

**POLICE BEAT**



**Numbers To Note EMERGENCY**

Police, Fire or Ambulance ..... Dial 911  
 Fire (Information) ..... 877-1133  
 Police (Non-Emergency) .. 878-5511  
 Hospital ..... 877-0111  
 Distress Centre ..... 877-1211

**Cigarettes stolen**

Halton Regional Police say over \$600 worth of cigarettes were stolen from a Georgetown business during the evening of Jan. 23. Police say unknown culprits gained access to the establishment by throwing a pair of pliers through a west side window and placed an assortment of cigarettes in a duffle bag before ransacking the area. A witness called police after he saw three suspicious male parties in a lot near North Star Cleaners. Police are investigating the incident.

**Tires taken**

An estimated \$2,500 in property was stolen from a vehicle after unknown suspects removed two

wheel rims and tires from a 1991 Volkswagen Passat and dropped the car on its rear axle, police say. The incident occurred at a Georgetown location overnight Jan. 22. Police say unknown persons entered the garage at the residence and raised the rear of the car before stealing the items and dropping it. Damage to the underside of the car is being assessed. Police are investigating.

**Vehicle vandalized**

Police report a 1984 Plymouth was damaged overnight Jan. 22 when unknown suspects broke the rear window of the vehicle, owned by a Georgetown man.

**Firefighters busy**

Halton Hills firefighters responded to three fire calls during the evening of Jan. 23.

The first call was at 5:00 p.m. to a house at Lot 25 on the Ninth Line where residents of the house smelled smoke coming from the attic. Firefighters discovered there was an actual fire in the ceiling rafters which they managed to put out by going through the ceiling in the living room and through a door which led to the attic. Firefighters were at the scene for two-and-a-half hours. Total damage to the house is estimated at \$20,000 of which \$15,000 damage was to the actual structure of the house and \$5,000 was to the property of the tenants living in the house.

At 7:08 p.m., firefighters were called to a house on Lot 4, Concession 6 in Erin Township. Owners said there was a chimney fire but it was out when the firefighters arrived. A spokesman from the department said there was no damage and the unit just checked to see that the fire hadn't spread while they were at the scene.

Soon after, at 7:56 p.m. the firefighters were called out to a two-car collision in a situation in which the Jaws of Life might have been needed to extract victims of the crash.

A fire department spokesperson said the Jaws of Life weren't needed.

Milton OPP investigated the accident which occurred at Hwy. 7 and 5th Line and say drivers of the vehicles were from Acton.

Further details on the vehicles involved and if charges were laid were not available at press time.

**Crime Stoppers**

Continued from Page 1

the statistics can be a little misleading since tips that may have come in during one year, may not help solve crimes until the next year. As well, the number of cases solved doesn't mean that many suspects were caught.

"What may happen is someone will call, tipping us that John Doe broke into a store," explained Sergeant Atkinson. "Then when we interview him, we may find out he has robbed four other stores."

Some other statistics in the release included; \$110,823 worth of illegal drugs and stolen property was recovered; \$4,075 in reward money was approved and \$2,375 in reward money paid.

