

Policeman charged

An internal investigation into the firing of a service revolver by a Halton regional policeman has led to the officer being charged under the Police Act. Explaining that the officer will be disciplined by police officials, a spokesman for the force declined to reveal his identity. The policeman reportedly fired his gun at a fleeing car that had been involved in a police chase, forcing one cruiser off the road and ramming a second. A 19-year old Burlington man faces seven charges including impaired driving and assaulting a police officer.

Car flips

Ralph Sawden of Elmore Drive in Acton was driving his Honda northbound on Main Street North Sept. 13 when a left turn onto Highway 7 turned out to be too sharp for his speed. He lost control and the car flipped onto its roof on the north side of Highway 7. There were no injuries but \$4,500 damage and a charge of careless driving.

Ferro vandalized

Damage of \$3,000 was done to the interior of Ferro Structural Steel Ltd. on Armstrong Avenue in Georgetown either last Wednesday night or early Thursday morning. The premises were entered by forcing a west door.

Boy hit by car

Margaret Palmer of Georgetown was going northbound on Queen Street in Georgetown Sept. 18 when a youth, Matthew Derriche of John Street in Georgetown ran out in front of the vehicle's path at the intersection of Queen and McNabb Streets. The boy was taken to Georgetown Memorial Hospital with major injuries. He was transferred to the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto and was released Saturday.

Lint catches fire

An accumulation of lint in a dryer Monday morning at 7:50 caused a small fire in a Flamingo Court residence in Georgetown. There were no damages and no one was hurt.

Truck, car crash

Linda Diana Tyrell of Mountainview Road South was driving southbound Sept. 15 on Mountainview Road South in the passing lane when a neighbor reversed her Ford pick-up truck eastbound from her driveway. Mrs. Tyrell went into the northbound passing lane in an attempt to avoid a collision, but was unsuccessful. Damage of \$1,000 was done to Mrs. Tyrell's vehicle's right rear panel. Jacqueline Henselwood ended up with just a scratch on the right rear bumper. There were no injuries.

Teens charged

Two teenage boys have been charged with break and enter and theft in connection with the break and enter of Corrigan Instrumentation Services and Nikki's Pools both on Guelph Street in Georgetown. The stolen property was recovered, but not the cash.

Ratepayers ready to subsidize day care

By MAGGIE HANNAH
Herald Special

A recently-released study on day care in Halton region shows a willingness by residents to subsidize the service for single parent and low income families.

At an open meeting on day care held by the Halton region day care centre, co-ordinator Norma Lepa said she is "comforted" that region residents seemed willing to aid single parents and low income families.

The meeting, the first of five to be held around the region, was aimed at telling residents what a year-long study on day care will recommend to regional council and seek public reaction to these recommendations.

Mrs. Lepa said the extensive public survey on which the study is based projected a 40 per cent increase in the number of day care spaces needed over the next five years.

The rising cost of living in the past few months caused an "explosion" now in the need for more spaces as mothers

are forced back into the work force.

Mrs. Lepa said that as more mortgages come up for renewal at ever-increasing interest rates she finds the prospective level of need for service frightening.

Acton already has a fair range of day care services available. In addition to the Honeypot Nursery School and the Acton Co-operative Nursery School, a private day care centre, and the Village School.

The regional day care centre in Georgetown also takes Acton youngsters. Georgetown also has two private day care centres, both of which are full.

Private home day care centres are homes where up to five youngsters can be looked after and the restrictions and regulations are far different to those of bigger operations, she said. There are 60 such homes in the region.

Six months ago Acton had only one such home and it had vacancies. Now there are two and they are both full.

While Acton could probably use one more of these homes, the need changes so rapidly

that there is no way of really estimating how the situation will stand in another six months.

A large percentage of day care arrangements in Halton use private sitters and only half of the arrangements for preschoolers involve payments. Mrs. Lepa said many family arrangements exist with siblings or other relatives keeping youngsters free.

The area where Acton seems to lack for day care is for school-age youngsters before and after school hours, some residents said.

Eric Balkind, an Acton resident and a Halton region school principal, said he still sees numerous children who arrive early and wait for school to open while others are locked out of their homes at night until their parents return from work.

The fact that schools now keep youngsters over the lunch hour if the parents wish it has helped the problem somewhat, he said, but there is still a need for some sort of program to cover that short period before and after school.

Spending money to look after youngsters at these times would reap dividends in reducing vandalism and other youth-oriented problems, he said.

The study recommends that present admission priorities to the regional system become regional policy. The system now gives top priority to single working parents who need full day child care, followed by people on welfare who are

looking for work, two working parents on low income, social or medical referrals and finally people not eligible for subsidy.

The fact that the subsidy eligibility criteria hasn't changed since 1978 means that many families who have received normal wage increases over the past four years are no longer eligible for subsidy because their wages exceed a given amount. No allowance has been made for the fact that inflation rose faster than wages and they are now probably in worse financial shape than they were before.

The study recommends that immediate action be taken to get places and money for the more than 100 families now on waiting lists who are eligible for regional subsidy.

The region should continue its policy of charging fee-paying clients the actual operating cost of service to them, the study recommends.

The study suggests that use of day care to help mothers of single parent families get off welfare or mother's allowance and back into the work force is a useful tool and the regional philosophy should recognize that policy.

Mrs. Lepa stressed that this is an option which should be available to a mother who

wants to retrain or go back to work, not that such mothers should be forced to leave their children and go to work.

The study suggests also that each of the four regional municipalities should have at

least one region-operated day care centre to provide the public with some sort of yardstick against which to measure private operators on cost and quality of care.

Oakville Coun. Ann Mulvale,

a member of the study group, said the plan is to bring the report to regional health and social planning committee at a night meeting so that interested parents will be able to attend.

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Local Baha'is at conference

"The earth is but one country and mankind its citizens."

This statement describes a basic teaching of the Baha' Faith. The purpose of the conference held last weekend at the University of Waterloo was to consult on plans for Baha' activities in the Saudee region and to deepen in the Baha' teachings.

Baha' attended from places as widespread as Owen Sound, Orangeville, Mississauga, Oakville, Guelph, and Kitchener-Waterloo. Halton Hills was represented by Don and Isabelle Weaver and Mary Lamson. Similar conferences were being held in regions all across Canada last weekend as well.

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