

Board requests more officers

Continued from pg.1

24-hour nature of policing, he explained, only two of 10 constables will be on the street at any one time.

"The board and the public should be made aware of that," said Szymczyk. "There is a tremendous amount of pressure on our officers on the road. If there is anything the board can do... it is a step in the right direction."

Chief Campbell underscored Szymczyk's point by explaining that only 25 to 40 police cars are out in public at any one time covering 120,000 households, nearly 30,000 businesses and more than 100,000 vehicles.

Without inflation, said Campbell, the Halton force has kept spending at a level equal to that of 10 years ago. At the same time— thanks to major restructuring— police brass have been reduced and more officers put on the street.

Halton's clearance rate— at 40.2 per cent— continues to be impressive compared with other agencies and the 36 per cent Canadian average. The 1997 police budget must now move on to regional council for approval.

School board position on Remembrance Day contest is ignored by most local schools

By HERB GARBUTT
Staff Writer

Though disappointed with the Halton Board of Education's decision not to endorse their Remembrance Day poster contest, members of the Royal Canadian Legion are happy most local schools decided to participate anyway.

Marc Lafleur, president of Legion Branch 120 in Georgetown, said he was encouraged that schools saw something of value in the contest, which asks students to illustrate what Remembrance Day means to them.

The Legion was allowed to ask permission on a school-by-school basis and of the seven schools approached by the Legion, six took part in the contest. Two more schools from the Halton Roman Catholic School Board, which supported the

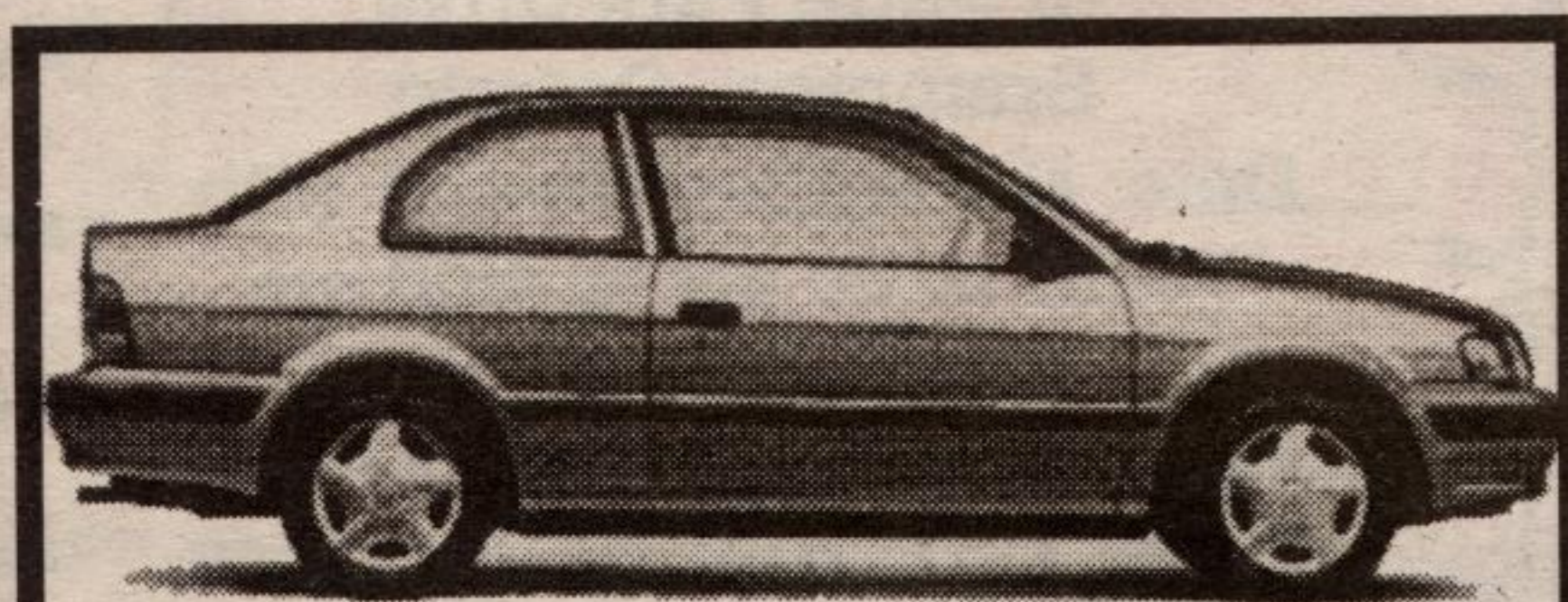
contest, also took part.

