crackdown continues

Despite an initial public outcry, Halton Regional Police say they will continue their crackdown on drivers leaving their keys in their cars.

Last month, police started laying charges under Municipal Bylaw 84-1 — a bylaw that carries a \$53.75 fine for anyone leaving their keys in an unattended vehicle.

Police laid 14 charges and issued 10 warnings under the bylaw in January.

The crackdown launched as police tried to reduce the "alarming" increase in the number of vehicles being stolen in Halton Hills.

According to 1990 statistics, 20 of the 35 vehicles stolen in Halton Hills, excluding motorcycles and snowmobiles, had the keys in them - many with the engine running.

Prime locations for car thefts include schools, daycare centres, convenience stores and "any place people are just dashing in for a minute," Laurel Barnett, the crime prevention officer for Halton Hills, said.

Announcement of the crackdown annoyed many residents who learned they could be charged even when they left their car idling in their driveway.

Welfare caseload skyrockets

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 money will be needed before the year is out.

In proposing the \$850,000 increase, the Region is gambling that Ontario "will begin to emerge from the current recession in the fall," according to the report submitted jointly by Ewart and Rinaldo. The \$850,000 is based on a 21 per cent load increase in welfare payments.

Rinaldo reasoned that even if the downturn is more prolonged and severe than anticipated, the Region could at least spread out the impact of the additional welfare costs by paying some now and some later given the 21 per cent proposal. He stressed that he might have to come back to councillors later in the year asking for authority to dip into regional reserves for welfare money.

Milton councillor Brad Clements, the chairman of the regional health and social services committee described the situation as "grim."

The recommendation that Halton bump up its welfare budget went to regional budget review committee Thursday and some hard opposition to the increase was expected.

Oakville councillor Kevin Flynn indicated it was bowing to provincial whims when the Province should be paying for more welfare. Burlington councillor Ralph Scholtens said the increase must be softened to 6.5 per cent from 7.2 per cent, because the latter figure is "unacceptable" to taxpayers.

(Rob Kelly is news editor with the Milton Champion, sister paper. to this publication.)

Keys in car LIONS CELEBRATE







SENSATIONAL SIXTIETH

Marking the 60th anniversary milestone, the Georgetown Lions Club celebrated at the Acton Legion with more than 160 sitting down to the dinner last Saturday night. Several honors were bestowed during the night, with (top) longtime Georgetown Lion Fred Zorge (right) recognized as a Melvin Jones Fellow, the highest honor a Lion can achieve. The plaque was awarded by guest speaker, Past International Director Bruce Murray. Centre, Georgetown Lion Dan Boyle, (left) received his Life Member Award from District Governor Russ Fedon, while Georgetown President Derek Ezekiel (bottom) received a plaque from Georgetown Lioness President Norma Firth. The club also received various presentations from the Town of Halton Hills, Halton Region and both the federal and provincial governments.

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