

Newspaper story sparks dozens of inquiries

# Humane Society experiences flood of adoptions

It was a weekend of good and bad news for the Upper Credit Humane Society.

The local Humane Society had 11 kittens and eight adult cats adopted on Sunday— more than three times the adoptions they have in a usual week. The agency received between 30 and 40 inquiries following a story in last Wednesday's Independent & Free Press about three kittens that were left in the woods by a rural road.

Anne Burr, daily co-ordinator for the UCHS, said the UCHS "was thrilled" to find homes for the cats, including some who had been in the society's care for two years.

"Many of the cats are not that old but they get bypassed for the

babies," she said.

The bad news is that what Burr deemed "the worst year ever," for animal abandonment continued. On Friday, five kittens were found in

a cardboard box beside Hwy. 24 near the 7th Line of Eramosa.

"I just don't understand it," she said.

As for the kittens discovered last Monday, the couple who found them— Simon and Tracey Fraser—have decided to keep them.

"They're part of the family," Simon said. "They've added a lot of life to our older cats."

—By Herb Garbutt, staff writer



Regional chair Joyce Savoline joined Regional Councillor Rick Bonnette, right, and Gord Kearsey, president of Halton Hills Ambulance Service, at Friday's announcement of a 24-hour ambulance service for Acton. Photo by Ted Brown

## Ambulance service improved

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In Georgetown 90 per cent of the response times for ambulance calls are 13 minutes and King said when the 24-hour service begins in Acton he would expect calls to be in the same range as Georgetown's.

Acton is currently the only community in Halton that does not have 24-hour ambulance staffing and since responsibility for half of the cost of providing ambulance service was recently downloaded to Halton Region by the provincial government the region decided to remedy the situation.

"We are very pleased to be able to make this change so early in the process of taking on the responsibility of land ambulance services," said Savoline.

King said it will cost about \$140,000 for the additional service in Acton which will be shared 50/50 by the region and province.

—By Lisa Tallyn, staff writer

# Helicopter the key in 'major' marijuana find

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and Waterloo Regional Police who were brought in to assist Halton Police with their drug eradication project.

The \$1.2 million helicopter, on lease to Halton Police for 20 weeks from Canadian Helicopters Ltd., proved invaluable for the drug project.

"If it wasn't for the helicopter they wouldn't have found it (the marijuana)," said Staff Sgt. Mark Martin. He added the ground crews couldn't keep up with all the crops officers spotted from the air because they were finding it so fast.

"It was a major, major find and there is probably more up there," said Martin.

Mitchell estimated only about two hours were spent in the air searching and police didn't expect to find the size of crops they did. In total, 15 different marijuana-growing opera-

tions, some sophisticated, were found throughout the region. Most of the growing sites were found north of Hwy. 401 and officers used trucks to haul away the 1,500 pounds of marijuana.

Two men who were protecting a 150-plant marijuana crop in the

Sixth Line and Derry Rd. area of Milton Wednesday fled when the police helicopter appeared. Officers in the helicopter directed ground units to the men, from Mississauga and Hamilton, who were apprehended and are now facing drug and weapon charges.

