

POLICE BEAT



**Numbers To Note
EMERGENCY**

Police, Fire or Ambulance Dial 911
Fire (Information) 877-1133
Police (Non-Emergency) .. 878-5511
Hospital 873-0111
Distress Centre 877-1211

Toppling trees

Halton Regional Police were called Saturday to investigate the damage at a Church St. home in Acton where two large tree limbs fell on the house. Police say the limbs caused severe structural damage to both the inside and outside of the house and have estimated damage at \$10,000. Halton Hills Public Works Department was called to remove the limbs and cut down the tree.

Fuel stolen

Police report 14,000 litres of clear diesel fuel was stolen overnight Dec. 11 from a storage facility on Guelph St. owned by the Co-op. Police believe the unknown culprits were driving either a tractor trailer or large dual wheel truck to steal the fuel valued at \$7,000.

Pinned leg

Police have asked the Ministry of Labor to look into an industrial accident that broke a man's leg Dec. 12. The accident occurred on 10th Line south of 5 Sideroad when a Halton Hills Hydro employee attempted to walk between a stationary truck and a truck being reversed. He was pinned in the process and suffered a broken leg.

Mischief maker

A 29-year-old Acton man has been charged with mischief under \$1,000 in connection with a window that was smashed Saturday in a camping trailer parked on Guelph St. The man will appear in Milton court Jan. 6.

Stolen Siberians

A dog breeder from Stewarttown reported to police that three of his purebred Siberian Husky dogs were released and possibly stolen from their kennels overnight Dec. 12. One of the dogs was found wandering by their home the next morning and another found a short time later on Trafalgar Rd. One dog, valued at \$200, is still missing. The missing dog is a seven to eight-year-old female named Tammy. She is blonde in color, has a blue collar and an ear tag starting with the code E3R.

Second time

For the second time this month, unknown culprits have broken into the Cango Gas Station bar in Acton. Police say the culprits used a cement block to break a window in the gas bar booth and stole a small amount of float money. The last break-in occurred the same way and police believe the same culprits are responsible.

Public and police differ on priorities

By LISA BOONSTOPPEL-POT
The Herald

In their first-ever Strategic Plan, the Halton Regional Police Service has made a goal to be more responsive to community's needs.

The Strategic Plan was released last Thursday and lists five key issues in order to respond to changing community needs: changes in community demographics and cultural make-up; accountability and community involvement; employment equity; career enrichment and personnel development; and changes in technology.

Sergeant Carey Smith, the media relations officer for the service said, "the service is trying to be more customer-oriented in the next couple of years" and is studying how other agencies deal with their customers.

"The service is trying to determine how to better serve the public as if the public were our customers," he said. "That's a novel and innovative thing for a police service."

This idea of responding to consumer needs is clearly stated in the Strategic Plan as a goal under the 'Accountability and Community Involvement' section.

Under the heading 'Goals', the document states "increase our understanding of the community's needs and issues as they relate to the service."

In this section under the heading 'Objectives' the plan states:

-reduce the number of community complaints about the Halton Regional Police Service by 25 per cent by Dec. 31, 1994

-establish community consultation committees in each policing community by Jan. 1993 and ensure that each committee meets a minimum of four times per year

-survey the general public to obtain information of perceptions of policing service commencing Oct. 1992.

-establish a policy on volunteer service within the service by June 1991

-establish a policy on relationships with education institutions and service clubs in Dec. 1992.

Sgt. Smith hopes these objectives will reduce what he believes is a vastly different perception of police priorities between the police and the community.

"What the community believes should be priorities of the police and what police believe are their priorities are often two very different things," he said.

"For example, police tend to list their priorities according to criminal severity putting such things as murder and robbery on the top of their lists," he said.

"But if you ask the community what their priorities are, they often talk about litter, loitering and vandalism."

He believes the Strategic Plan will attempt to address this problem.

Other objectives the Strategic Plan lists include:

-to ensure that the proportionate representation of women, racial minorities, people with disabilities and Aboriginal people are employed in all uniform and civilian occupation groups with the services' first Employment Equity Plan to be completed by May 1, 1992.

-develop and implement a new radio communication system by Oct. 1993

The Halton Regional Police Service and its Police Services Board began work on the Strategic Plan in Jan. 1991. The Police Services Board hired a consultant from the Institute of Environmental Research to act as the facilitator throughout the process.

Police Services Chairperson Karen Thompson stated in the report that it is important to recognize that strategic planning is evolutionary in nature and is an ongoing process which requires daily implementation and continuous evaluation.

