

Preventative crime

Chief wants public to take active role

By BRIAN McLEOD
Herald Special

Crime has been reduced by 32 per cent over the last four years in the region of Halton according to Police Chief James Harding.

Ontario has had a 7 per cent reduction over the same period, he said. In an address during an awards ceremony for Prime Prevention Week, Chief Harding said the reduced crime rate was "brought to life by public participation."

Halton has one of the lowest policing costs in Ontario, he said. "Fifty per cent of our resources are geared toward preventative and

proactive policing," Chief Harding said.

The police chief pointed out that crime prevention, or proactive policing, is not a new theme. He hopes to see the day when there will be laws stating failure to prevent a crime is a crime in itself. "Nowadays we don't do justice to one another because we have removed the citizens," Chief Harding said. In a press conference before the awards ceremony, Solicitor General Ken Keyes said that a \$100,000 crime prevention program is well worth the money.

"It's a phenomenal investment if we can keep just one person out of jail

for a small period of time," Mr. Keyes said. He added that it costs about



CHIEF
JAMES
HARDING

how the public are working with the police to prevent crime. "People realize that police alone cannot do the job," he said.

But Mr. Keyes does not see the crime stoppers program, which offers cash reward for information on crime, as a permanent solution. "I don't think the public has to be motivated by money to participate in these programs. I think the general public are prepared to come forward with information," he said.

Mr. Keyes said that some municipalities in western Ontario have experienced as much as 50 per cent reduction in break-ins.

Mr. Keyes agreed with Chief Harding's view that the public must become more involved with crime prevention. "In recent years there seems to have been a tendency to rely on our police forces more and more

heavily in maintaining a safe and civilized society," said Mr. Keyes.

Mr. Keyes pointed to the 25 per cent reduction in impaired driving charges during the last holiday week-end as a prime example of the success of the anti-drinking and driving campaign. But he does not see life-time suspensions of driver's licences for repeated offenders in the near future.

He sees stiffer penalties and increased fines as a more appropriate solution.

The solicitor general did express some concern with the Young Offenders Act. "Identification of young offenders is a problem." Currently police cannot identify anyone under the age of 18 who commits a crime making it difficult for them to include the public in a search for the offender. Mr. Keyes does see changes in legislation coming in the future.

Teacher re-elected

Georgetown District High School teacher Tom Ramautarsingh was re-elected for the fourth time as the Chairman of the Liberal Studies Advisory Council of Sheridan College recently.

The council reviews and evaluates the results of programs offered by Sheridan College at Oakville and Brampton Campuses. "Sheridan College offers a Liberal Studies program that affords students an opportunity to build upon their own personal resources and the educational resources of the college," Mr. Ramautarsingh said.

Mr. Ramautarsingh is a former president of the Halton Secondary School Teachers' Federation.



TOM
RAMAUTARSINGH

IN THE HILLS

6 past-presidents

The Chateau Restaurant was the setting for the Georgetown Hospital Auxiliary's 7th annual Past President's Luncheon Nov. 5. Past Presidents in attendance were Inez Crich-ton, Anne Gray, Beth Clark, June Dean, Marion Booth and Vi Haines. Guests were Fred Morris, administrator of the hospital and Mrs. Sheila Thompson of Oakville. Chairman of Region 5 Hospital Auxiliaries Association. Over 30 people enjoyed a delicious lunch and a chance to visit with other members.

Charity recycling

Last Friday, Gus Hardy, an employee of Tridon Ltd. handed over a \$700 cheque to the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation.

The money was raised from his company's recycling efforts over the past few months.

The cheque was passed at the Burlington company's plant on the North Service Road. Gus Hardy is responsible for collecting employee pop cans and office papers in special bins.

The cans are flattened and the paper is sorted for collection by Halton's Recycled Resources Ltd., Halton Region's recycling contractors.

Newcomers meet

The Georgetown Newcomers will be holding their next meeting Nov. 20 starting at 7:30 p.m. at a new location. The group now meets at St. Andrews United Church at 89 Mountainview Road South. The guest speaker will be Cathy Norton and she will be talking about skin care. For more information call 877-5768 or 877-1240.

Seniors swim

On Sunday evenings at the Acton Indoor Pool from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. seniors can come out for a swim and sauna. At the Georgetown Indoor Pool seniors can swim on Friday evenings from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Admission is 55 cents for seniors.

You can volunteer

Do you possess a special skill? Would you like to develop new skills? Why not consider volunteering? Why not consider expanding your knowledge and gaining experience by becoming a volunteer. Call Anna at 577-3219, and talk about what interests you have.

Change a generation

Looking for a way to influence the next generation? Why not consider foster care. Foster parents are needed in your community. For more information on how to become involved, please call the Foster Care Department at the Halton Children's Aid Society, at 844-8211 or 878-2375.

Golden Age bazaar

The Golden Triangle Senior's Club are holding a Christmas bazaar and bake sale Nov. 21 starting at 12 noon. The location for the bazaar is St. # United Church, 89 Mount-

ainview Road South. There will be a bake table, crafts, white elephant, jewellery, fish pond, bingo and a tea room, along with lucky draws.

Free skating Friday

Nov. 15 there will be free skating in Acton and Georgetown. The Acton Arena Public Skate will be from 2:30 to 3:50 p.m. This opportunity has been made possible by the Acton Rotary Club. The Georgetown Skate is at the

Memorial Arena from 1 to 2:20 p.m. This opportunity has been made possible by the Optimist Club of Georgetown. Take advantage and enjoy this free skate.

Teen swim

The Acton and Georgetown Indoor Pools are now offering a swim just for teens. Acton Pool - Thursday evenings 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. The Georgetown's Teen Swim is on Friday evenings 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. Admission 80 cents.

\$35,000 to keep one person in jail for a year.

The solicitor general cited the crime stoppers and neighborhood watch programs as good examples of



4-H ACHIEVERS

A number of youngsters were honored recently at a 4-H awards ceremony in Acton. In the front row, Lynette Balanyk of Georgetown won a calf club award while Brian Deenik of Norval won a senior dairy calf club award. In the back row, Stephanie Fitzsimmons of Acton won six home-making club badges while Scott Brander, of Georgetown, won a calf club award.

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Drug use declines

Drug use is declining. The Halton Region Centre of the Addiction Research Foundation (ARF) reveals there is a downward shift in drug use among Ontario students in 1985.

An ARF study found that students interviewed reported a decline in the use of six drugs (glue, solvents, non-medical barbiturates, medical and non-medical tranquilizers and other hallucinogens).

Halton Region Centre staff say it is too early to specifically determine the reasons for the decline. "It seems fair to recognize the considerable education and health promotion efforts which have occurred in the Halton Region since 1983," staff sources say.

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