



### An avid reader

Mother Goose played by Paul l'Entremont (right) and her daughter Jill, played by Kerry Wright, peruse the classifieds in Halton Hills This Weekend, during Georgetown Little Theatre's production of "Mother Goose" currently playing at the John Elliott Theatre in Georgetown. There are four shows remaining in this production. Two shows today (Saturday) and Sunday, at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.

photo by Simon Wilson/HHTW

## Chief Harding leaves his mark

By Cathy Vint  
Special to HHTW

Although James Harding, former chief of the Halton Regional Police Service, has moved on, he's left his mark behind, which will affect members of the police service for years to come.

On Harding's initiative, Halton police are the first in Ontario to have an employee-driven Member Charter of Rights.

"Many private sector companies have similar statements," explained Jim Watson, director of administrative services, who added he hasn't heard of any other police force with a similar agreement.

The document, jointly signed by the former chief, a member from the police services board, police association and officers' associ-

ation, outlines basic human rights philosophies in the workplace, and offers the employees a simple grievance procedure, where they can resolve a dispute internally, using independent sources, while acting anonymously.

Although the police already have a grievance procedure through their collective agreement, the charter encourages a quicker, non-stressful way to deal with misunderstandings, explains Watson.

"Policing can be a very stressful environment. This offers a way to alleviate the stress, and clear up the dispute internally."

The document is based on the belief that everyone, including management and senior staff, is accountable under the charter.

"It is a basic statement of

our belief of how we should deal with one another," adds Watson.

Taking more than a year to develop, the agreement does not replace or supersede the employees' collective agreement.

At his final police services meeting last month, Harding spoke about democracy, describing the charter as a way people can express concerns without fear of retaliation.

"This will stand as an example to other police forces," commented Harding. "I intend to take this to my next job."

On Jan. 1, Harding will become chief investigator for the Special Investigations Unit, a provincial watchdog organization which oversees policing.

# Halton Hills This WEEKEND

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## Halton Police chop service hours

*Editor's note: The following press release was received from Halton Region Police Service.*

As a result of the 1993 Provincial Government Economic Control Plan and the Social Contract, the preparation of the 1994 Halton Regional Police Service Operating Budget has been a very difficult process. To cope with challenges of our current economic constraint, our managers and staff have been able to streamline and reduce costs (in addition all staff volunteered to take time off in lieu of pay for overtime and to take one day off in 1994 without pay). However, the first draft of the Operating Budget still came in over the Provincial/Regional guideline.

To further reduce the Operating Budget meant reducing the level of service to the public which is of great concern to the Halton Regional Police Services Board and management of the Halton Regional Police

Service. In an effort to find dollars to accommodate Regional Budget Guidelines, the Halton Regional Police Services Board made the decision to restrict the hours police buildings are open to the public. A new schedule for police buildings open to public access as follows:

Oakville, Burlington and Georgetown (Halton Hills): Monday to Thursday - 8 a.m. - midnight; Friday and Saturday - 10 a.m. - 2 a.m.; Sunday - 8 a.m. - midnight.

Regional Headquarters: Monday to Friday - 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. (after hours by controlled access).

To facilitate the restricted schedule will mean the termination or redundancy of seven (7) civilian positions within the Police Service. Every effort is being made to accommodate the affected personnel within present and future vacancies. This procedure will determine the phase-in of the new hours. At this time only the Oakville District Station

will operate under the new hours as of Jan. 1, 1994. To minimize the impact of the station closures, telephones will be installed at the entrance of each building to give the public direct access to a Staff Sergeant within the building or to our Radio Communications Centre.

Calls to 911 or the Halton Regional Police Switchboard are dispatched to Halton Regional Police officers assigned to patrols in communities across Halton. Officers will continue to respond to calls as required.

In the past, the staff of the Halton Regional Police Service has been innovative in the generation of new ideas to keep our per capita cost of policing to one of the lowest in the province. It is anticipated that as we are forced to cope with the challenges of our current economic constraint, we will continue to be in the forefront of providing an acceptable level of service to the public.

## Mayor's Blood Donor Clinic

In recognition of the critical need for blood during the holiday season, Mayor Miller and members of Halton Hills Town 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 during the 1993 Holiday Season.

This Blood Donor Clinic will take place on Wednesday, Dec. 29 from 2 to 7 p.m. at the Sacre-Coeur Parish Hall on Guelph St. in Georgetown.



Halton Hills Welcome Wagon hostess Debbie Butler (left) presented Donna and Darryl Patterson of Webster Way in Georgetown with a gift basket to congratulate them on their new family additions, triplets who were born Oct. 7. The Patterson family members include, with Donna (née Picoulas) Teresa and Jaclyn, and with Darryl, Victoria and 3-year-old Alanna.

photo by Simon Wilson/HHTW



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