

The Independent

Weekend Edition & Free Press

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The energizer Easter bunny?

Well, Jody Normore's pet rabbit, Twinkie, may not be quite as old as the Easter bunny but the 14-year-old Georgetown rabbit is giving the famed hare a run for its money. According to the House Rabbit Society, a non-profit bunny rescue and education group, a well cared for house rabbit, which has been spayed or neutered early, has a life expectancy of eight to 12 years. Rabbits kept outdoors in backyard hutches, like Twinkie, have less than half the average lifespan of a house rabbit. Normore, 19, says Twinkie dines on rabbit food and carrots and has never been to a veterinarian. "She's a good pet," says Normore. "She doesn't bite."

Photo by Ted Brown

Crime stats indicate

Halton Hills has lowest crime rate in region

Halton Hills residents enjoyed the lowest crime rate in the region last year. The rate was also down slightly (.8 per cent) from the previous year.

Statistics recently released by Halton Regional Police revealed the town's 2000 crime rate was 3,866 occurrences per 100,000 population, compared to the region's rate of 4,238.

Halton Hills rate was .2 per cent lower than Oakville's rate (3,873 per 100,000 population), 6.4 per cent lower than Burlington's (4,131), and 43.7 per cent lower than Milton's rate (6,869). The town's rate was lower than the regional average rate by 8.8 per cent.

In 1999 Oakville had the lowest crime rate in the region, followed closely by Halton Hills.

While the town's crime rate was down slightly in 2000, the number of occurrences reported to police was

actually up from the year before.

In 2000 police reported 1,840 occurrences up from 1,761 in 1999, an increase of about 4.5 per cent.

On the rise in 2000 were sex offences which were up 69 per cent (from 13 in 1999 to 22 in 2000), assaults 31.3 per cent (137 to 180), domestic assaults 23 per cent (44 to 54), and property damage 28.3 per cent (254 to 326) and other criminal code offences 26 per cent (342 to 431).

Detective Sgt. Jackie Gordon said vandalism by youths was largely responsible for the increase in property damage.

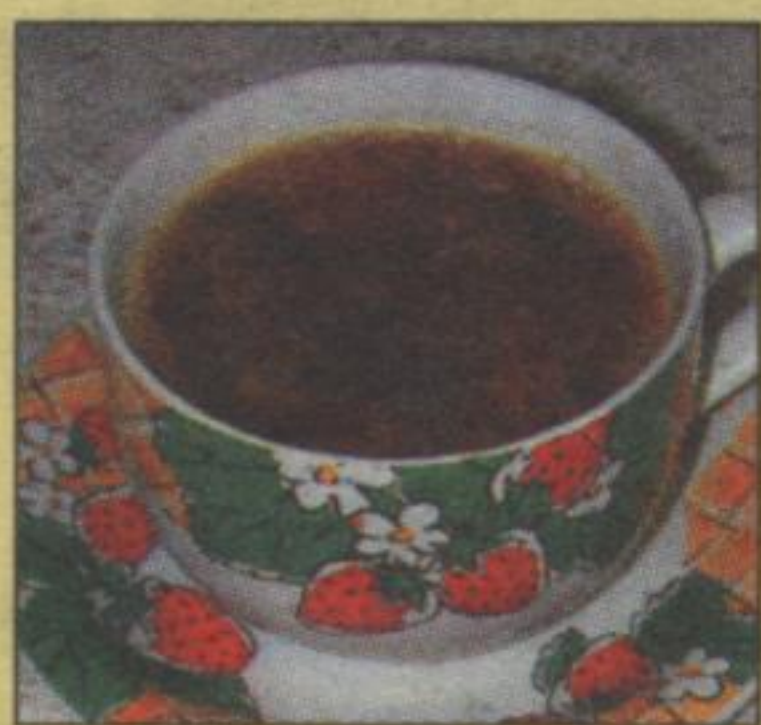
"We have seen an increase in vandalism in schools," said Gordon. She added many homeowners have had lawn ornaments and mailboxes damaged.

Gordon urges area residents to call police when they see those crimes being committed.

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The Independent & Free Press office is closed today (Friday) so staff can celebrate Good Friday. The office will reopen Monday, April 16 at 8:30 p.m.



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