



FIRST PRIZE WINNER: in BIA's photo contest for best photo at Leathertown Festival was taken by Doug Fread.

Drop in corn prices hits local farmers

By **FRANCES NIBLOCK**
The New Tanner

While most Acton area farmers are pleased that their field crop yields are as good as they are with the dry growing season, many aren't happy with a recent 20 per cent drop in commodity prices.

"All and all it was an average year and the only negative thing is the drop in prices for barley, soya beans and wheat," Ministry of Agricultural Food and Rural Affairs, soil and crop adviser Bob Hamilton said in an interview on Monday.

Last year soya beans sold for \$9 a bushel and this year the going rate is \$7.50. Corn last year sold at \$4 a bushel and this year it's \$3.

"We're looking at a significant drop - about 20 per cent - in prices. Generally 1998 quantity and quality is as good as last year but the prices are not as good."

While local wheat yields were above average there were widespread quality problems after rain showers in July and August caused the wheat to germinate in the head.

"A fair amount of the wheat in the Acton and Rockwood area went as feed weed, versus milling weed. When all is said and done the farmers will get about \$150 (a tonne) for the milling weed and they'll only get about \$100 for the feed weed," Hamilton said.

Soya bean yields were av-

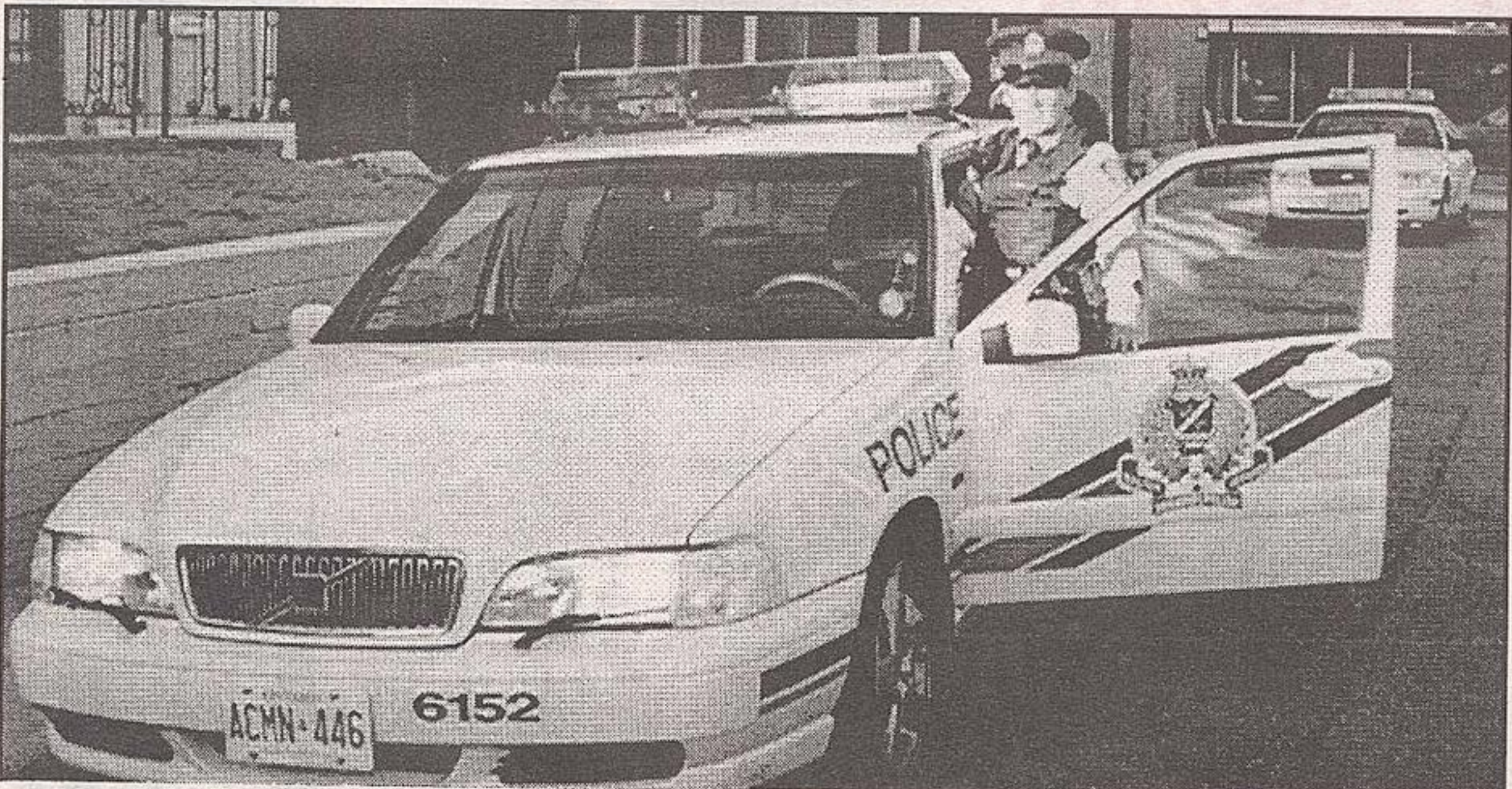
erage to below average, depending on the amount of rain any field got. The bean quality is good and farmers saved on drying costs because the beans were dryer when harvested earlier this month.

