

## Mandatory grace period would suit act better



Staff Comment  
CHRIS AAGAARD

By CHRIS AAGAARD  
Staff Writer

Outside the Provincial Courtroom in Milton, there's a bulletin board with the court docket for the day - and a magazine article.

The article is written by a police officer - maybe a chief or a captain somewhere - and it chides the reader for being angry about getting a ticket.

I found it particularly offensive, especially since I was at the Provincial Offences desk to have my own pocketbook cleaned of \$53 because I "failed to surrender ownership" when I was pulled over a few days earlier.

For most of us, the first reminder that law-breaking isn't limited to criminal offenses is when a police car's flashing lights loom ominously in the rearview mirror.

From April 1982 to March 31, 1983, Halton regional police and the OPP issued 42,856 traffic tickets. Many of those came with the automatic \$28 fine for such driving-related offenses as not having seatbelts fastened.

On that fateful day three weeks ago, I became a violator of the Highway Traffic Act, a

hefty document which sets regulations for everything from street signs to the driving conduct of people in wheelchairs.

I was pulled over for failing to stop on the stopline. The constable kindly dropped that charge, sparing me \$53 and three demerit points. But I had borrowed the car, and couldn't find the ownership and insurance papers.

All of a sudden I was \$53 lighter anyway (the fines went from \$28 to \$53 in December) and a hell of a lot angrier.

I agree, as the magazine article patronizingly points out, that traffic law enforcement saves lives and fines remind us to obey.

But the offense of not carrying the right papers isn't a dangerous one. As thorough as the Highway Act is, it leaves it up to the constable's discretion whether he fines for not having all the papers, or gives you a period of grace to produce them.

When the Traffic Act backs away like that, it's just you and the constable and whether he or she's having a good or bad day at work.

In my case, I was a mile from work and half an hour away from retrieving the ownership and insurance.

I learned nothing from the experience and, as is so common, my encounter with those who enforce the law was a negative one, through the car window.

A mandatory period of grace would suit the Act better. Leaving it to the individual constable's discretion means that someone is making a whimsical decision with my money.

## Ballinafad Safety film on swimming

By Mrs. John Bellbuddy  
Herald Correspondent

ASHGROVE - The Safety and Resolutions meeting of the W.I. was held Feb. 21 at the home of Mrs. George Bird with a good attendance. Roll Call was answered by something for which I am thankful. Mrs. G. Wingfield will be our delegate to the officers conference at the University of Waterloo on May 1, 2 and 3.

Mrs. N. Haisl gave the motto No one gets eye strain from looking on the bright side of life. Mrs. C. Hunter called on different ones for their opinions on daycare for children, computers, drug and alcohol abuse today.

Mrs. W. Allison showed a film on water safety in teaching young

### Some prefer the train

Dear Sir,

Having read the report by Coun. Rick Bonnette and the Chamber of Commerce about the Via train stopping in Acton, my husband and I - along with many other Actonians - do appreciate these efforts and hope they are lucky.

Not everyone has a car, and some people prefer the train anyway.

The buses are not convenient to link with the trains in Georgetown and it's impossible to get to the CNE.

If Via doesn't wake up soon, they will be going back in time, not forward.

Let's think about Acton!

Yours faithfully,  
Mrs. M. Y. Wood,  
Church Street, Acton

### Liberal memberships

The Brampton-Georgetown federal Liberal association is offering membership applications for 1984. For more information call 459-2813.



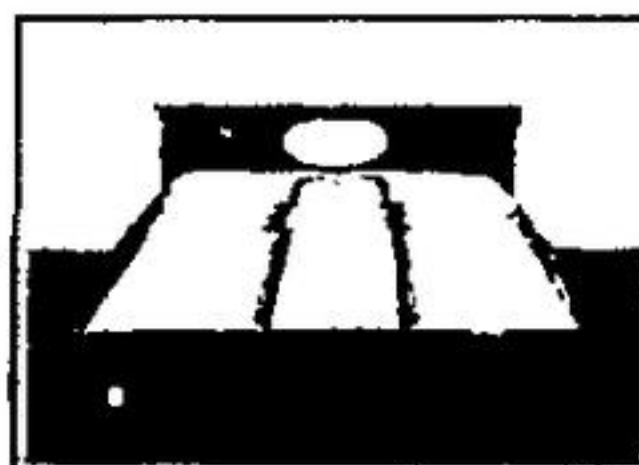
Composers Irvin Cohen (Mark Duke) and Oscar Rodgerison (Stephen Delroy) can't seem to agree on a musical score. Mark and Stephen are Centennial School students playing the school's upcoming production of *On Broadway* March 7 and 8. The production is being managed by teachers Chris Logan, Lois Barrager, Bob Bell, Grace Glumpei and Paul Brisley.

