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Friday, January 14, 1983

Region needs creative ideas for spending job creation grant

What do you do with \$418,000?

Police cite enforcement in accident reductions

By ANI PEDERIAN
Herald Staff Writer

A decrease of 1,026 highway accidents over 1981 in Halton has been attributed to stepped-up police traffic enforcement throughout the past year.

Halton regional police District 1 commander Matt MacPherson said speed and liquor are usually responsible for fatal traffic accidents. In 90 per cent of them, liquor is involved, he said.

"I feel quite strongly that traffic enforcement against impaired driving and for the use of seatbelts has led to a reduction in fatal accidents," Inspector MacPherson said.

District 1, which includes Milton and Halton Hills, had 21 fatal accidents in 1980. In 1981, there were ten fatal accidents, and in 1982, this was further reduced to five.

"We found speeding, impaired drivers and not using seatbelts were the cause of fatalities and we stepped up our enforcements," Insp. MacPherson said. "We constantly

remind our officers that this is an area they should pay attention to year-round."

Warnings and charges have increased over previous years, he said.

Although the traffic squad gains public attention mainly during the Christmas holiday season, when four men are specifically assigned to do spotchecks in the region, Insp. MacPherson said his men are assigned year-round to concentrate on radar and patrol duty.

"Each shift, one officer is assigned. We have to do it on a day-to-day basis and all our officers pitch in," he said.

For drivers who think the spotchecks ended with the holiday season, Insp. MacPherson warns that his uniformed officers are still out on the road with their radar and ALERT equipment.

"I feel safer this year driving from Burlington to Georgetown than I did in 1980, because of the driving enforcement," he said. He's a daily commuter to Georgetown.



THEATRE FANS WELL-FED

Six Halton Hills youngsters took the fun of "Hickory Dickory Dock" home with them after seeing the Georgetown Little Theatre-Peel Panto Players Christmas show last month; they took the GLT up on its invitation to color the front of the play's program booklet and were subsequently rewarded for their efforts. Giant bags of popcorn were presented last Sunday to (front row, left to right) Sue Ann McGeragle, age 12, Derek Tribe, 4, who was picking up the prize on behalf of his brother Kevin, (back row) Laura Miller, 4, Annabel Parkinson, 8, and Tonya Morris, 6. Michelle Robinson, whose coloring entry was also picked among the six best, couldn't make it for the presentation.

(Herald photo by Dave Rowney)

By CHRIS AAGAARD
Herald Staff Writer

Regional department heads are looking into ways Halton might use the \$417,900 allocated to it under a \$200 million Ontario-federal government job creation program.

On suggestion mentioned at Wednesday's finance and administration committee meeting is to hire crews to check for leaks in sanitary sewer systems.

But as chief administrative officer Dennis Perlin pointed out, there are limitations on the program which the region must seriously consider before projects are chosen.

Any projects started must use people recruited from Canada Manpower offices who have exhausted their unemployment insurance benefits. In addition, projects must create work for at least three employees, last a maximum of 52 weeks and concentrate on areas of work which might not have normally been approved in the region's annual budget process.

Municipalities participating in the program must also contribute ten per cent of the projects' gross costs. Halton Hills department heads are considering ways in which they can use \$116,000 to create local jobs.

Regional officials, Mr. Perlin said, "must be as creative as possible" to find projects which "meet some needs of the region that we wouldn't otherwise be able to meet".

He added that crews might be able to conduct roadside clean ups for the public works department or test for leaks which allow groundwater into the sanitary sewer system,

limiting treatment plant capacities.

"The unions have been very co-operative in these types of job creation programs," Mr. Perlin commented, indicating that the region's bargaining units will be discussing the recent job creation officer with Halton's personnel department.

Oakville Coun. Carol Gooding expressed concern that the money is being used to create jobs which are largely temporary. She wondered if the money might be more wisely spent in the private sector creating permanent positions.

The \$200 million program has set aside \$100 million to create jobs in the private sector, but these are also expected to be mostly temporary.

Having already looked into the program, Oakville found some rather surprising statistics at the local manpower office.

Of the skilled unemployed registered here, 29 per cent were clerical workers (largely women) and 24 per cent were professionals and executives.

"Not one skilled tradesman was listed," Oakville Mayor Harry Barrett said.

"It's not that simple to come up with a project under the program," he added. "You have to get people with skills and then something (permanent) comes up and they are gone — and quite rightly so."

Halton has until Jan. 31 to commit itself to the \$417,900 program. Projects initiated with the money are expected to be complete by June, 1984.

Ed knows his pottery

Antique dealer comes from family of potters

The front corner of Oxbow books on Main Street in Georgetown is no longer the "Craft Cupboard". Oxbow owner Norm Holt is renting the space to an antique dealer.

The former owner of a Mill Street antique shop, Ed Wakefield is aiming to open for business any day now.

Open for two and a half years, Wakefield Antiques was closed two years ago to allow Mr. Wakefield to concentrate on antique shows, he told The Herald.

