

Editorial

# Fighting crime

According to Halton Regional Police Service figures, Halton Hills has experienced an 8.4 per cent increase in crime rate for the first seven months of 2000.

While these figures are certainly disheartening, that doesn't mean our town is in the grip of a crime wave.

However, a close look at the numbers do indicate some areas of concern— primarily the fact that break and enters and property damage crimes are up significantly (23.5 and 40.6 per cent respectively).

While the numbers for other crimes such as domestic assault, assault, robbery, sex offences, possession of stolen property and offensive weapons are also on the rise, those numbers are somewhat skewed by the fact there are relatively few of those crimes committed in Halton Hills that even one additional occurrence will result in a huge percentage increase. For example, the number of robberies rose 50 per cent this year from last year as three robberies were committed compared to two last year.

However, one glance at the weekly police blotter indicates more homes are being broken into and vandals are striking around town with greater frequency.

While Halton Police are doing their part to stop this trend with an increased presence, homeowners can also do their part by making sure their home and property aren't inviting targets and parents can do a better job of knowing what their children are up to.



## Letters to the editor...

### Rural residents deserve safe water, too

(This letter was originally sent to Halton MPP Ted Chudleigh and a copy was made available for publication).

Dear sir,

I am compelled to write to you regarding the financial aid that your government has recently offered to municipal governments to assist them with the delivery of clean and safe

drinking water to Ontario's urban residents. I would like to see this program extended to support rural citizens as well.

I contribute just as much to the provincial coffers as does an urban dweller. Unlike my counterpart however, the onus of testing the water source and installing purification equipment is solely mine. So is the expense.

I reside in an older house (built in 1928) where water quality had never been an issue. Although infrequently tested, the water has been free of coliform and E. coli bacteria each time we did test it over the last 10 years. Prompted by the Walkerton incident, we tested again and were dismayed to find our water supply contaminated. The installation of an ultraviolet water sterilizer has set us back \$838.88.

Whether the cause is poor agricultural fertilizing practices, heavier rainfall or otherwise, the

fact remains that our water supply is tainted, whereas it had never been before. The source of contamination is unknown, however, our artesian well is not subject to surface contamination and livestock in the area is sparse and fairly remote.

If the government is intent on ensuring safe water for its citizens, then surely in all fairness, that protection must extend to all its residents. Thus, I feel rural residents deserve some of that financial aid as well.

Dan Poirier, Acton

### Shame on the teachers!

Dear editor,

Congratulations on your editorial in the Aug. 23 paper. I've heard so many complaints from teachers regarding the belligerent, defiant, antagonistic attitudes of students from Kindergarten through high school— and now who is belligerent, antagonistic, disrespectful, defiant and vengeful? The teachers!

Those who should be setting a good example for our children. Shame on them. I resent that my tax dollars are going to support this spoiled, rowdy, irresponsible group, and I wish success to those teachers who are now forming a splinter group who will not follow the lead of the present greedy union and are striking out on their own.

Marge Willis, Georgetown

### 'Numskull bureaucrat' to blame for decision to close office

Dear editor,

I just wanted to comment on the touching column by John McGhie "Cancer patients need the personal touch" (Aug. 16).

Some time ago, a very dear friend of mine was diagnosed with cancer. I was truly amazed by the efforts of the Canadian Cancer Society, Georgetown, who came to his assistance at this very crucial time in his life. He was picked up and driven to Toronto for his cancer treatment,

they waited until he was ready to return home, no matter how long it took, and then driven back to Georgetown. One less worry for someone going through this kind of hell. You are right when you say that "somewhere along the way, they lost their souls".

Another bureaucratic move by some numskull bureaucrat.

Nadia Noack, Canada Bread

### Send us your letters

The Independent & Free Press welcomes letters to the editor.

All letters must be signed and include an address and a daytime telephone number. Letters requesting names be withheld will only be published pending a valid reason at the editor's discretion. Letters should be not exceed 300 words and may be edited for content or length.

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