

### Items missing

Halton Regional Police say an unknown burglar removed over \$300 in household goods from a John Street, Georgetown home sometime between Dec. 17 and Jan. 7. Police say the burglars gained entry into the home through a rear door into the kitchen. Missing are a 21-in. Panasonic television valued at \$150, a wall clock valued at \$25, and a painting of undetermined value. Damage to the door lock was \$25.

### Man charged

A Warton man was charged with possession of narcotics after he was pulled over for a traffic violation at Church and Main Streets in Georgetown Friday afternoon. Police say the man, 23, allegedly had a small quantity of marijuana. He will appear in court Feb. 13.

### Impaired charge

An Acton man was charged with impaired driving following a motor vehicle accident early Saturday morning. Police say the man, 24, will appear in court Feb. 6 on charges connected with a Church Street collision.

### Severe damage

Halton Regional Police say a 1988 Plymouth van was severely damaged after striking a tree as a result of "extremely high winds" Sunday morning. The van was northbound on Fifth Line near Sideroad 5 when it went out of control due to high winds and an icy roadway, hit a tree, and turned to face southbound traffic. There were no injuries and police say they will not lay charges.

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### Cars collide

Icy roads topped with a blanket of snow caused two cars to collide on 10th Line Sunday afternoon, say police. A 1986 Hyundai driven by a Georgetown woman, 23, struck a 1983 Mazda that was disabled at the roadside. Police say the Hyundai pulled out of a private driveway and attempted to brake to avoid hitting the Mazda. The Hyundai was moderately damaged, and the Mazda, driven by a Georgetown woman, 18, was lightly damaged. Police report no injuries in the accident and no charges being laid.

### Single-vehicle mishap

A car driven by a Mississauga man struck two poles in a single-vehicle accident near Norval Sunday night. Police say a 1982 GMC, northbound on Winston Churchill Boulevard near Sideroad 10 lost control on the icy road and struck a fence pole and a hydro pole. Police have not laid charges and report no injuries in the accident.

### No injuries

A Georgetown man is charged with making an improper lane change after two cars collided on Guelph Street near Maple Avenue Thursday night. Police say a 1985 Toyota driven by an Erin woman, 16, was struck by a 1985 Chevrolet driven by a Georgetown man, 42, while the Chevrolet was making a lane change. Police report no injuries.

### Driverless car

A car parked in the Northview Centre on Guelph Street was moderately damaged after it "popped into gear" and struck another car Thursday afternoon. Police say the 1983 Chevrolet went into reverse, and struck a 1985 Pontiac Firebird, causing severe damage. The Chevrolet then went over a curb, struck a snow bank and went over several bushes and a stop sign. No charges were laid because the vehicle was on private property, say police.

## Hundreds of animals lost in fire

A Steeles Avenue barn fire killed over 800 animals and caused over \$500,000 damage Saturday afternoon.

Fire officials from both Milton and Halton Hills responded to the 3:20 p.m. blaze that charred a 125-year-old barn killing the animals inside, at a six-acre livestock farm on Steeles Avenue West, near the James Snow Parkway.

Farm owner Umberto Giangrande said the fire killed 700 to 1,000 chickens, 75 lambs and goats, an undetermined number of rabbits, three horses and one cow. He said the animals were valued somewhere between \$9,000 and \$15,000.

Mr. Giangrande said it was the one day he didn't check the barn.

"I was in the (meat) shop, and it was the first day I didn't go into the barn because I had no time."

The Giangrandes had finished with several customers when they went into their house, where Mr. Giangrande said he heard "some kind of noise."

He left the house, looked toward the barn and saw his wife Alba "with her arms raised in the air, screaming like hell."

Thick smoke kept the Giangrandes from entering the barn to free the trapped animals. "There was so much smoke you couldn't breathe," said Mr. Giangrande. When fire officials arrived at the scene, they entered the door, and managed to free "about one-and-a-half dozen" animals, he said.

Mr. Giangrande said Monday he would consult with his insurance firm to see if his policy covers the over \$500,000 in estimated damages, but adds that the barn could not be replaced.

"Nobody could replace that kind of barn...it was very solid, and kept in very good, very clean condition," he said.

Mr. Giangrande said it was fortunate that his three-year-old granddaughter didn't visit the family Saturday afternoon. She usually goes into the barn, he said. "We were lucky she wasn't there that day, or she'd be dead."

Halton Regional Police are investigating the blaze, which is currently being considered accidental.

## Police concerned over fatality figures

Year end statistics for traffic fatalities have been filed from Halton Regional Police, and North Halton with a smaller population than its southern counterparts accounted for 10 of the 22 road deaths in the Region for 1988.

North Halton had more traffic fatalities than the more densely populated cities of Burlington which recorded nine, and Oakville, which had three.

North Halton, which includes Georgetown, Acton and Milton, is a largely rural area, says Staff Sergeant Roy Smith of the Halton Regional Police.

"In the north end there are a tremendous amount of rural areas... the chances for a serious accident or fatality are greater," he said. Staff Sgt. Smith pointed to accidents at 10th Line and Sideroad 17, Tremaine Road in Milton where a gravel truck hit two people in a car, and the Britannia Road and First Line areas.

Speed limits posted in rural areas are higher, says Staff Sgt. Smith. And in a zone posted 80 kilometres per hour, people often travel 10 to 15 km-h in excess of the speed limit.

When cars impact, they undergo "a tremendous amount of velocity," he said.

And there is less lighting on rural roads, causing a "visibility" problem, he added.

Staff Sgt. Smith pointed to trends noted in the year's fatal accidents. Four of the 22 vehicles were five-

litre Ford Mustangs, he said. The provincial Ministry of Transportation and Communication receives copies of all police accident reports. They record trends and make recommendations, said Staff Sgt. Smith.

Of the 22 fatal accidents that killed 23 people, 15 were drivers, seven were passengers and one was a pedestrian in Burlington.

And 95 per cent of traffic fatalities in the Region last year involved male drivers. The only female driver in the 22 accidents was involved in a single-car collision Dec. 28 in Milton.

Bad weather contributes to many accidents, said Staff Sgt. Smith, who added that most of the Region's fatal accidents took place in the second half of 1988.

Before August, there were eight fatal accidents recorded in Halton. There were three in August, four in September, four in October, one in November, and two in December.

Staff Sgt. Smith said he is "disappointed" by the number of

deaths on the roads this year, and by the high percentage of alcohol-related deaths, which total 50 per cent of all fatal accidents in 1988.

Figures from 1987 were lower. In 14 fatal accidents that killed 15 people, only 36 per cent were alcohol-related. "There's been quite a substantial increase from last year to this year," said Sgt. David Pruitt, a Communications officer at Halton Regional Police headquarters in Oakville.

But he added figures improved from 1984 and 1985 where 63 per cent of traffic deaths were alcohol-related. Figures from 1986 included fewer fatal accidents - 15 with 16 people killed - but had the same percentage of alcohol-related traffic deaths at 50 per cent.

Halton Regional Police will continue to take an active role in preventing impaired driving through their year-long RIDE program, said Staff Sgt. Smith.

"With the acquisition of the new RIDE van, we've enhanced our spot check program," he said.

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