



Delmar French honored

Retiring after 26 years of service and dedication to the Town of Halton Hills, Deputy-Clerk Delmar French was presented with many gifts including this painting during his retirement party. He was honored by family and friends. (Herald Photo)

Study probes student drug use

Although fewer students are using alcohol and other drugs, those who do use are consuming more, a new study by the Addiction Research Foundation shows.

"The good news is that the percentage of students using alcohol and other drugs has decreased over the past decade and even in the past two years," says ARF scientist Dr. Reginald Smart.

"But on the down side, our study shows a small but significant increase in the percentage of students considered to be 'heavy' users of drugs," adds Smart.

The Ontario Student Drug Use Survey, conducted by Smart, Edward Adlaf and Gordon Walsh, features some important conclusions, including a statement on the influence of prevention programs on drug use. Smart notes that drug education for those involved in heavier drug use will continue to be a challenge for educational and health authorities.

"Drug prevention programs are having a major impact on the infrequent drug user," he says. "But programs have a more difficult task in reaching the more committed, problematic drug user."

Edward Adlaf says there is a very different profile of drug use, compared to the profile of a decade ago.

"Back then, there were more 'casual' drug users and there was a smaller percentage of 'heavy' drug users."

The study shows an increase in the percentage of students in the Grades 7 to 13 range who don't use any drugs - including alcohol and tobacco. The percentage of non-users increased to 36.9 per cent this year, compared with 29.2 per cent in 1989 and 17.4 in 1979.

For the 17 drugs surveyed, current rates of use are lower than rates of about a decade ago. Alcohol, the major drug of choice for students, was used by 58.7 per cent of survey respondents this year, compared with 66.2 per cent in 1989. The percentage of students using cocaine, solvents, non-medical stimulants and tran-

quillizers, glue, PCP and barbiturates also decreased.

"Students are starting to take drugs at an older age than their counterparts of a decade ago," Adlaf adds. From 1977 to 1991, the percentage of drug users trying drugs for the first time before Grade 9 dropped for alcohol, tobacco and cannabis.

The latest ARF student drug use survey was conducted in early 1991 among almost 4,000 Ontario students in Grades 7, 9, 11 and 13. The results were compared with data from seven surveys the ARF has conducted every two years since 1977 - making the project the longest systematic study of drug use among youth in Canada.

The 1991 study reveals that, among those who drink, there was an increase in the frequency of drinking and of becoming drunk. The percentage of drinkers consuming five or more drinks once a week has also increased - to 5.8 per cent this year, compared with 3.2 in 1981.

The percentage of those reporting police contact because of their drinking also increased. This year, 9.2 per cent of the drinkers surveyed reported encounters with the law, compared with only 6.8 per cent in 1981.

"But there was a notable decrease in the percentage of students who reported driving after drinking," says Smart. "In 1977, about 58 per cent of licensed students said they had driven after having two or more drinks, but when we asked the same questions this year, that statistic dropped to 20 per cent."

The study also shows an increase in the percentage of young smokers using 20 or more cigarettes daily, as well as an increase in the percentage of cannabis users who consume the drug daily.

"The findings of our student surveys are in stark contrast to the statistics on drug use among other groups of young people, such as street youth, which involved rates of drug use that are 10 times greater," says Smart.

"Although a promising trend of reduced drug use is evident

among students, we can't be complacent," he adds. "Prevalence has declined, but we are concerned about the increase in 'heavy' users of alcohol, tobacco and cannabis."

The Addiction Research Foundation is an agency of the Province of Ontario.

Posties prepared

The postal workers have prepared their picket signs once again, and Halton Hills is just one of the areas which will be hard hit when the posties decide to hit the streets.

Strike alert was placed on Georgetown and Acton's 45 Canada Post letter carriers and inside workers along with the 45,000 workers across the country.

Darrell Moore, President of the area's Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) local 542, said a strike is likely because management "is unwilling to bargain in good faith."

