

# Cell phone users to help fight crime

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK  
The Acton Tanner

Wanted: Law abiding, community-minded citizens willing to act as extra eyes and ears for Halton police. Only those with clean records and common sense need apply — no gung-ho cop wannabes please.

Halton police are recruiting civilian volunteers in Acton, Georgetown and Milton who, armed with cellular phones, will observe and report potential criminal activity to police as part of the new Communities on Phone Patrol, or COPP program.

Although police in Waterloo and the Vancouver area report that the citizen patrols do help reduce crime, the Halton Police Association, continually fighting for more

manpower, has "been somewhat negative" about the program according to Halton COPP co-ordinator Constable Doug Williamson.

"Almost everybody," Williamson responded when asked which police officers are worried COPP volunteers will get in the way, make more work for police, and weaken the arguments for the need for more officers.

"The COPP people are going to have to prove themselves somewhat to the officers on the street that they are there for a good purpose, not a bad one, just like they did in Waterloo where the program has been operating for three years," Williamson said.

After training, Williamson predicts COPP patrollers will help with problems such as

loitering and willful damage problems as they will have a COPP sign on their car and will frequent problem areas identified by police.

"A cruiser might be able to go through that area twice in four hours, maybe these people can go there twice an hour," Williamson said. "If kids that are loitering and causing willful damage, see that they are being watched, they will probably move on."

Williamson said if the COPP volunteers saw a window being broken or car being trained into they will be trained to get a good description and possibly follow the person while they use their cellular phone to call police.

"We don't want them (COPP volunteers) getting close enough to be hurt.

We're going to emphasize big time that they are not getting involved," Williamson said, adding the COPP volunteers will not "chase bad guys."

"If you drove down the street and saw somebody beating up an 80-year-old lady, you'd probably stop and interfere — that's all we want these people to do — that's the extent of it," Williamson said.

The ideal COPP candidate is cool, calm and collected and is willing to be an observer, but not a wannabe cop.

"Genuine wannabes, like Law and Security students who want to become police are acceptable, but we don't want the kind who would think he was in the police department now and would be going through red lights, suspecting everybody and anybody of doing something wrong," Williamson said.

He hopes to screen applicants this month, train them in observation and note-taking, and have them on the streets in February.

Bell Mobility has donated cellular phones and Williamson is looking for additional corporate sponsors.

Applications for the COPP program are available at the Georgetown and Milton police stations.

# FoodShare still looking for space

Despite almost five months of searching, Acton FoodShare is still in desperate need of storage space.

Food-Share's use of donated space at the old Acton Fire Hall is in jeopardy because of an application by Heritage Acton to renovate the facility. The FoodShare took a hit last summer when The Parogy Shack expanded its Perth Street location, forcing FoodShare to make do with less space.

"We've kind of re-organized and things have worked out well," said Joan Waldie.

"We could use more space but we're using what we have."

"We still need more space, but we're extremely grateful for the space which was donated by a local businessman," Eileen Dix said, adding that FoodShare has put out feelers in the community, hoping to secure extra storage space.

"We have less than half the space than we originally had, but one of our big problems is the lack of storage space for food that won't be used immediately."

# Coats, window damaged

## CRIME NEWS

Police report that someone damaged three leather coats valued at \$3,000 at the old Hide House, sometime between Dec. 26-29.

Police have no suspects in the incident.

\*\*\*

An Eastern Avenue homeowner was alerted to the

sound of breaking glass last Friday at 9:30 pm.

Upon investigating, the homeowner found that the sound had come from his the front of his house, finding a window broken.

Police are seeking out two male youths, believed to be about 15-years-old, fleeing the scene. Damage was esti-

mated at \$20.

\*\*\*

Police constables were forced to arrest a man for his own safety last Wednesday at 11:47 am.

Police report the man was found walking in the middle of Hwy. 25, south of Acton in an intoxicated condition.

# Literacy group to start up

## ASSIC ALERT

The North Halton Literacy Guild, in cooperation with ASSIC, will be starting a small adult literacy group in Acton beginning February 1997.

Students will meet twice a week to work on reading, writing and basic math. An instructor will provide assistance and instruction, based on the student's individual needs. Job-readiness skills will be included as well.

Any adults who are interested in improving their literacy skills are invited to call 853-3310 or 873-2200 for more information and registration.

## COMPUTERS

Corporate & Personal Systems  
Networks  
On Site Service  
Upgrades & Repairs  
Complete Turnkey Systems  
Software

Call (905) 873-7311  
Open 7 Days a Week!

OPIC  
Data Systems

# The only offer that lets you tighten as well as loosen your belt.

## Chicken Lover's Feast

# \$21<sup>99</sup> plus tax



Holidays left you short? Try KFC's Chicken Lover's Feast: 12 pieces of chicken, new crispy fries and a whole lot more for just \$21<sup>99</sup>. It's more of the KFC you love for less.

REAL MEALS.  EASY AS KFC.

2 Main St. N., Acton, Ont. 853-2510

# ACTON MOTORS

Servicing All Makes  
Selected Used Cars



NORMAN PAULSEN

853-1280