



The responsibility of handling a loaded revolver can be one of many sources of stress experienced daily for Halton regional police.

Police stress: Halton force looking for solutions

By ANI PEDERIAN
Herald Staff Writer
With a work load among the highest of police forces in the province, it's not surprising management with the Halton regional police is instigating a program on handling work stress. "This force is not overstuffed. We're considerably understaffed compared to others," deputy chief Bob Middaugh said. "I know if an officer is going from call to call to call it can be overwork, which is a stressor. If they're putting in too much, continually, a stress factor starts to build that's just as bad as if you're not doing enough."

A recent audit by the Ontario Police Commission showed the Halton force had its manpower handling more work a shift than officers in most of the other forces. "Everybody realizes this is a stressful occupation, and the administration here has decided to address that fact and do something positive about it," Halton police association president Constable Charles Gardner said. A policeman for 16 years, ten in Toronto, four in Windsor and now two in Halton, Const. Gardner outlined some of the stresses officers face in their line of work. He said stress-related problems affect about ten per cent of the force's 403 member staff.

Statistics recently released by the Metro Police Association show six in ten police marriages end in divorce. stress producers, he said. A night shift could be followed by a day in court, making it not uncommon for an officer to be up 20 hours working. Criminal Investigations Bureau Staff Sergeant Les Graham said night shift is hard on family life, especially if the policeman's spouse also works. "It's not normal to work night shift. Your body is not made to stay awake at night," he said. "Shift work also interferes with your social life, and, in this day and age, with so many wives working, that's got to be rough on a relationship."

The national average is four in ten. With police having to be available to the public 24 hours a day, seven days a week, shift work is inevitable. It also means when everybody else is enjoying a public holiday or the weekend, police have to be on duty. The officers currently rotate through a morning, afternoon and night shift. In June, that's all going to change. All uniformed officers and communications personnel will be going on a 12-hour shift, working either from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. or from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. The force is going to experiment for six months to see if these hours are preferable to the current eight hour shifts.

With the type of work police do, the possibility that any call for service could quickly turn into an extremely dangerous situation is a second source of stress. Deputy chief Middaugh said police work can go from being boring one minute to being very exciting or frustrating the next. "All of a sudden you're doing nothing, then you're doing something and the adrenalin starts pumping," Sgt. Graham agreed. It's tough to be dealing with stressful situations all the time, whether in actual physical confrontations or handling family dispute calls. Continued on page A2

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Embittered public jousts with resources minister

By CHRIS AAGAARD
Herald Staff Writer
Just how the new Aggregates Act will affect property rights isn't the only thing concerning Halton Hills residents living on potential sources of gravel. They're embittered that the policy-makers at Queen's Park appear not to pay any attention. Although natural resources minister Allan Pope said that public comments are being considered as the ministry reads the Aggregates Act for the Legislature later this year, some residents have lost faith in the public participation process on which many of the province's recreational and industrial policies are based. Battles over designat-

ing protected aggregate areas were lost in Caledon and Durham, residents at Thursday night's Acton meeting with Mr. Pope noted. "If it hadn't been for the protest in Halton," Halton-Burlington MPP Julian Reed commented, "you would have kept on going." **NO DIFFERENCE** Having seen a text of the legislation which MNR intends to present, Mr. Reed commented that it doesn't differ substantially from Bill 127. Presented by the late James Auld (former natural resources minister), the bill was found to be "so unacceptable," Mr. Reed said, that the Liberal and NDP opposition parties proposed 132

amendments to it. The Bill was eventually withdrawn before the 1981 provincial election. Mr. Pope told the audience the new Aggregates Act is essentially the same, but there are plans for about seven amendments. Comments from residents about the aggregates issue noted that it

would be extremely costly, and probably ineffective, for residents to protest before the Ontario Municipal Board if they can't develop their lands because of the need to save them for possible gravel sources. Some homeowners living in prime aggregate areas feel they've already had a sample of government "deafness"; they point to the outcome of the Niagara Escarpment Plan hearings. Contrary to the proposed Niagara Escarpment Act, Halton Hills local Coun. Pam Sheldon said, hearing officers have proposed opening up the Escarpment to more development, including easier access to the Escarpment's abundant gravel

