



## War memorial gets donation

The Juno Beach War Memorial recently received a \$1,500 donation from the students at Centennial Middle School, after they ran fund-raising activities like bake sales in their individual classrooms. On hand to present the cheque were Centennial students (from left) Natalie Cook, 12, Spencer Troop, 13 and William Gwynne, 12.

Photo by Ted Brown

## Police association says service is '60 officers short'

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Factors influencing the mounting workload, Atkinson continued, range from a host of mandatory and prescriptive legislation outside of the service's control to growth, onerous evidence collection requirements and adequacy standards.

"These are just a few issues that have caused extreme increases in workload and to fulfill the obligations of these, the front lines of policing have been continually depleted to supplement these increases," said Atkinson, who is concerned about officer safety and burnout.

The most recent statistics show that Halton officers respond to 95,000 calls for service a year, 18,000 of which are criminal offences. Officers must also provide court protection and prisoner transport plus deal with hundreds of calls at Milton's Maplehurst Correctional Facility. The impacts of this include increased stress, longer response times and rampant overtime.

"(Officers) are tired and tired of it," says HRP administrator Paul La Course, who added that issue is far from new. "Staffing has been a topic at association AGMs since 1998 and we have voiced our concerns with management since 1999."

The budget is "conservative at best" at addressing front-line strength already depleted by officers being seconded for police work elsewhere which— while important, says La Course— leaves the streets under-protected. He said the hiring of 60 officers— even over the next two or three years— would only cover current shortages on the front line not including retirements and resignations.

"The association and its members recognize the police service has done a good job of hiring replacements for retirements and resignations, however, we believe a workload and staffing analysis is necessary to update the criteria that is used in determining what the real authorized strength should be," said Atkinson.

Adds La Course: "We are at least 60 additional officers short in providing the community continued good policing while offering a safe working environment for our officers."

In addition to police brass, the Halton Regional Police Service (HRPS) had 282 First Class constables, as of September, plus 38 Second Class constables, 22 Third Class and 53 Fourth Class. Of this 395-officer total, says La Course, constables staffing the front lines currently number in the "low 200s."

Atkinson— who pledged to play an active and constructive role in any study— is adamant that the HRP's appeal for a workload and staffing analysis is not some union muscle-flexing but a request born of concern for officer and public safety.

"Something has to give," he says.

La Course explained that the HRP has requested, and been granted, a meeting with the services board to discuss the issue. If the board is not supportive of a staffing and workload analysis, says Atkinson, the HRP will decide what steps the association must take to affect the necessary improvements.

"They need to face reality and deal with it," added Atkinson. "But it will be money well-spent for a region that deserves it."

—By Howard Mozel, special

## Police blotter

### Stolen caddy torched

A stolen Cadillac was found burning on Five Sideroad between Winston Churchill Blvd. and 10th Line early Sunday morning. Firefighters arrived to find the car fully engulfed. The 1994 Cadillac STS had been reported stolen from a Burlington bar earlier in the evening.

The vehicle was destroyed and damage is estimated at \$16,000. Halton Police are investigating.

...  
A \$2,500 Yamaha generator was stolen from a trailer during a break and enter at Safe Self Storage on Winston Churchill Blvd. late last Thursday or early Friday. Entry was gained into the outside storage area after a hole was cut in the fence.



### 50th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

The family of Merv and Doris Barber wish to invite family and friends to join in celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary of their parents, Saturday, December 7, 2002, 1 - 4 p.m., Royal Canadian Legion, 15 Wright Avenue, Acton.

Your presence would be a treasured gift and we respectfully request no other.



### Happy Birthday Mary Scott!

How does it feel to be fifty years old? You were such a cute baby! What the heck happened?



Now all these years later, Mary Scott looks like this! Mary Scott even put on a clean house dress for the photo!

Best Wishes! Gotcha Big Time

Dianne

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