

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

Appliances stolen

Halton Regional Police report \$4,000 worth of appliances was stolen from a Georgetown business at Maple Avenue east of Mountainview between 2:00 p.m. on Jan. 24 and 8:00 p.m. Jan. 26. Police say unknown culprits entered the establishment through a rear door and removed various appliances including a refrigerator, dishwasher, microwave, electric kettle, typewriter, chairs, plumbing fixtures and a photocopier before exiting out the same door. The culprits were tidy and not destructive say police, who believe the thieves loaded the appliances into a full-size pickup. Police are still investigating the break and enter.

Safe cracked

A safe located in a fast food establishment in Georgetown was broken into overnight on Jan. 25, police report. No damage was done to the safe and police say the safe combination was used to open the safe. Unknown culprits took \$1,184 from the inside as well as the safe door. The thieves left through the front door they had entered by smashing the glass in the door. Police are investigating the incident.

Hockey equipment stolen

Police say \$500 worth of hockey equipment was stolen from an Acton man's vehicle overnight on Jan. 24. The victim left his 1984 Renault parked at the end of the driveway due to snow and when he came to retrieve it, he found both the driver's side, front and rear windows were smashed. Unknown culprits had removed a

hockey bag from the back seat containing skates, and other hockey equipment.

Snowmobile thefts

Police report three snowmobiles have been stolen in the last two weeks. The first snowmobile stolen was a 1989 Skidoo Safari owned by a Georgetown man. The man left his snowmobile at the back of his premise while he was out of town from Jan. 17 to Jan. 25 and when he returned, he found it missing. Another snowmobile parked beside it had its ignition harness removed, police say. No further investigation into the incident will be conducted by police unless further information comes to light.

Another snowmobile was reported missing by an Acton man overnight on Jan. 26. He had parked the 1975 Elan sled behind the apartment building where he lives. The snowmobile had been concealed by a cover which was left behind by the thieves.

The third snowmobile theft took place on Jan. 24 between 7:00 p.m. and 11:30 p.m. at a Georgetown residence, police say. Unknown people removed the snowmobile from the backyard of the residence, police say. It was a 1973 Arctic Cat.

House entered

Police report a house in Terra Cotta was broken into by unknown culprits between 10:05 a.m. and 1:55 p.m. on Jan. 28. The culprits entered through a back garage door and stole a 10-inch color television and a frame for a Uzi sub machine gun. With only the frame, the weapon isn't functional, police say. Total value of the property is \$950.

**Community Forum
Do you understand the GST?**



Roy Flick, Georgetown: Yes, I do. The GST is a tax that is going to cause a lot of problems in the first year but after that, it will be easy to administer. It's replacing the hidden federal sales tax which no one knew how much they were paying for before.



Jane Gilmour, Georgetown: Mostly. I've read a lot about it but I'm not sure how we, as consumers, will know whether or not a store is still charging the hidden federal sales tax from before. How do we know we're not paying it along with the GST when we never knew how much we were paying on it before?



Andy Clayton, Oakville: I do and I know it's going to cost me a lot of money personally for things like clothes and sports fees. My major expenditures will now be GST taxed. I understand it because I went to seminars and read literature on it.

Crime-solving rate improves

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In other year-end statistics, there is more fluctuation instead of a general increase or decrease. The amount of auto thefts decreased from 67 in 1989 to 64. Police were only able to obtain a 29.8 clearance rate. This doesn't mean that fewer cars were recovered but that few suspects responsible for the thefts were arrested.

In thefts under \$1,000, the incidents jumped from 49 in 1989 to 80 in 1990 with a clearance rate of 8.7 percent down drastically from 24.4 percent in 1989. Theft under \$1,000 also increased to 720 from 673 in Halton Hills with an increased clearance of 32.6 percent from 28.6 percent in 1989.

Property offences (when a person is caught with stolen property) increased from 20 to 34. Frauds went up slightly from 177 to 184 but police were able to clear 59.7 of these cases. Offensive weapon complaints went down to 17 from 22. Willful damage-property

damage offences, commonly known as vandalism, also went down from 522 in 1989 to 508 last year. Police will also be concentrating on this particular act by teaching youths in the early high school grades why vandalism is unnecessary.

Staff Inspector Kivell said this has been very effective in the past. In 1984, an officer spoke to high school youths about vandalism from September to Halloween and police noticed there was a \$13,000 decrease in vandalism during that time period in comparison to past years.

More statistics include:

criminal codes and federal statutes (drug, alcohol and shipping offences) up to 260 in 1990 from 224 in 1989; fatal collision up one from eight in 1989 in Halton Hills and down to 16 in 1990 region-wide from 18; accidents involving property damage (no injuries, value exceeding \$700) down from 561 to 484 in Halton Hills, down to 3462 from 3973 region-wide; accidents involving personal injury down to 147 from 197 locally and down to 1088 from 1318 regionally; hit and runs were also down to 159 from 168 in Halton Hills and down regionally from 1458 to 1309.

Council supports staff report

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existing licence to quarry the southside of the property. Since the company is legally permitted to quarry the land in question the amendment shouldn't be undertaken until the quarry licence is reviewed, the report indicates. This responsibility lies with the province's Ministry of Natural Resources because the ministry issues quarry licences, continues the report.

Mr. Clarkson called for council to reject the amendment, saying, "An amendment to the NEP is not the proper vehicle to deal with environmental concerns, (raised by EAGLE). Therefore, we agree with the staff report; there is no reason to call it premature, why leave it dangling in the wind."

Although defeated, Mr. Clarkson's request received some support from councillors Joe Hewitt and Norm Elliott.

Coun. Hewitt wanted the amendment rejected outright, saying the word premature is just a political way of rejecting the amendment. Challenging the legality of the licence is the property way of dealing with the company's right to quarry the property, stressed Coun. Hewitt.

Calling the amendment "terribly flawed," Coun. Elliott said it should be rejected for that reason. As well, if the environmental groups accuse him of "not giving a damn about the environment," that's a crock, he said. There is a legal process for this kind of matter and it should be followed, said the councillor.

Mayor Russ Miller, like the majority of councillors, supported the use of the word premature because it positions

the town in a favorable situation in any future negotiations between the Town and the company over the protection of the environment in the area.



Burns Supper activities

Saturday evening's Robbie Burns Supper and dance hosted by Royal Canadian Legion Branch 120 Georgetown Ladies Auxiliary at the Legion Branch on Mill Street, in support of 'Talking Books for the Blind', was deemed a huge success by all who attended. Pictured above, Dr. Allister McIntosh prepares to slice into the Haggis after giving the traditional toast. He is flanked at the rear by (from left to right) Standard Bearer Harry Bottoms, Piper Alex McArthur and Haggis

Bearer Max Jack. Another treat for the evening's guests was the performances of members of the Georgetown Highland Dancers, under the direction of Susan McCarrol. One of the featured dancers, pictured at right, was Vicki-Lynn Brain. New members are welcome to join the Georgetown Highland Dancers and further information can be obtained by contacting Susan McCarrol at 873-3919. (Herald photo by Colin Gibson)

