

Local crime down 15 per cent

By JANET BAINE
Staff writer

Crime in Halton Hills is down by about 15 per cent, when compared to last year.

In fact, statistics show that crime reports were steadily increasing until 1991, when they began to decline steadily.

"Crimes of a serious nature tend to stay stable, but crimes of property and willful damage tend to drop during times of recession," said Det. Sgt. Mike Kingston. "My personal theory is that people don't have the money to let their kids wander in the street, they have less money for alcohol and are less given to impulsive situations."

While the recession hit in the fall of 1990, "the reality of the recession hadn't yet hit and people hadn't adjusted spending habits", he said.

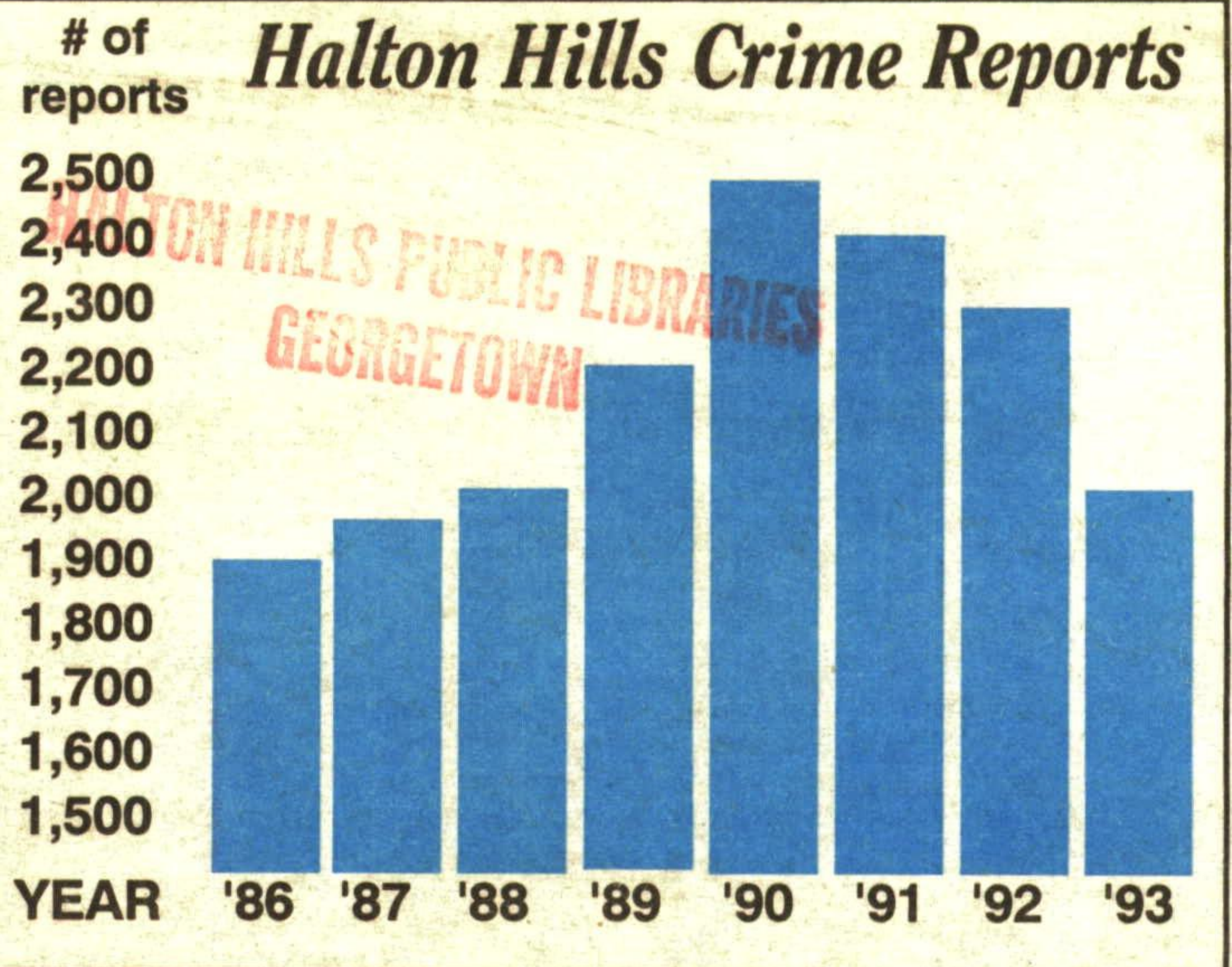
An even more important factor is the hard work of community groups, like Rural Watch and Neighborhood Watch which work with police by giving them additional leads in helping to arrest people. Community policing initiatives, which took effect in 1990 have brought the police and the community closer together to solve crime. This is a different approach to policing, which seems to be working, Kingston said.

Arrests in Halton Hills have also increased this year. There is no way of calculating the exact number of

arrests this year, because statistics aren't kept in this way, but the crime clearance rate is up from 36 per cent last year to 42 per cent this year. Usually crimes are cleared by an arrest.

To the end of November there were 1,750 crime reports, compared to 2,066 during the same period last year. Assaults dropped by 19.5 per cent to 124, break and enters by 23 per cent to 135, theft under \$1,000 by 19.5 per cent to 484 and willful damage by 22 per cent to 400.

"The only thing that's up is sexual offences, and most of these are historical complaints (ie. an incident that may have occurred several years ago)," Kingston said.



HALTON HILLS

WEEKEND

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1993 - VOL 8 - ISSUE 36 - 36 PAGES - 50¢ + G.S.T.

News

Digest

Mayor's Blood Clinic

In recognition of the critical need for blood during the holiday season, Mayor Miller and members of Council decided in 1992 to cancel the New Year's Levee and redirected these funds in order to sponsor a blood donor clinic instead.

Due to the success of this worthwhile venture, the Second Annual Mayor's Blood Donor Clinic will be held Wednesday, December 29, 2-7 p.m. at the Sacre-Coeur Parish Hall.

Strike continues

Striking Miracle Food Mart workers continue to walk the picket line four weeks after the 6,500 employees were locked out of stores across the province.

In a vote last Saturday members of the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union Locals 175 and 633 voted overwhelmingly to reject the company's latest offer and continue their strike action.

Gary Berry an employee at Miracle Food Mart in Georgetown said the membership voted down the offer based on the two key issues of wages and job security.

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Sounds of Christmas



Sarah Antonini was among those members of Acton Citizens Band who performed their annual Christmas concert last Sunday at the Acton Band Hall, filling the hall with the sounds of Christmas. The annual concert is now a Christmas tradition in Acton.
Photo by SYLVIA GALBRAITH

Tourism success in 1993

By STEVE LeBLANC
Special to The Independent/Free Press

Halton Hills Tourism Committee enjoyed a successful year in 1993 and is looking forward to future success in 1994, according to chairperson Janis Fread.

Fread addressed council Monday in order to provide a status report for 1993 and a plan for the coming year.

She reported that with the town's financial assistance, all projects planned over 1993 were successfully completed including the redesign of the pamphlet masthead, the creation of a two-page co-op advertisement and a one-page ad redone in Festival Country Publications.

As well, Fread stated that the annual Acton Leathertown Festival was the most successful to date, drawing approximately 3,000 residents.

The committee also attended various trade shows in Canada and the U.S.

"On behalf of the Halton Hills Tourism Committee, I would like to thank council for its support," said Fread. "Our plans for 1994 include creating a complete tourism package for Halton Hills, creating a network for better representation of all areas in Halton Hills, and setting up a sub-committee for the Leathertown Festival. However, we do not expect as much support from the town as this year."



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