resources. The act says to leave the escarpment in a natural state, Mrs. Coun. Sheldon said, describing the hearing officers' report, which outraged Niagara Escarpment Commissioners, as a "devastating piece of paper (which) flies in the face of the democratic process". For two years, the hearing officers held public meetings between the Escarpment's northern most tip in Tobermory to the Niagara Peninsula. Many of the submissions argued for tight development control on the Escarpment, while others sought freer regulations regarding the Escarpment's use. Two years ago, Coun. Sheldon represented a ratepayers' group from Speyside which lobbied against a proposed quarry expansion in the area. The group's lengthy submission, as one resident noted, barely raised a comment from the hearing officers.



ALLAN POPE
Pope told the audience the new Aggregates Act is essentially the same, but there are plans for about seven amendments.



MARATHON MARCHERS
No, they're not "marching off to Africa," as Rudyard Kipling's poem "Boots" goes; these young people were on their way to Queen's Park Thursday morning, walking from Guelph. Demonstrating against cruise missile testing in Alberta were Valerie Huff of Guelph; Grant Pattullo of Limehouse; Jon Klassen of Waterloo; Aruna Handa of Waterloo; Larry Bender of Guelph; Keith Baechler of Guelph and Dean Spaner of Guelph. They joined forces with other anti-cruise demonstrators Saturday in downtown Toronto. (Herald photo by Ani Pederman)



MEMORIES AND MODEL Ts
Being kind and thoughtful is the secret to their 60 years of marital union, Mattie and Duke (Wellington) Wilson of Georgetown confessed. Sharing their 60th wedding anniversary with friends, children, 10 grandchildren and 17 great grandchildren, the couple were feted Saturday at Knox Presbyterian Church hall in Georgetown, after being given a cruise around town in a historic Ford. The Wilsons have lived in Georgetown since 1947. (Herald photo by Ani Pederman)

'Keep us mobile,' seniors tell elderly study representatives

Seniors in Georgetown are tired of not being able to easily get around town. And when they do, they'd like merchants to pay a little more attention to their needs. There were many other comments about the life of senior citizens in the community and they'll be among others gathered from around the region as Halton prepares to launch the second phase of its

elderly study. Regional councillors and staff chaired a meeting at the Georgetown library Thursday afternoon as the first phase of the report was presented to local citizens. About 40 residents took part in the meeting, later breaking off into smaller groups to come up with some general comments on how seniors' lifestyles can be improved in

Halton. The second phase of the study is expected to begin this summer. The region, a consultant on the study team told the audience, wants seniors to have "the appropriate services in the community to lessen the demand for institutional care."

HOME CARE Many at the meeting expressed disappointment that chronic care nursing beds promised for Georgetown a couple of years ago, have yet to be built. But, Kip Holloway, a consultant for the Peat, Marwick and Partners Ltd. and Crichton Maccay study, said that there are other areas of seniors' services which are more pressing than providing additional institutional facilities. Continued on page A3

Grass fires

Seven grass fires kept firefighters busy in Halton Hills last week. Deputy chief Bob Hyde said the fires start as a result of open burning. A spark catches in the breeze and races over the dead grass. There were no injuries or serious damage in the grass fires.

WHAT'S INSIDE

Section C
The 'Forever One' choir were active in Norval. Meanwhile Ashgrove ladies heard about a recent rural seminar. Page C6. Ballinfad news, Page B5.

Features
Education Week in Halton Hills. Parent volunteers provide assistance to teachers, GDHS students prepare for the future. Pages A6, A7 and A8.

Opinion
The aggregate issue continues, but the voices of ordinary citizens are lost in the bureaucracy. Page B4.

Varian wins contract

Varian Canada Inc. on River Drive in Georgetown has been awarded a \$103,233 contract by the government to supply radar equipment to the Department of National Defence. The contract was one of 335 awarded by the government in the week ending April 1.

