vandalism.

"The more participation we get now, the less likely we'll become a (crime-ridden) city like New York," he said.

But some club members were concerned about the legal complications which could arise if residents attempt to make a citizen's arrest.

Sergeant Norm Ryall, Halton regional police public relations officer, said that citizens, according to the criminal code, may use as much force as necessary to restrain a suspect before police arrive. However, citizens could be held responsible in court for the suspect's physical suffering at the time of the arrest.

"It's a judgement call," Mr. Barratt said. "You have to use a lot of common sense making a citizen's arrest."

DRUG ABUSE
 Sargeant Ryall and Mr. Barratt were questioned about the level of service the regional force is providing in Georgetown. Club members were especially concerned about the control of drug and alcohol abuse among teenagers.

Mr. Barratt said the police try to concentrate on eliminating the source of drugs before they reach the street and the schools. A great deal of the responsibility to curb drinking among minors lies with parents, he said, because children look to adults as models.

"All we can do," Mr. Barratt said, "is enforce the liquor laws."

"As a parent, I'd march my son or daughter up to where I thought she'd been drinking and say to the bartender, 'This is my daughter; she's not old enough to drink. If I come and catch her in here I'll report you to the police!'"

Increasing police services in north Halton would probably mean an increase in taxes.

"If you want a bigger police force," Mr. Barratt said,

Alliance Church
 200th

A special bicentennial is being celebrated at the Georgetown Alliance Church. It's been 200 years since the first Sunday School was started to teach reading, writing, and religion to the poor, working children of England.

A birthday party has been planned to mark this event, beginning at 11 a.m. this Sunday at the Church, 14 Main Street South, Georgetown. Highlights will include a birthday cake with 200 candles, a special worship service and an after-service lunch. The public is invited.

Other events scheduled as part of the bicentennial commemoration include parent's day in Sunday School, beginning at 9:45 a.m. Sunday.

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"you'll have to pay for it." Twenty per cent of the force's workload comes from calls originating in north Halton. Thirty-one per cent of the police manpower patrols the area, averaging out to about one police officer per 804 residents.

Mr. Barratt urged citizens to voice their concerns with the district commissioner. Glenn Magnusson of Georgetown is Halton Hills' representative on the Commission.

"His door is always open and he'll be happy to talk to you," Mr. Barratt said.

Last week's meeting was the second annual forum organized by Kinsmen to investigate local issues.



Halton Police public relations officer sergeant Norm Ryall and executive staff officer to the (Halton) chief of police, John Barratt, sat down for a head-to-head discussion Wednesday night about Halton's police force with members of the Georgetown Kinsmen Club. Mr. Barratt stressed the importance of community participation in helping curb the region's rising crime rate. (Herald photo)



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