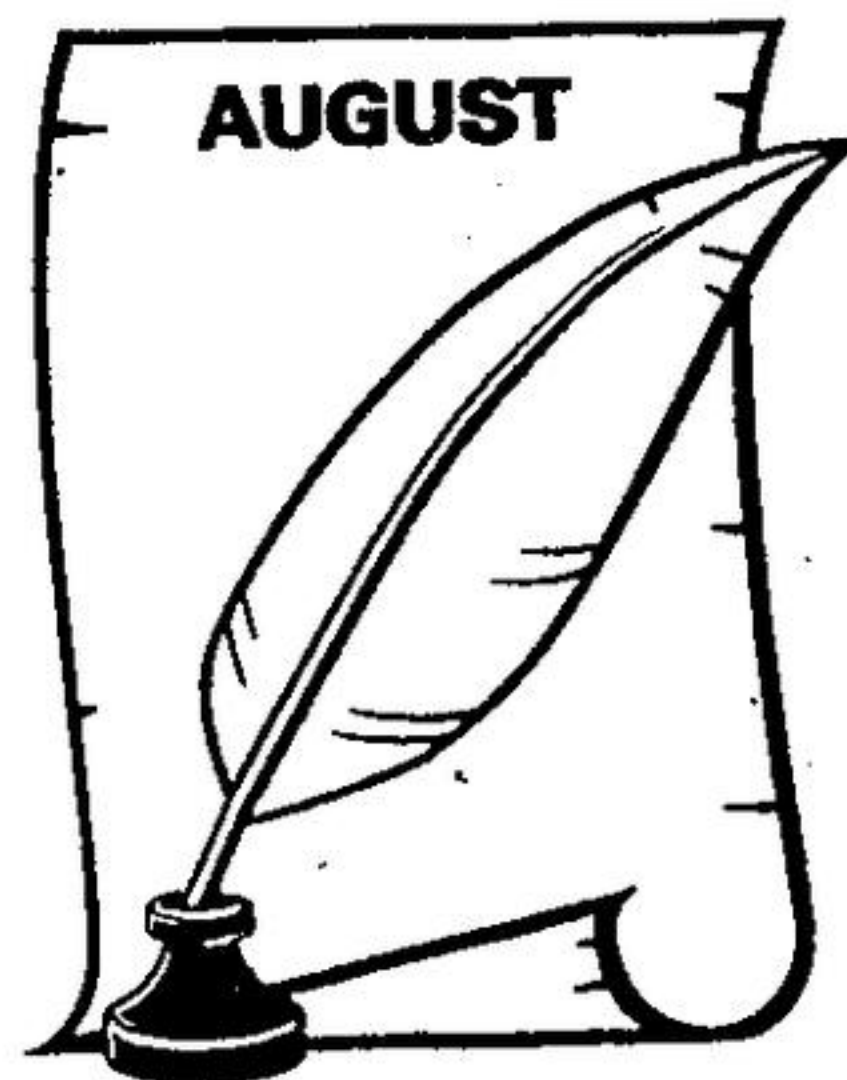
Mr. Moore said the management and workers are at odds on a number of different issues including, contract length, wages, cost of living allowance (COLA) and job security.

Canada Post spokesperson, Joyce Wells said the Conciliation Board, which is considering both sides of the dispute, was given a 14-day extension to submit its recommendation to the minister. Ms. Wells appears to be optimistic that a strike will be avoided. Both parties have been negotiating for approximately two years and they are not going to throw that away, she said.

A prisoner from the Maplehurst Correctional Centre in Milton has escaped from a work gang, said Halton Region police.

Police said Leonard Gary Landry, 37 was out of the centre on a work gang excursion to clear bush at the Elliot Track Conservation Area on 2nd Line north of 15 Sideroad in Milton. Mr. Landry had dropped a package of cigarettes in one of the bushes and had gone unattended to retrieve them.

When Mr. Landry had failed to return, the road boss reported him missing.



Police said Mr. Landry is in custody for a break and enter, dangerous weapons and assault charges.

An anonymous caller informed police Mr. Landry might have gone to help his brother in Oshawa, who is taking care of Mr. Landry's daughter.

The Georgetown man charged with robbing a Mac's Milk convenience store in Georgetown, pleaded guilty in a Milton court.

Victor Cunningham was sentenced to two years in jail, in court, August 12.

Mr. Cunningham will appear in court Dec. 4, on three other charges of break, enter and theft in connection with a series of break-ins at The Smoke Shoppe in Acton.

Mr. Cunningham was arrested July 29, after police and the Tactical Rescue Unit (TRU) surrounded his house on Prince Charles Drive in Georgetown for over an hour.

Revenge is sweet for Georgetown's Minor Peewee rep baseball team. Two years of hard work finally paid off as Georgetown defeated Brampton 7-4.

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