

Police pleased with RIDE statistics

By DONNA KELL
Herald Staff

Although Halton Regional Police stopped thousands more vehicles at RIDE spot checks in 1988 than in 1987, police statistics released last week show fewer arrests made, and fewer charges laid in 1988.

RIDE (Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere), a program started in 1985 in Halton to combat drinking and driving, stopped 48,662 vehicles in 1988 compared to 41,852 vehicles in 1987.

But despite the increase police say only 105 arrests were made in 1988, compared to 162 in 1987. This indicates a drop of 35 per cent.

In 1988, 53 impaired driving charges were laid by Halton police as a result of RIDE spot checks. Of 64 suspected impaired drivers, 48 were charged with impaired driving and 53 with having over 80 mg of alcohol per 100 ml blood. Nine refused the breathalyzer test, resulting in impaired driving-related charges, says Sgt. David Pruitt of Halton Regional Police.

There were also fewer charges

under the Highway Traffic Act, an Act which includes such offences as driving with a burned-out headlamp, without seatbelts or driving over the speed limit. In 1987, 2,308 Highway Traffic Act charges were laid. In 1988, the figure dropped to 1,324, almost half that number of charges. But the emphasis now for RIDE is not Highway Traffic offences but impaired driving, said former traffic division Constable Blair Vintinner. "I would say to someone, Merry Christmas, you have a burned-out headlight." Constable Vintinner said RIDE is more concerned with cutting down the number of impaired drivers than charging drivers for minor violations.

Police issued fewer warnings to drivers in 1988 than in 1987. The number of warnings dropped 27 per cent to 3,256 last year, from 4,476 in 1987.

Of the over 48,000 vehicles stopped by RIDE in 1988, 135 were charged with various offences, many of which were under the Liquor License Act, said Sgt. Pruitt. Some people were arrested for consuming alcohol in the car, he said.

Police gave 434 suspected im-

paired drivers the ALERT (Alcohol Level Evaluation Road Tester) in 1988. Of those tested, 339 blew a Pass, which means they could continue driving, 76 blew a Warn, which meant they received 12-hour driving suspensions, and 15 failed and were charged with impaired driving. The four drivers who refused to take the ALERT

test were charged with refusing to provide a breath sample.

But even though Halton police are pleased with statistics indicating a drop in impaired driving charges and Highway Traffic Act infringements, there were more alcohol-related traffic fatalities in Halton in 1988 than in 1987, said Staff Sgt. Roy Smith.

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CANADIAN FORUM

The world is losing

Dear Sir,
Doreen Henschel states that greed is behind the destruction of many of our trees, as what happened behind Joycelyn Crescent.

In Brazil, greed is also the major factor in the devastation of the rainforests, which provide the world with a great deal of our oxygen, help maintain ecological balance, stabilize our climate, and assure food and livelihood for the indigenous people of the area.

Once the land is cleared and farmed, it is only fertile for three to five years. The cutting, slashing and burning of thousands of acres each and every day, adds approximately one-third of our dioxides into the air, further damaging the ozone layer.

Recently, an award-winning defender of the rainforests was murdered after six attempts on his life.

Is this the direction we are heading..

Pat Woode

A new year, but same fight

Dear Sir,

The year 1988 is gone forever - I wish the same could be said for Reclamation Systems Inc.'s proposal to dump 20 million tons of garbage on the escarpment above Georgetown. (But) 1989 is here, and so is that wonderful proposal.

Don't be fooled by Reclamation Systems Inc.'s presentations. Gigantic garbage dumps take away from the enjoyment of the community. Just ask any citizens' group that is facing expansion of an existing mega-dump.

Citizens of Halton Hills, keep the pressure on for a dump-free escarpment. Our water quality depends on us.

Yours truly,
David Noble

Suspects sought

Halton Regional Police are searching for three suspects who damaged a car parked in a Guelph Street restaurant parking lot and then fled the scene.

Police say three men jumped on w 1982 Honda. One threw a beer bottle or can at the vehicle, and another punched the window, shattering the glass. About \$250 damage was caused in the incident. Police describe the suspects as three males, in their late teens or early twenties. One suspect has red hair and freckles, is about five feet nine inches tall and 165 pounds. A second suspect is six feet one inch, 185 pounds with "wiry" black hair. He was wearing glasses and a ski jacket. A third suspect is five feet 11 inches, 170 pounds, with blond hair. Police are continuing to investigate.

PHOTO REPRINTS

Available at The Herald Office in either 8"x10" or 5"x7" Sizes.

the HERALD

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45 Guelph St., Georgetown - 877-2201

Police investigate links in recent burglaries

Halton Regional Police say two burglaries in the Halton Hills area last week could be connected.

Some \$5,000 in jewellery and cash was taken from a Sideroad 15-Sixth Line area home sometime during the day, January 6. Items of yellow-gold, rhinestone and pearl, a man's gold watch and a stereo, as well as, \$400 in cash were missing from the residence.

Police say no one was at home when the unknown suspect entered

through the basement window.

An early evening break-in at a Lot 22, Con. 5 home resulted in the theft of \$2,000 cash and several pieces of jewellery, police say. Four watches and tie clips were missing. The value of items taken was \$2,300. Police say the home was entered through a sliding window in the basement, where the screen was cut and the lock broken.

Police continue to investigate the burglaries.

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SILVER CREEK TRUNK SEWER STUDY

PR-1119

PUBLIC COMMENT NOW BEING ACCEPTED

As a requirement under Ontario's Environmental Assessment Act, the Regional Municipality of Halton hereby notifies all interested individuals and parties that the Region of Halton is conducting a preliminary investigation to assess the need for additional sanitary sewage works in the Silver Creek Valley between Mountainview Road and Main Street in Georgetown.

The purpose of the Silver Creek Trunk Sewer Study is to assess the impact of the new sanitary sewerage works through the Silver Creek Valley and to accommodate the additional growth within the Town of Halton Hills (Georgetown).

A public information session will be held from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 12, 1989 in the Committee Room at the Town of Halton Hills Municipal Offices on Trafalgar Road regarding the above mentioned project to be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Class Environmental Assessment for Municipal Water and Sewage Projects.

For further information contact the following:

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