

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)

place and the sale of food and drinks and the charging of admission. A second opinion from

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 eloped. Mr. Beaman wondered if the "magni-

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.

Continued from page Al

trade in drinks and food.

Admission charged at

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 Esquesing official plan.

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

shed as a public gathering lawyer Roger Beaman

agreed that current planis used for the celebratning policies in force allow the centre's activities, but acknowledged "that arguments on the other side" could be dev-

Town seeks dialogue

permitted under the zoning bylaw. Mr. Anderson explained that seeking a long

tude" of some of the

commercial activities would normally be

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's take place until the large-scale sale of food and liquor, and the noise from amplified music has been cut from the centro's weekend programs.

Police are covered by a strict

Police Act which can lose them their

job if they're found guilty of legal

"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

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

storage space, a multipurpose room and a park-

ing area. Last year, council rejected a plan to develop part of the land into a large cemetery.

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Police vigil for job 'burn-out'

Continued from page At

"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-



DEP. CHIEF

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

"That gets to you after a while," Deputy chief Middaugh 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

"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 Middaugh 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 andcareer," he said.

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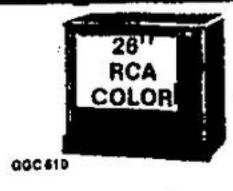
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BOB MIDDAUGII Peers help restore family life

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 spous-

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

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 coun-

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

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 phychologists 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. Hosek said.

ideal programs discovered to be where staff not connected with the force's administration were giving constables guidance. They had training 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 sald 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 sald.

"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.

