

People's Forum

United Way thanks volunteers

Dear Sirs:
Dedicating this week to the recognition of Volunteers is especially appropriate for a community of Halton Hills where so many worthwhile activities are undertaken by local Volunteers.

As President of United Ways of Halton Hills, I realize that our worthwhile fund raising activities would not even get off the ground without the many people and organizations who donate their time. The Campaign Cabinet organizes the annual campaign, and the teams under the cabinet call on the Industrial,

Government, Education, Commercial and Residential Sectors. The residential campaign is a massive effort involving over 750 Canvassers, Area Captains, District Coordinators and the Residential Chairperson. Our Board of Directors has been dedicated to making a better and more effective United Way. The Citizen Review Panels insure that the community's dollars are wisely spent. Office Volunteers help expand the capacity of our limited staff.

And finally, other organizations and businesses have helped

on specific events, including the Georgetown Runners Club, organizing the Egg Nog Jog with the Credit Valley Conservation Authority, Andrews Scenic Acres setting up the Strawberry Festival and Dunlop Insurance supporting the Benefit Bonspiel.

To all these people and to all the people in Halton Hills who support the community's social service needs through The United Way, a heart-felt Thank You from the Board and Staff.

Sincerely yours,
Stephen D. Williamson
The United Way of Halton Hills

Canadians ripped off

To The Editor:
Recently I purchased from St. Clair, The Paint and Paper People, in Milton a 1 litre can of Min-wax stain. Price \$20.99, G.S.T. \$1.47, P.S.T. \$1.68, total \$24.14.

A friend recently purchased exactly the same product, same manufacturer, in the United States. Price \$4.99, exchange approx. 80 cents, total \$5.79.

The Canadian consumer is getting ripped off not only by the G.S.T. and the P.S.T., but also by someone in the merchandising or manufacturing field.

Canadians have been paying far too much for many things for

far too long and are buying in the United States goods that are overpriced in Canada. Trying to stop cross-border shopping will not help correct the situation.

Merchants should go after their suppliers if their wholesale prices are out of line and go after our politicians to bring our taxes down to equal those of people living in the United States. That includes local business and realty taxes. Until the above problems are corrected, the situation will only deteriorate.

R. D. Pinkney,
Georgetown, Ont.

Drug Abuse Centre benefit

Dear Editor:

The benefit performance of "Lunch Hour," given to us by Georgetown Little Theatre, was a huge success. Our Drug Abuse Centre cleared over \$2,000.00 on the event. The show was hilarious and we would like to thank

Georgetown Little Theatre for generously sharing their talents with us. We would also like to say a big thankyou to Al Fraser at Shoppers Drug Mart, Jane Hoddinott and the many people who supported us. We will certainly put the money to good use. We

are grateful for the wonderful press coverage you gave us too. Thank you one and all.

Sincerely,
Kristin Bulmer,
Georgetown Drug
Abuse Centre.

Write us a letter!

The Herald wants to hear from you. If you have an opinion you want to express or a comment to make, send us a letter or drop by the office. Our address is 45 Guelph Street, Georgetown, Ontario L7G 3Z6.

All letters must be signed. Please include your address and telephone number for verification.

The Herald reserves the right to edit letters due to space limitations.

Features

Seniors Watch established

By LISA BOONSTOPPEL-POT
The Herald

To prevent occurrences of seniors being hurt and not immediately being found in their apartments, Halton Regional Police has established 'Seniors Watch.'

The program, new to Halton Hills, was launched at Acton's Lakeview Villa seniors residence Wednesday and at the Durham Street Seniors Centre in Georgetown Thursday.

"The program improves the quality of their lives," said Halton Hills crime prevention officer, Constable Laurel Barnett. "It gives seniors more of a feel-

ing that they're not alone and that someone is looking out for their welfare."

The program revolves around the use of door tags that were printed by Acton High School and laminated by the Knights of Columbus. Acton Village Constable, Bill Riddle, explained the tags will be placed on the outside handle of a seniors apartment door when they retire for the night. In the morning, they'll remove the tag. If the tag isn't removed from the door by 11 a.m., a designated hall monitor will knock on the door and if there isn't a response, the monitor will assume something had happened to the resident and call police.

The police will obtain a pass-key and will check the apartment

to make sure the resident is all right.

Constable Riddle said "there has been instances in Halton Hills where a resident has died and there was a lapse of time before they were found."

With the new program, residents will be assured of daily connection with another person to reduce the possibility that a resident might have to wait days before they're found injured or dead.

Constable Riddle said the program is an extension of the seniors buddy system which involved buddies checking up on each other.

"The new program will help make sure everyone is checked," he said.

Equity stressed by Halton police

By LISA BOONSTOPPEL-POT
The Herald

Recently introduced provincial legislation directed to police forces involving employment equity regulations to increase the number of racial minorities, aboriginal persons, women and disabled persons in the police force, reinforces a Halton Regional Police initiative started two years ago.

Halton Regional Police developed a program two years ago to recruit people from the target groups listed in the employment equity regulation as part of the force's five-year strategic plan, according to media relations officer for the force, Sergeant Carey Smith.

"Inroads have been made in the last couple of years and we've enjoyed more of a cultural mix," he said. But he admits progress has been slow. "Perhaps it's been slower than we anticipated."

He expects the new legislation, introduced by Solicitor General Mike Farnan, will speed up the process of offering citizens a force which reflects the cultural makeup of the community.

"We welcome the legislation," said Sergeant Smith. "What it seeks to do is rectify the inequities of the past."

