

THE INDEPENDENT



University Women's Club book sale goes Saturday

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Young at Heart special section

8-Pages



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INSIDE



CASHh campaign kicks off

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Would you like to be a C.O.P.P.?

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FRIDAY...

The new (and improved) Halton Hills fire station projects took another step towards reality Monday at Town council. For details see Friday's *Independent & Free Press*.

For breaking news go to: www.independentfreepress.com



Police declare war on local lead-footed drivers

CYNTHIA GAMBLE
Staff Writer

Halton Regional Police Service has three prime concerns in Halton Hills: traffic, traffic and traffic.

That mantra was recited by both HRPS Chief Gary Crowell and District 1 (Halton Hills and Milton) Commander, Superintendent Signy Pittman when they were invited to make a presentation on the state of policing in Halton Hills at a recent council meeting.

"I can tell you are our top three concerns in the region are traffic, traffic and traffic," said Crowell.

"What we did last year in the region— although it's the responsibility of each frontline patrol officer to be enforcing traffic, they're also answering calls and doing criminal investigations— we decentralized the traffic unit and assigned them to the Districts and we went from six officers to 18 officers dedicated solely to traffic because of the concerns we have. So accordingly with the emphasis on traffic, our Provincial Offences Act tickets statistic went up 15.6 per cent," said Crowell.

But in the same time period, the number of motor vehicle collisions also rose by 10 per cent and number of deaths from vehicle collisions last year more than doubled.

"We're already seeing a trend in 2008 that's causing us concern," the Chief said. "We've had six fatalities so far in the first quarter of this year; two in Halton Hills, two in Milton and one each in Oakville and Burlington."

Some of the actions being taken on traffic enforcement:

- Intercept Lidar Operations— a team of officers identifying speeders on the road in a radar operation.

See POLICE, pg. 3

Shortcake on skates

Hannah Gao of the Georgetown Skating Club performed with her CanSkate mates in the Strawberry Shortcakes' routine during Saturday's 50th-anniversary Ice Show at the Mold-Masters SportsPlex. **More photos page 17.**

Photo by Donavon Gaudette

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