

Program tries to break the "circle"

SALT gets shaking in Halton



Salvation Army Captain William King and Literacy Training Program Co-ordinator Victoria Hamill flip through the books used for teaching illiterate offenders in a Halton project that began June 1.

SALT is shaking in Georgetown as the Salvation Army Literacy Training program gets underway.

The program, sponsored by the Ministry of Correctional Services, is designed to teach reading and writing skills to individuals on parole or probation.

"This is a 10-month pilot operation. If things are productive, it will be an ongoing program," said Captain William King of the Milton Salvation Army.

Volunteers will be chosen from the Georgetown, Acton, Milton, Oakville and Burlington areas to work with illiterate clients, and will undergo a two-day training session. Their credentials must include an excellent grasp of the English language, said SALT program co-ordinator Victoria Hamill.

Steps are taken against illiteracy in the judicial system, said Mrs. Hamill, because "we feel there is a connection between crime and illiteracy."

One of the main goals, added Mrs. Hamill, is to stop the "circle" created by crime and ignorance.

"Many of (the people) committing crimes have nothing else. They have no education," said Capt. King. "Most of them couldn't pick up an application, to do school through correspondence," said Mrs. Hamill.

The Salvation Army hopes the literacy program will break the "no-win" crime cycle, help individuals accept community resources, and build self-esteem in its students, hence making the client more employable. It is also designed to provide for the client independent living skills for the client, including how to write cheques, read maps,

decipher manuals and read government documents, said Mrs. Hamill.

The program officially began June 1, but forms have just recently arrived at probation and parole offices, said Mrs. Hamill. She added that volunteers are not yet trained in the Lanbath Method, a teaching system adopted by the SALT program.

But things look promising, said Capt. King. "People do want to help. I believe there will be support from the community," he said.

The SALT program was initiated following a 10-week study conducted by the Ontario government determining the need for literacy training in the correctional system.

"Forty per cent of all offenders are considered to be illiterate," said Mrs. Hamill. This compares to Canada's average, which is one in five Canadians, or 20 per cent, she added.

People from North Halton interested in finding out more about the program and how they can help, can call Victoria Hamill at 876-4783, or can watch for the Salvation Army display at Milton Mall, Aug. 27.

Fire calls

Fire officials rescued a man trapped in an elevator Sunday afternoon around 4:30 p.m. Officials removed the elevator door at 200 Churchill Rd. S., Acton, to find the person unharmed.

Fire officials received a report of a garbage truck on fire, Aug. 11 at 9:45 a.m. When they arrived on the scene, the blaze was out.

Town will have no say in positioning of new super mailboxes

When super mailboxes come to Georgetown the town will have no say as to where they will be placed.

Town Engineer Bob Austin said in a report to council recently that Burlington and Oakville sought legal opinions on the placing of the super mailboxes and the advice was simply to co-operate with Canada Post or the town will be left out in the cold.

"A municipality has no effective legal remedy if Canada Post chooses to place the community mailboxes on the city's road allowances," said Mr. Austin.

Anyone who interferes with the mailboxes faces a jail term of up to five years, he said.

Canada Post doesn't even have to listen to the municipality about placement of the mailboxes, he said.

Nor does Canada Post have to provide appropriate fencing or screening of the sites, provide litter containers or even clean the snow off the ground near the mailboxes, said Mr. Austin.

There are two types of mailboxes in use.



One is a common local mailbox mounted on concrete pads at a location with a maximum distance of 600 feet (180 metres) from the home.

The other is a kiosk type which requires eight parking spots. The kiosk is more suitable for plazas, said Mr. Austin.

Canada Post intends to strictly use the common local mailboxes in new Georgetown subdivisions, said Mr. Austin.

However, the kiosk concept may be advantageous in some situations and town staff are actively working with Canada Post to discuss the super mailboxes, he said.

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Hunting-related complaints drop off

Efforts to make hunting in Halton's 14 agreement forests safer, appear to be working.

The Ministry of Natural Resources reports that hunting-related complaints in Halton's forests have dropped by 85 per cent over the previous year.

Statistics show that between April, 1987 and March, 1988 the ministry received only three hunting-related complaints. In comparison, 20 complaints were received in the same time period the previous year.

Complaints involving animal nuisance were also down by 29 per cent but there has been a drastic increase in complaints involving fishing in Halton's forests. Angling-related complaints increased by a whopping 214 per cent, from just seven complaints during the previous time period to 22 for the 1987-88 time frame, the MNR reports.

