

Editorial

Cops and dollars

On the surface, the Halton Regional Police Services Board's approval of an 8.95 per cent budget hike for 2003 seems a bit onerous to expect Halton taxpayers to bear.

That is, until you look at policing in Halton today and where it is headed.

As Chief Ean Algar pointed out, Halton continues to be the safest community in Canada with a population of more than 100,000.

That doesn't happen by accident.

We are fortunate to have a good police service but as the chief pointed out, spiraling growth and the demands of the public for more—more patrols, more officers, more enforcement are often-heard demands—means the service will need every penny of its \$61.7-million budget next year.

Especially frustrating for the local police board are the costs involved in transporting prisoners to court, protecting courthouses and dealing with the more than 400 criminal offences that occur each year at Milton's Maplehurst Correctional Facility. These duties alone eat up \$2-million of the budget—costs which should be handled by the province. Should our cops be guarding courthouses or out on the streets? You be the judge.

Yes, the police should be looking at all efficiencies, as any business would, but ensuring Halton remains a safe community with a well-run police service is something that we're reluctant to put a pricetag on.



Letters to the editor...

Humans should learn to live with animals

Dear editor,

Re: Council gives okay to deer hunt (Nov. 13).

Humans make terrible wildlife

"managers." First, we hunt the deer's natural predators—wolves and coyotes—into actual or near extinction, because we're terrified that our cats and toy poodles won't be able to flee or defend themselves. Then we freak out when deer enter our gardens to munch on whatever hasn't been poisoned with herbicides.

Finally, we send commandoes with savage bows and arrows to

kill does, because residents might be disturbed by rifle shots. Well, I guess so, but primitive weapons are no comfort.

The whole sad enterprise is sickening. When will humans learn to live with, instead of totally dominating, animals?

Leave nature alone to achieve its own balance.

Gloria Hildebrandt,
Georgetown

Be nice and clear your ice

Dear editor,

An open letter to all homeowners:

We've just come through our first snowstorm of the year, and it's time to remind all homeowners that you have a moral duty and legal responsibility to clear your sidewalks of any snowfall.

Icy sidewalks are a hazard for any pedestrian, and particularly our senior citizens, so please be considerate and do your part to

provide safe passage. If someone slips on the sidewalk in front of your house and injures himself or herself, it's you who they'll sue.

Even if you can't (or won't?) shovel your snow, at the very least spread some salt—this will melt the snow and ice to provide surer footing.

Remember the words of the late Ben Wick's, "Be Nice, Clear your Ice!"

Patti Caruso, Georgetown

Region should keep hands off trash

Dear editor,

As a rural resident, I read with interest Councillor Rick Bonnette's comments in the Oct. 30 article, Trash collection for rural areas a possibility.

I hope more people feel as I do that we can get rid of our own garbage much cheaper than what it will cost if the region takes over.

He mentions that urban residents are currently paying \$102 per year and that rural residents could pay \$105 per year. How can it be possible for there to be only \$3 difference between urban and rural garbage pickup per year when the houses are scattered miles apart in rural Halton versus in town where the houses are side by side?

If the cost escalates as quickly as the estimate for the recreation centre to be built in Georgetown South, then, please do not do any favours for us rural residents on garbage pickup as we would not be able to afford the luxury of roadside pickup.

I estimate the cost to be in excess of \$300 per year. My taxes are high enough, so don't try to con me into believing rural pickup will only cost \$105 per year.

If you want to reduce costs for the recyclable materials depots, would it not be cheaper to arrange a deal with the transfer station on Armstrong Ave.?

I realize that this is only a recommendation at this point in time, but these recommendations seem to become a reality only too quickly.

Fred Davis, Halton Hills

Letters to the editor

Letters to the editor must be signed and include an address and daytime telephone number. Unsigned letters will not be published. Letters should not exceed 200 words and may be edited.

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