

## Community involvement in crime fighting

By Eileen Ross  
Special to HHTW

It seems the threat of crime can exist even in a medium-sized community like Georgetown. However, there are ways to keep the spread of crime to a minimum.

Gun control laws exist for just that purpose and community involvement provides an extra watchful eye that keeps the police and the citizens of our community informed.

In order to buy a gun, the prospective buyer must go through a series of steps before they receive the weapon. There are laws to follow.

To purchase a non-restricted weapon, you must get an FAC (Firearms Acquisition Certificate) then a police background check is done on the buyer.

Even more controls will be placed on those interested in purchasing a restricted weapon. An increasingly active trend will be to increase the level of difficulty to get any form of weapon by adding more controls and conditions to the potential buyer.

The most common reasons people purchase guns are either for hunting or for their own protection. Either way, there are certain restricting requirements.

To become directly involved with crime prevention in the community is something available to Georgetown residents.

Georgetown residents are very actively involved with helping the police because of the small, close-knit feeling the residents have. People seem to be more aware of what's going on and they are not hesitant to call the police if need be.

There is an organization in Georgetown called the Community Consultation Committee that allows citizens to meet regularly and discuss what changes they feel should be made in the community. The police are told their concerns and they all work to address the problems.

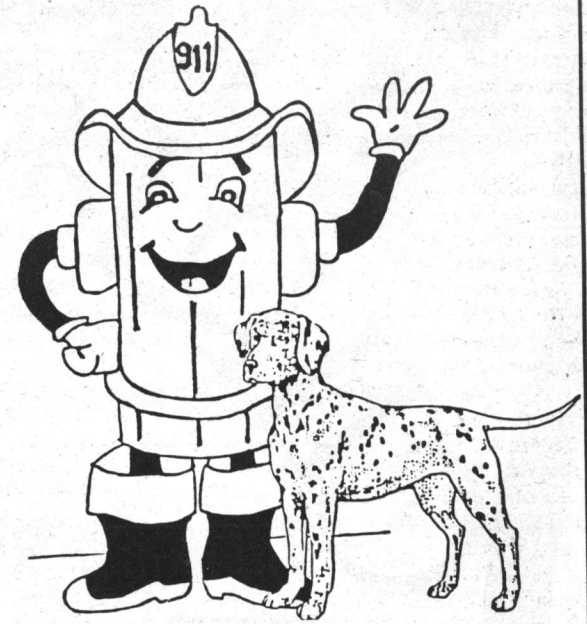
Detective Sergeant Mike Kingston, of Halton Region Police 11 Division Georgetown, says, "The Community Consultation Committee is very well represented. They have a strong identity in the community. However, they need more people to become involved. This is the best way for the police to know what needs to be done. By not knowing how the community feels, we can only do what we believe needs to be done."

There is also a Police Auxiliary program available in Georgetown.

Other organizations that devote time to the prevention of crime include the Rotary Club, the Lion's Club and the Optimist Club. By contacting any of these organizations or the police station, you can become involved with the community as well.



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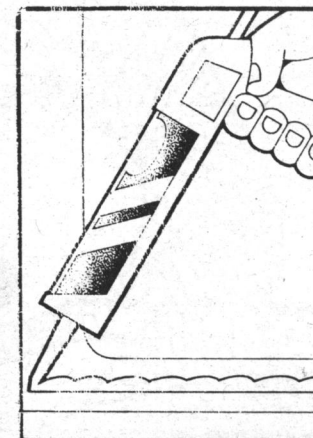
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