

# Acton's policing past subject of research

By **FRANCES NIBLOCK**  
The New Tanner

Halton Police Sergeant Bob Andrews, of Acton, has been investigating more than criminals for the past six months. On his own time,

Andrews has been delving into dusty photo albums, old records and people's memories to try to pull together a history of policing in Acton to be included in a book to mark the 25th anniversary of Halton Regional Police and

145 years of policing in Halton.

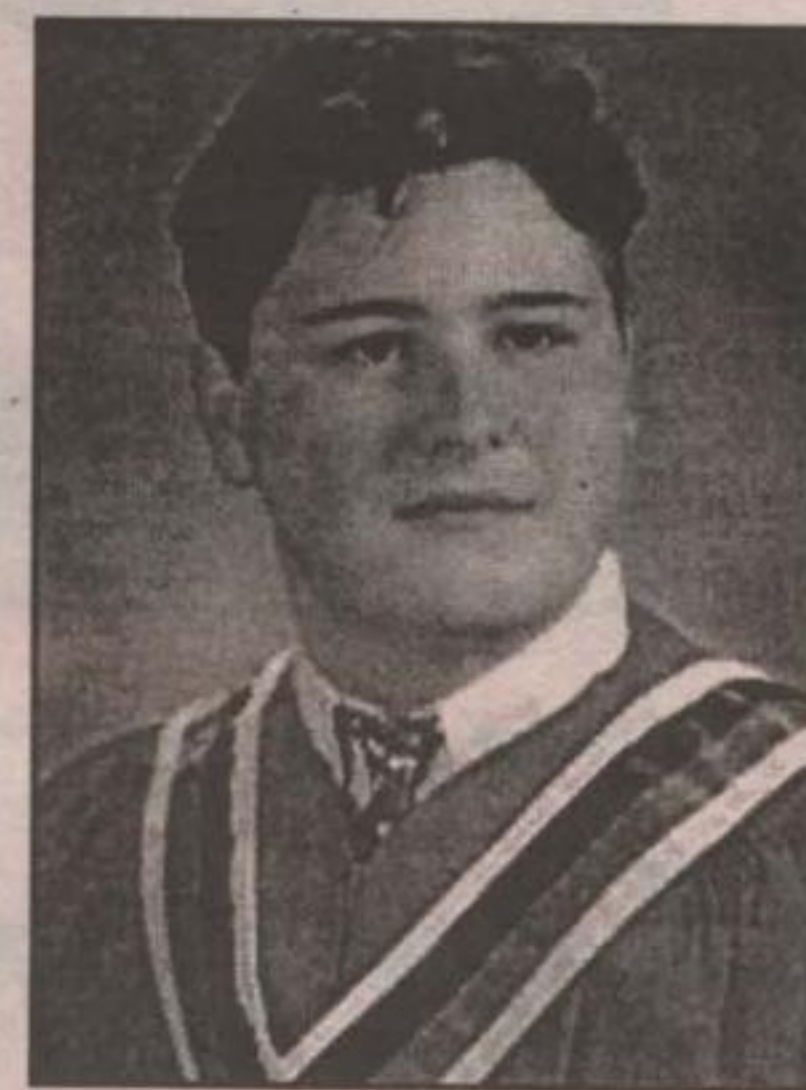
Using the book *Acton's Early Days* as a starting point, Andrews and student researcher, Acton's Derek Lajeunesse, have compiled the story of policing in Acton from the early 1860's until 1975 when the Regional police force was formed. Although they know most of the men (no equal opportunity employer in those days!) who held the various jobs of municipal officers and police constables throughout the years, they are still looking for photographs of the early police officers, along with any memories or artifacts.

"I was able to get information about Acton's first recorded homicide - the

shooting of a man - in 1864 from *Acton's Early Days* and then found a lot more information in what was then called the *Guelph Weekly Mercury*," Andrews explained on Friday, surrounded by files, photos and an outline of his section of the policing book.

"We're still trying to understand who was policing at that point. We believe that there were Provincial constables in Acton at the time but that's speculation. At that time we believe there were a couple of part-time people, Joseph Lasby and Horace Hall, who acted as constables when they were needed," Andrews explained.

In 1886 Acton's first police chief, Dr. John Lawson,



**DEREK LAJEUNESSE**

Harrop. In 1949 the OPP took over policing in Acton and continued to enforce the law until 1975 when the local police went Regional.

Andrews said he was able to use the investigative skills he's developed over the years to help with the research.

"It's difficult because there aren't many people around with clear memories of policing in the past. My police skills helped me know where to go and what to look for but I still need lots more information."

Along with the history of policing in Acton the silver anniversary commemorative book will include histories of early policing in Halton's other three municipalities and the story of the force from 1975 to the present.

If you have any old photos of Acton police officers or any stories of memorabilia, please call Sergeant Andrews at 853-0639 or Derek Lajeunesse at 853-4538.

In the coming months *The New Tanner* readers will get a sneak peek at the book.

Please see page 4.

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## New store endorsed

Continued from Page 1

ried they were "slamming the window of opportunity on the fingers of someone who is willing (to build)."

Acton Councillor Rick Bonnette, who said the site looks like a "run down Mexican tortilla hut," and has been an eyesore for 10 years, is confident the issues of adequate parking and landscaping could be dealt with.

Acton Councillor Norm Elliott said the proposal's pros outweigh its cons.

"You definitely have a very major improvement to

everything in Acton. There are some concerns - there's no question about it. Ideally they would have gone through the zoning process," Elliott said.

Manes, whose option to purchase the site hinged on the approval, said he was relieved.

"We're pretty happy. It's something that the Town has needed for a while and we're hoping to work with the Town and get it done as soon as possible," Manes said, adding that they hope to begin construction this fall and be open for Christmas.

the local vet, was hired to keep the peace with the help of municipal officers whose job also included upkeep on the cemetery, tax collector, pound keeper, lighting the street lamps and feeding tramps who came into Acton - all for \$1 a day.

Policing continued to be a part-time job in Halton until 1946 when the Province stepped in to organize policing, appointing and training two officers - Grant Allen and Cecil Gibbons who worked with Police Chief Ed

**LEGION NEWS BRANCH No. 197**

**By MIKE MANUEL**

On July 18 the Royal Canadian Dragoons will be having a reunion at our branch. They are expecting to bring along two of their mounted

personnel with them. For anyone who would like there will be one of the horses to ride. This activity is open to anyone wishing to attend.

If you would like to take part in their BBQ, tickets will be on sale until the 11th of July only at \$12.50 each. Please hurry.

Monkey Golf will be held on Aug. 15 with tickets now available at \$25 each. This event includes nine holes of fun golf, followed by a steak BBQ and a dance.

Other activities to watch for: Aug. 22 - corn roast; Sept. 12 - Masters Golf Tournament; Oct. 24 - Octoberfest.

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