

Policing costs more in '88

By BRIAN MacLEOD
Herald Staff

It's going to cost almost \$25 million to pay for policing in Halton in 1988.

For taxpayers that means the 9.5 per cent increase over last year's budget will cost an extra \$14 each bringing the total to just under \$257 a household.

The police budget increase of \$2,122,000 will bump the Region's total budget another two tenths of a percentage point to 4.8 per cent.

The police budget accounts for half of every dollar raised by Regional taxes.

The big increase will pay for over \$639,000 in new programs this year, according to Regional Commissioner of Finance Joe Rinaldo.

The lion's share of the program changes is additional staff. Halton police will add 14 officers and three civilians to the force this year.

District One in Georgetown will get one more constable, one more investigator and an additional clerk.

The rest of the additional staff will be based in Oakville and Burlington.

Halton Police Chief James Harding said policing in Halton is at a "crossroads" and underfunding now would have serious consequences.

"There is... a very grave concern... we might, because of a lack of human resource, be compelled to choose a path to the future which is the least beneficial to the citizens of Halton," he said in a report to the Police Commission.

The crime rate in Halton is growing faster than the rate of population which taxes the police force's resources, said Chief Harding.

Until recently, Halton police was devoting 50 per cent of its patrol resources to "preventative and proactive strategies," said Chief Harding.

The increased demands on the police force has reduced the amount of resources the police can devote to proactive policing, he said.

He blamed the increased crime rate on the police force's inability to

keep up the proactive policing program.

"It is my submission that this is too high a price for a community to pay to satisfy the need to respond to calls for service in a more timely fashion," said Chief Harding.

At Regional council March 9, the process of setting up the police budget, rather than the budget itself, came under scrutiny from Oakville Councillor Kevin Flynn.

The police budget is discussed behind closed doors by the police commission and it is only made public at the political level. Citing open budget meetings held by the Region, Coun. Flynn asked why the police holds its budget meetings "in camera"?

Coun. Fred Oliver, who sits on the commission, said the budget meetings have traditionally been held behind closed doors since the commission was created in 1963.

"I would not accept that tradition is reason (for discussing the budget in camera)," replied Coun. Flynn.

The 9.5 per cent increase is the largest increase in the police budget since 1982 when it jumped more than 18 per cent.

Since 1975, the police commission budget has quadrupled from just over \$6,318,000.

New minister joins St. George's Anglican

St. George's Anglican Church welcomes its new rector and his family. The Reverend Thomas M.S. Kingston began his ministry in Georgetown Feb. 15.

The Reverend Kingston is a native of Chatham, Ontario, and received his university education at the University of Western Ontario in Arts and Huron College in Theological Studies. In 1964, he was ordained by the Bishop of Montreal and served in that diocese as curate of St. Matthias, Westmount, and later as Associate Rector of St. Barnabas, Pierrefonds, Quebec, and then as rector of St. Jean-Iberville.

He also served as Director of Epiphany House which is the Montreal Diocesan Conference Centre. In 1973, he accepted the position of Consultant in Family Ministries at the National Office of the Anglican Church in Toronto, and he has served in that capacity since that date.

Linn and Tom Kingston have three children: Michael, Jennifer and Timothy, who are 21, 19 and 12 years old, respectively. The Kingston family looks forward to taking an active part in this community.

The former minister, Rev. Jim Boyles, has moved to Calgary and has taken an administrative position with the Anglican Church of Canada.

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Rev. Thomas Kingston

The Rev. Kingston has had extensive educational work in spiritual care and counselling, family enrichment, marriage ministry and preparation, and in human rights. In all of these areas, and others, he has accumulated many skills and has also through his years in Church House Toronto, kept in close contact with parish life and ministry.

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