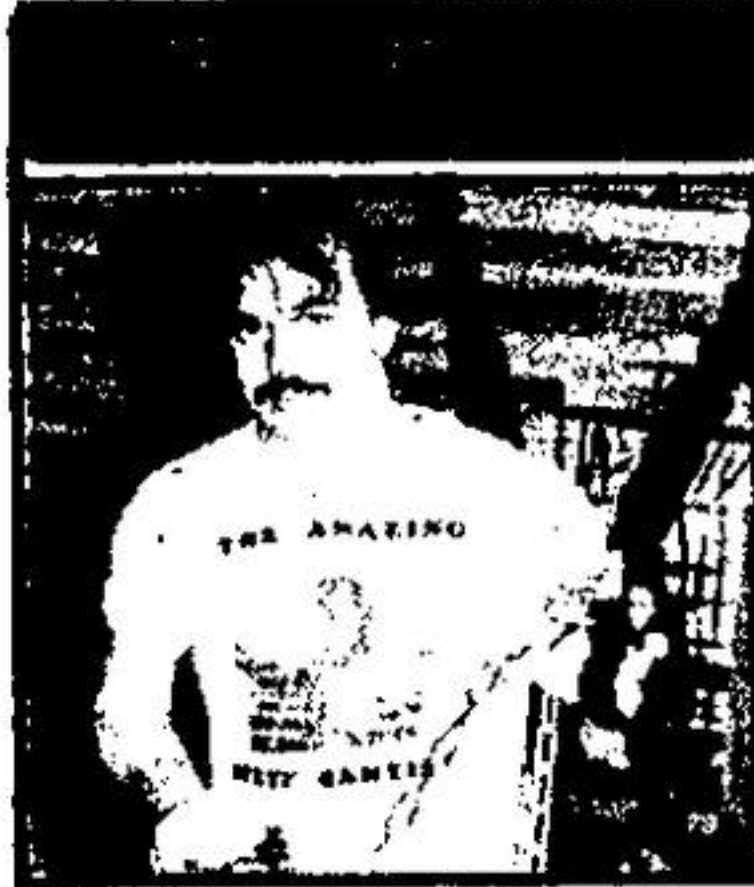


Residents team together to fight crime

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Illusionist Steve Santini gets out of a tight squeeze

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Oakville posts a 5-2 victory

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Councillor protests

Halton police want almost 15 per cent budget increase

By BEN DUMMETT
the Herald

An Oakville Regional Councillor is refusing to be held accountable for a proposed 1990 Halton police budget increase of almost 15 per cent that he believes isn't subject to public scrutiny.

Although the budget, which represents well over 50 per cent of Halton's tax-supported operating budget, still must be passed by Regional council, it's a budget Regional councillors can't "control," says John Graham.

If Regional council rejected the increase, Halton police could appeal the decision to the Ontario Police Commission. But Coun. Graham argues the OPC would never object to the increase

because earlier this year it recommended Halton police force hire 49 new staff members.

Halton's board of police commissioners approved the increase which calls for expenditures to jump from \$28 million last year to just over \$31.6 in 1990, last Thursday.

Halton Region's administrative and finance committee will discuss the reasons for the increase at its Feb. 14 meeting.

But the committee will also consider a recommendation put forth by Coun. Graham calling for the Region to have final say over police budget increases. He wants the Region to have final say over the budget instead of the OPC.

Based on the OPC recommendation for the need to hire more officers Halton board of police commissioners recommended that an additional 23 officers and 11 civilian personnel be hired in 1990. And Chief Harding says the force will have to hire more staff in future years. Staff requirements account for the majority of the force's expenses, he said.

The Chief couldn't give an exact number of how many more staff the force ultimately needed but he suggested the OPC figure of 49 could be a target.

The board approved the current hiring because of growth in population and the number of calls from the public to police in Halton, said Chief Harding.

The OPC recommendations which helped form the basis for the board's budget, say that the growth in population and police service calls means that the "(force's) ability to respond to calls to service are being stretched to an unsafe limit," he said.

Changes to provincial legislation also made the need to hire more



Ode to Robbie Burns

Piper Stewart White leads Haggis Bearer Max Jack to the head table at the Robbie Burns dinner and dance held Saturday at Georgetown's Royal Canadian Legion Branch 120, on Mill Street. The evening was hosted by the Legion's Ladies Auxiliary. Rev. Peter Barrow acted as master of ceremonies for the gala affair while Dr. A.E. Macintosh gave the ad-

dress to the Haggis. Those in attendance were entertained by the Georgetown Highland Dancers under the instruction of Susan McCarroll. The dancers included Katie Morris, Vikki-Lynn Brain, Erica Mason, Donna Downey, Darlene Downey and Adrienne Houston.

(Herald photo by Colin Gibson)

Phoney \$100 bills passed in town

Two \$100 counterfeit bills were passed almost within one hour of each other last week, Halton Regional Police say.

One bill was passed on Jan. 24 between 3 and 4 p.m. in a Guelph Street food store. Police say a brown-eyed slim black woman approximately six-foot tall, weighing 155 pounds came into the store and purchased just over \$12 worth of food. She paid with a \$100 bill. The bill was taken to a nearby bank where the victim was informed it was counterfeit, police reported.

At 3 p.m. on Jan. 24 a Guelph Street bakery was also passed a \$100 bill in payment for \$6 worth of pastry.

Police say they believe the recently passed counterfeit bills are being passed by the same group of people who have passed at least six bills in Oakville and some bills in both Burlington and Peel.

People who receive the fraudulent bills should protect the bills so police can look for fingerprints, police warn. Possible victims should also take note of the person passing the bill and if possible take down any vehicle's make and license plate number that may help to capture the culprits, police say.

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