

POLICE WEEK

Constable Nick Leoni likes variety in police work

By ROBIN BAKEWELL
Herald Staff

Nick Leoni had a decision to make in 1974 which was to affect his whole life.

It was during that year, in the very same week, that he was accepted into both the Ontario Provincial Police Force and the Halton Regional Police Force.

Constable Nick Leoni is now a member of the Halton Regional Police Force.

Both he and his wife enjoy living in Georgetown and Mr. Leoni didn't want to take the chance of a remote positioning with the OPP.

Born and raised in Toronto, Mr. Leoni was first introduced to the Halton Hills area in 1969 when he was involved in helping an aunt and uncle look for a home here. A couple of months after his relatives had moved to Halton Hills Mr. Leoni had become a resident of Georgetown.

TOO BUSY
"I wouldn't want to move back to Toronto, it's too busy there. The kids like it here. They visited Toronto and wouldn't want to live there either."

Mr. Leoni has always been attracted to uniforms. At one point he was an air cadet and he would have liked to be a pilot. Constable Leoni likes to meet and talk with people and sees police work as "one way to do it."

In January of 1975 Mr. Leoni, who was then 29, entered the Police College in Aylmer for a 12-week continuous course in various aspects of police work. The course included topics like the Provincial Statute, physical fitness, and basic conduct within the police force and with the general public.

ON PARADE

A typical day at work for Constable Leoni would involve going "on parade" after he has begun his 12 hour shift. Being "on parade" is the beginning of a shift where the officers are assigned their duty areas and are told of anything specific they should be on the lookout for.

There are three areas that Constable Leoni may be assigned to. They are radar, warrant work and walking the beat.

One of the units the Halton Regional Police Force use for radar is the "Muni Quip T3" speed timing device. Not only are these units calibrated periodically by a special company, but they also have an internal and external checking system to insure their accuracy.

VARIETY

Constable Leoni gets a variety of reactions when he tells motorists that they were speeding. One of the more common reactions is the driver of the vehicle in question saying they don't believe they were speeding.

"You always offer to let them look at the radar after the speed has been locked in," Mr. Leoni said.

According to Constable Leoni, "every situation has a possible element of danger in it." Even the false alarms keep Mr. Leoni on his toes, "the one you walk up to nonchalantly is the one that gets your head blown off," he said.

Mr. Leoni is also a member of the Halton Regional Police Force's TRU, or Tactical and Rescue Unit. The 16 member team is involved with any "high risk" situation that develops in Halton Region.

Some of these situations might involve the securing of certain premises, assaults on



NICK LEONI

houses, gun calls, searches, and escorts for potentially dangerous situations.

REGULAR SHIFT
On his regular 12 hour, four days on, four days off, shift Mr. Leoni's car becomes his office. He has his briefcase, his radio (which he is constantly listening to), and propped up beside the radio is his monadnock stick.

Originally used by the Chinese to grind rice monadnock sticks were thought to have become

weapons during one of the Chinese invasions. Constable Leoni received 16 hours training before he was issued with one.

"I enjoy being a cop," Mr. Leoni said. "You can't predict police work and that's one of the good things about it."

"It makes you feel good, along with some of the aggravation, sure, but you get a lot of compliments. I'd never want to change jobs," Constable Leoni said.

Mischief charged

A 19 year old man of no fixed address was charged with two counts of mischief when he was arrested in an Albert Street apartment in Georgetown.

At 11:30 on Saturday morning police officers were called to the apartment where they heard a loud commotion before entering.

An estimated total of \$3,500 in damages had occurred to the apartment and its contents. The man was held in custody for a bail hearing on Monday in Milton Provincial Court.

Leathers swiped

A leather jacket valued at \$80 was taken from a Duncan Drive residence when the owner left it on a fence he was working on while he left for lunch.

The incident occurred shortly after 1 p.m. on Sunday.

Stolen tires

Park Lincoln Mercury in Georgetown lost an estimated \$1,000 over the weekend when somebody removed two tires and rims from a 1984 Lynx which was parked in the sales lot.

