

Club theft **Focus on Nicholas Praysner**

The Campbellville District Lions Club building was the object of a break-in early Sunday afternoon, report Halton Regional Police.

Thieves gained entry to the building via an insecure washroom window in the building, said police.

The club's offices were ransacked.

By Peter Mills  
Aside from a few escape attempts, little in the way of negative publicity has been generated from Maplehurst Correctional Facility.

Indeed, the opposite is the case. Maplehurst residents have been helping out with a number of community projects.

Part of the reason for it

is the volunteer program at Maplehurst.

Nicholas Praysner coordinates the various programs. He says the programs are structured in such a way that they are ongoing.

"The volunteer has to make a commitment to come here each week and run his program. It's a hard job. It takes a lot out of some people, but they do a good job. They're amazing people."

Among the programs Mr. Praysner oversees are Alcoholics Anonymous, Gamblers Anonymous, Bible Study, Man Two (a one-on-one encounter between a resident and a social worker), Human Relations and Seven Steps to Liberty.

Each of the programs is designed to help the resident help himself. The volunteers are specially-trained people from all walks of life.

It forms a special part of the lives of the residents here. That's why Mr. Praysner is careful to weed out programs of a short-term nature.

"These guys really get involved in the program. It becomes a part of their life. If it dies, they become discouraged. I don't blame them. I'd feel the same way."

"The residents get along with the volunteers quite well. The programs are well attended. The residents don't have to show up, but they do. I take that to mean they

think it's worth their while."

Mr. Praysner was born in Fort Churchill, Man. 25 years ago.

His father was in the armed forces, and so the family lived in England, Germany, Halifax and Regina before moving to Oakville in 1965.

He has a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Toronto specializing in psychology and behavioral sciences.

Before getting his degree, he took a year off university to work at Maplehurst as a correctional officer. He returned and continued as a part-time correctional officer until graduation.

"I've always been interested in that kind of thing, psychology and so forth."

"We have these programs to try and help the resident get at the root of his problem."

"Some crimes are caused as a result of alcohol. Like, he was drunk when he broke into the house, or he stole so he could buy booze, or whatever."

"We run the Alcoholics Anonymous meetings to help this guy overcome the problem he has."

"Same thing with Gamblers Anonymous. Maybe the guy had to steal to pay off gambling debts."

There are some things that Mr. Praysner just cannot help the inmates with.

"A lot of crimes are committed because of a family breakdown. I think it's important to maintain a family life. I mean, if mom and dad both work, how much time is there for the

children?"

"You can't do it here. At least not in the sense of mom and dad and sister and brother. There is no 'family' here."

"You have to remember this is a security institution after all. You have the guards here. But we try to have a close-knit group as much as we can."

"The residents here have to feel they can depend on the volunteers to try and help them."

Mr. Praysner is also active in volunteering when he is away from work. He is a resource person for the Halton Association of Volunteer Co-ordinators.

He also meets with the volunteer co-ordinators from institutes in Toronto.

Hamilton, Brampton and Niagara, as well as with the Ministry of Correctional Services, and the John Howard Society.

"It's easy for me to get volunteers for programs. People will call up about a program they may be interested in."

