



**DEFENSIVE DRIVING:** These two potholes appeared Sunday evening causing drivers to manoeuvre around them on their Monday commute to and from work. - Ted Tyler photo

## Volleyball ace

Continued from Page 9

school teams, Birrell was recruited by three Ontario Volleyball Association teams and joined as one of the first members of the BBVC, playing as a midget, juvenile and junior and continuing to win MVP awards.

The Double Blues have racked up a medal of every colour so far this season and ran 22 straight set wins at a tournament in February in Pennsylvania.

The Double Blue finished second in Ontario and sixth in Canada last year and Birrell just missed the cut for Canada's national junior volleyball team, but impressed Team Canada's coaching and scouting staff enough to be invited back this June.

Birrell is currently enrolled in high school in Georgetown, upgrading three of the OAC marks in preparation for university this fall, possibly in the physical education program at the University of Toronto.

## Police take course in combating domestic abuse

Police officers throughout Halton Region are better equipped to investigate incidents of domestic violence, thanks to a comprehensive course recently completed by all supervisory staff within the Service.

Over 85 members of the

Service representing all disciplines including uniform, supervisory and criminal investigative staff recently participated in a series of three-day seminars aimed at sharpening investigative skills at the grass roots level. In addition, over 350 communica-

tions staff and patrol officers have completed awareness training on the subject.

"Our officers were unanimous in their support of this initiative which seeks to put the victim first," said Jennifer Knight, the Service's Domestic Violence Coordinator. "Some of the initiatives we have implemented here in Halton are fairly labour intensive, yet what seemed almost overwhelming for investigators six months ago, is now every day practice," added Detective Knight, referring to new reporting procedures for domestic abuse cases.

Halton Police partnered with various community groups and agencies including Halton Women's Place, the Hamilton SPCA, and the Crown Attorney's Office to present overviews of recent cases and inquests, new firearms legislation, specific criminal code legislation relating to stalking, suspect profiling, children witnesses, male victimization, and recent developments in the law relating to spousal abuse.

Police services across Ontario are striving to prevent tragedies that sometimes occur when relationships break down.

### LEGION NEWS BRANCH No. 197

By Joyce Buchanan  
Secretary

Hello again,

Doesn't seem too long ago I was asking for Crib players, and now last Thursday they are all finished and will be having their banquet May 5, along with the dart players. Now you fellows will be wondering what to do with your time. Well they tell me the horseshoe pads are almost ready now the snow is gone. If you are interested, get in touch with Keith Andrews 853-1607 or leave your name at the Branch.

OK Ladies' Auxiliary, you are having a Fun Day at the Branch on April 21. You register between 9:45 and 10:00 a.m., but if you plan on attending please get in touch with Pat Robinson at 853-2769. She would like

to hear from you.

There was a good turn-out for the Easter Ham Roll. Were you lucky?

I should remind the Executive members, I do need some information from them so I can get the Newsletter out before the end of the month. And I do need correct addresses for this project. The elections and dinner will be held May 7, so please try to attend and maybe even run for an office.

I hope most of you who have been ill are feeling much better. I am sure all the good sunshine is helping you; in any case we wish you all a speedy recovery.

We still have Bridge and Euchre at the Branch during the week.

See you at the Branch.

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**Shoplifting**

Continued from last week.

Many people are not aware of the serious consequences of a theft and the impact it can have on the victims and their own lives.

If you are arrested or convicted of a theft, prospective employers are going to be less inclined to hire you.

Employers are looking for honest, dependable people. Many jobs now require you to be "Bonded", for insurance purposes, and people with a criminal record will have a difficult time.

If you have a criminal record it can be difficult, if not impossible, to work in a business where a special licence is required - businesses such as real-estate, insurance or the law.

A criminal record could result in you being denied entry into a foreign country. This could ruin your planned family vacation.

**Shoplifting, "It's not worth it."**

Shoplifting offences are committed by both males and females, the young and old.

Officers find that a lot of the time offenders have sufficient money in their possession, to pay for the stolen items.

When asked why they stole, many offenders don't know why they did it. Some were just trying to get something for nothing, while others did it for "kicks" or to try and "fit in" with a peer group.

I will address my closing remarks to the parents of our local youth. I encourage you to speak with your children about "Shoplifting". Explain that shoplifting is a crime and that there are consequences for those caught shoplifting. Encourage your children to think for themselves, don't follow along with the crowd.

Be aware of who your children's friends are, and what they are doing. When your children go on shopping trips, know how much money your child has to spend and what they expect to buy.

If your child comes home with more merchandise than they had money to buy, ask about it. Don't take easy answers about where it came from. A dated sales slip is a proof of purchase. Outlaw "clothes swapping", unless the parents on both sides know what is being exchanged.

Finally, parents set the right example.

Store owners can contact me at 853-2050 for further information on how to prevent shoplifting.

*Braida & Henry*

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