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News

Digest

Charges down

Fewer people were drinking and driving in Halton through December this year, according to RIDE statistics for the month. Among 18,686 motorists stopped, police charged 22 people with impaired driving in Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere spot checks last month. In December, 1993, 26 drivers were charged even though only 15,773 vehicles were stopped. The reason less people are drinking and driving this year, said Sgt. Tom Chapman of the Halton Regional Traffic Bureau, is that RIDE received lots of publicity here.

No cause

An autopsy Tuesday on an 18-month-old baby girl who died suddenly in her crib Monday didn't identify the cause of death, according to Det. Sgt. Ron Welsh. There is no reason to believe the death was due to suspicious circumstances, he said. There was also no indication that spinal meningitis, a disease which begins with flu-like symptoms and can kill suddenly, was the cause of death either, he said. Further testing is being done.

No decision

Despite an announcement that Rogers Cablesystems will offer the same extended basic cable service package they have in the past at the same price a spokesperson for Halton Cable Systems said Friday morning they haven't decided if they will make a change in the recently increased extended basic cable service rate. John Ollivier, marketing manager for Halton Cable, said the board of directors will meet Monday to discuss the issue.

"At this point we have decided to hold tight and not make any changes," said Ollivier. He added Halton's rates are already substantially lower than Rogers.

INSIDE

- Off the shelves.....page 3
- Headed for Africa.....page 5
- Entertainment.....page 8
- Community calendar.....page 12
- Tourney champs.....page 16

Overseas pen pals



Canadian peacekeepers in the former Republic of Yugoslavia received letters from Harrison Public School students before Christmas. Each student who wrote returned from Christmas break to a letter in reply. The peacekeepers answered the students questions and described what their lives were like. Mike Adcock, at front, was responsible for initiating

the letter-writing project at his dad Bill's request. Bill is currently stationed in the former Republic of Yugoslavia, and is expected home in April. Laura McGowan, at rear, pointing to the area where the peacekeepers are stationed, also sent a letter.

TED BROWN Independent/Free Press

Corresponding with Camp Rastevic

Students write to Canadian peacekeepers

By LISA TALLYN
Staff writer

Some students at Harrison Public School got a glimpse into the lives of peacekeepers in the former Republic of Yugoslavia recently.

Before Christmas, students in Bob Bairstow's Grade 3/4 class sent about 20 letters to Canadian peacekeepers stationed there. After Christmas break they were excited to find responses waiting for them.

Nine-year-old Mike Adcock brought the idea of corresponding with the peacekeepers to his teacher.

"My dad wrote me a note and asked if we wanted to write to other peacekeepers," said Mike. His dad Bill is currently stationed there and is expected to return home in April.

"It was just before Remembrance Day and I thought it would be a great writing activity related to Remembrance Day," said Bairstow.

Mike wrote to his dad, and the other children addressed their letters to peacekeepers stationed at Camp Rastevic, Croatia.

"I wrote thanks for trying to stop wars," said Tim Walinga. He was happy to receive a letter from a female peacekeeper who

also sent him a Toronto Maple Leaf pin.

Laura McGowan wrote about herself to the peacekeeper. One student asked a peacekeeper if he had been on any secret missions. The peacekeeper responded he had, but he couldn't write about it because it wouldn't be a secret anymore. He added it wasn't as exciting as he thought it would be.

Bairstow said writing to the peacekeepers was rewarding for the kids.

"It appeared less scary than what they see on television," said Bairstow. He added the letters personalized the situation for them.

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