

# Review suggests fine-tuning Halton police

Continued from pg.1

inspectors, one Scenes of Crime Officer (a pilot project) and three officers for a Milton Police Reporting Centre.

The annualized cost of these staffing additions (excluding percentage increases in salary and benefits) is \$1.8 million.

In 1998, the HRPS budget was \$43,500,000, with salaries and benefits accounting for approximately 84 per cent of that. The HRPS Board recently approved a \$45,921,000 1999 budget forecast, or 5.6 per cent over last year.

A total of \$403,000 has already been budgeted to hire the 24 constables further to the provincial Community Policing Program.

HRPS currently employs 550 personnel, with 411 uniformed officers and 144 civilian staff.

While the report deals with internal HRPS practices such as planning, goal setting and the fine-tuning of these initiatives, the majority of the document grapples with front-line policing. (The HRPS patrol function occupies approximately 60 per cent of personnel.)

Other aspects to the report include enhancing public service by deploying officers and other staff in a "direct service position."

The document also calls for a detailed review of calls for service and a needs analysis to determine the requirements of the K-9 and Tactical and Rescue Units; seeking continued outside funding for such programs as DARE and expanding the Victim Services Unit.

According to the consultants, police have traditionally relied on police-to-public ratios to determine resource levels, something which the report says is an "inadequate

measure of service needs."

The report originated over Halton Regional Council's concern that using police-to-public ratios would lead to "prohibitive increases" in the police budget. Halton Region has a projected population growth of 2-3 per cent per year to 2016. If resources increased in parallel with population, the HRPS budget could double about every 10 years.

The consultant's efforts soon expanded, however, to include an assessment of the use of current human resources, as well as the effectiveness and efficiency of HRPS programs and approaches.

The idea, say the consultants, was to determine how effectively the HRPS was using current personnel in conjunction with its review of how many other staff were required.

The consultants then interviewed civilian and uniformed HRPS members, police board members, regional councillors, other law enforcement agencies and the public. Public surveys were also conducted. A preliminary report was reviewed by senior HRPS managers and board members earlier this month and their views incorporated into the final report.

According to the report, calls for service have been declining since 1990 with last year's total approximately equal to 1985's level. Clearance rates within the HRPS average 42.8 per cent of occurrences, better than the national average.

The HRPS, says the report, is "below the norm in policing cost, has a favourable clearance rate, is not plagued by significant crime problems and is held in high regard by the public which it serves."

—By Howard Mozel, special

## Public invited to comment on park plans

The public is invited to view plans and to submit comments and suggestions for the landscaping of Remembrance Park Tuesday, June 1 from 4-8 p.m. at the Civic Centre. This project will be completed in the millenium year.

If you think  
**baby boomers** have  
 too much, you're right.  
 In the next decade **1 in 4**  
 will have **diabetes.**



## GEORGETOWN GLOBE PRODUCTIONS

Auditions for "Annie" (Nov 1999)

Adults - Friday June 11 & Friday June 18th  
 7-10 pm

Annie/Girls - Sunday June 13, 9:00-11:30  
 & 12:30-3:00

Call Helen at 877-6637  
 to book an audition time



EXTRA! EXTRA!

# READ ALL ABOUT IT!!

## HALTON HILLS FURNITURE & APPLIANCES

17 Mill St. E., Acton

853-4299

CLOSED FRIDAY, MAY 28  
 OPEN SATURDAY MAY 29  
 10 AM - 4 PM  
 6 Hours Only

1/2 THE PRICE  
 1/2 THE STORE  
 1/2 THE DAY

FREE SET  
 UP AND  
 REMOVAL  
 OF OLD

FREE  
 DELIVERY

CLOSED FRIDAY  
 OPEN SATURDAY 10 AM

HURRY IN FOR BEST SELECTION  
 AT HALTON HILLS FURNITURE & APPLIANCES  
 WHERE SERVICE AND SATISFACTION COME TOGETHER

VISA • MASTERCARD  
 • CASH • CHEQUE