

# Yanks praise Halton cops

By David Stover  
Special to HHTW

Community policing in Halton is serving as a model for police forces south of the border, according to two U.S. law enforcement officials who recently visited the regional police force.

"People in Halton Region should feel very fortunate for the excellent police service they're getting," said Chief Gene Beinke of the Clinton, Iowa police department during his visit last week. "This is a very progressive police force."

Beinke's comments were echoed by Lieut. Fred Anderson of the Frederick County, Maryland, sheriff's office, who was also visiting the Halton force. Like Beinke, Anderson said the primary purpose of his visit was to observe the Halton force's community policing philosophy in action.

"Actually, coming here and seeing a department that serves as a model agency has helped immensely for me," Anderson said. "We're not early as advanced as it's being done here."

This isn't the first time the Halton police force has been visited by U.S. colleagues. Beinke's visit was a follow-up from last year, when eight of his staff visited the Halton force.

"We had been preparing to implement community policing and I sent my officers to several forces," Beinke said. Halton was one of them.

Beinke said one idea his force had picked up from Halton police was that of assigning officers to designated neighborhoods.

"They're responsible for what goes on in their neighborhoods," Beinke said, adding that so far the Clinton police have had "remarkable success" with the innovation.

"Feelings toward the Clinton police department have never been higher," Beinke said.

Anderson also has high hopes for community policing. Frederick County is located about 50 kilometres northwest of Washington, D.C.

"We get a lot of spillover of crime," Anderson said. "In my particular jurisdiction, (community policing) will help immensely."

By adopting community policing, Anderson said U.S. police forced hope to re-establish close ties with the people they serve.

"In the U.S. years ago, police had a closer rapport with the community," he said.

"We've tended to get away from that."

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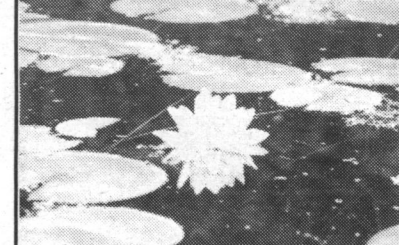
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