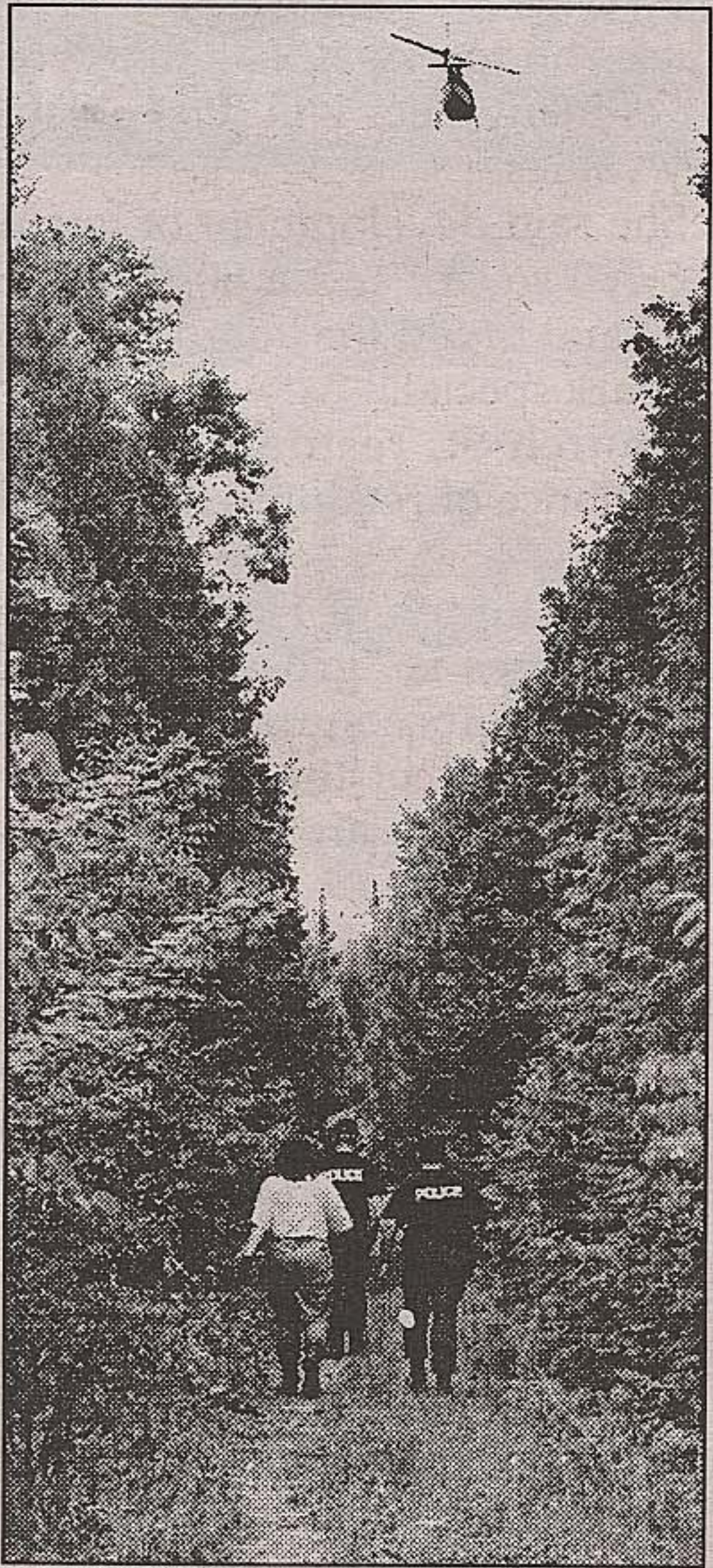
Mitchell said he didn't believe the use of the helicopter to search for crops will stop people from growing marijuana here but they "may go to better attempts to hide them."

He doesn't believe there is more marijuana growing in Halton than other regions but there "may have been a better grower than in

other regions."

Mitchell said police hope to use the helicopter again to search the region for marijuana and he suspects there are backyards full of the plants in urban areas.

—By Herb Garbutt, staff writer



Halton Police drug squad members, led by officers in a helicopter, located a million dollar marijuana grove near Acton last week. Photo by Ted Brown

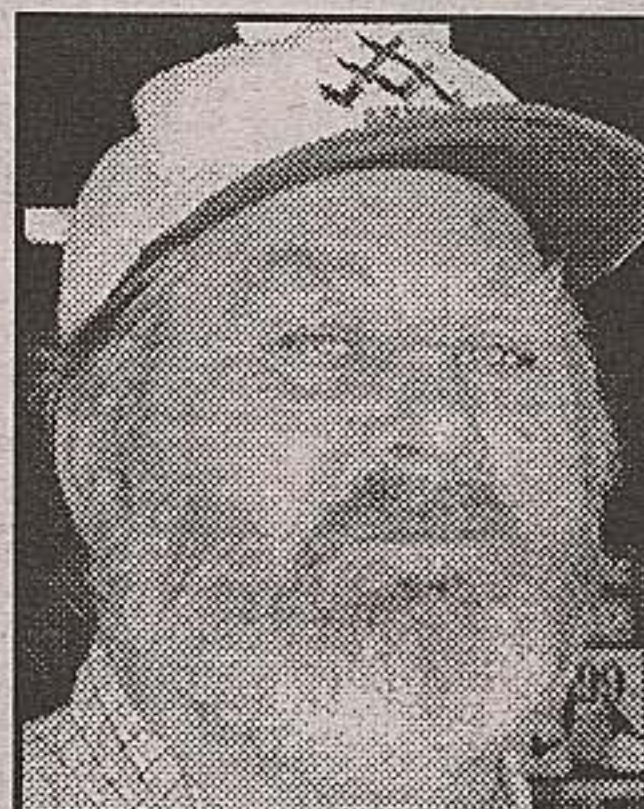
## What You Said

'Adding a helicopter to the Halton Regional Police Service would cost taxpayers at least \$1.5M. Would you support such a purchase?'



Lori Martin, Georgetown, teacher

"No, Georgetown is a very safe community and I don't think it's necessary yet."



Don DeBaie, Milton, crossing guard

"Yes, they need to stop some of the high speed chases."



Dawn Davis, Acton, customer service representative

"I would if it curbed the activity of crooks."



Carol Beauchamp, Georgetown, sales

"It depends exactly what it's used for. I think \$1.5-million could be better spent in a community like Halton Hills by putting more police officers on the beat."

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