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"ALL THE NEWS YOU NEED"

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19, 1994



**JUNIORS JOLTED:** Jared Nebata of the Acton Redmen Junior Boys' basketball team charges toward the hoop during action against the E.C. Drury Spartans last Wednesday at Acton High. The Redmen dropped a 73-31 decision to fall to 0-4 on the season. (Doug Harrison photo)

## Art Alive searching for 'Stars of Tomorrow'

Arts Alive is looking for participants age 18 and under to show off their talents to area residents. Singers, dancers, musicians, puppeteers and actors are all invited to try out for this special youth talent night.

The production is called "Stars of Tomorrow" and will debut on Saturday, Feb. 12.

This is the first talent night fo-

cus exclusively on youth. Producer Maureen Walker (877-4323) has audition details. Application deadline is Jan. 31.

Your talent does not have to be conventional so if you belly dance, stand on your head, or charm snakes, Arts Alive would like to hear from you.

Come out and join the search for the "Stars of Tomorrow."

## Police program on hold

BY RICK SOUTAR  
The Acton Tanner

Reorganization plans for Acton's police force have been postponed indefinitely.

Superintendent Rick Dawson of the Halton Regional Police, says the program will definitely go ahead, but it could be delayed until as late as Mar. 1, 1994.

The reorganization plan calls for an additional village constable in Acton, with Acton-based rural patrols covering a larger area.

"It has been put on hold for a couple of months because the officer had to be assigned to another function within the police service," Dawson said.

Constable Bill Riddle said he is a little frustrated by the delay, although he understands that urgent priorities sometimes demand sudden changes within the force. Now that he's used to the idea of the new setup, he is anxious to imple-

ment the program to see how it will work.

Constable Riddle had spent three days training the new village constable when the officer was pulled out and reassigned to a special task force.

"I'm not sure exactly what's happening," Riddle said of the new constable. "They needed him somewhere else so he went. He's due back, but I don't know when."

The reorganization is an expansion of the community policing concept, which Constable Riddle says has worked well since he began as village constable in 1989.

The theory of community policing is that officers become integral members with an active role in the community. The emphasis is on crime prevention rather than strictly law enforcement.

"The problem with what happens in policing, and what has been in the past, is that we're in

our little steel cocoons and we drive around," Riddle says, adding that people see the police car drive by then disappear. "Now you get the foot patrol guys. They're walking the street and they're not disappearing."

Riddle says the foot patrols and community involvement make it possible for a police officer to build relationships. In this way police take a pro-active role in preventing trouble, as opposed to a reactive role of responding to trouble after it occurs.

Supt. Dawson says that although it is true that the Acton police will cover a larger area, the extended hours and the higher visibility of a village constable will offset the change.

"I would be disappointed if Acton residents were to notice any less service than what they've been accustomed to," Supt. Dawson said.

## Fish study being funded by developers and government

BY DOUG HARRISON  
The Acton Tanner

By Jan. 27, the \$270,000 necessary to fund the mass balance-fish habitat study, required before development in Acton can begin, could be paid for.

Halton Region has already put in \$32,000 to get the first month of the program underway, and will approach the Halton Region planning of public works standing committee next Wednesday to put forward another \$30,500.

The \$62,500 will make their contribution equal to the Town of Halton Hills and cover the remaining dollars to begin the study.

The Credit Valley Conservation Authority has committed

\$10,000 and developers have agreed to ante up \$135,000.

"I'm happy the private and public partnership is working, even on a relatively small scale," says Benson Leung, manager of special studies at Halton Region. "The overall cost of the study is only a percentage of the capital works that will eventually be required."

Council heard last Monday that developers would pay for 50 per cent of the study, but that Leung didn't have any cheques in his hand. The latter says he is still waiting to hear if the money from the seven developers will be paid by cash, cheque or letter of credit.

Leung is disappointed that the Ministry of Environment and En-

ergy (MOEE), the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) are insisting on the study, but not contributing financially.

He says his reason for pushing the joint venture is not strictly for financial reasons, but for future requirements.

"I'm not saying forget about the environment, but you need to have a balance between the economy and the environment," Leung states. "The MOEE, MNR and DFO value the stream so much, and I believe that growth could improve the quality of the stream."

The study will determine the

Please turn to Page 2

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