

# Police keeps things well under control

Police are really good guys. Not that this is a revelation or anything, I always thought so. The boys and girls in blue can assess people pretty well, but always seem to give the benefit of the doubt.



**Kell's Korner**

Donna Kell  
Herald Staff

A friend described to me the experience of having the car stopped at the roadside. He and his two buddies were out for a late-night binge that continued into an all-night adventure. They were pulled over in the early a.m. by a cruiser.

These guys didn't smell too wonderful. In fact, the air was probably filled with the lavish scent of eau d'Ex or Canadian, (should I also mention some Carling brand...) as the doors opened to their car.

Picture yourself being a lone officer, doing his duty in in-

vestigating a suspicious driver, discovering the smell of alcohol, and then, lo and behold, seeing all three occupants jump out of the car.

I would have my weapon ready, if I were that cop.

But my friend failed to understand why the officer was perhaps a bit tense, maybe a touch too harsh in the way he spoke to the three men.

During one of my weekly visits to

Georgetown's local police station, I heard a guy from a southern state storm into the precinct and demand his licence back. Apparently a police officer had taken the licence from this American driver, keeping the "poor" guy from heading back to the sunny south.

I thought to myself, "how awful of the police officer, to treat a visitor that way." But that was one side of the story.

What the American failed to mention was that he had tampered with his licence, a government document, by changing the address himself.

And to go a step further, he asked the officer who pulled him over what the ... he wanted. The officer maintained his cool, he says, and issued the man a ticket for not having a proper licence. "I could have

thrown the book at him," said my police officer friend, who had to take that verbal abuse from some 20-year-old guy.

Halton Regional Police, and for that matter Peel Regional Police, who I've also had extensive contact with (but not for legal reasons, honest) are a decent bunch of people.

I stood in minus-15 weather with police officers before Christmas as they conducted the RIDE program on Guelph Street. They were often smiling and wishing people Merry Christmas as they peeked their heads into the driver's seat. They're not out for blood, they're out to prevent crime.

And while this sounds perhaps too trite, too optimistic, you really have to talk to these men and women. Many of those I've met have an obvious concern for the

welfare of human beings. If that means treating a little roughly an assault suspect or someone who has just bitten a police officer (it happened in Georgetown where a feisty female police officer was bitten by a suspect), a little roughly, let it happen.

Police don't use force for the sake of using force. They're trying to enforce laws made by you and me to protect ourselves and our families.

Sometimes they make minor mistakes, but it's not for lack of effort. And it certainly isn't because they don't care.

## Acton residents respond for ambulance service

Acton residents have responded well to calls for help from Halton Hills Volunteer Ambulance President Doug McLeod.

Following an information meeting at Acton High School in January, 18 people signed up to join the ambulance service, Mr. McLeod says.

Of those 18 people, 14 applications were accepted and have already started training.

The call for help from Mr. McLeod came late last year. The Acton ambulance station had been in operation six months, located behind Becker's at the corner of Churchill Road and Highway 7, but only eight people from Acton were working out of the station.

Georgetown volunteers were coming into Acton and working out of the station to keep it operating.

However, the Georgetown volunteers weren't happy because it meant they would have to spend the whole shift at the station. When they work in Georgetown, they can remain at home with the use of a pager if they live reasonably close

to the station.

The Acton station is manned from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. Monday to Thursday, and weekends from 6 p.m. Friday to 6 a.m. Monday.

Without new volunteers from Acton, the Acton station's working hours would have had to be cut back and Acton would once again have been covered from

Georgetown much of the time, said Mr. McLeod.

However, even with the 14 new applicants, the Acton service is "only halfway there," said Mr. McLeod.

Mr. McLeod expects to start up another membership drive in May.

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