

# Halton cops talking about wage cuts

By Stephanie Henderson  
Special to HHTW

Halton Regional Police service is considering scrapping a one per cent wage increase as part of ongoing social contract talks with the region.

This comes as negotiations with the region shift into high gear this week, now that Ontario's police services boards have ratified a social contract agreement with the Ontario Police Association, and with just over a week remaining before the Aug. 1 social contract legislation takes effect.

While the details of the negotiations are confidential,

Quinn revealed that a proposed one per cent wage increase, equivalent to about \$350,000 originally considered under the expenditure control plan reductions for the police service, has been moved to the list of social contract considerations.

"We have already been negotiating under the assumption that an agreement would be reached (by the OPA), to try to pick up the 20 per cent reduction," said Barry Quinn, referring to Ontario premier Bob Rae's incentive for municipalities which reach cost-cutting agreements prior to Aug. 1.

Quinn says the associa-

tion is "quite interested" in coming to an agreement, but neither the police board nor the region know the exact figure to be achieved through social contract negotiations.

"We think we know what the figure is, but it could shift. The finance minister has to tell the region what the magic number is."

The region has already asked police to cut \$897,000 from its 1993 budget to help compensate for \$1.9 million in lost transfer payments.

The Association of Municipalities of Ontario, which represents 95 per cent of the province's cities and towns, last week submitted a resolution asking for clarification of negotiating terms. More specifically, they want increased protection of management rights, including those regarding police and other major sectors.

"They want control of the police, and I think that would be a terrible shame," Quinn commented.

Until the AMO and the province agree, local negotiations will be put on hold.

"I understand that they're 'that close' to an agreement," said Quinn, who will

meet with association members tomorrow night, to prepare for a police services board meeting scheduled for Thursday.

The region is holding ratification meetings with all four municipalities on July 29, at which time Quinn hopes the police agreement will be finalized.

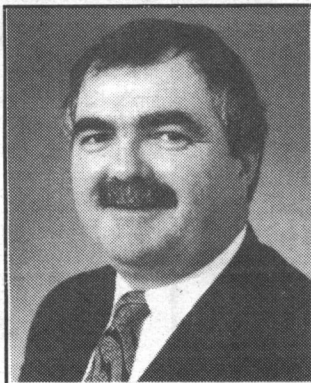
## New top cop wanted

By Oksana Buhel

The Selection Committee of the Halton Regional Police Services Board met Thursday to begin "weaning out" applicants for the position of regional police chief.

Current police chief James Harding is due to retire this June.

"We received 21 applications for the position," said Barry Quinn, chair of the board and member of the committee, "and we will now begin interviewing them." Quinn added the committee will decrease the number to between three and five. Once these candidates are selected, the submissions will be presented to the entire board for determination. Quinn predicts the initial screening process



Barry Quinn

will be completed by the end of August.

The selection four-member committee includes Quinn, Harding, services board member Wendy Roberts, and Reg Ellis, a private consultant.

Quinn further predicted by mid-October the selection process will be completed, and the new police chief will take his post in December. This will allow time for the selected applicant to notify his police force about the appointment, assuming the candidate is currently employed in a police service. "If we select a person from inside, all this may change," Quinn said. "We've received applications from inside, from outside, from police personnel and from non-police personnel."

### Our mistake

In the Halton Hills This Week story, "Bureaucratic Jackasses" stall Acton progress' (July 21) the speaker representing the Izaak Walton Fly Fisherman's Club of Mississauga, was incorrectly identified. He was, in fact, Mike Rowan, a Georgetown resident and Past President of the Club.

Halton Hills This Week regrets the error.

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