

OPP to investigate allegations of police cover-up

By ROB KELLY

Special to the Halton Hills Weekend

The Ontario Provincial Police will investigate allegations of a cover-up by Halton Regional Police senior officers, contained in an anonymous letter distributed to regional councillors last week.

The decision was announced Wednesday by the Halton Police Services Board, the civilian group which oversees police operations. In a brief press release, the board said its five members, as well Halton Regional Police chief James Harding, are "concerned about the

allegations regarding the integrity of the Halton regional police."

"If there's a problem, we're going to deal with it. We're going to get to the bottom of it," said police board vice-chairman Barry Quinn. "The public needs a response."

Halton regional police chief James Harding has roundly denounced the anonymous letter, which was distributed on June 3 by Halton Hills regional councillor Pam Johnston. It alleges senior police officers derailed an investigation into a possible wife beating incident involving a Halton policeman in the early 1980s, and then



PAM JOHNSTON CHIEF HARDING
tampered with the case records.
The anonymous letter is "slandering and scandalous," Chief

Harding said Tuesday. "I totally reject its contents."

Chief Harding said he supports an investigation into the matter, and in fact it was he who initially attempted to solicit outside investigators from Waterloo Regional Police last week.

But the Halton police board chose the OPP instead to avoid any possible impression that chief Harding is directing the inquiry, police sources have said.

Quinn said initially he wasn't sure what to do with the anonymous letter, which is signed, "a caring and loyal cop" although in some

police circles it is being questioned whether an officer wrote it. The letter was addressed to Johnston, who has publicly battled chief Harding recently and Quinn, apparently because he is both a Halton regional councillor and a police board member. Quinn discussed the letter with police board chairperson Dorothy Dowling last week, although he didn't give her copy at that time, he said. In early deliberation, board members attempted to puzzle through an appropriate course of action as far as investigating the matter.

See BOARD, page 2

HALTON HILLS

WEEKEND

'Canada's Leading Leather Store'



Built in 1899
49 Eastern Ave., Acton 853-1031
Sun.-Wed. 10-6 Thurs.-Sat. 10-9
It's Worth the Drive to Acton
- in historic Halton Hills!



Sun.-Wed. 10-6 Thurs.-Sat. 10-9
12 Church St. E. 853-0506

A Metroland Publication Serving 35,000 in our community - For Delivery call 873-0301 Today.
SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 1992 - VOLUME 8 - ISSUE 10 - 40 PAGES - 50¢ + G.S.T.

News

Digest

Pioneer Days

Mark your calendar for downtown Georgetown's Pioneer Days, this Thursday, Friday and Saturday (June 18-20). There will be lots of fun things to do from toddlers to seniors all three days. Take the family and spend the day.

Check out Wednesday's edition of *The Georgetown Independent/Acton Free Press* which carry our special insert on the popular event.

Robbie comes to town

Blue Jays second baseman Roberto Alomar will attend the DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) graduation ceremony held by the Halton Regional Police Service for the Grade 6 students at Holy Cross School, Maple Ave., Georgetown, 10 a.m. on June 16. The DARE graduation represents the completion of 17 one hour lessons designed to teach children to recognize and resist social pressure to experiment with alcohol, tobacco and drugs. Children instead learn positive alternatives.

VCR stolen

Someone entered a classroom at McKenzie Smith School in Acton and removed a VCR from a stand sometime overnight Monday. The culprit entered through an unlocked window which was not damaged, police said.

INSIDE

MPP introduces bill ... pg. 3
Cadet inspection pg. 7
Heavy truck traffic pg. 8
Champs crowned pg. 22



Gotta Dance

It's dance recital time and all the local dance groups are holding their season ending shows, demonstrating the latest in two step, plies and tap. Above, two youngsters from the Halton Hills School of Dancing perform "Beginners Please" at its recital at the John Elliott Theatre Saturday. Check out Entertainment, page 20 for more photos of rising stars.

Photo by KEVIN WHITFIELD

RSI hearing comes to end

By STUART JOHNSTON

Staff writer

Plans to landfill the Acton Quarry amount to nothing more than a business venture applying for a permit, rather than an extensive environmental assessment as required by law, charged FOAD lawyer Doug Edward during the final two days of the provincial hearing this week.

The three hearing board officers listened with interest to FOAD (Furiously Opposed to Acton Dumping)'s argument that the government review of Reclamation Systems Inc.'s plans, referred to as the blue book, concluded that it lacked sufficient detail and therefore failed to meet provincial legislation. In particular, RSI gave only a cursory look at alternative sites to dump garbage, something that the environmental assessment act (EAA) stresses should be completed in painstaking detail.

Instead, Edward argued, RSI only looked at the technical and economic merits of the other sites before settling on the Acton Quarry.

"There cannot be justification for precluding investigations of alternative sites," Edward argued. "The bottom line is, you cannot deal with an environmental assessment (EA) unless alternative sites are truly and properly compared. Any other approach strips the process of the pretense of an assessment and turns it into a mere permit granting process..."

"The EA is not based on the pre-selection of sites on purely business reasons...It means that agencies cannot comment on the proposal intelligently, because they don't know what to compare it to."

See FOAD, page 5

Canada's 125th

Send your greetings

Hey readers, Canada celebrates its 125th birthday July 1. wishes as possible. Help make

If you could make one wish for this great country of ours, what would it be?

Please send your birthday greetings to us along with a brief explanation as to why your wish is important.

On Wednesday, July 1, we will publish as many of these birthday



Canada's birthday extra special this year by joining in the fun.

Please send your wish to: the Georgetown Independent or Acton Free Press, Birthday Wish for Canada, 211 Armstrong Ave., Georgetown, Ontario, L7G 4X5.

SAVE 50%



BLUE SPRINGS GOLF CLUB

2-FORE-1 TUESDAYS ON 'TRILLIUM'

Play the 9 hole par 3 'Trillium' course for just \$5 every Tuesday!
Reserved times recommended. Dress Code in effect. Call 853-0904

Play the 'TURTLE LAKE' course after 5 pm HALF-PRICE DAILY