

# Police report thefts rise in 1991 — youths suspected in most

By JANET BAINE

Small thefts are on the rise in Halton Hills, with an 18 per cent increase this year over last year.

During the first five months of 1990 there were 249 thefts under \$1,000. During the same period this year there were 294 of these crimes.

Of 86 thefts under \$1,000 reported in May, six were shoplifting, 27 were thefts from motor vehicles, 22 were stolen bicycles and there were 31 listed as "other."

Police estimate a total of \$19,202-worth of goods were stolen in thefts under \$1,000 during the month of May alone.

Crime Prevention officer, Sgt. David Gwilliams said most of these are "crimes of opportunity" — young people look for something to steal. The more difficult home, car and business owners make it for young thieves, the less likely they are to steal, he said.

Of the 27 motor vehicles which were broken into in Halton Hills in May, only two showed definite signs of forced entry, according to police reports. Eighteen were most likely left unlocked, Gwilliams said.

Gwilliams said the vast majority of these crimes are committed by youths under 25, who might be

roaming the streets looking for opportunities.

"A lot can be prevented by taking things of value out of the car," Gwilliams said. People leave all sorts of things in their cars: leather jackets, golf clubs, cameras, briefcases and cassette tapes frequently go missing from cars. Recently someone left a briefcase containing a \$1,000-bill in an unlocked car and returned to find it missing.

Items stored outside homes are also prime targets for this type of crime: gas barbeques, flags, bicycles, lawn furniture. Gwilliams recommends locking these items up

with a chain and a padlock to make it more difficult for young thieves, and less likely that they will disappear overnight.

"You can also borrow an engraver from us and engrave your drivers' licence number on your items," he said. "Sometimes we apprehend someone, but can't match the stolen property to the occurrences. (Engraving) helps us to charge the person and get the goods back to the owner."

Other common-sense words of advice Gwilliams has to offer:

— Never leave wallets in a change room unlocked. Thieves go

looking through unlocked lockers to see what they can come up with;

— If you are going to be away for a few days, tell your neighbors. Tell them if you are expecting anyone to drop by while you are gone, so they can call the police if they see anything unusual.

— Use outside lights around the house, especially sensor lights which will automatically go on when there is movement nearby.

— Make it a regular practice to lock cars, garages, and houses.

If you have any tips which would help solve a crime, call Crimestoppers at 1-800-668-5151.

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# WEEKEND

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VOLUME 7 -- NO. 14

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## Intense blaze guts 19th century rural Ballinafad house

By STUART JOHNSTON

Fire quickly gutted an old rural home Tuesday afternoon, causing an estimated \$150,000 damage.

According to the Halton Hills Fire Department, firefighters from both Area 1 (Acton) and 2 (Georgetown) accompanied emergency services from Hillsburgh to the approximately 120-year-old home, located on the Sixth Line, northwest

of Ballinafad in Erin Township.

The home was recently purchased by Georgetown realtor Mike Adams, who said in an interview he was planning on moving into it early next month.

"Now, where will I be moving to in August?" Adams said. "It was almost empty at the time, (because) it was being renovated. I really

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## MOE rules stymie Region's waste reduction efforts

By STUART JOHNSTON

Halton's goal of reducing solid waste by 50 per cent by the turn of the century will be extremely difficult, if not impossible, to achieve under new Provincial regulations, Regional councillors were told Wednesday.

Public Works commissioner Art Leitch informed councillors that, because of Environment Minister Ruth Grier's ban on incineration, very few alternatives currently exist that will push diversion of

waste up to and beyond 50 per cent by the year 2000.

The Minister has stipulated municipalities must divert at least that much solid waste from landfill through the 3Rs and other programs. Halton was relying on burning portions of its garbage in Energy From Waste (EFW) facilities as part of its environmental approvals for its own landfill; now, EFW is left up in the air because of Grier's ban.

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### A FIVE GRAND OPERATION

Dorothy Hunt, chairperson of Operation '91 presents a cheque for \$5,000 to Graeme Goebelle, chairman of the Georgetown Hospital Board. On hand were John Oliver, Hospital director and Linda Dawson and Maureen Walker, coproducers of the successful event. Approximately 496 people attended the 30th anniversary celebration and fund-raiser. BARB STEPHENS /Weekend



# Jack TANNER'S TABLE

## Sunday Brunch

A casual relaxing mid-day meal among family and friends is a delightful activity for many on Sunday. The cosy, country setting offers a warm and inviting feeling for your gathering.

For your enjoyment our chef prepares new & seasonal breakfast specialties each Sunday. Traditional favorites include our carving station and

the popular Create Your Own Omelette Station. Plus - fresh made waffles, a selection of country breads, fresh fruits and berries, pastries from Dufflets. Fruit Juices, homemade desserts and other creations to please your palate. The tradition continues Sundays, at Jack Tanner's Table.

Reservations Recommended: 853-3440