

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

House break-in

Halton Regional Police report a house in rural Georgetown was broken into Wednesday night by unknown suspects who removed \$700 worth of items from the home. Police say the culprit(s) smashed a small, rear basement window with a cement block to gain entry into the home. Once inside, they entered all rooms, police say, but only searched through the bedrooms where a couple of cameras, binoculars and approximately 100 baseball cards were removed. Police say it appears the culprits were in the process of removing a VCR and television set but left prior to doing so. Police believe the suspect or suspects must be small to have fit through the window and are likely amateurs since several valuable items in the home were left behind. Police are continuing their investigation.

Plants damaged

Police report vandals got inside

the Dominion Seed House in Georgetown Wednesday night and damaged numerous plants. Various potted plants were thrown around and two fire extinguishers were discharged in the building. Police say nothing was stolen and are continuing to investigate.

Lost control

A young Guelph female lost control of her car on the gravel shoulder and severely damaged her 1986 Chev on 35 Sideroad west of Hwy. 25, police report. The accident occurred Monday when the girl hit a tree. She wasn't injured and police say the accident was due to a driver with a lack of driving experience.

Windows smashed

Police report 17 small windows worth \$700 were smashed when unknown vandals threw rocks against the west side of the Blow Press Company building in Acton Saturday night. Police say this is an ongoing problem.



Public Works Week

Halton Hills Public Works employees, Bob Fendley (left) and Earl Burt (right) demonstrate log cutting and brush feeding which were just two of the activities highlighted in the department's display set up last week which was Public Works

Week. School children and community groups were invited to the works garage on Trafalgar Road where employees gave tours and explained what their role is in the community. (Herald photo)

Croatians want freedom

By BEN DUMMETT
The Herald

For the 1,500 Croatian-Canadians living in Halton Hills, last Sunday will stand out in their minds as a day like no other for years to come.

Sunday marked the day the majority, if not all, Croatian-Canadians living in Halton Hills and across Canada celebrated as their homeland voted 94 per cent to become an independent state.

Croatia is part of the six-republic federal system of Yugoslavia.

Approximately 5,000 Croatian-Canadians from throughout Halton and surrounding areas were attending the 17th Annual Canadian Croatian Folklore Festival held at the Croatian Centre, located just south of Norval, Sunday, when they learned the news.

"There was a burst of joy, singing and prayers, when the news was announced during the festival," said the Centre's Father Ljubo Krasic during an interview Tuesday.

"Croatia's Minister of Immigration telephoned the centre Sunday afternoon to give us the vote's outcome," said Father Krasic.

The overwhelming support for independence means "the tyranny of Yugoslavian central government rule is practically finished," he explained.

When asked why the vote in favor of secession didn't eliminate the central control of Yugoslavia as a while, Father Krasic explained countries throughout the world must first stop supporting the idea of a United Yugoslavia. As well, Yugoslavia's central military threat must be eliminated, he said.

Father Krasic predicted these remaining barriers will come down "very soon."

Canada is one country that has been slow in supporting Croatia's right to secede, said Father Krasic.

He said the Federal Government's previous External Affairs Minister Joe Clark wrote a letter to Father Krasic three weeks ago saying the Canadian government supports a united and democratic Yugoslavia.

This idea is contradictory, explained Father Krasic, because the majority of Croatians want no part of a United Yugoslavia.

Contacted in Ottawa Tuesday Halton-Peel MP Garth Turner said he couldn't say much on the Croatian situation because he has not been a close follower of the situation. However he offered that Canada sides on the side of caution. Since Yugoslavia is on the verge of disintegration, Canada wants all efforts focused on preventing an outbreak of civil war, he explained.

Taxpayers coalition meets in Georgetown

By LISA BOONSTOPPEL-POT
The Herald

There are danger signals that indicate Canada is heading towards third-world status warned Frank Gue, president of the Halton Taxpayers Coalition at a meeting of the Coalition Tuesday night in Georgetown District High School.

Approximately 60 people came out to listen to Mr. Gue's opinions and be introduced to the ideals and goals of the newly-formed tax coalition.

It was the first time the coalition had met in Halton Hills to increase membership since it was formed as a branch of the Ontario Taxpayer's Coalition in February of this year. It now has 300 members in Halton and group leaders are hoping to recruit more so their message will carry more weight.

The message is simple: They believe residents are being "choked to death by taxes." Mr. Gue said "the nation is being strangled. Our manufacturers are leaving us, the farmers can't get past market value assessment for their crops and the GST, which was a good idea, was not implemented well."

In addressing Halton Hills residents, Mr. Gue told them "welcome to the third world." He said Canada is experiencing several factors that indicate the nation is in trouble. Among what he considered danger signals were Canada's borrowing of money to pay its deficit, the high deficit itself, the government's expenditures being higher than the country's nationally generated income, an overabundance of civil servants, an overvalued currency and that people in Canada "march to too many bands and dance to too many str-

ings." "Somewhere in the past, the government passed a line and became self-serving," he said. But he admitted taxpayers brought it on themselves by always accepting the little tax hikes here and there and allowing the government to believe taxpayers could absorb any tax hike.

He said one of the worst examples of over-spending are school boards and that is the area the coalition is currently addressing.

"We believe people view the success of education on input (the money put into a project) rather than output," he said. This statement, along with one stating the coalition supports the elimination of programs from the upper levels of governments that lower levels are required to fund, was sent to the Ministry of Education.

Also present at the meeting to discuss her organization's concerns with education spending was Dianne Austin, secretary of the Ontario Public School Board Reform Network which is made up of 150 school trustees and public members who want to strengthen the role of school trustees and demand proper accountability for school board financial and program decisions.

She told those in attendance there are three main weaknesses the network sees in the current system.

One is that financial controls on school board spending are weak or limited to audits of the board. "We want the provincial auditor to do a 'money for value' audit on school boards," she said. "We'd also like an internal auditing committee set up so trustees know more about where taxpayer's money goes."

A second weakness, she stated, was there is an almost near absence of financial accountability in that the board spends the largest chunk of taxes but only a handful of taxpayers keep watch.

"I suggest towns form a watchdog committee so that at least one member of the public is at every board meeting," she said.

In concluding she said the budget process is a problem itself. She said more public participation is needed in the process. As well, she'd like the budget to follow the school year instead of the calendar year so the budget is not set five months after spending started.

After the speakers concluded their comments, Mr. Gue said the audience stayed for another three-quarters of an hour. "You can tell how good a meeting was in how long the people stay after the meeting is formally closed," he said.

Several memberships to the coalition were accepted at the meeting and he expected many more to come in from Halton Hills residents.

Fire calls

Halton Hills firefighters spent 45 minutes extinguishing round bales of hay that caught fire while being pulled on a trailer down Hwy. 25 south of Acton Wednesday. Firefighters have no estimate of damage to the trailer and say the van pulling the trailer wasn't damaged.

Firefighters were called out of bed at 3:17 a.m. yesterday morning to put out a rubbish fire. Firefighters say unknown person(s) lit fire to a pile of garbage waiting for pick-up at the end of the Townline, south of 15 Sideroad. There was no damage.

CORRECTION NOTICE

Dominion Seed House's ad on Wednesday May 22nd had an error. The price of the Petunias was incorrect. The price should have read .88¢ a box instead of .99¢ each. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

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