

Crime statistics on the decline in Halton Hills

By JANET BAINE
Staff writer

Crime in Halton Hills has gone down about 25 per cent over the past two years.

Statistics indicate that between January and June, there were 921 reports of criminal offences in 1993, 1,092 in 1992 and 1,230 in 1991. Criminal offences include assault, robbery, theft, reports of stolen property, fraud and property damage. Over the past year, crime has gone down 15 per cent.

Crime Prevention Sgt. Al McWhirter said he thinks crime is down because of the emphasis on community policing.

"In the community we live in, people are more aware of the efforts we've had in policing. Police are more approachable," he said.

Village constables, Nick Leoni and Bill Riddle are more visible and people have come to know them and talk to them directly, he said. Programs in schools, like the DARE program, which educates Grade 6



students about drugs, have had a very good impact, he said.

The number one crime in Halton Hills is theft under \$1,000, which accounted for 265 criminal reports, compared to 303 last year. Second to that is property damage, at 208 this year and 279 last year.

In all areas except fraud and domestic assault, crime is down.

"We could have had a rash of bad cheques or counterfeit money which has increased frauds," McWhirter said. He said he doesn't

think domestic assaults are happening more often; they are just being reported to police more.

"Now we have to lay charges (in domestic situations)," said Const. Carol Crowe. "There's more awareness in the community and people can come forward now and not have it brushed under the carpet."

So far this year the statistics show there have been no murders or attempt murders, 16 sexual offences, five robberies and nine charges involving weapons.

HALTON HILLS

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News Digest

Good condition

Susan Romans is now in good condition at St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto. Her car was on a private road in a strawberry field on 15 Sideroad July 16 when she stopped to let a train pass. As she proceeded through, a second train hit her car.

Harmony had seizure

A post-mortem conducted Tuesday found that 20-year-old Harmony Bull died from an epileptic seizure, Coroner Dr. William Lucas said. Bull suffered from seizures every three or four weeks as a direct result of head injuries she sustained in the 1990 car accident.

"It also came at a time when they thought she was improving. The seizures weren't as frequent or as intense," as they had been in the past, Lucas said. When a person goes into general seizure, they lose consciousness, and it is likely that Harmony, who was in a face-down position, either suffocated or choked. The death will be recorded as accidental.

Photo contest

It's time for local residents to get their favorite photos of their children and pets ready for the *Independent/Free Press* photo contest. For details see the advertisement on page 10.

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Consider the Lilies

The Georgetown Horticulture Society held an exhibition entitled Consider the Lilies Revisited 1993 last Saturday at the Georgetown Marketplace Mall. The show honored the work of the late Bob Barber, Georgetown resident and lily hybridizer responsible for many of the popular lily varieties we enjoy

today. Among those on hand to dedicate the show was Bob's widow, Doris Barber. Barber family members Carole Ann Barber, Doris Barber, Keith Barber (brother) and Mary Finley (niece) were all in attendance at the event.

Photo by SYLVIA GALBRAITH

olde Hide House eyes September re-opening

By LISA TALLYN
Staff writer

The olde Hide House could be back in business by early September if the leather retailer's creditors approve a restructuring proposal which is to be submitted to them at the end of the month.

The outcome of the vote on the restructuring is expected by mid-August.

Under the proposal, company president Steve Dawkins said Flight-Line, which used to be on

Mill St. and Leathertown West Warehouse formerly on Church St., will not re-open. Product lines from those two stores will be housed in themed areas in the olde Hide House itself.

Jack Tanner's Table will also remain closed and the space will be "moth-balled" for one year, pending a final decision on how to best use that section of the building.

Back on June 15 all but a hand-

ful of the company's 120 employees were laid off when the olde Hide House, Jack Tanner's Table, Flight-Line and Leathertown West Warehouse were closed pending a restructuring of the company's finances.

On Thursday, Dawkins said keeping the three divisions of the company closed will mean about 50 local jobs will be lost, 15 full-time and 35 part-time positions. Dawkins added the three-year

operating plan, recently completed by the management team, will be the basis for the company's restructuring proposal.

"The heart of the proposal is the business plan," said Dawkins. "We feel this plan will provide us with the greatest chance of going forward. I continue to remain cautiously optimistic."

For more than 10 years, the olde Hide House promoted Acton's Leathertown theme. The company was honored as Business of the Year in 1990.



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