An additional \$500 was reported in damages to the front fender of the vehicle.

At the same time a 1984 Ford which was also parked in the sales lot received an estimated \$600 in damages to the front fender.

Murder suspect

Investigations by Halton Regional Police Force and Metro Toronto Police Force has resulted in the arrest of a male person in the death of Kenneth Drew Thael.

Kenneth Thael was found with gunshot wounds to the head in a ditch off Highway 401, west of Milton by Guelph Line. The 27 year old London man was found on March 4, 1984.

Charged with second degree murder is Bruno Travaglione, 23 years old, of Dufferin Street in Toronto.

He was arrested at his residence at approximately 8:30 p.m. on May 11 by members of the Halton Regional Police Force and Metro Toronto Police Force.

302 donors

Red Cross officials reported 302 donors attended the Red Cross Blood Donor Clinic Monday and donated 287 bloodpacks.

There were 15 people rejected for various reasons, including medication, active allergies etc. The need for a good supply of O Rh Positive blood was well looked after.

The Kinsmen Club sponsored the clinic, giving special assistance with poster distribution, advertising and general work.

Safety weeks

Town councillors are proclaiming the week of May 21 to 28 as bike safety week in Halton Hills. The Georgetown Optimist Club requested the proclamation.

Water Safety Week across Canada stresses fun and safety through education in and around water. The town proclaimed the week from June 3 to 9 on behalf of the Red Cross Water Safety Committee.

Halton farms smaller

Halton has 129,000 acres of farming land and 82 per cent of farms are owned by individuals. The median farm size, according to the statistics is 67 acres in Halton, compared with 121 acres in Ontario. The median size differs from average farm size in that it means half the farms are smaller in size than 67 acres.

