



Chamber of Commerce member Barry Dunlop and Murt Allison of Acton were two representatives from Halton Hills who received police awards for their work with the Crime Stoppers program. The 16th annual Halton Regional Police Awards were held at Holy Cross School in Georgetown Wednesday night. (Herald photo)



Police Week hit all areas of Halton Hills. The Optimist Club of Georgetown awarded citizens and police for bravery beyond the call of duty at a ceremony last week. Back row, left to right are Optimist president Peter Welling, Halton Regional

Police Deputy Chief John Barrett, Allan Donaldson and Bob DeCoste. Front row, from the left are Greta Spalding, Constable Susan Delaney and Isabel Brown. (Herald photo)



Three members of the 11-person auxiliary police force of the Halton Regional Police were sworn in at Holy Cross School in Georgetown Wednesday. The Halton police held their 16th annual award at the school, where media awards were also presented. Left to right are Georgetown officers Sgt. Jim James, Constable Colleen Lane and Constable John Tatham. (Herald photo)

Police Week In Halton Hills

"We're seeing more break and entries and robberies and assaults (now) than when I joined the force," said Det. Robertson.

But he is optimistic the village constable will help bring Halton police back where they were when small forces walked the police beat.

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Police Week means . . .

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to the very "visible" presence of the village constable.

"I can't go out for a half hour without someone coming up to me and asking for directions or talking about a traffic problem in front of their store," he said, adding that some people even stop to talk about the Blue Jays.

The village constable responds to minor calls and pays special attention to crime prevention. Crime prevention is being promoted by all the provinces' police forces.

Walking a "beat" means the constable gets to know the local business people. Communication with them can help reduce the risk of crime.

Both Constable Masson and Acton Village Constable Bill Riddick have established a business watch-phase-out system to alert store owners of potential thieves in the area, said Constable Masson. One business would call another until the entire community is informed of potential theft.

Police also pursue crime prevention through seminars on shoplifting and by supplying information on liquor licencing laws, Constable Masson said.

Det. Robertson said the only difference between the village constable of today and the regular officer of 30 years ago is that the village constable deals only with non-emergencies while the regular constable dealt with all police work, from a bicycle theft to an assault.

Before Halton came under the jurisdiction of a Regional government in 1974, Georgetown, Acton and Milton had their own police forces, usually one-man operations, said Det. Robertson. Then, police were obliged to know their community.

But as areas expanded, so did the number of phone calls and the need for a larger police force. "To keep up with the increasing number of calls we had to take the officers off the street and put them

into cruisers," Det. Robertson said.

And as time progressed, police officers found they were losing touch with people, something Det. Robertson said the force can't afford to have happen.

"We need the public as much as they need us," he said.

Although Halton police have turned back the clock in one way, in other ways growth has meant an increase in crimes and in the seriousness of crimes.

Garden Gate News

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