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Page 3



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Page 24

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NEWS AT A GLANCE

Faces charges

■ An Acton man was charged with failing to comply with probation, having over 80 mg of alcohol in 100 ml of blood, speeding and possession of a controlled substance after Halton Police pulled over a car on Hwy. 25 south of 15 Sideroad Monday morning.

Charged is Paul Douglas, 19, of Bower St. Acton.

Drug charge laid

■ An Acton man was charged with possession of a controlled substance after police checked a car parked at a Maria St. apartment building Monday and seized marijuana and hashish.

Charged with possession of a controlled substance is Bradley Budgell, 24, of Maria St.

Cars damaged

■ The hoods of 15 cars at Georgetown Volkswagen were scratched sometime late Friday night or early Saturday. Damage is estimated at \$7,500. The same night, \$500 damage was done to a 2000 Honda Prelude at Georgetown Honda.

INSIDE

Town Hall news.....4
Editorial.....6
This 'n That.....7
Entertainment.....19
Sports.....22, 24



Yep, summer's winding down

The first day back to school is always exciting and Brooke, 8, and Riley, 9, Stadnik followed mom, Susan, as they once again entered the halls of learning at Harrison Public School Tuesday morning.

Photo by Ted Brown

Crime rate in Halton Hills soars by 8.4%

While the crime rate rose slightly in Halton in the first seven months this year, Halton Hills crime rate made a more dramatic jump—climbing 8.4 per cent over the same period last year.

For the first time in 10 years, the region-wide crime rate rose by 1.5 per cent—but despite the slight increase, it remains the safest community in Canada per 100,000 population. Last year, to the end of July in Halton, there were 8,766 criminal offences compared to 9,200 this year.

While Halton Hills' crime rate was up by the end of July it is still seven per cent below the region's rate of 2,454 occurrences per 100,000 population, and the second-lowest rate in Halton. Only Oakville's is lower at 10 per cent below the region's rate. Burlington's rate is four per cent lower than the region's, and Milton's is 76 per cent higher.

Compared to last year, this year (to the end of July) the number of occurrences in Halton Hills increased by 14.2 per cent or 135, to a total of 1,088 occurrences. During the same period last year there had been 953 criminal occurrences.

On the rise in Halton Hills this year so far are break and enters (23.5 per cent), property damage (40.6 per cent) and other criminal code offences such as harassment, threatening, causing a disturbance and passing counterfeit money (40.5 per cent).

Also up this year are domestic assaults (28.6 per cent), assaults (3.7 per cent), sex offences (22.2 per cent) robbery (50 per cent— from two to three occurrences), possession of stolen property (7.7 per cent) and offensive weapons (25 per cent).

See CRIME, pg. 4



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