

# Halton police show support for Metro officers

By LISA TALLYN  
Staff writer

Halton Regional Police officers have been sporting blue ribbons since Monday to show their support for concerns raised by Metro police officers regarding recent Ontario NDP government initiatives that affect policing.

The police association voted unanimously at a special meeting on October 15 to support the Metro officers.

Laurie Vechter, administrator of the Halton association, says she is not sure how many of the association's 510 members were at the meeting but says it was a "good turnout."

She says that the majority of officers, and civil servants in the service, are wearing the ribbons.

Vechter says members of the Halton service are not planning to participate in a job action, like their Metro counterparts, but plan to wear the blue ribbons until the government recognizes the police officers' concerns.

Vechter says the association's concerns are health and safety issues that affect the public and police.

"We have four key concerns," said Vechter. One is the government's refusal to recognize the need for improved firearms and ammunition. The government didn't recommend an upgrading of ammunition



or weapons despite the fact police departments were calling for it, Vechter says. The officers were requesting a move up to semi-automatic weapons.

"We are just trying to keep up with the guns on the street," said Vechter. "We feel the government is not recognizing the expertise of the front-line officers."

Vechter says the association is also concerned because the government relied upon limited, non-repre-

sentative input in the formulation of the new policy and legislation.

Vechter says the Halton association is also concerned about the imposition of requirements to report to third-party government agencies for unknown reasons.

"In Halton we already have a general order (in place). Reports are filed by officers when firearms are drawn. But this is for internal and appropriate purposes only."

She says under the new regulation, to take effect January 1, 1993, officers will have to file a report to a third party.

"We don't know where, or we don't know why," said Vechter. "We want to know what it will be used for."

She says the requirement to file reports on drawing their guns to a third party may lead officers to second-guess themselves, and refrain from unholstering their gun for fear of recriminations.

The fourth concern centres around the operation of the Special Investigations Unit. Vechter says the association wants to ensure that the unit, which investigates incidents such as a shooting by an officer, or a car accident involving an officer, consists of properly trained people with a defined mandate.

The new regulations came down in September, some are already in effect, others will come into effect next year.

HALTON HILLS

# WEEKEND

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News

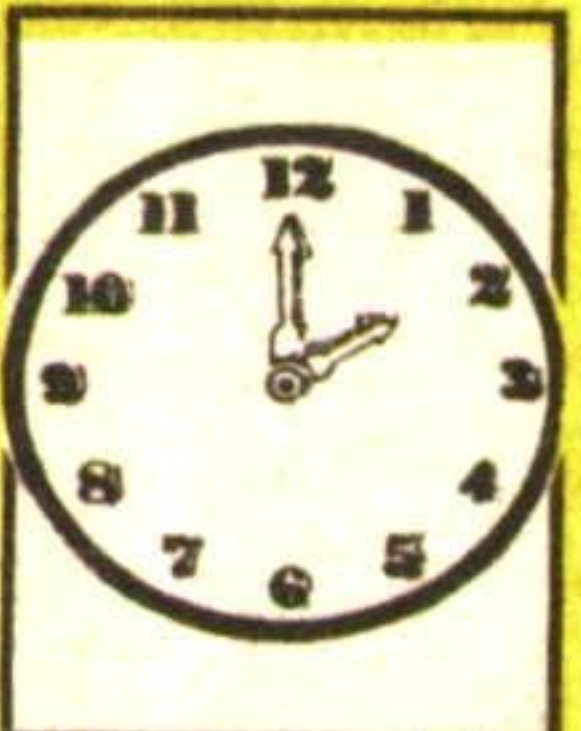
Digest

### Talk budget

All interested citizens are invited to attend a public information meeting regarding the 1993 town budget Wednesday, Oct. 28, 7 p.m., Council Chambers, Civic Centre.

If you wish to appear as a delegation and/or provide a written submission, please contact Janet Lunn Stewart, town clerk, at 873-2600, prior to this meeting.

### Clocks change



Just a reminder that clocks fall back at 2 a.m. Sunday giving you an extra hour of sleep.

### 'Yes' office open

The Yes Committee office will be open on Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Anyone with questions on the Charlottetown Accord or the referendum is welcome to drop by to speak with members of the committee. The office will also be open Monday, until the polls close. Anyone lacking transportation to the polls should call the office at 873-6888 or 1-800-265-6243 to arrange a ride.

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Firefighters and ambulance attendants work to free a woman trapped in a vehicle following a collision with a VIA/Amtrak train in Acton Friday morning.

## Car and train collide at Acton crossing

A Hillsburgh woman was seriously injured when the car she was driving southbound collided with a westbound VIA/Amtrak passenger train on the CN rail line at Hwy 25 at Hwy 7 in Acton at about 9:15 a.m. Friday.

At press time police weren't releasing the name of the accident victim, as next of kin hadn't been notified.

According to Staff Sgt. Ron Welsh of Halton Regional Police, investigating the accident, the woman was rushed to Georgetown hospital by ambulance. At press time a spokesperson for the hospital says the woman, who suffered multiple injuries, was stabilized then transported by air ambulance to Toronto Western Hospital at about 11:30 a.m.

Her condition at the time was listed as serious but stable. Halton Hills Fire Department responded to the accident, and removed the woman from the car which had rolled and landed on its roof in a

ditch on the north side of the tracks about 30 metres from the road.

Halton Hills fire chief Bill Cunningham says firefighters also removed a dead dog from the car.

Staff Sgt. Welsh says the woman's car was demolished in the crash. The train wasn't damaged.

Dianne Graham, senior officer of public affairs for VIA Rail says the train involved was travelling west from Toronto to Chicago with 86 passengers on board. No one on the train was injured. The train was detained at the scene for about an hour. Hwy 25 was closed between Hwy. 7 and Wallace Rd. for about two hours.

The crossing at the scene was equipped with lights and bells according to Scott Gaber, public affairs project officer for CN Railways. Gaber says CN has no reason to believe the signal wasn't functional at the time of the crash. He says CN is investigating the accident.

SEASON ENDS OCT. 25<sup>th</sup>



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