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Will village constables be homeless by fall?

 BY DOUG HARRISON
 The Acton Tanner

Village constable Bill Riddle feels there's a light at the end of the tunnel, but nothing has flickered as of yet.

The lease of the police office on Mill Street runs dry on Oct. 31 and will be closed as part of continuing cuts by Halton Region Police.

People have made suggestions to Riddle in the last three months, but no one has stepped forward and offered space to be an Acton's other village constable, Jim Turner.

"There's been no response," Riddle said on Thursday. "I'm concerned about it, but there's no use getting upset. Plus, the police service probably won't close this place until we have something."

And that something, Riddle explained, need not be much.

A 20-foot by 30-foot office space, preferably street level, equipped with a washroom and big enough to house a desk, a few chairs, shelves and a filing cabinet would suffice.

The donation of a storefront would be a tax write-off because it would be considered a donation to community services.

"We have to be downtown," Riddle stressed, listing preferred locations as Mill, Church, John, Willow and Main streets. At times, he said, downtown sidewalks get congested with foot traffic.

"People don't just come in here for complaints, but for information. This place gets busy some days," said Riddle, stressing that being located between Bower and Church streets is a must.

Acton is the only jurisdiction in which village constables haven't had an office donated to them. Constables in Milton and Burlington work out of a mall, while there are two offices in Oakville.

It's time for the community to start talking to each other and hopefully find a solution for the local authorities, Riddle said.

"There are a lot of people who have genuine concerns as to whether we're going to get an office," Riddle stated.

"There's only so much I can do myself. I have to depend on the community."



PATIENCE, PATIENCE! Young Ethan Tribble, 4, tries his hand at the fish pond last Tuesday night at the annual Summer Carnival at the Community Centre. (Doug Harrison photo)

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Bob

Bob Honour