

# Police crackdown has saved lives on Halton's rural roads

By BEN DUMMETT  
the Herald

A recent two-month police crackdown on speeders has helped save lives, says Sergeant Ken Bonham of the Halton Regional Traffic Bureau.

There were only three fatalities on Halton roads during the months of September and October compared to eight last year during the same period. Sgt. Bonham attributes the decrease partly to the Rural Traffic Task Force that has shown "no mercy" to motorists caught speeding during the past two months.

"I think the high visibility of the task force forced drivers to slow down and drive more cautiously," said Sgt. Bonham.

The task force, which consisted of two officers from each of the four districts and two officers from the Regional Traffic Bureau, was formed after a study Sgt. Bonham conducted this summer, that showed speeding was a major reason for the 116 per cent increase in fatalities in Halton Region this year from January to July over last year during the same period. There were six fatalities during the first six months of 1988 and 15 during the same period this year.

"We were heading for big time troubles," Sgt. Bonham said.

He said the task force laid 3,084 traffic charges of which 2,642 were for speeding. None of the tickets handed out were for speeding under 15 km per hour and about 99 per cent were for speeding 20 km per hour or more over the speed limit. An example of some of the speeding tickets handed out in Halton Hills are as follows:

In the 80 kilometre speed zone people were ticketed travelling at 115 km per hour, 122 km per hour, 119 km per hour, 117 km per hour and 114 km per hour.

The task force concentrated its efforts on the rural roads north of Highway 5 in the 80 kilometre per hour speed zones. Sgt. Bonham explained the study showed almost 85 per cent of this year's speeding-related fatalities occurred north of Highway 5 and over 69 per cent happened in the 80 kilometre per hour speed zone.

Sgt. Bonham attributes the increase in speeding violations to the tremendous increase in traffic in the Region over the past few years. As more people move into the area and commute to work, traffic jams are increasing so more and more people are using the rural roads instead of the major highways to make up time, he said. The traffic flow on roads north of Highway 5 are up 40 per cent over the last two years, Sgt. Bonham said.

For example, motorists in Halton Hills are "whipping down either the Eighth Line, Ninth Line or Winston Churchill Boulevard instead of using the 403 and 407 highways," he said.

But motorists forget "on the rural road there is only six inch line that prevents the possibility of an entire family being wiped out."

Sgt. Bonham called the current speeding problem "horrendous" and he said much to his surprise that some motorists go to great lengths to speed.

The task force seized over 200 radar detectors, Sgt. Bonham said. And of this total only 32 belonged to people who had never had a speeding violation. But surprisingly only three belonged to drivers under 20, he said. Drivers between the age of 20 and 50 made up the majority of radar owners.

Sgt. Bonham recounted one incident in which police seized two detectors from one car. "The fellow had his good one embedded in the head rest. It's incredible

what people will do to violate the speed limit."

Besides handing out tickets for speeding and radar violations, the task force also laid 304 charges for seat belt offences. This total is part of the 1,186 seat belt tickets handed out by the entire force during October which was seat belt month.

Sgt. Bonham said his study revealed of the 13 fatalities occurring between January and July, seven people were thrown from their cars.

Sgt. Bonham said a mother who is holding her baby in a car travelling at 30 km per hour would have to have the strength to carry 450 lbs. in order to prevent her child from slamming in to the dashboard, if a collision occurred.

"You will always get some people who will tell you they know someone whose life was saved because the person wasn't wearing a seat belt but that is the exception rather than the rule. I'd rather take my chances wearing a seat belt anytime," Sgt. Bonham said.

## Annual dinner

Norval Presbyterian Church will have its annual turkey dinner on Friday, Nov. 10 at 5 p.m., 6:15 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

For tickets call 451-2522.

Adults are \$8, children under 12 years old are \$4 and preschoolers are free.

## Church bazaar

Norval United Church will hold a bazaar on Saturday, Nov. 11 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Lunch will be served including sandwiches or hot dogs. Crafts, a bake table, treasures and things will be featured.

## Remembrance services

There are three Remembrance Day parades scheduled in Halton Hills once again this year.

However, those who are used to attending parades in Acton and Georgetown will have to choose between them this year as both parades and ceremonies are scheduled for the same time.

The Acton parade will start at the post office at 10:30 a.m. and work its way

along to the Acton Cenotaph for a service at 11 a.m.

The Georgetown parade will start at 10:30 a.m. and work its way to the Georgetown Cenotaph at Remembrance Park for a service at 11 a.m.

A third parade will be held in Glen Williams at 2:30 p.m. beginning at Glen Williams Public School. A memorial service will be held at the Glen Williams Cenotaph at 3 p.m.

## Town ponders tax hike

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Georgetown Coun. Joe Hewitt said of the garbage disposal increase. But, this is "probably the most major issue in all of Ontario," he said, speaking of waste management.

The citizens group POWER (Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources) appeared before town council two months ago claiming the waste disposal crisis was "orchestrated."

Coun. Ann Currie said the price increases give Halton Hills a reason to support the Greater Toronto Area committee on waste management. The GTA was formed

earlier this year of five regional chairmen, including Peter Pomeroy from Halton, to find waste disposal solutions in the Metro Toronto Area.

Some of the major increases in the town's proposed budget include \$200,000 to fight a dumpsite proposed for the Acton quarry site near Limehouse, and \$100,000 to meet provincial pay equity demands. As part of its normal operations, the town budget proposes spending \$699,000 on operation of the new Halton Hills Civic Centre and continued costs relating to the building of the centre.

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