"We went to do shows because there wasn't enough business in town to support an antique store," Mr. Wakefield said.

Today there are two antique shops downtown,

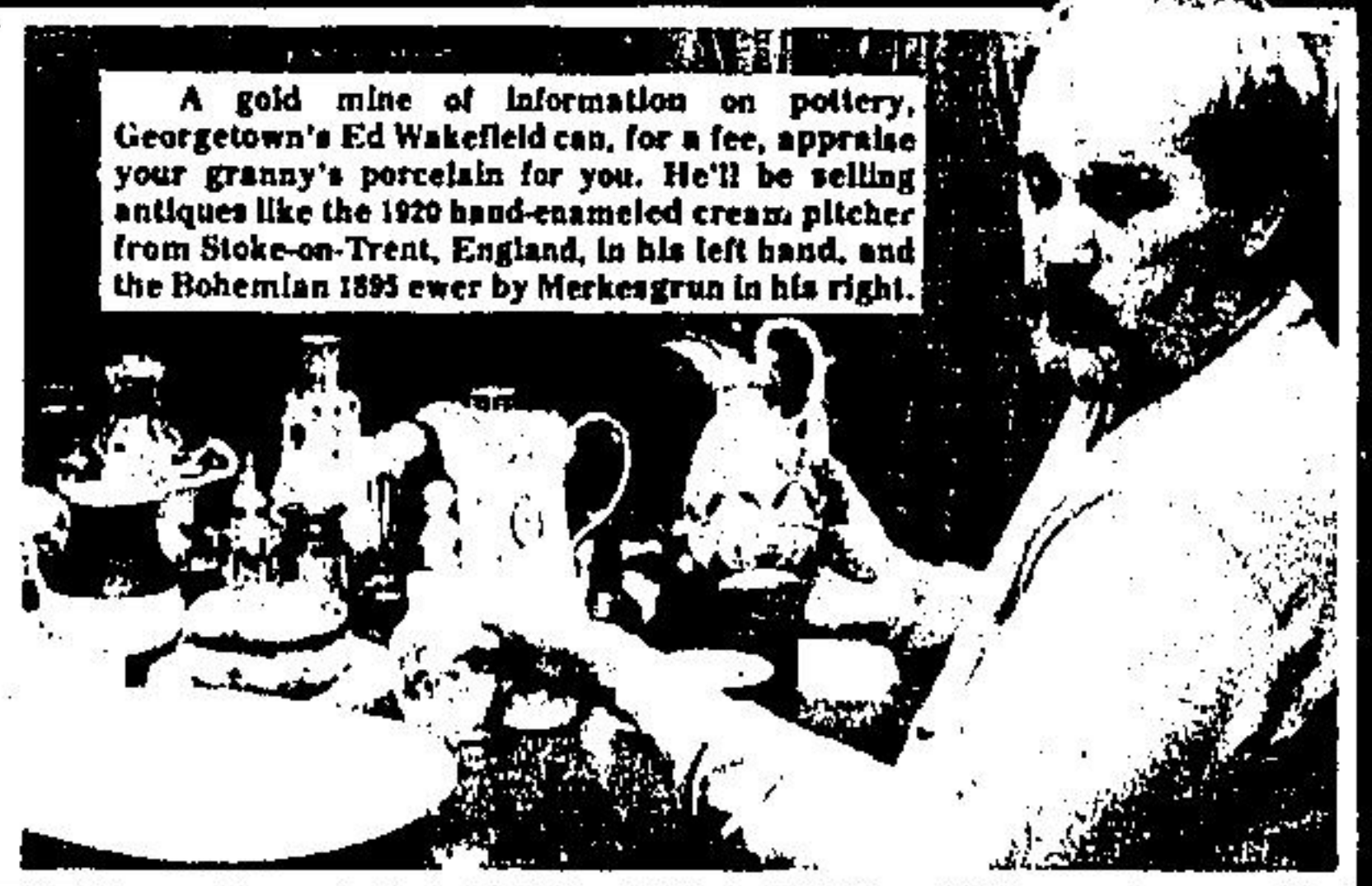
and the antique business appears to have picked up.

English porcelain, small pieces of furniture, silver pieces and some jewellery will be the stock Mr. Wakefield plans to carry in his corner of Oxbow books.

A native of Hanley, England, Mr. Wakefield comes from one of six towns making up the city Stoke-on-Trent. Forty miles northwest of Birmingham, Stoke-on-Trent is the centre of the pottery industry in England, Mr. Wakefield said.

"I'm the first generation of my family that has not been involved in the pottery industry," he said. "I've always collected it, though."

Knowledgeable about pottery, he's able to pick out prize pieces at auctions and bazaars that others don't recognize and sell them later at a profit.



A gold mine of information on pottery, Georgetown's Ed Wakefield can, for a fee, appraise your granny's porcelain for you. He'll be selling antiques like the 1920 hand-enamelled cream pitcher from Stoke-on-Trent, England, in his left hand, and the Bohemian 1895 ewer by Merkesgrun in his right.