

Minute's silence observed for slain OPP officer

Region police awards honor service, heroism



By ASTRA PAPE
Herald Special

They came from all walks of life — housewives, students and even a former jailguard. But they all had one thing in common. Each person was presented with a civilian citation by Halton regional police Tuesday night.

At a special awards ceremony at the Cultural Centre in Georgetown, Halton police honored 21 members of the community who assisted them in performing their duties the past year. Police Chief James Harding praised them, saying they had "given of themselves" to

better the community. "Nothing can be achieved without the support of the community we serve."

Police commissioner Ric Morrow presented citations to Acton resident Peter Barry, Gordon Vipond of Toronto, Shirley Cracknell of Milton and Alex Dziki of Hamilton for aiding police in District One of Georgetown, Acton and Milton. A fifth recipient, Gary Long, wasn't able to attend the presentation.

Mr. Barry and Mr. Vipond received their citations for helping an officer in trouble. They saw the policeman having difficulty subduing someone in an alley off Main Street in

Acton. "He was at the bottom of a fight," Mr. Vipond said, "so we went in and helped him out."

Mr. Dziki, a former jailguard, was commended for helping police apprehend an escaped inmate. Mr. Dziki explained that he noticed a man running across a field near the Maplehurst Adult Training Centre in Milton. He had already seen police searching the area and concluded that the man must be an escaped inmate and alerted police. "I know once they get lost, they're hard to find," he said.

Mrs. Cracknell grew suspicious of a car driving up and down the street outside her Milton home. When she noticed the car had two different licence plates, she called the police. Her sharp eye and alertness enabled police to recover a trunkload of stolen antiques.

Police commission chairman Judge Joseph Scime praised all the recipients, saying the police depend on the goodwill of the public. "We need your help," Judge Scime said. "We don't need vigilante groups, but vigilant citizens."

Police officers with 20, 25 and 30 years of service were also presented with awards. Before presenting

the awards, Chief Harding asked for a minute of silence to mark the death of Richard Hopkins, an Ontario Provincial Police officer who was recently killed in the line of duty.

"The savagery and brutality of his death brings a greater significance to these awards," he said, referring to the long service awards.

Staff Sergeant Peter Bromley of District One in Georgetown received an award for 25 years of service. He was one of eleven officers who were honored Tuesday night, representing a total of 265 years of service.



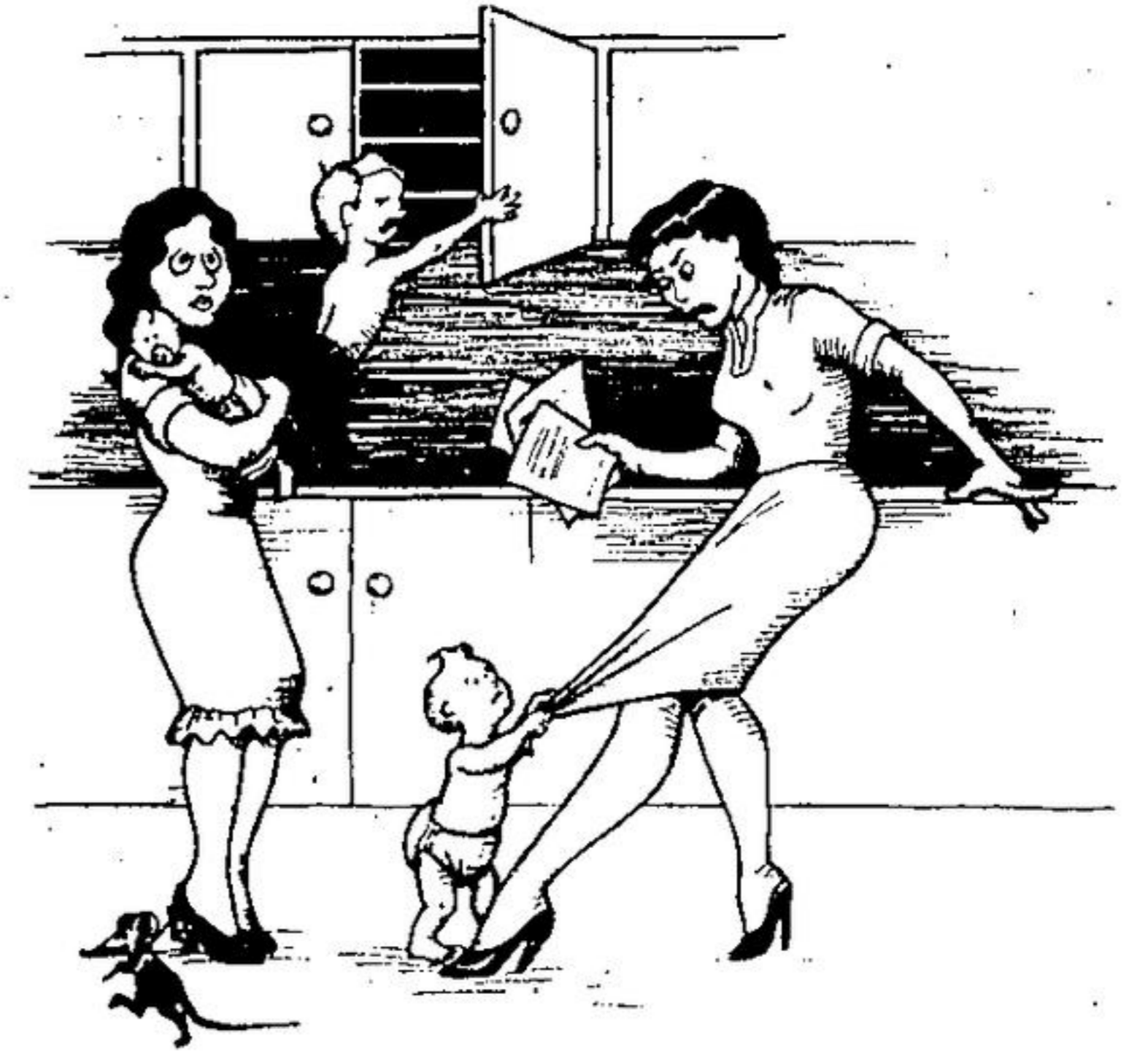
Police also expressed their appreciation to the men and women of the community who stepped forward and helped them during the past year. Twenty-one people were presented with civilian citations as thanks at the cultural centre in Georgetown. Persons honored for their help in aiding officers of District One were (top photo, left to right) Peter Barry, Gordon Vipond, Alex Dziki and Shirley Cracknell. Gary Long also received a citation but wasn't able to attend the ceremonies. (Photos by Astra Pape)