## GRAND OPENING!



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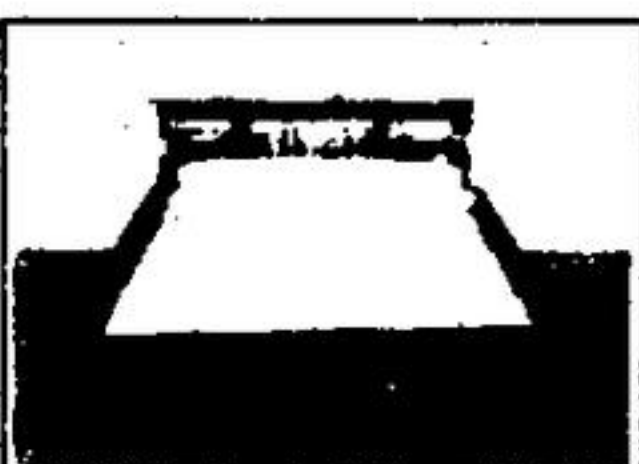
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Watch for our opening at Eastgate Square

### Guidelines reviewed monthly

## No ticket quotas: Middaugh

By CHRIS AAGAARD  
Staff Writer

The Halton regional police force doesn't believe in enforcing traffic rules by having its constables meet ticket quotas.

Instead, deputy police chief Bob Middaugh told *The Herald* Tuesday, the force has goals and objectives which are passed down to the various platoons.

And these may

include, among other areas of law enforcement and crime prevention, a set number of traffic tickets as part of the platoon's effort to prevent traffic accidents.

The goals and objectives are set in the deputy chief's office and administered by the staff sergeants. Deputy Chief Middaugh explained that the platoon works as a unit to meet monthly guidelines set



DEP. CHIEF BOB MIDDAGH

up by headquarters, but individual "quotas" aren't established.

Ultimately, he said, "good traffic enforcement will reduce the total number of fatal motor vehicle accidents."

Deputy Chief Middaugh said that the monthly guidelines are meant to get more productivity out of the force. They are regularly reviewed by the force, he added.

and a former Georgetown woman, Julia Moulden, is organizing a reception dinner and entertainment to celebrate the occasion at the Harbor Castle Conference Centre in downtown Toronto.

Money from the event is going for the Barbra Schiller Commemorative Clinic. Miss Schiller was a newly graduated lawyer who was raped and murdered in the Beaches area of Toronto a few years ago.

For tickets, contact Dollie Moulden at 877-5030 or get them from Bass outlets.

### Impaired

A 33-year old Georgetown man was arrested Friday at 11:30 p.m. for impaired driving and having the care and control of a vehicle, while impaired.

### PHOTO REPRINTS

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### House damage

There was a chimney fire when the damper on the fireplace was shut down causing smoke to back up into a Bower Avenue, Acton, home Thursday at 6:30 p.m. Firefighters reported no injuries or damage.

### Thief likes jewellery

A Rexway Drive, Georgetown home was robbed of jewellery worth \$500 and some liquor Monday night. Halton regional police said thieves entered the home during the family's absence through a rear window to the family room.

### Just a stage

A popular form of reassurance for parents comes in the form of "It's just a stage". Sandy Kemp of North Halton Youth will be discussing stages of development from birth to adolescence to help parents understand the normal growth and development of children. This is the last lecture in the Georgetown Public Library's "Focus on Children" series. The lecture costs \$2 and starts at 7:30 p.m. March 7.

### Women's Day celebration

It's International Women's Day March 7

### Happy grandparents

By WINIFRED SMITH  
Herald Correspondent

BALLINAFAD - Danny Shortill and Lorne Sinclair have returned from a short holiday in Florida.

Congratulations to Lil and Tom Given, who became grandparents again. Daughter Maggie and husband became parents of their third son.

### Sickroom supplies

A Red Cross Service: Sickroom supplies are available on loan free of charge for a limited time. Tues., Wed., Thurs. 9-4 p.m. call 877-5233, Mon. and Fri. call 877-1211 for referral.

## Chamber fires back

Some of the comments made last week by town councillors discussing the Chamber of Commerce's \$1,000 grant request to the region weren't taken lightly by BIG Celebration organizers.

"It is not a 'hand out,'" Rick West told reporters after regional council turned down the request. "We've never gone to the region for a hand out."

Mr. West and BIG Celebration manager Lynn Barnard remarked on comments made by Coun. Finn Poustrup. Coun. Poustrup said that an organization of businesses, such as the Chamber, "shouldn't be in there with a hand out."

"It's certainly not unusual for groups such as ours to turn to council for funds," Ms. Barnard said. "(The BIG Celebration) is a darn good project and will go ahead regardless of the grant." Organizers have also applied for a \$2,000 grant from the town of Halton Hills and \$3,500 from the Halton Hills bicentennial committee, trustees of a \$10,000 fund from the province to be used for local bicentennial celebrations.

"We are a group of volunteers trying to do something for Georgetown," Mr. West said. "We hope town council will back us 100 per cent."

### Supply teachers

Con't from Page A1

salary committee until a new committee was struck in the new year.

Although never a set board policy, substitute teachers have been receiving the base rate on the teachers' grid, according to their experience and training.

With an average 200 teaching days in a year, the board has been

paying supply teachers 1-200 of the regular teacher's salary.

"We feel well justified in dropping this and we probably should have made this move a long time ago," Mrs. Bruce said.

Attempts by the salary committee in 1976 and 1980 to drop the pay for supply teachers were overturned by the board.

## Noon 'til two business lunches

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