

Halton crime stats soar 11 per cent

By ANGELA BLACKBURN
Criminal offences are on the rise in Halton.

That's the news police commissioners heard from Halton Regional Police Service Deputy Chief John Barratt last week. He tabled a report indicating reported crime is up 11.3 per cent in the first six months of 1991, compared with the same period last year.

"It's obvious it's up quite a bit. Is there anything we should be

concerned about?" asked police commissioner Fred Oliver. "We're concerned over all of it, but is there anything in specific?"

Deputy Chief Barratt said, "analysis is being conducted" by the police to determine whether more crime prevention measures "might be warranted and how they should be implemented."

Increases have been reported in shoplifting, assaults, break and enters, vehicle and bicycle thefts and property damage. The high-

est increase was 35 per cent, in shoplifting. Next came a 26 per cent hike in thefts from vehicles and a jump of 24 per cent in vehicle stealing.

The various crime prevention committees and community consulting groups around Halton will also be brought up to speed on the statistics, as will police district commanders, Deputy Chief Barratt said, in an effort to curb criminal activity.

Police commission chairperson

Karen Thompson asked about the rise in assaults and was told part of the reason for the jump was an increase in fights among young men in and around bars.

Police statistics also reveal that calls for service have decreased slightly and that there's been a decrease in vehicle collisions - down 471 or 13 per cent.

Fatalities in Halton vehicle mishaps are down from 10 last year to six so far in 1991. "One

tragic collision did, however, claim four lives," noted Deputy Chief Barratt, in reference to a recent north Burlington crash in which four teenagers died.

Deputy Chief Barratt said the police clearance rate for cases is higher than had been anticipated this year, but response times are longer. "Response times all show an increase which, to some extent, relates to the increased criminal offences."

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WEEKEND

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Blood clinic on Monday

Please keep in mind there is a Red Cross blood donor clinic on Monday (August 12) at Holy Cross church auditorium.

Summertime, when many people are away on holiday, is a

difficult time to maintain blood resources. Please take the time to give the "gift of life." Anyone age 17 to 71 is urgently needed.

The clinic runs from 1:30 to 8:30 p.m. and babysitting and transportation are available. Call Anna Ewen (877-4477) or Nancy Schultheiss (877-7330) or the clinic day phone (877-7522) if you need a ride.

Bull dozer pins Acton man; listed in critical condition

By JANET BAINE

An Acton man is in critical condition at Sunnybrook Hospital after he was pinned down by a bulldozer when he was driving Wednesday.

Carl Robertson, 49, was driving the bulldozer in reverse up metal ramps onto a flat bed trailer at 11:30 a.m. Just as the bulldozer reached the deck of the trailer, the driver's seat broke under Robertson's weight, and he fell backward over the back of the bulldozer, Halton Regional Police reported. The bulldozer continued to reverse on its own and veered to one side, pushing Robertson against the

frame of the trailer, temporarily pinning him down. The track was still moving and pushed the victim to the front of the dozer where he came to rest.

Robertson was taken to Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital before he was air-lifted to Sunnybrook Hospital in Toronto. His injuries include a ruptured lung and fractured ribs, police said. He is in critical condition in the surgical intensive care unit at Sunnybrook, hospital officials said at press time.

The accident occurred in his driveway at his farm on Concession 3, Acton.



William Stout and Pauline James didn't find a GST rebate cheque in their mail box last month. Now they've been told the \$170 cheque won't come until October because a government employee made a mistake on their income tax return.

JANET BAINE/Halton Hills Weekend

Govt. goof leaves Acton couple red

By JANET BAINE

Someone at Revenue Canada goofed. William Stout and Pauline James of Acton don't want to pay the price for the mistake which a federal government employee made.

A computer operator punched the wrong numbers from the Acton couple's income tax return into the computer. Now Revenue Canada thinks Stout made \$204,000 last year and decided to stop sending Stout and James, who are on permanent disability, a GST rebate. Originally, Stout was told the keyboard operator had punched in earnings of \$2.7 million, but Thursday, a Revenue official told Stout the figure was actually \$204,000.

"I wish I had that \$2.7 million. I could live on the interest alone," Stout said.

The July GST cheque for \$170 didn't arrive, and Stout has made numerous calls to Revenue Canada's Tax Information Phone Service, but only received a busy signal. He got through on a different long-distance line, and was told he would have to wait until October for his cheque.

But Stout said he needs the money now. The couple and their three children just moved in July, which means they had additional expenses.

"We were counting on that cheque to get us through the month," Stout said. They've already dipped into their food money to pay their rent, James said. The couple have a hard enough time keeping bill collectors at bay without additional problems from the federal government, she said.

"I'd like to see Revenue Canada get off their behinds and rectify the mistake

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\$15,000 worth of hockey card stolen

By JANET BAINE

About \$15,000-worth of hockey cards were stolen when a Georgetown residence was broken into Wednesday afternoon. Police believe the thief was familiar with the card collection. A witness saw a man loading a pick-up truck with boxes during the time of the break-in, Halton Regional police said. Stolen cards date back to the 1974-

Three rookie Gretzkies

75 season, and include several complete sets of cards, and single cards. Three Wayne Gretzky cards from his rookie season in 1979 valued at \$700 each went missing. About 200 loonies were also taken from a large jar, police said.

The owner of the cards was planning to set up a business specializing in cards, police said.

The thief entered through a sliding window and left through patio doors. He took some cards from under the mattress in the spare bedroom, sheets of cards from binders, and several complete sets in boxes, police said. The theft is under investigation.

INSIDE

Blind walker will make Halton Hills one of his stops ... page 3

The circus comes to town Thursday. For details ... page 8

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