

Drug use in Halton on the increase says cop

By SCOTT KLINE

The amount of cocaine and crack in the Halton region will steadily increase over the next few years, the head of the Halton Regional Police Drug and Morality Bureau says.

"Cocaine is the drug that is up and coming," Sergeant Jackie Gordon said. "I call it the drug of the 90s."

While the service has yet to make any seizures of crack — a deadly cocaine derivative — officers are starting to see it being sold on the Region's streets.

"We keep hearing that it's out there and available," the four-year veteran of the Drug Bureau said. "You will start to see seizures of it in the next year."

Currently Halton's drug trade is distributing three main types of illegal narcotic — cocaine, cannabis products and LSD (Lyseric Acid Diethylamide).

About 30 members of the University Women's Club of Georgetown learned that cannabis is the most frequently used narcotic in Halton.

"Cannabis is no longer just being imported, it is being grown right here in Halton Region," Sgt. Gordon said.

She said the service recently raided a "very large hydroponics growing operation" where about 1,200 cannabis plants were thriving.

The flowering tops and leaves of

the greenish brown plant are picked, dried — taking on a texture similar to oregano — and sold.

The marijuana is then ingested in a number of ways, the most common being the form of a cigarette.

Known as a joint, the marijuana cigarette contains usually 1/8 to 1/4 of a gram of marijuana.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

'Canada's Leading Leather Store'

the olde Hide House
Built in 1899

OPEN 10-10 DAILY

853-1031

'It's Worth The Drive To Acton'

Halton Hills WEEKEND

The Georgetown Independent and Acton Free Press

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12, 1991

A Metroland Community Newspaper Serving all Halton Hills and District

LEATHERTOWN WEST WEAR-HOUSE
ACTON-ONTARIO-CANADA

OPEN 10-8 DAILY
12 Church St. E. 853-0506

24 PAGES/50 CENTS + G.S.T.

Armstrong Insurance Business of the Year

Paul C. Armstrong Insurance Brokers Ltd. has been named Business of the Year by the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce.

Founded more than 45 years ago by Paul Armstrong's father, former Georgetown mayor John Armstrong, the business has grown steadily ever since.

"We were pleased to think the Chamber saw fit to choose us," Janet Armstrong said Thursday.

Serving Halton Hills and the surrounding area, the Mill St. company provides personal insurance for home, car, business and commercial.

Although Armstrong Insurance is only the second company to receive the prestigious award since the formation of the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce (the olde Hide House was 1989 Business of the Year), companies previously honored by the Georgetown Chamber are Curwood Packaging, Burns Transport, Varian Canada, Murray Lawton and Canadian Tire, Barry Whitworth and Georgetown Chrysler, William McNally Construction, Dominion Seed House and Smith and Stone.

Blakemore confesses to sexual assaults

Local children were not among those who were assaulted by a former resident, Metro Toronto police detective John Liska told this newspaper Wednesday.

Former Georgetown resident Kevin Blakemore had confessed to sexually assaulting 17 boys and girls, some of whom were in his care when he worked as a bus driver.

Detective John Liska said Blakemore didn't work as a school bus driver when he was living in Georgetown.

Liska said the sexual assaults took place primarily in the Toronto area between 1974 and 1988.

Both the Halton school boards confirmed that Blakemore did not drive a school bus for them when he lived here in the late 1980's.

Blakemore, 31, was sentenced

last week to life imprisonment for the attempted murder of a woman in her Toronto apartment.

Developers warn Region levies will drive business to U.S. See page 3

Performers needed

Globe Productions needs singers, dancers and actors for its spring show, "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum". Auditions are on Friday, Jan. 11 and Saturday, Jan. 12. For information and appointment, call Maureen Walker, 877-4323.



The board of directors and the staff of the Acton Social Services and Information Centre (ASSIC) honored assistant executive director Eileen Dix, Wednesday night at a board meeting. Eileen has resigned the post and will pursue other interests after a vacation. Staff members, left to right, Isobel Gallant, Linda Russell, June Lewis, and

Peggie Balkind, right, make a presentation to Eileen. Eileen's position will be filled by Betty McDowall who was introduced to the board Wednesday as well as new staff member Susan Haggith. Board members paid tribute to Eileen for her seven years of dedicated service to social services in Acton and district.

Jobless rate in Halton Hills is climbing rapidly, now almost 6 %

By JANET BAINE

Canada Employment Centres are having a hard time coping with the increased number of people applying for unemployment insurance benefits.

"We're just besieged here, we're deteriorating rapidly," said Charlie Brand, the acting manager of the Canada Employment office in Brampton which oversees the Georgetown office.

Brand said the unemployment rate is approximately 5.1 per cent in this area, and he anticipates it could rise to 6 per cent by the end of the month.

The big problem with the unemployment rate is the rapid increase, with the prospect of only bleaker times in the near future, he said.

"On staff I've got a harassed group of employees who are really

starting to feel the pressure of it," he said.

Many layoffs are the result of permanent closures of companies, unlikely to rebound as they did after the 1982 recession, he said.

"Attitudes are much more negative and the hostility levels are on the rise and we only have a certain amount of staff," he said. Some staff have been shuffled around in order

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Wrap up the Holidays with Us



Jack TANNERS
TABLE

Meet with a special friend soon for a relaxed evening of dining at Jack Tanners.

Our cosy atmosphere provides an intimate setting to sit back and indulge your holiday memories. Enjoy your favorite selections from our continental menu including beef, fresh pastas, fish and chicken dishes or experience something new and different from our chef's daily creations.

Vintage wines from around the globe are available to complement your meal and please your palate. Treat yourself tonight - you've earned it.

Reservations Recommended 853-3440