Halton regional police officers with 20, 25 and 30 years of service were honored at the police awards last Tuesday night. Staff Sergeant Peter Bromley (left) of District One in Georgetown received a long service award commemorating his 25 years as a police officer. Sgt. Bromley was one of 11 officers who received an award representing a total of 265 years of police service.

Bow to your partner!

For two weeks in September, the Pine Valley Square Dance Club will be campaigning to get residents to "swing their partners" and join the fitness and recreational craze. Town councillors Monday night proclaimed the weeks between Sept. 13 and Sept. 28 as "Modern Square Dancing Weeks" in Halton Hills, during which time the Pine Valley club will conduct a membership drive.

Did you know...that you may have the right to appeal a decision of the Welfare or Family Benefits Offices?



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Extra OHIP pinches town

Paying additional Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) premiums for its employees as outlined in the province's

new budget will cost the town \$5,000 next year and about twice that amount for the year after, town officials confirmed Monday.

Town staffers are also studying what effect additions to the Retail Sales Tax Act will have on municipal construction projects. Under the new budget, the tax exemption for construction projects planned by municipalities, local service groups and volunteer agencies

was lifted and now all items purchased for projects are subject to a seven per cent sales tax. Although he said he's not "really excited about the budget", Mayor Pete Pomeroy said he trusts Mr. Miller's capability as a treasurer and pointed out that the budget ap-

pears to be setting an example as it calls for spending restraint on the public's part.



PETE POMEROY
Mayor Pomeroy said the government's new six per cent ceiling on wage increases in the public sector is "interesting" and applauded the government's efforts to control spending within its bureaucracy.

He said he hasn't had a chance to thoroughly study the budget and acknowledged that there may be "hidden clauses" which might be of concern as they are revealed through debate in the Legislature or as the document is privately reviewed.

Taxes on building materials which also affects

projects planned by school boards, universities and hospitals, shouldn't have a negative effect on the construction industry in the province, he said. He expects the demand for new housing because of the province's interest-free loan program to new home buyers will more than offset these adverse effects and will create more apartment vacancies.

There was little doubt that Ontarians would have to pay more taxes, Mayor Pomeroy said, arguing that at least the provincial budget is better thought out and "more diplomatic" than its federal counterpart, which was introduced last November.

Halton regional chairman Jack Rafus failed to respond to three Herald requests for comment Monday.

'Big Top' rises here Friday



This Friday night is Big Top Time in Halton Hills. If you haven't yet bought your tickets for the Martin and Downs Circus rolling onto Neilson's Field in Georgetown for two shows Friday, don't leave it too much later.

With elephants warming up for their own show inside the Big Top by helping erect the huge, 1,000-seat tent, and with clowns, jugglers, trapeze artists and equestrians waiting in the wings to dazzle you, it should prove to be quite a popular event.

The Kiwanis Club of Georgetown is sponsoring the circus' arrival at Neilson's Field, adjacent to the Guelph Street plant of the William Neilson Company, for two shows at 6 and 8:15 p.m.

Preparations are expected to begin early Friday morning, when Martin and Downs' two "Craig Hollywood Elephants" help circus roadies raise 9,000 square feet of heavy duct canvas, using over two miles of rope, to create the famed big top. Over 1,000 spectators will pack the 70-foot by 130-foot tent, which takes about four hours to erect. For the roadies and circus stars, it's one stop on a 120-town tour extending from May until mid-September. Booked to perform 250 shows across Canada, rain or shine, they converge daily on private dining accommodations that serve up 3,600 meals per season. Getting hungry yourself? Outside, the concession stands pop enough popcorn to fill a semi trailer five times over.

Its scale and its tasty treats are impressive enough, but what the circus offers by way of amusements has guaranteed it a permanent place in the memories of most adults and in the imaginations of all children. As Martin and Downs point out, "to see the circus in its true perspective, you must look at it through the eyes of a child".

As well as the 90-minute show inside the Big Top, the Martin and Downs circus offers an animal and children's petting zoo outside, a giant killer python exhibit and pony rides. There's a souvenir stand to complement the concession booths, and all charges and prices are kept reasonable by the management. No gambling or games of skill or chance are tolerated.

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