Total complaints, about undesirable activity in Halton's agreement forests were down by seven per cent.

Of the three hunting-related complaints identified by the MNR this year only one involved illegal hunting and trespassing on Halton's agreement forests property, said Rash Mohammed, Halton Commissioner of Public Works.

Hunting has been a controversial issue in Halton since the Region imposed a total ban on discharging firearms in the agreement forests in October of 1985.

Halton then sponsored a task force headed up by Regional Councillor Pam Sheldon in response to opposition from hunters in the area.

The task force made 37 recommendations to the Region including keeping a total ban on hunting in the forest near Hornby known as the Coulson Tract.

The total ban on hunting on the rest of Halton's forests was lifted in October of 1986 in time for that year's hunt.

Mr. Mohammed attributes the decrease in hunting-related complaints this year to stepped-up patrols and the publicity surrounding the issue.

"In the past two years, increased public awareness, enforcement of hunting regulations and increased liaison between the MNR and the police has helped reduce the occurrence of complaints associated with hunting and the discharge of firearms in Halton," said Mr. Mohammed.

Coun. Sheldon said part of that enforcement has included a mounted officer of the Halton Regional Police patrolling the area.

"People in the area feel a little bit more secure... although there are some people who will never feel

secure when there's hunting (nearby)," said Coun. Sheldon.

The task force also recommended making blaze orange jackets mandatory for hunters in Halton's agreement forests.

That restriction is part of a bill now before the province but it has not yet been passed, said Mr. Mohammed.

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Statistics show . . .

Deer population on the rise

The deer population in Halton appears to be rising, despite the annual hunt that saw over 100 deer killed last year, the Ministry of Natural Resources says.

The number of deer either shot or killed by archers was up by seven per cent over 1986 but "the deer population is at least maintaining itself and it is quite probable that the deer population is still increasing", a report by the MNR to Halton Region says.

Halton uses data from Regional and OPP traffic reports to monitor deer deaths on roads throughout the Region and the number of deer killed on the roads is a good indication of rising or declining deer population, Halton's commissioner of planning and development, Rash Mohammed says.

Last year 75 deer were reported killed on Halton's roads, and 23 were killed on Halton Hills roads alone.

That figure is up from 69 killed in vehicle accidents in 1986, Mr. Mohammed reported.

Any rise in the deer population is bad news for Halton farmers because deer were responsible for 44 per cent of the total crop damage by wildlife in the Region last year, according to a survey by the Halton Federation of Agriculture.

The survey, which was answered by 31 per cent of Halton's farmers

representing 61 per cent of the croppable land, showed that deer caused \$93,000 damage to 332 acres of farmland in Halton last year.

Wildlife activity was blamed for causing almost \$210,000 damage to Halton field crops in 1987, the survey says.

Orchards and nursery stock suffered almost \$40,000 damage and deer are blamed for more than

\$23,000 of the damage, the survey says.

Trespassers caused \$40,000 damage to farmland in Halton last year.

Most of those figures are up from a similar survey conducted for 1986 but HFA cautioned against drawing comparisons because only three per cent of Halton's farmers responded to the survey covering 1986.

"While total acreage and total dollar value damage cannot be suitably compared due to the significant difference in the 1986 and 1987 survey response rates, the percentage of damages to field crops caused by deer appears to be increasing and this had led to increasing concern from Halton's agricultural community," Mr. Mohammed said in his report.

Season dates confirmed

The Ministry of Natural Resources has set aside four days for deer hunting with firearms and two sets of three-week periods for archery hunting in Halton Agreement forests this year.

Firearm hunting will be allowed from Nov. 7 to 10 inclusive and archery hunting will be permitted from Oct. 15 to Nov. 6 and from Dec. 11 to Dec. 31 inclusive.

Last year a total of 451 hunters shot 111 deer and 90 deer were killed by archers.

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Proposals now being accepted

The Halton Access to Permanent Housing Committee is now accepting proposals from agencies/community groups interested in helping the homeless obtain housing. Proposals will be evaluated on the following criteria: creation of additional units, public education/awareness component, provision of support services when necessary, regional in scope, and broadest possible target group to be served. Deadline for submissions is Sept. 15, 1988. Funding is for 1989. Further details can be obtained from: The Chairperson, Halton Access to Permanent Housing Committee, c/o Halton Social Planning Council, Ste. 411 - 760 Brant Street, Burlington, Ontario L7R 4B7.

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