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Buckling up is what Halton Regional Police Constable David Shantz will be making sure motorists do starting Wednesday when he and Constable Doug Williamson (not in picture) will be cracking down on motorists not wearing their belts and issuing

\$78.25 seatbelt fines. The seat belt blitz is being organized locally by Crime Prevention Officer, Sergeant Dave Gwilliams (right). (Herald photo by Lisa Boonstoppel-Pott)

Buckle-up—or pay

By May 15, drivers not wearing their seatbelts won't be able to talk their way out of getting a \$78.25 ticket now that Halton Regional Police officers have established a task force to crack-down on drivers.

Crime Prevention Officer, Sergeant Dave Gwilliams has assigned two uniform Constables to fulltime monitoring for seatbelt offenders along with radar patrol for an indefinite period of time. The officers were already out this week warning motorists about the seatbelt crack-down.

Sergeant Gwilliams said the thrust of seatbelt compliance was prompted by the results of a survey that was commissioned by the traffic committee of the

Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police. They found that of all the Halton municipalities, Halton Hills had the lowest seatbelt compliance rate - 62 per cent. Milton has a 65 per cent compliance rate while Burlington and Oakville's rate is 86 and 82 per cent respectively.

Sergeant Gwilliams believes Halton Hills has such a low compliance rate because drivers don't expect to be ticketed when they drive without wearing a seatbelt.

"If motorists speed or run a stop sign, they know if they get caught, they'll be issued a ticket," he said. "But if they're caught not wearing a seatbelt, they know they may or may not get a ticket."

One of the officers that will be issuing the tickets, Constable David Shantz, said not wearing a seatbelt is "ridiculous. Statistics prove wearing a seatbelt can save your life."

Ministry of Transportation statistics from a 1987 survey indicate that out of 302,112 accidents where a seatbelt was being used, 99.1 per cent of the drivers suffered no injury or minor injuries. But for those who don't wear seatbelts, drivers are 21 times more likely to be killed in a collision or are 76 times more likely to be hospitalized.

Sergeant Gwilliams said he hopes, through this seat belt blitz, to raise Halton Hills seatbelt law compliance average up to 73.5 per cent.

Police collar Smith & Stone heist suspects

Halton Regional Police arrested two men Wednesday in connection with the break and enter at Smith and Stone, where \$18,000 worth of brass, copper and mechanic's tools were stolen, April 16.

"Through our investigation we believe it was a well-planned break and enter," said Sergeant Keith Woodstra who is investigating the break and enter. "If it weren't for an employee interrupting them while they were there, we may have never gotten them."

Charged with break and enter and theft in the case are 27-year-old Pierre Labelle of Daniella Court in Georgetown and 21-year-old Anthony Maan of Woodbury Court in Brampton.

Both men were arrested at their homes Wednesday and police recovered \$3,500 worth of the stolen Smith and Stone property. Sergeant Woodstra said most of the brass and copper would have been sold to scrap yards and melted down long ago.

The police investigation uncovered the fact that a van which had been found near the scene after the theft was registered to one of the accused. "There was residue of brass in the van," said Sergeant Woodstra.

He also credits a tip from Crime Stoppers for aiding the investigation.

Both men appeared in Milton Court Thursday.

Details of the hearing of the impending court date weren't available at press time.

Region plans to ease pain of job loss

By **BEN DUMMETT**
The Herald

Halton Region Council directed staff Wednesday to develop policies on how the Region can help those who lose their jobs due to plant closures.

Approximately 1,000 people in Halton have lost their job during the last year from Halton-based companies shutting down their operations.

Burlington Mayor Roly Bird said it pains him when redundant industries close and jobs are lost.

As Halton moves from an industrial to a service industry base the Region owes the left behind workforce any help that can be provided, said Mayor Bird.

Acknowledging the Region follows certain practices to help in the resettlement of workers left behind in the wake of plant closures, Mayor Bird wants staff to develop certain policies. "They (policies) would deal with plant closures and the resettlement of workers not in times of crisis but over the long term," he said.

Regional Business Development Commissioner Brent Kearsse said following the meeting the Region currently reacts to a plant closure by sending letters to industries throughout Halton requesting if they have any available positions, and if so to please contact the closing industry.

The Region took this action in response to the closure of Georgetown's Provincial Papers earlier this year. Approximately 2,000 letters were sent out and only two or three companies reacted negatively, said Mr. Kearsse. These few negative responses indicated the Region shouldn't be asking for their help in a time of recession.

The Region also holds business seminars for unemployed who want to establish their own business, said Mr. Kearsse.

Mr. Kearsse qualified what the Region can do to help unemployed workers find new

jobs, explaining the problem can only be dealt with thoroughly when the provincial and federal government establish more retraining programs.

To improve Halton's efforts in helping the worker, Mr. Kearsse suggested letters could be sent to industry outside Halton's borders. As well, the Region could target new industries in Halton to offer positions for laid off workers if available, he said.

Burlington Regional Councillor Ralph Scholtens said the staff report should include the reasons for plant closures. "No doubt in the mind of many, government is a big problem. And it isn't helping the cause by taxing the people to death."

An Inside Look

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Obscenity charges laid

The manager of Georgetown's Adult Only Video Store on Guelph Street, Kenneth Finney of Wincott Drive in Etobicoke, was charged with numerous obscenity counts by Halton Regional Police May 1, after obscene

videos were seized from the store during a police raid April 18.

Mr. Finney, 36, was charged with two counts of possession of obscene material for the purpose of sale, two counts of possession for the purpose of exposing to

public view by renting obscene material, one count of exposing to public view by renting obscene material and one count of selling obscene material.

He will appear in Milton Court June 3 along with the store's owner, Randy Jorgenson of Kitchener, who faces the same charges.

All the 22 Adult Only Video Stores across Ontario, four of which are located in Halton, were raided in April and police seized videos with names such as Kinky Sluts, La Bimbo, D Cup Delights, Anal Addiction and Slots and Sluts.

The titles were contained on a list compiled by Project 'P', a joint Ontario Provincial Police and Metro Unit that investigates pornography.

Police invitation

If you're interested in touring the Halton Regional Police Station in Georgetown or doing foot patrol with the Acton Village Constable, the force has invited the public to do so during Police Week from May 13 to May 18.

The public is invited to show up at the station anytime during the week for a tour. (Large groups should call first, 878-5511.) As well, persons interested in walking with Constable Bill Riddle while he makes his tour around Acton, are invited to call him at his office. His number is 853-2050 and he's available for the walk on May 14 from 10:00 a.m. to noon or May 15 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Quote of the Week

"They've got quite an easy life in this country, very sedentary with no natural predators. They're sort of like Canadian lager louts, lazy and hanging about."

*Derek Neimann
Royal Society for
Protection of Birds
on Canada Geese in
Great Britain. (1991)*