Halton Police Chief, James Harding, said "this legislation compels organizations and people to cast their minds to the future and deny an opportunity to let it (inequity) be lodged in the past ... a past which turned a blind eye to a problem of inequity."

Looking at the numbers of visi-



CHIEF HARDING

ble minorities and women on the force, it's obvious there is inequity. Only 50 out of 371 (13 per cent) of police officers are women. This service has a total complement of 516, 165 of which are female. Sergeant Smith said although there are black and Native Indian police officers, there are no Orientals.

In Halton Hills, five of the 32 police officers are female and there is only one Native Indian and one officer in the visible minority classification. Six of the six clerical and secretarial staff are women and there are no disabled persons.

Because the legislation states the police force must represent the community (meaning if 50 per cent of the community is female, 50 per cent of the police

force should be female), women will now have a better chance of getting hired by the force than men.

Given the scenario that if a woman, who just met the standards required to become a police officer and a man who exceeded the standards were up for the same job, Sergeant Smith admitted that "because the law said the police force must reflect the community, we'd likely hire the woman."

But the Staff Inspector of Georgetown's District 11, Richard Kivell, said he doesn't recall there being too many instances of one candidate standing out over another when the force selected new recruits.

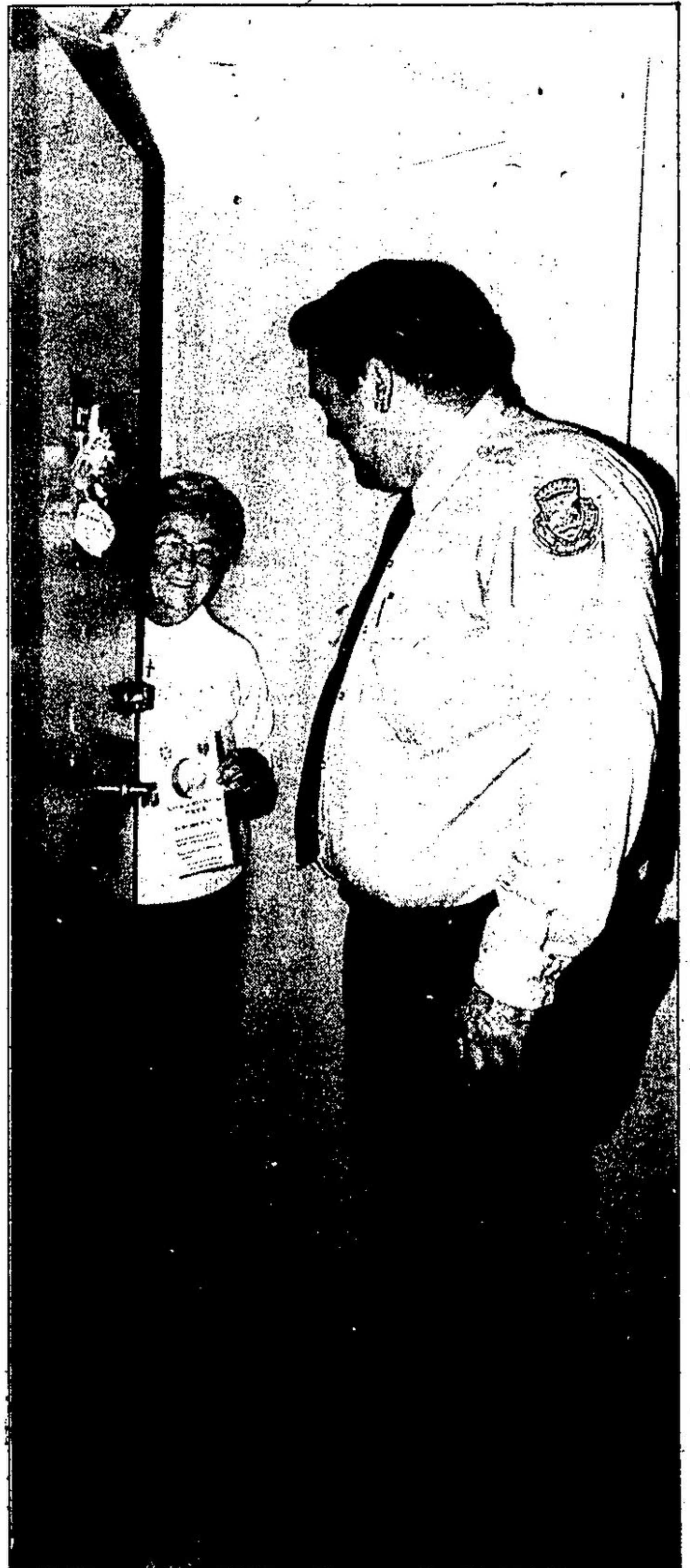
"The weaker ones are weeded out before they reach the selection committee," he said. "I don't see that the new law will lower standards."

He said women are just as good police officers as men.

The new regulation set goals and timetables for eliminating hiring barriers and implementing positive measures. Police forces will have one year to develop employment equity plans which must then be submitted to the Solicitor General for approval.

The regulation was developed in partnership with 140 police and community groups which were consulted by the Ministry at regional sessions across Ontario.

It is supported by the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police, the Municipal Police Authorities and the Police Association of Ontario.



Lakeview Villa resident Alice Leech feels a little safer now that Acton Village Constable Bill Riddle (right) and the Halton Regional Police Force have established 'Seniors Watch', a program that ensures residents are checked daily. (Herald photo)