

# EDITORIAL

## The police protest

Thousands of police officers from across Ontario marched on Queen's Park Monday protesting the government's new use-of-force regulations.

It was frightening to see the "boys in blue" marching on the government demanding to be heard. Frightening because of the power that the police hold.

Police ask us everyday to obey the laws of this country but it is awful hard to obey police when they don't obey their own superiors.

Metro Toronto Police --the group that started the protest -- have ignored Chief William McCormack who ordered the officers back into full uniform.

Here in Halton Region, the brunt of the growing police protest has missed us.

Our officers do not appear all that upset with the new regulation requiring them to fill in paper work when a firearm comes out of its holster.

The local officers can be seen wearing blue ribbons in support of their fellow officers but that's about as far as things have gone.

Local officers have been filling in a report when they draw their service revolvers for about 10 years.

What is important is that the cops are not upset with just this new regulation, they are fed up with a government that is not listening to them.

When the NDP took power after the last provincial election, government leaders promised the NDP would run the most open and accessible government in the history of Queens Park.

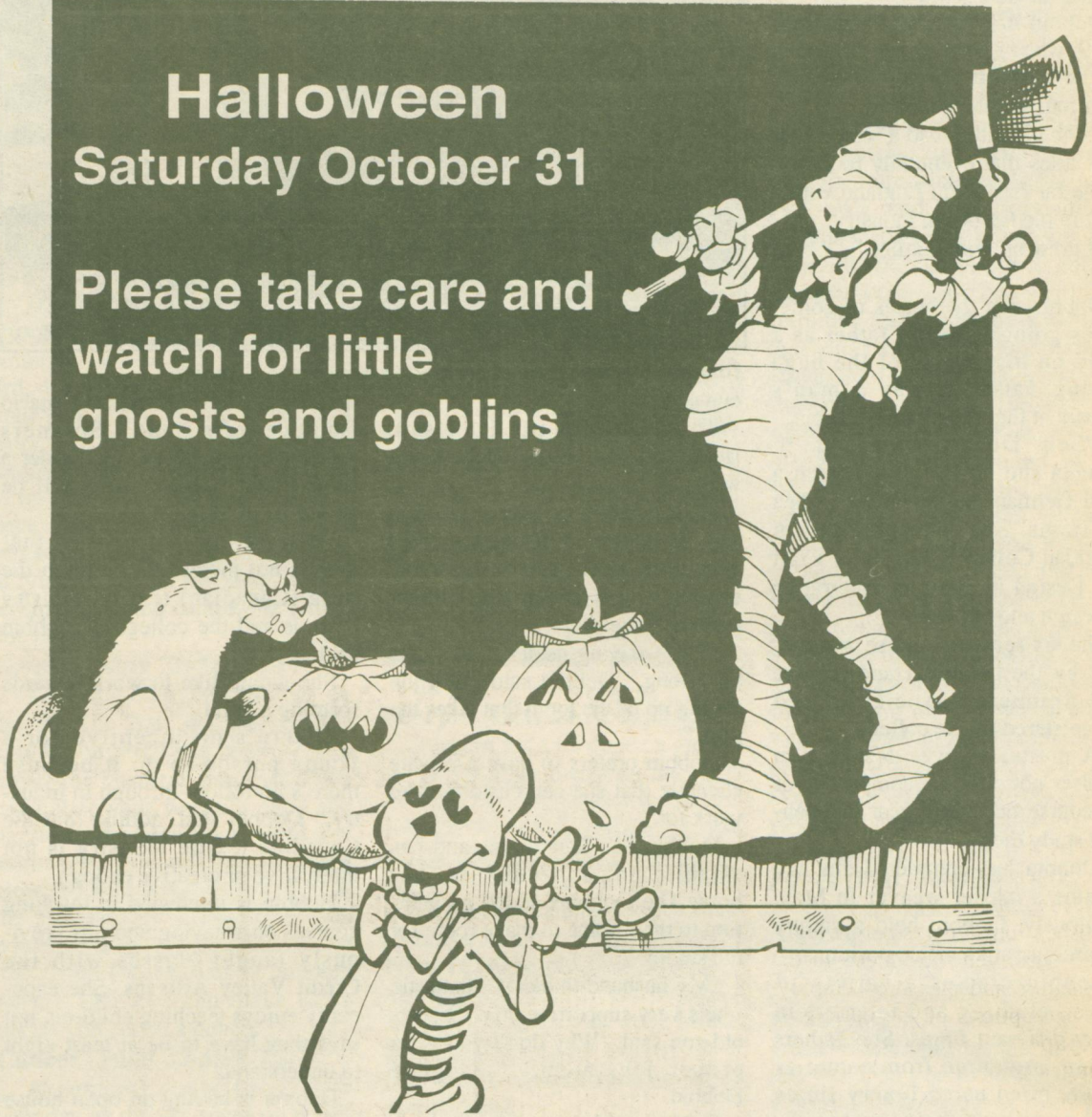
Premier Bob Rae has said that he will not talk to police until after they end their job protest -- wearing baseball caps that say "Police and public safety first" while on duty and letting minor infractions go unnoticed or with a simple warning.