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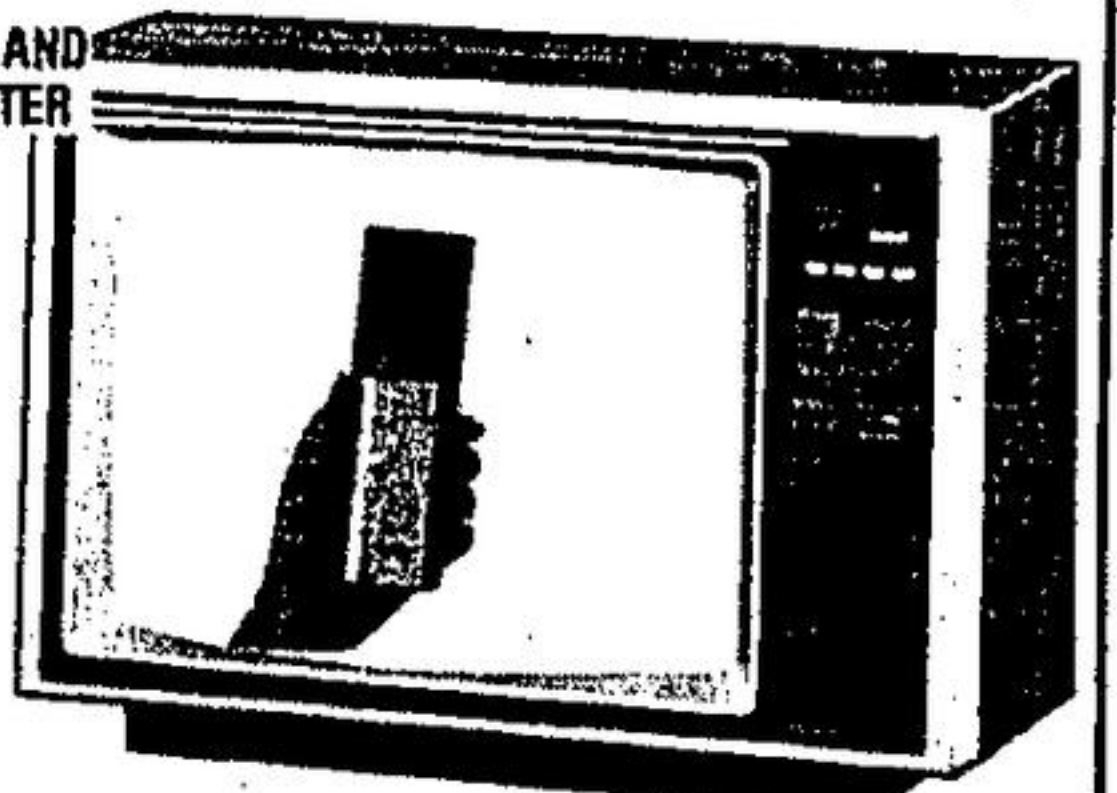
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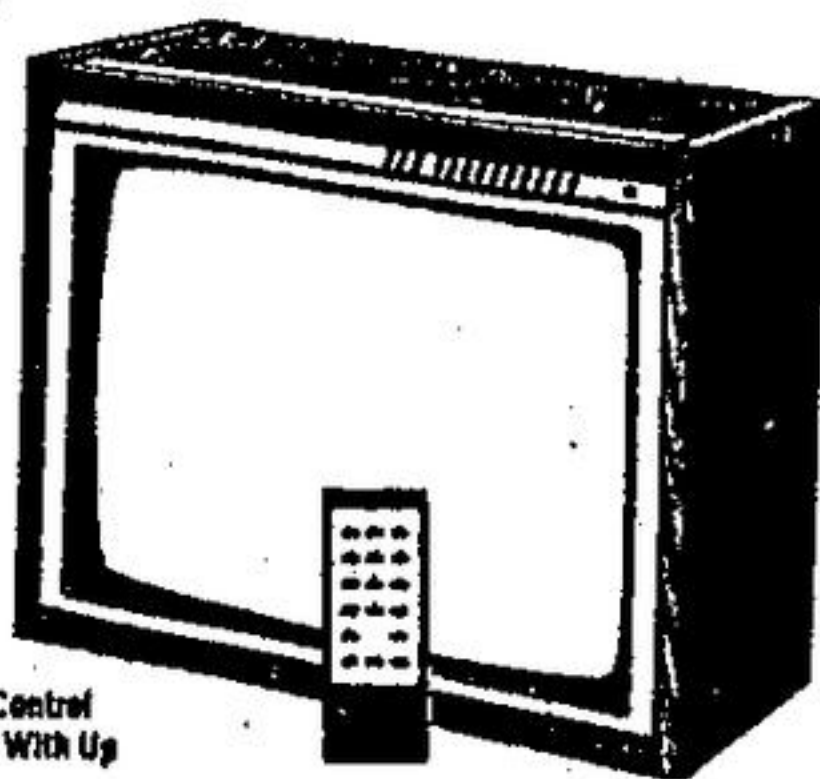
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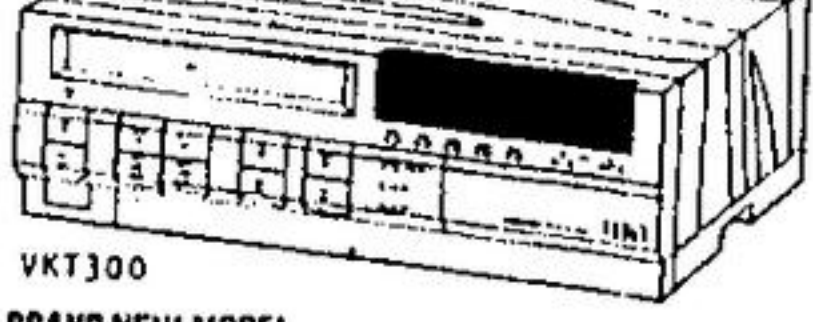
