



### SHARPENING ONE'S WITS

It's their first time and they're scared. The McKenzie-Smith Middle School Quiz Kids (left to right) Adrienne Kovacs, 13, Carl Yaroschak, 13, Paul Kilpatrick, 13, and Stacy Hillier, 13, pulled out the

encyclopaedias for a refreshing bit of reading before meeting the challenge of Stewarttown Senior, Centennial, Sam Sherratt and Brookville schools last Wednesday. (Herald photo)

# Town seeks dialogue

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 trade in drinks and food. Admission charged at the door isn't a profit making venture for the Franciscan fathers who own the property and live there, Mr. Webb commented later.

As he appealed for neighbors and Croatian Centre reps to resolve their differences through negotiations, Mayor Pomeroy told Mr. Webb his clients to give "due consideration to the people who live in the area" and cut down on some of the offending activities.

The recommendation passed by the committee also asked the centre for its long-awaited land use plan for the property.

**GRAY AREA**  
 Mr. Anderson's report concluded that the activities which have been taking place at the centre for several years can be permitted according to the wording of the Esqueving official plan.

But he noted that some uses are "questionable", such as using a storage

shed as a public gathering place and the sale of food and drinks and the charging of admission.

A second opinion from lawyer Roger Beaman agreed that current planning policies in force allow the centre's activities, but acknowledged "that arguments on the other side" could be developed. Mr. Beaman wondered if the "magnitude" of some of the commercial activities would normally be permitted under the zoning bylaw.

Mr. Anderson explained that seeking a long term injunction against the certain activities at the centre would be a costly and lengthy legal problem for the town, taking as long as two years and costing as much as \$10,000 to \$20,000.

Mr. Beatty insisted that negotiations between the centre and its neighbors couldn't take place until the large-scale sale of food and liquor and the noise from amplified music has been cut from the centre's weekend programs.

"I dread to think of the dialogue that would take place if we have another summer like we did last year," Mr. Beatty said. Not all of the 160 acres is used for the celebrat-

ions. Most of the activity takes place on about nine acres of land. Besides a residence and farm out-buildings, the centre has sports facilities, a grandstand, pool, barbecue pit,

storage space, a multi-purpose room and a parking area. Last year, council rejected a plan to develop part of the land into a large cemetery.

## Police vigil for job 'burn-out'

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"There's the stress of continually being involved with people in conflict. People don't like getting arrested on Friday night for impaired driving as they're leaving a pub," the deputy chief said. "You're continually dealing with people who don't like you and don't want to deal with you."

As well, officers are dealing constantly with the ugly side of life - handling domestic disputes, discover-

ing abused children, fatalities, suicides, drunks, people under emotional stress themselves - things the average person may face only infrequently in their life.

"That gets to you after a while," Deputy chief Midaugh said. "You've got to be able to vent your frustrations and feelings."

Officers need to divorce themselves from their job once their eight hours are over, Sgt. Graham said.

"It's not that easy to do, however," he said. "You see a bad child abuse case and I'm sure that preys on your mind for a while."

### CYNICAL

Sgt. Graham said being exposed to such situations makes policemen cynical, and when they carry over that attitude into their family life, there can be problems.

"They see an awful lot, from bad accidents to bad domestics to homicides. You don't often deal with normal citizens. You deal with the characters of society, the undesirables," Sgt. Graham said. "Year after year that can wear you down."

With the stress of an increased

workload is the stress of more violent crimes being committed.

"There's no doubt there's more violence against officers now than when I was on the road in the late sixties," Deputy chief Midaugh said.

"At that time, everybody respected a police officer, rarely did you have anybody assault a police officer. Now, I come in every Monday morning and there's at least six police assaults. That respect is gone."

Basically cops have a negative outlook on life and feel alienated and separate from the rest of the public, Sgt. Graham said.

"I think people expect an awful lot from policemen," he said. "They expect them to be lawyers, doctors, judges and perfect, which puts an awful burden on them. It's an awful responsibility, day-in day-out."

There is a public and personal expectation that police should be perfect whether on or off duty, but they're not perfect, they're only human, Sgt. Graham said.

"Take an office employee, what happens to him on the weekend doesn't matter. But our guys, whatever happens to them can affect their life and career," he said.

Police are covered by a strict Police Act which can lose them their job if they're found guilty of legal infractions, a harsher punishment than that paid by the average citizen when caught by the law.



DEP. CHIEF BOB MIDAUGH

## Peers help restore family life

By ANI PEDERIAN  
 Herald Staff Writer

A program to deal with stress will be starting up in two months for Halton regional police officers, civilians and their spouses.

The Employee Assistance program will make Halton one of the few forces in Canada to offer confidential guidance and support for employees suffering the effects of stress.

At a cost of \$15,000, Halton police commissioners agreed to implement a counselling program led by Major John Hasek. A retired army officer with a masters degree in psychology, Mr. Hasek studied stress among Halton officers last year and reported on the need for stress counselling.

Looking at stress management programs already in operation in other Canadian forces, Major Hasek discovered most were in the rudimentary stage of development.

### WINDOW DRESSING

"Some of the largest police forces in Canada didn't have anything, or they were just window dressing types of plans," he said.

Forces either had a staff sergeant designated to deal with stress-related problems, or the problems were parceled out to a firm of psychologists to deal with.

The former was found to be used by officers only when they needed legal advice, and the latter was found to be too impersonal and so wasn't used, Mr. Hasek said.

The ideal programs were discovered to be those where staff not connected with the force's administration were giving constables guidance. They had training in the humanities and social sciences, and also had credibility in the eyes of the officers and the administration, he said.

**SUPERVISORS ROLE**  
 Anticipating dealing with five to ten per cent of

the men and women in Halton's force, somewhere between 20 and 40 people, Major Hasek said stress prevention programs will be given to supervisors so they know how better to see stress

building up in their subordinates, and how not to induce it.

Peer counselling seminars will teach officers how to communicate better and seminars for husbands and wives of

officers will familiarize them with the daily duties of their spouse.

They'll be taken to shoot a gun on the range, a fearsome object to those who've never handled one, he said.

"They'll be taken on patrol, too, to have a better idea of how police work is in Halton region, as opposed to getting all their ideas from the Hill Street Blues," Major Hasek said.

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