If any other labor movement marched to the steps of Queen's Park in protest, the NDP politicians would be lining up to talk to them -- even if the group was in a confrontation with its management.

So while it is frightening to see police defying authority it is equally frightening to see that the "open government" really is not that open after all.

## Halloween Saturday October 31

Please take care and watch for little ghosts and goblins



## Dave's Diversions A ring of antlers in the woods

By David Featherstone

As the brilliant fall foliage disappears from the trees, white-tailed deer gather in the woods and fields to perform their own ritual of autumn. The rut, the annual season of courtship commences. Bucks, replete with splendid antler racks, compete for the affections of the does.

Buck antlers begin to develop in April. Bone material is deposited at the point of growth by a network of blood vessels. These blood vessels operate beneath a cover of velvety skin which covers the growing antlers. Antlers are very delicate during the initial stages of growth. Bucks become reclusive until their antlers harden late in the summer.

Contrary to popular opinion, antler racks do not necessarily increase in size with age. Antler growth is often tied to age during the first two or three years of life. However, once mature, the antler racks of bucks largely reflect their physical condition. Older bucks, in

poor condition, often have smaller racks than bucks in their prime.

By late summer, the flow of blood to the antlers is shut off. Attendant with this loss of fluid, the velvety skin dries and the antlers harden. Bucks remove this velvet by rubbing their antlers against saplings and bushes. This rubbing continues throughout the fall, enabling bucks to mark out their territory.

In mid-October, bucks construct scrapes under suitable tree branches to announce their presence to available does and rival bucks. An overhanging branch is chewed and often broken. Bucks rub facial scent along the tree branch as a sophisticated form of communication. Pawing vigorously beneath the branch the buck will clear an oval on the ground. The antlers are raked through the scrape giving rival bucks and idea of the size of his rack. Finally, the buck urinates on the scrape as a sort of scent signature marking the scrape as his own.

Antlers serve primarily to

announce the status of a buck during the November rut. Although pitched battles among the bucks are indeed fought to determine supremacy, most encounters involve a lot of posturing and bluffing. Bucks with smaller antler racks retreat. Dominant bucks then mate with available does within their territory.

Soon after the rut, hormonal levels drop, initiating a process during which buck antlers are discarded. With the loss of their heavy racks, bucks feed voraciously as winter approaches to regain fat reserves lost during the hectic autumn rut. In this manner, buck prepare themselves for the harsh winter ahead.

A biologist by profession, David Featherstone devotes a large portion of his spare time to volunteer groups which are working to protect and enhance the environment. David hopes to provide readers of Halton Hills This Week with a mix of interesting and informative outdoor and nature articles.

## A word of thanks

Dear sir,

The Coats for the Needy Drive was a great success. The people of Halton Hills came through with flying colors and showed us their generosity with their donations.

During this drive we collected, cleaned and distributed about 3,000 coats free of charge to the needy. About half of the coats were picked up by the people of Halton Hills and the balance was given to the Love in Christ Food Bank for further distribution.

Thank you Halton Hills and all you wonderful people.

At this time I would like to thank a few businesses who made it possible with their support: Halton Hills This Week Ted Tyler Transport Georgetown Knetchel Food Market George & Dragon Bracky's Bar & Grill Howell Plumbing Barragers Cleaners St. Albans Church, Glen Williams Vi Haines who started this project. Lions Club of Georgetown

Thanking you

Yours truly  
Mani Mitera

## Letters Welcomed

Halton Hills This Week welcomes your letters. Letters must be signed and include your full name and address. Names will be withheld on request.

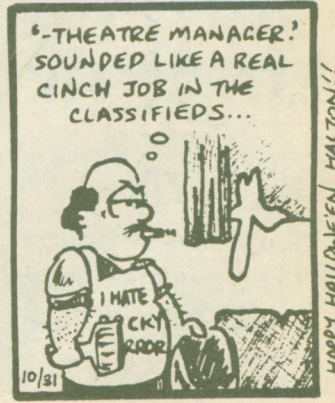
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Send your letter to:

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232 Guelph St., Unit 9  
Georgetown, ON  
L7G 4B1

## For Pete's Sake



by Roe

## Halton Hills This Week

Halton Hills This Week, Weekend Edition, is published every Saturday at 232 Guelph St., Georgetown, Ont. L7G 4B1, and is printed in Oakville by Q.E. Web Printing.

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PUBLISHER: Ken Bellamy

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