

Police seek public's input

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The Independent & Free Press

Weekend Edition

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NEWS AT A GLANCE

Man assaulted

■ A 42-year-old man has been charged with assault level one in connection with an incident that occurred at a Guelph St. business Monday afternoon.

Halton Police say at about noon a dispute between two men about a business transaction resulted in an altercation. A 38-year-old Georgetown man who works at the business received minor injuries when he had his head struck against a desk. Charged is Douglas James, 42, of Mount Bridges, Ontario.

He is to be in Milton court on December 14.

Faces fraud charges

■ An Acton man is facing five counts of fraud under \$5,000 charges in connection with NSF cheques passed and false deposits and withdrawals made at an Acton bank this month and last.

Charged is Ryan Hill, 18, of Bower St. Acton. He is to be in court on December 7.

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Celebrities turn out for annual seniors' dinner



Diners at the annual Acton Rotary Club seniors' Christmas dinner were surprised to find a couple celebrities in their midst Tuesday. (Above) Diane MacLeod had a huge hug for Santa, while Her Majesty (a.k.a. Margaret Eggleton-Kaye, inset) mingled with the commoners after presenting her annual Christmas address. The Rotarians provided flowers and assorted treats for the ladies while the Guelph Barbershoppers choir rounded out the entertainment by singing Christmas favorites.
Photos by Ted Brown

Police service gets okay to hire 42 new officers

While the Halton Regional Police Association (HRPA) has been pushing for 50 new officers, Tuesday's provincial announcement of 42 additional constables is a good start, says Bill Henshaw.

The HRPA president explained the hirings will improve the service level in Halton but stressed that staffing will still not be adequate.

"We are certainly pleased with the 42, but they are not enough," he said.

HRPA administrator Paul LaCourse said the union will keep a close eye on developments, particularly on how the new numbers relate to an independent review of police services in Halton.

"Forty-two is better than none," he said. "A thousand more officers across Ontario is positive."

Regional Council decided in favor of the outside review of long-term policing needs in Halton and their impact on the budget. Every year a battle brews at regional headquarters over the policing budget, which this year was \$43.5 million. (An 8.3 per cent hike over last year.)

Eight less officers may not seem like much, but Henshaw explained that it takes

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