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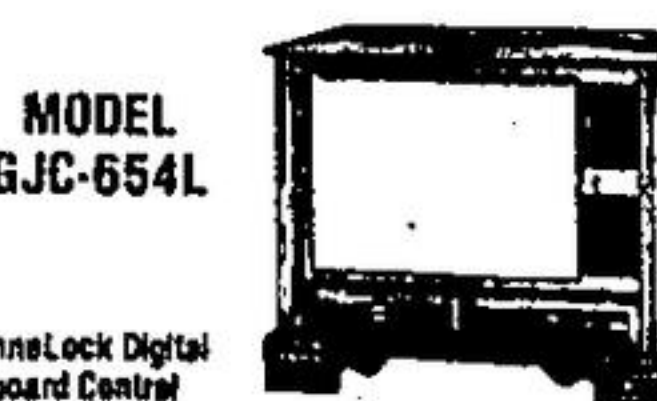
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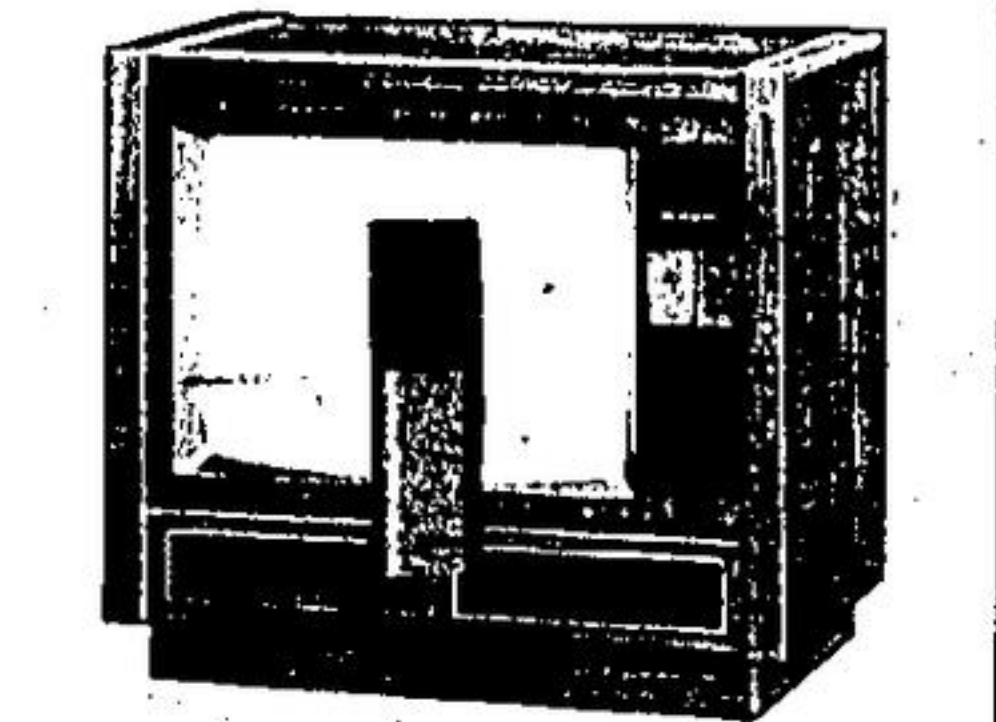
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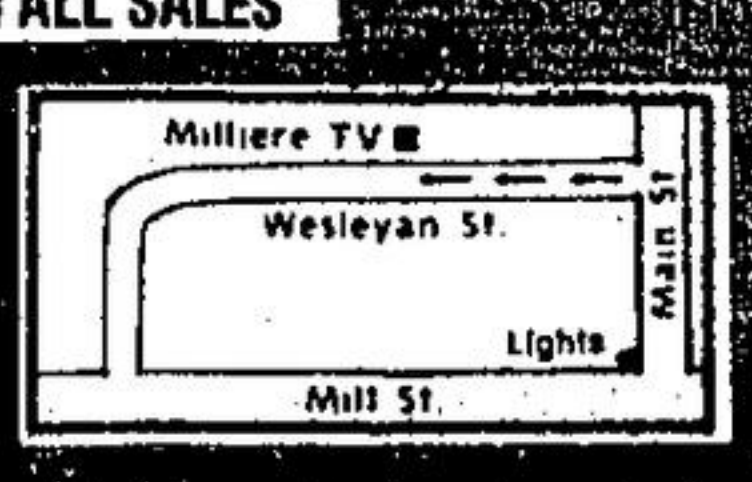
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