"The Halton Board of Education looks like it's trying to forget history," Lafleur said. "If the message of what Canadians in our community today did is not getting out to my children... then something is being missed."

A letter sent to the Legion in December of 1995 by Bob Parry, the board's superintendent of education services, said the board has not endorsed any poster contests to "reduce the impact on classroom time and resources taken up by such contests and to acknowledge that our students have a wide range of skills and abilities that are not always able to be reflected or appreciated in a contest atmosphere."

The letter also stated that if the board was to endorse the Legion contest it would be obligated to participate in numerous contests with other organizations.

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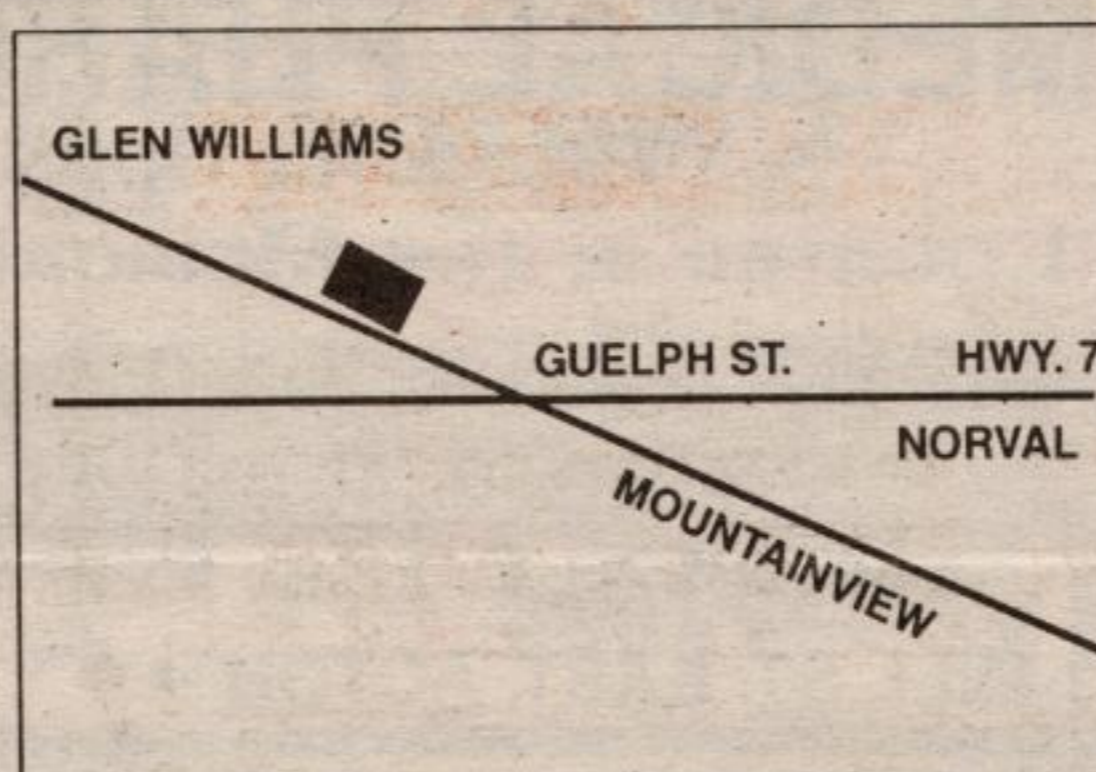
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