Fun bowling

A spring, fun bowling league is starting Tuesday May 3 until June 28 for anyone wishing to join. The league members will bowl 7:30 p.m. until 9 p.m. Newcomers are welcome to this league where free instruction is available along with draws, fun prizes and a party. To register phone 877-9922.

Weekend heist

A weekend heist from a construction site at Lynden Circle and John Street in Georgetown took \$1,050 worth of plywood and cement, Halton regional police report. There were 150 sheets of plywood and ten 50-pound bags of cement stolen sometime between Saturday and Monday. The materials were being used to build family homes in the area.

Lawyers debate rural land use

Croatian Centre saga resumes

By CHRIS AAGAARD
Herald Staff Writer
Owners of the Croatian Centre south of Norval have been asked to apply for changes in the town's official plan and zoning bylaw which may ensure that their controversial weekend picnics are legal in the rural area. But while they are getting their paperwork in order, Croatian representatives have also been requested to cut back on noise and barbecuing at the centre which have angered neighboring residents. Almost since a Franciscan fraternity purchased the 160-acre property at the northwest corner of Winston Churchill Boulevard and Sideroad Five in 1977, council has found itself in the midst of an argument about whether or not the weekend festivities fit into the nor-

mally quiet farming community which surrounds it. **LAWYERS** Submissions from five lawyers were given to general committee Monday night. They examine the types of activities held at the centre in light of the local and regional plan, as well as the town's zoning bylaw. On the town's behalf, lawyer Tom Anderson said that although the town's zoning bylaw and official plan permit recreational uses of rural land, "recreational" can have broad meanings. Lawyers representing citizens disgruntled at the smoke and noise and, allegedly, harassment from celebrants on summer weekends, said violations of the bylaw and the official plan are substantive enough for the town to take legal action

to end the "misuse" of rural property. However, pointing to the region's official plan, the centre's lawyers say the recreation use, complete with the sale of food and liquor and charging admission, is designated "legal non-conforming." "My clients believe they can use the property and the buildings as they are doing under the (official plan)," lawyer Ron Webb told committee members. **LOUD MUSIC** Town documents specifically say recreation community centres are permitted in rural areas and he pointed to two letters, one from the town's legal firm, the other from Doug Sargent, chief building inspector, which acknowledge that the property would be used for large gatherings.

Normally, the centre hosts about 1,000 people each Sunday throughout the summer and into October, Mr. Webb said. Some special weekend celebrations, he added, may draw as many as 3,000 people. Commercial activities on the property remove it from being a community recreation centre, neighbors' lawyer James Beatty maintained. His arguments were backed up by lawyer Jack Winberg who later concluded that the town should seek an injunction against the sale of food, liquor, admission and the playing of loud music on the site. Although the town's zoning bylaw is designed to protect the rural area and preserve its farming character, the centre, Mr. Beatty said, is "an intolerable intrusion of an

urban use in a rural area." Despite a setback in 1978 when town council refused to change the zoning of the property to an "open space" category (allowing a broader range of recreational uses), the centre has continued to grow and enlarge its uses, Mr. Beatty charged. As many as 100 pigs and lambs are barbecued Sundays between June and October, he said, and traffic problems are caused by the large number of cars pulling in and out of the property. **NO PROFIT** Mr. Winberg described the centre's weekend activities as part of a full-scale commercial operation, which the recreational use of the property is outweighed by the brisk Continued on page A2

ABOUT THE HILLS

No dark walks

Students staying for extracurricular activities at the new St. Joseph's Separate School in Acton won't have to walk home in the dark when standard time returns next fall.

The town has endorsed plans to install streetlights in the Mill Street west area around the school. The lighting issue raised by Acton Coun. Dave Whiting and \$1,500 for the project was included in this year's budget. Three, high-pressure sodium streetlights will be installed.

Jogger assaulted

A 20-year old female jogger was assaulted Monday at 7:30 p.m., while exercising on Mountainview Road North near the CNR track bridge. Halton regional police said a beige, medium sized car stopped and a man got out to chase the jogger. He grabbed her by one of her legs and made her fall down, police said. She suffered a bruised left knee, and didn't go to hospital, police said. They're investigating the incident.

