

Workload keeps cops busy-crime prevention's up to us

By LORITAYLOR
Herald Staff Writer

Crime prevention has become a community responsibility because of the increasing workload of the police officer and the growth of Halton's population, Halton Regional Police Sgt. Al McQueen told members of the Georgetown Lions Club last week.

Sgt. McQueen, public relations officer for the force, and Constable Jeanette Sykes, Crime Prevention Officer for Georgetown, Milton and Acton, spoke to the Lions Club about crime prevention and the responsibility of individuals and community groups in helping prevent crimes.

Sgt. McQueen said there have been a great many changes in policing over the past decade, the greatest of which was the creation of a regional force in 1974.

"On the old Georgetown force, prevention was the main role," he said. "Over nine years, because of the increasing workload and the growth of the population in the area, this role has turned around," he said.

"The force is so involved in follow-up investigations that crime prevention must come from the community."

"The cost of policing today is 'mind-boggling'," Sgt. McQueen said. To add one man

on the street 24 hours a day, seven days a week, costs \$125,000 a year, he said.

STILL SAFE
"We've had a lot of belly-aching about police protection

necessary before a crime can be committed: the desire on the part of someone to commit a crime, the opportunity to commit it, and a victim."
"The key element in the

an engraver, supplied by police or by insurance agents, to mark identification numbers on items of value which might be stolen in a burglary.

This program has proven successful because stickers displayed in a prominent place which tell would-be burglars the property has been marked have been found to be a deterrent, Constable Sykes said.

SIMPLEWAY
The program also helps because if the items are stolen, it provides for a simple system of identification when they are recovered.

A third factor in the success of the program has been its usefulness in identifying property as stolen. A police officer who finds a television set in the back seat of a car he has pulled over has no way of knowing whether or not the driver owns the television set. An engraved identification number can help establish the owner of the property.

"Criminals have gone free because stolen property can't be proven to have been stolen," Constable Sykes said.

Operation Provident was a program where business owners can have a serial number which is registered with the provincial government engraved on their business machines or other equipment.

Constable Sykes said she is available to conduct security inspections of businesses in the area, to advise any further precautions which owners could take to protect their property from burglary.

"We need the co-operation of the public in order for our crime prevention programs to be successful," Constable Sykes said.

'We've had a lot of belly-aching about police protection lately, but our wives and daughters are still safe walking the streets of Georgetown at night and, gentlemen, there aren't too many places like that today.'

- Al McQueen

lately, but our wives and daughters are still safe walking the streets of Georgetown at night, and gentlemen, there aren't too many places like that today," Sgt. McQueen said.

Constable Sykes compared crime prevention to fire prevention, as being a risk the public must guard itself against. A crime has three components, each of which is

prevention of crime is the reduction of opportunity," Constable Sykes said.

Two crime prevention programs have been carried out in Halton Hills and other areas of the region in the past two years which have proven effective, she said. One program, Operation Identification, is an on-going program in which homeowners can make use of an invisible pen or



Halton Regional Police Sgt. Al McQueen showed the badge which identifies him as a police officer to Ton Ma, Song Trang, An Ma and Linh Ma, four of Georgetown's Viet refugees. Sgt. McQueen visited them at Georgetown District High School last week to explain the Canadian police system, which is quite different from the system in Viet Nam. He also arranged a tour of the new Georgetown police station for them Monday.

(Herald photo)

NEEDS OF DISABLED NOT ONLY CAUSE IN '81

As well as being International Year of the Disabled, 1981 is also Year of the Breast Fed Child, an observation sponsored by the LaLeche League, whose local chapter has obtained the support of town council in promoting the practice of breast-feeding. Council passed the following resolution Dec. 16:

"Whereas the town of Halton Hills has been petitioned by the LaLeche League to declare the year 1981 as the Year of the Breast Fed Child;

"Be it resolved that the Halton Hills Council hereby declare the year 1981 The Year of the Breast Fed Child."

The League's Halton Hills chapter is planning several special events and observances to help the community become more aware of the importance of breast-feeding to the health and well-being of infants.

Phonebooks on way

Bell Canada continues to improve its telephone directory.

The 1981 edition of which is being circulated this week to some 309,000 homes and businesses throughout Halton and Peel regions and Dufferin County, about 30,000 more copies than last year.

Local Bell manager Marlene Kerr reported last week that delivery of the 1981 edition should be complete by Feb. 25.

Among the new directory features are a revamped Customer Complaint section, information on contacting the new Telecommunication Centre for Special Needs (dis-

abilities) in Toronto and alphabetical government agency listings, now contained in a new Blue Pages section.

Bell continues delivering directories on a one-pair-customer basis. Contact the local Bell office if your copy hasn't arrived by the end of February.

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Pet's last vaccination may not be enough

Herald Special

Dog lovers relieved that their pets missed the outbreak of parvo virus last summer shouldn't get careless, because the killer disease is still around, a local veterinarian warns.

Halton Hills Veterinary Services on Acton's Main Street North treated two confirmed cases of parvo virus during the past three weeks, said Dr. Ron Trenton.

These are the first serious

cases since the outbreak seemed to taper off in October. Other possible cases have occurred through the winter but because the animals were not gravely ill and testing expensive, no tests were done and they can't be confirmed as the disease.

Dr. Trenton says he has talked to several colleagues in neighboring areas who have also been treating similar suspicious cases regularly but as in Acton these cases have not been confirmed.

Veterinarians are recommending vaccination as the best possible protection, but even that offers no guarantee. The killed vaccine, may be combined with other inoculations such as rabies or distemper. Since no one is certain how long an immunity period the vaccine provides, dog owners are urged to check with their own veterinarian to determine when vaccination should take place and how often booster shots should be given.

Parvo was first isolated as a disease in 1978 and since that time has been found in many parts of the world. The suspicion is that it may well be like distemper or rabies, a constant danger to unprotected dogs which will only be brought under control by a thorough immunization program.

Dogs suffering from parvo show symptoms of depression and listlessness accompanied by a lack of interest in food or drink, followed by vomiting and diarrhea.

MCDERMID ON THE MOVE

Job skills task force

Brampton-Georgetown MP John McDerimid brought his Parliamentary Task Force on Employment Opportunities for the 1980s to Brampton's Sheridan College campus Tuesday to hear presentations from industry, associations, organizations and individuals regarding manpower needs and critical skill shortages anticipated in the coming decade.

Established last May, the non-partisan Task Force will advise the House of Commons on economic development requirements and manpower training needs for the future. Its report is expected this June. Chairing the Task Force is Warren Allmand.

Air industry assurances

Brampton-Georgetown MP John McDerimid has demanded government assurances that McDonnell-Douglas employees in his area will share in some of the work created by Canada's new fighter aircraft development program. The MP presented a resolution in the House of Commons which would have ensured that a portion of the work under the F-18A program will be carried out at the McDonnell-Douglas plant in Peel "so that existing jobs will be preserved and hopefully new jobs will be created." The contract for the F-18A has been signed with the U.S. parent company, he noted, yet the aircraft manufacturer is laying off over 700 workers "with more lay-offs expected in the not-too-distant future." His motion, which was seconded by Mississauga South Tory Don Blenkarn, was rejected by MPs who denied it unanimous consent on an oral vote required before the subject could be introduced for debate.

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