

## Police Beat

### Building break-in

Halton Regional Police report someone broke into an Armstrong Avenue workshop in Georgetown sometime overnight Monday and attempted to steal three saws. According to the police report the culprit(s) left before stealing the saws because the person(s) was possibly scared off by a truck snow plowing the outside lot. The culprits pried open a padlock to enter the building, police say.

### Gas bar theft

Approximately \$800 was stolen from a Guelph Street gas bar in Georgetown Wednesday afternoon, police say. The money was stolen while the gas attendant was servicing a vehicle. Police have no suspects.

### Key rings stolen

Police report someone broke into a Main Street auto parts shop in Glen Williams overnight last Sunday and stole seven key rings to seven cars in the shop for repairs. The culprits entered through a sliding window at the rear of the building, police say. An investigation is ongoing.

### Minor injuries

A 24-year-old Georgetown man and a 46-year-old Terra Cotta woman were rushed to Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital and treated for minor injuries following a two-car collision at Sideroad 22 and the 10th Line in Halton Hills Tuesday afternoon, police say. A 1976 Chevrolet, driven by the Georgetown man, travelling east-bound on Sideroad 22 and a 1989 Toyota driven by the Terra Cotta woman travelling in the opposite direction collided when both cars went out of control, police say. Both vehicles were demolished.

## Final contract demand

After nine months of negotiations, disgruntled Catholic high school teachers in Dufferin-Peel have asked the separate school board for a final contract offer. "It has become clear that the board is not willing to seriously address major issues such as class size with teachers," says Paul Schmidt, president of the 1,000-member Dufferin-Peel unit of the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association.

Schmidt says class sizes in the area are greater than most school boards in the province. Dufferin-Peel's Catholic high schools rank 30th of the 39 separate school boards operating high schools in the province. "We're just not willing to tolerate these unacceptable pupil teacher ratios any more," says Schmidt. "There is no doubt that class size affects quality of education."

Schmidt says the Association will present the board's contract offer to teachers on December 12, "and if we haven't seen significant movement on the issues which teachers have highlighted, we will recommend sanctions."

The board forced teachers to wait for the entire month of November before agreeing to mediation dates. During two days of mediation, November 29 and 30, trustees failed to demonstrate serious commitment to teacher concerns. "We're looking for solutions to the classroom problems beside the word NO," says chief negotiator Wayne Cornack.

### Meet the artist

Georgetown artist, Linda Donais, will be on hand to greet the public and discuss her paintings today (Saturday) at Ballantyne's Country Store (formerly the Nickelodeon Country Store) just off Hwy. 7 between Rockwood and Guelph.

Miss Donais is holding an exhibition and sale of her works at Ballantyne's Country Store - running through December - and will be on location from noon until 3 p.m. today.

Further information on the exhibition and sale can be obtained by contacting Ballantyne's Country Store at 519-836-7567.

## Major changes in support payments

TORONTO - Attorney General Howard Hampton announced major changes to the way support payments will be collected in an effort to fight child poverty in Ontario.

Amendments to the Support and Custody Orders Enforcement Act, 1985 which will now be known as, the Child and Family Support Act, will allow for automatic support payment deductions from income. This play will require employers to deduct support payments from an employee's income and forward those payments to the Child and Family Support office for distribution to the support recipients and their children.

Mr. Hampton stated that the government believes that the single most important goal of the new program must be to fight child poverty. "This is our intention. The payment of child support is both a moral and legal responsibility," he said.

Currently 75 per cent of support orders are in default. Only 25 per cent are in compliance. \$334 million dollars is owing to support recipients and their children.

"Without a change in the way we do business," said Mr. Hampton, "the problem of unpaid child support orders and child poverty will continue to grow."

Once the Act is proclaimed, the support deduction plan will work as follows.

At the time a support order is made, the court will also make an order requiring payment by way of deduction from income. This order will be immediately forwarded to the Child and Family Support office which will serve the employer with the order. The employer will be required to

deduct the appropriate amount of the support payment and forward it to the Child and Family Support office for prompt distribution to the support recipient.

The support deduction from income is similar to the way income tax is collected through payroll deduction. Support deduction will be the way most support orders will be paid. It will become the social norm and will be seen as the optimum way for support payors to honour their court-ordered obligations. This approach removes the social stigma of a garnishment.

Mr. Hampton said that when this new way of collecting support payments becomes law, it will alone solve the massive social problem of support default and child poverty. "It is up to each of us, as a member of the

greater community, to make it clear that the failure to pay child support is simply unacceptable. It is up to all of us to work towards changing attitudes among spouses, peers, friends and co-workers," he said.

### FACTS ABOUT THE CASELOAD:

- 81,000 orders currently filed of which 60 per cent were automatically filed and 40 per cent represent voluntary filing.
- 100,000 children are involved, representing 89 per cent of the orders filed with the program.
- Approximately 75 per cent of support orders filed with the program are in default. Only 25 per cent are in compliance.
- \$274 million has been collected and disbursed to support recipients and their dependants.

## Streetproofing program

The Halton Regional Police Service has begun a new approach to "Streetproofing" children. At seminars conducted in Oakville schools, recently, parents attended with their children to learn about "stranger awareness." Although "streetproofing" children is not a new idea, and various programs have been in place for years, the Halton Regional Police strategy is unique in that it demands participation from the parents together with their children. "This is the key to the program's effectiveness," says Constable Derrick Marshall.

"It does little to tell a child that he should not have his name on the outside of his clothing, books or lunch box (where it is also on display to strangers), when he is unable to go home and explain the reasons to his parents. The full benefit of streetproofing is realized when the parents are present to hear the purpose behind such topics as "having a password", "good and bad secrets", and "good and bad touching."

The seminars last 45 minutes and have been extremely well attended. There were over 100 people in attendance at St. Bernadette's School in Oakville at a seminar on November 26, 1990.

Seminars are planned for Ecole St. Marie on December 10, 1990, and Maple Grove School on January 23, 1991.

The Halton Regional Police Service will conduct streetproofing seminars at the invitation of any group or school.

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