"The extra dryness did cause some handling problems at harvesting because the shells shattered and cracked beans going through the combine," Hamilton said.

Local farmers are finding excellent quality and variable yields as they continue this week to take off the corn and again fare able to save drying costs because moisture levels are down. Some local corn was infested with the European Corn Borer, a caterpillar that chews the cob off the stocks.



DIETRICH MEMORIAL IMPROVEMENTS: Calvin (left) and Richard Nap help their uncle and Wyga construction owner Calvin Wyga install a \$1,700 stone garden wall at Acton's Laura Dietrich memorial garden in front of the library. The Acton Horticultural society has long-range improvement plans for the garden and plaque to Acton's founders. - Frances Niblock photo



SWEDISH STYLE: Halton Police Constable Suzanne Bedard likes the two Volvo sedans being tested in Halton now that Ford plans to stop making the Crown Victoria police package model. Most officers who have driven the car like the way it handles but there have been some complaints of a tight fit from larger officers. - Frances Niblock photo

Halton cops try out Volvos

Have you seen that new police cruiser in Acton? Acton Councillor Rick Bonnette said recently that he's had a number of calls from people who'd seen the four-door, Volvo sedan on Acton's streets and wondered what was up.

Turns out that Ford - traditional cop car maker - is phasing out production of the Crown Victoria with a police package - and so the Halton Police Service has leased two Volvos to try them out.

Apparently most officers are very impressed with the Volvo although there are some complaints about space

POLICE BEAT

being a little tight for some of the larger officers.

When told that the Volvos would be assessed over the next three years before any decision was made, Acton Councillor Clark Somerville said he'd rather have a car made by Ford in Halton County, than one made in Sweden.

Advil alert

Acton's pharmacies - the only businesses which sell the popular pain relief medication Advil - are being

warned by Halton police to be on the lookout for two men who stole \$1,000 of the over-the-counter product from the Loblaw's pharmacy at Georgetown Marketplace store on Sunday. Police said the white males fled in a four-door, grey Chevy Corsica after a second attempted theft was interrupted by a store employee.

Van vandalized

Overnight last Saturday someone used a sharp object to do \$400 damage to the passenger side door of a brand new Ford Windstar van parked at a Young Street home.



For better grades this fall, better call Sylvan now.

Sylvan Learning Centre® can help your child make the grades. In our positive, stress-free environment, children actually become excited about learning. You can see it on their faces - and on their report cards.

Sylvan® offers help in reading, writing, math, algebra, study skills, homework support and time management.

To learn how Sylvan can benefit your child, call today.

Sylvan Learning Centre



Helping kids be their best.

Established 1987

Education Finance Plan Available

From \$125 per month

**27 Woodlawn Rd. W.
Guelph**

READING • MATH • WRITING • STUDY SKILLS • SCHOOL READINESS
UNIVERSITY PREPARATION • ALGEBRA • BEGINNING READING

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PHONE 823-5711 OR 823-5781