

**Deputy police chief hears retaliation concerns**

**Reporting crime risky: BIA**

By LORI TAYLOR  
Herald Staff Writer

Citizens can't just turn their heads and ignore crime because they fear retaliation from criminals, Halton Regional Police Deputy-Chief Bob Middaugh told members of the Acton Business Improvement Area (BIA) last Wednesday.

Deputy-Chief Middaugh talked with Acton merchants about their concerns regarding reporting crime in Acton, and learned they consider vandalism and loitering the major problems.

BIA chairman Larry Greaves said merchants feel there is too much vandalism, even with increased police visibility in Acton, and asked what merchants could do to help solve the problem.

The BIA had considered establishing a reward system urging those who witness acts of vandalism to come forward, but the deputy-chief advised against it. He said such a system would be difficult to set up and administer, and might promote crime by encouraging people to commit acts of vandalism, identify someone else as the culprit and collect the reward.

**THREE YEARS**  
As a police officer in Peel, Deputy-Chief Middaugh spent three years on the Mississauga Task Force on vandalism.

"We went through three years of meetings, we hired some really intelligent people... and the end result is they really didn't come up with any answers," he said.

"The family structure is becoming stronger now than it was in the 70's, and that's good," Deputy-Chief Middaugh said. "One of the things you have to do is make the family accountable for the actions of their children."

The police officer can take the child home and talk to the family, but individual citizens can also play a part in making

the family responsible for the child's activities, he said.

**MOVE ALONG**  
The merchants expressed concern about the possibility of retaliation, not only from vandals who are apprehended, but from people who loiter in front of the stores and are asked by police to move along.

Former regional councillor Ed Wood, owner of Acton Family Cleaners, said several merchants have suffered broken windows because loiterers knew the merchant who complained about them. Usually, they're able to identify their accusers because the police officer who answers the call will go into the store, he said.

"I'm not going to say you won't have a problem with retaliation, but you can just place the complaint and tell them you don't want to see the officer," the deputy-chief said. "He doesn't have to see the person who made the complaint, as long as you give the dispatcher your name and address when you complain."

Members of the public can't turn their heads and ignore a crime, in fear of retaliation, he warned. The price of reporting a crime may be a broken window, but "that's the price you pay."

**CAN'T RELY**  
The only answer to preventing crimes such as vandalism is accountability within the family and deterrence by the police, Deputy-Chief Middaugh said, "and you can't rely on deterrence because you can't afford enough police."

In actual fact, the incidence of vandalism in Acton is not as high as it is in some built-up areas in Burlington and Oakville, according to the crime statistics for the past year, the deputy-chief said. A patrol zone in Acton may have 100 calls in a month, while a similar zone in Burlington or Oakville, may have as many

as 450 to 500 calls in a month.

The force is trying to promote more follow-ups to crimes in Acton, something that isn't always possible in the southern areas because of the heavy workloads, Deputy-Chief Middaugh said.

He urged the merchants to call the police officer who assisted them if they want

information about what's happening with the shoplifter arrested in their store or the vandal who smashed their front window.

"Call them, and if you don't get any information, call again," he said. "Then call me, and I'll make sure you get satisfaction."

He also urged the merchants

to make use of the resources of the force's crime prevention bureau, and particularly the skills of Constable Jeannette Sykes, the crime prevention officer for this area. Constable Sykes can make suggestions on what can be done to help reduce any kind of crime, and can be contacted through the main police switchboard.

**Halton-Burlington**

**PROVINCIAL LIBERAL ASSOCIATION AND THE COMMITTEE TO RE-ELECT**

**JULIAN REED**

**WISH TO ANNOUNCE THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THEIR CAMPAIGN OFFICES**

**SATURDAY, FEB. 21st, 1981**

- BURLINGTON — MOUNTAIN GROVE PLAZA  
1:00 P.M. AT GUELPH LINE — 335-1580
- MILTON — CAMPAIGN HEADQUARTERS  
3:00 P.M. 14 MARTIN STREET — 876-1101
- GEORGETOWN — HALTON HILLS SHOPPING  
5:00 P.M. CENTRE, HWY. 7 — 877-0179

**Liberal**



CAN WE ASSIST IN REGISTERING YOU TO VOTE?

**JUST ARRIVED ....**

**The All New Line of Hand Cut EXQUISITE CRYSTAL.**

This beautiful crystal will add sparkle to any table.



**FLATWARE SALE**

Come in and take advantage of our low, low prices on Sterling Silver, Silver Plate and Stainless Steel Flatware.