The plan will serve as map to guide the service into the next decade.

Aids education hits the street

But not everybody was so enthused with the concept.

"I don't think a lot of people who come to a bar want to talk about sexually transmitted diseases," said Georgetown resident Jim O'Donnell. "I feel I've heard enough about it."

Another Georgetown resident, John Wilson, thought it was "tacky."

Chris Massey of Brampton thought having the nurses in a bar would be "intimidating" for people. "I wouldn't go talk to them if anybody was within ear shot," she said.

Nurse Todd said she realizes many people feel embarrassed about talking to them and that's why they keep their presence low-

key. The nurses, dressed casually in jeans and t-shirts don't lecture the crowd. They just set up a table complete with condoms, pamphlets and information and wait for the patrons to come to them.

The condoms, especially the colored ones, add an element of fun to the night.

At the table, people can take an AIDS quiz called 'How Safe Are You' and pick up a pamphlet called 'Aids in the '90's-The New Facts of Life.'

The pamphlet, published this past February by Health and Welfare Canada, states Canada has one of the highest rates of HIV infection in the developed world.

"The epidemic has spread rapidly and it is estimated that 50,000 Canadians are now infected with HIV," states the pamphlet.

The pamphlet also informs readers how they can become infected, how to reduce the risks, the symptoms of HIV infection, the treatment for HIV infection and how people can protect themselves.

The Halton Health Department is also taking the message to workplaces.

The nurses say people in the workplace and bars have been "very receptive" to this approach.

Nurse Todd said if anyone wants to talk about the AIDS program or HIV they should call the Halton Health Department Aids Project at (416) 825-6222.



Halton Public Health Nurses Anne Todd, (left), and Julia Arnold laugh it up with a patron at O'Toole's restaurant and bar in Georgetown Thursday night. The two were there to informally discuss the facts about the HIV virus and AIDS as part of the Region's new AIDS Program directed at reaching the 25-45 year-old crowd. (Herald Photo by Lisa Boonstoppel-Pot)

Jewellery stolen from mall

Released By
SERGEANT FARR

The Halton Regional Police in Burlington and Crime Stoppers of Halton are asking for the public's assistance in identifying the culprits responsible for a break and entry and subsequent theft of jewellery from Sears at Mapleview Mall.

Sometime between 9:00 p.m. on Saturday the 23rd of November and 5:30 a.m. on Monday the 25th of November the suspects broke into Sears Department Store at the Mapleview Mall by breaking through 2 sets of doors on the west side of the mall.

Once inside the store the

CRIME STOPPERS



criminals went directly to the jewellery section and smashed 4 display cabinets. Only the most

expensive jewellery was taken.

Among the jewellery taken was: 71, 10 carat gold chains and bracelets, 26, 10 carat hoop earrings, 29, 10 carat gold wedding bands, also stolen were several custom wedding bands and custom family ring with holes in the bands totalling \$15,376.00.

If you have any information that leads to arrest in this or any other offence, you may be eligible for a cash reward of up to \$1,000.00. You need not give your name and your information will be treated with complete anonymity.

Please call: 1-800-668-5151 or 825-TIPS, That's 825-8477.

Holiday fire prevention tips

By DAVE FORD
Halton Hills Fire Dept.

"Chestnuts roasting on an open fire, Jack Frost nipping at your nose." What could be more cosy than a glowing fire in the fireplace on a frosty winter evening.

The fireplace has become a popular tradition over the holiday season, but your local fire department reminds you to be safety conscious when enjoying the fire.

Always use a proper fitting fireplace screen to stop flying sparks from igniting nearby combustibles.

Only burn materials which were designed for the fireplace. Never burn gift wrapping of any type, or the Christmas tree. These materials generate too

much heat for the ordinary fireplace and often release sparks from the chimney. If artificial logs are used, follow instructions on the packaging.

When cleaning your fireplace, ashes should be placed in metal containers, stored outside your home.

Have your chimney professionally inspected and cleaned if necessary at least once a year to remove soot and creosote that can ignite and burn.

Keep a fire extinguisher in an accessible location. Know how to use it.

Make sure that you have a smoke alarm on each level of your home and test it regularly.

For further information, call your local fire department.

Enjoy a fire safe holiday season!

Submitted.

CORRECTION NOTICE

My Generation's advertisement on Dec. 15, 1991. A line that read everything in the store 1/2 price or more was incorrect. Sorry for any inconvenience The Herald might have caused.