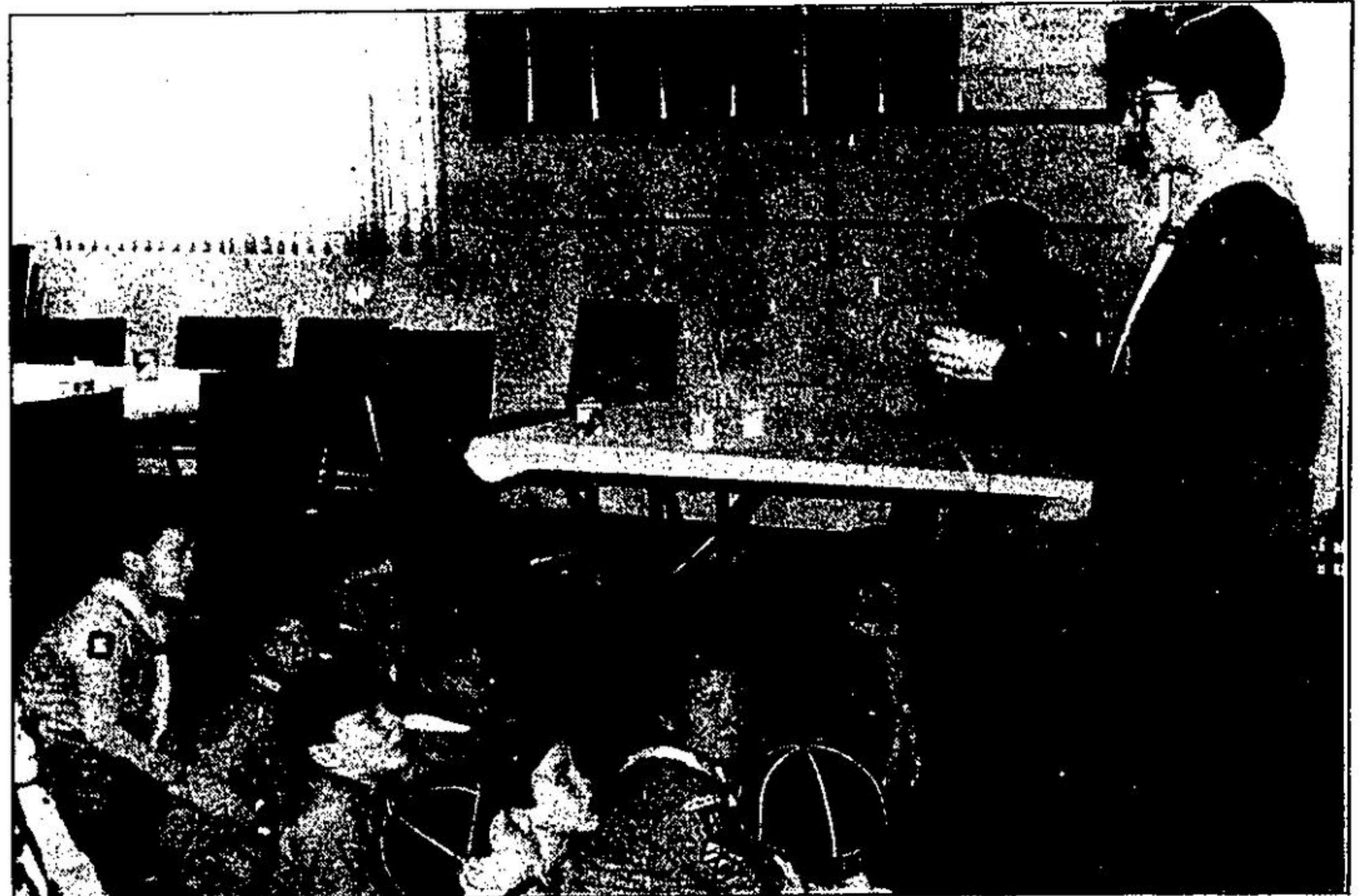
Sergeant Atkinson said the difference in the amount of money approved for rewards and paid out is interesting because it

shows that many callers aren't worried about the money because they don't pick it up. They just want to give information anonymously and help the police catch a criminal.

The figures work out to one dollar in reward money is spent for every \$46.66 in recovered drugs and stolen property. Each case solved cost Crime Stoppers \$47.50.

Since Jan. 1, 1989, 96 charges have been laid and illegal drugs and stolen property valued at \$384,303 has been recovered as the result of tips to Crime Stoppers.

Crime Stoppers is administered by a Board of Directors comprised of concerned citizens. The reward fund is generated from fund raisers, the financial support of businesses, industry, service clubs and private citizens.



**Cubs and crafts**

The annual Craft Workshop for North Halton District Cubs was held last Saturday at the Optimist Club Hall on Trafalgar Road and pictured above.

A.C.M. Iris Stiehl gets the attention of the Cubs showing them how to make a braided bracelet. (Photo by Jean Layman)

**Police briefed on new complaints system**

By LISA BOONSTOPPEL-POT  
 The Herald

Halton Regional Police say they have no problem with a new province-wide public complaints system that will add a new level of review for civilians making complaints against the police.

"We're viewing this as a positive thing," said Sergeant Carey Smith, Halton Regional Police's public relations officer. "It provides members of the public with another avenue which will be an independent review of complaints."

His opinion was echoed by Staff Sergeant Ted Waller who's in charge of the professional standards bureau.

Halton Regional Board of Commissioners were visited by Clare Lewis, the police complaints commissioner on Thursday who discussed how the new system would be implemented. The legislation was passed Dec. 31 after the province decided to expand the program to cover all of Ontario instead of just Metropolitan Toronto where it had already been in effect.

Though the officers don't mind it, Sergeant Smith said they didn't have a problem handling complaints before. "Maybe Metropolitan people are suspicious of police officers investigating themselves but we've never had problems here," he said.

Previously, public complaints against police were investigated by their own police force and if the complainants weren't satisfied with the investigation, it would be forwarded to the Police Board of Commissioners.

Now, police officers will still investigate the complaint initially,

but if complaint still isn't satisfied, he/she can take advantage of the new system which ensures an independent civilian review of police conduct.

Last year, Halton Regional Police received 48 complaints in

total. Twenty of the 48 were because of inadequate service, 20 were from people accusing an officer of displaying improper conduct and the remaining eight complaints concerned excessive use of force.

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