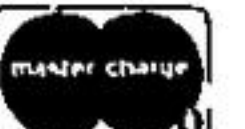
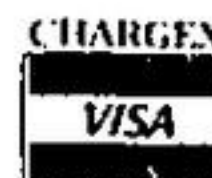
- Available in:
- Royal Danish • Joan of Arc • Grand Colonial
  - Enchantress • Rose Point • Damask Rose
  - Grand Baroque • Wild Rose • Northern Lights • Stratavarius



**BARBER'S JEWELLERS**

**DOWNTOWN GEORGETOWN**

**877-3482**



**HIS FATHER'S BADGE**

Halton Regional Police Constable Dan Beckman will be wearing his late father's badge number now that he's been appointed to the force. Constable Beckman, who served as a cadet in Georgetown, is the son of Constable Harry Beckman, a 20-year veteran who died following a long illness. Badge number 5 had been retired from service on Mr. Beckman's death, and was presented to his son Feb. 2 by Chief James Harding.

(Halton police photo)

**Enthusiasm boosting fund**

Continued from page A5  
Carney Electric, G-S Manufacturing Inc., Wendy's, Roos' Travel, Carsel Development Ltd., Woodrex Investments, Parkinson's Saw Mills, and Unilock Ltd.

Bert Arnold, the fund-raising committee member heading up the business and professional drive, has recently written in similar vein to all professionals.

Mr. Heslop this week urged "any individual, group or organization wishing to raise funds for the new centre" to meet with the fund-raising committee for guidance and assistance, as well as public acknowledgment. The next scheduled meeting is March 16, but in the meantime, those interested should contact him at 877-2286 or through the town offices (877-5185).

Meanwhile, organizations already involved in fund-raising -- which include the Rotary-Anns (fashion show March 10), the Kiwanis Club (a second Lobsterfest next month) and the University Women's Club (historical house tour June 6) -- are trying to devise imaginative money-makers such as the Arts Council's high-profile mural.

While naturally pleased at the outcome and the high level of support demonstrated by contributors of materials and

sponsors of panels, Arts Council executive member Theresa Millenar, acknowledged that the mural had been a lot of work and effort for \$2,000. She said the Arts Council is therefore now considering a mural spin-off -- the printing of "hasty notes" featuring the different scenes depicted on the panels, to be available for sale possibly by the time of Summerfest '81.

The Arts Council is also hoping its member organizations will run their own ventures, thereby contributing to its \$20,000 pledge.

Georgetown Little Theatre's commemorative seat-plaque sales continue to steadily mount -- benefitting from almost a year's headstart on other efforts. Currently just shy of \$27,000 -- the goal is \$30,000 -- GLT fund-raisers say their aim is to sell all the remaining plaques this Spring in order to give centre stage to other fund-raising activities.

Most recent plaque purchasers:  
Frank and Midge Hampshire, United Fire Safety Co. Ltd., Barber and Henley -- Col. John R. Barber, Lloyd and Janet Dean.

Details regarding plaque purchase can be obtained from John Roe (877-2824) or Mary Rae Main (877-0606).

**Sure, gas heats water cheaper than electricity. But it's 3 times faster too:**



Type of Heat & Amount of Water Heated	Gas Water Heater 544 Gallons	Electric Water Heater 544 Gallons
Time for rise temp. of 90°F	1 hr. 48 mins.	5 hrs. 34 mins.
Based on independent tests.		

You can't take a shower in the money you save heating your water with gas. But with natural gas, you can have an almost continuous supply of hot water for showers, the dishwasher, the washing machine and the kitchen and bathroom and laundry sinks. And you can rent\* or buy your gas water heater from Union Gas. If Union Gas heats your home, we ought to be heating your water.

\*Available only to Union Gas customers.

Call your local Union Gas office.

What can warm and friendly gas do for you today?

**UNION GAS**

**COUNCIL TO REVIEW COMPLEX BUDGET**

The \$150,000 budgeted for interior furnishings in the Halton Hills library-cultural centre may not cover architects' fees, Mayor Pete Pomeroy warned town council Monday night.

A report on interior plans for the building, now under construction at the corner of Georgetown's Church and Market Streets, is expected within the next two weeks, Mayor Pomeroy said, at which time council will know whether or not the \$150,000 will be enough to cover both the furnishings and the architects' fees. The cultural centre committee has already met with architect Keith Wagland, who is preparing estimates on additional costs.