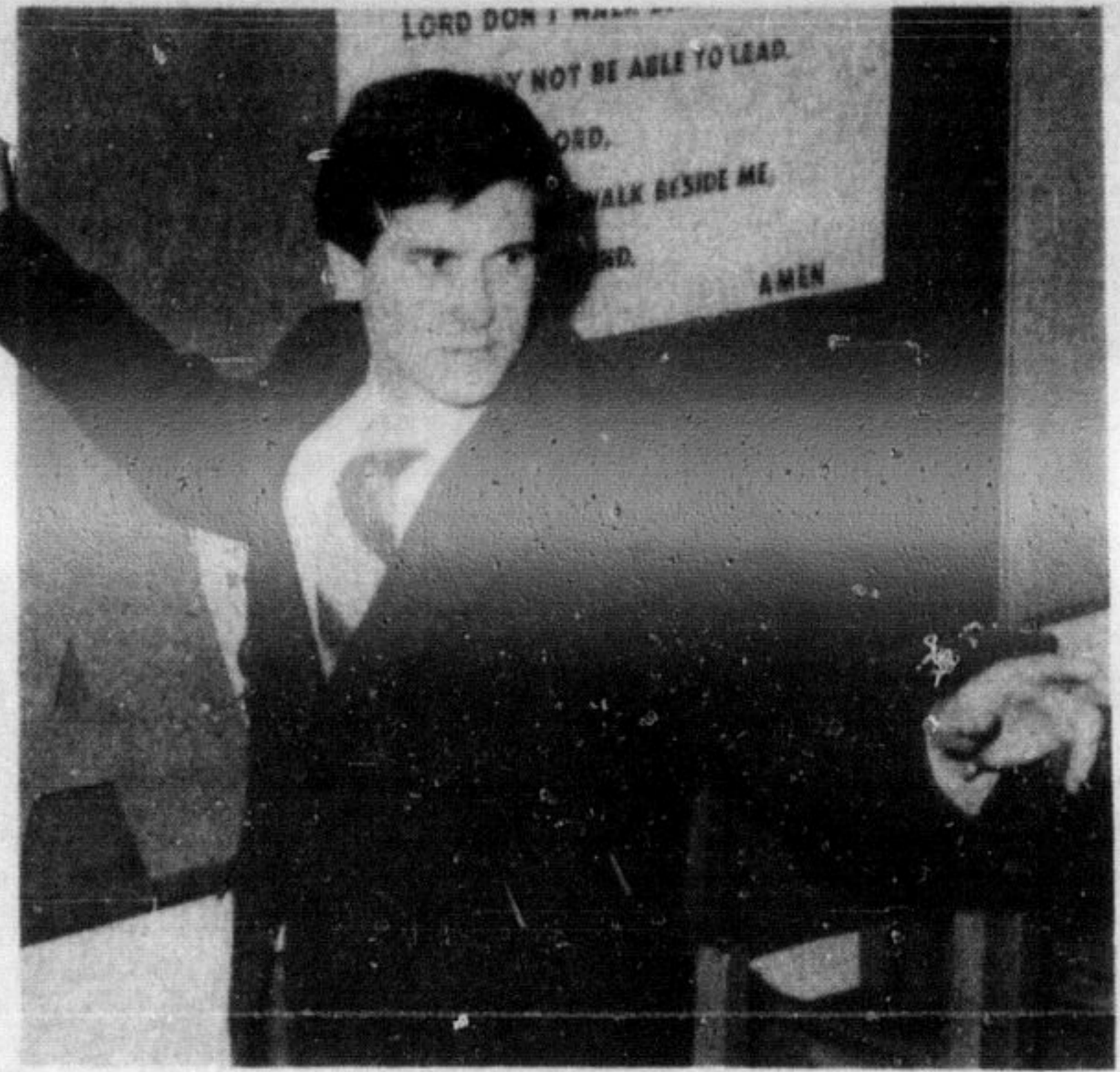
The trouble is to find space and time for them.

"You have to be fair."

"You can't con a con."

"After a guy leaves here, he's gone. We're not a part of his life any more. But I can call up Gamblers Anonymous, say, and ask how he's doing."

"If he's doing well, great. If not, maybe he can be turned around before he gets to the point where he commits another crime."



Nick Praysner

**Halton MPP calls time to clean nuclear air**

Last Friday, March 30, 1979, Julian Reed, Liberal Energy Critic urged the Minister of Energy to make a full statement to the people of Ontario regarding the facts of the Canadian Nuclear Industry.

Continuing events near Harrisburg Pennsylvania concern the light water reactor have raised fears and uncertainties about the safety of all nuclear installations.

Mr. Reed said it does not seem fair to make the kind of comparisons about safety between the two technologies that are being made at the present time. However, until the public is presented with all the facts, these uncertainties will remain. They threaten the end of nuclear produced electric power in Canada.

He said Ontario must demand from every element of the Canadian nuclear industry, a complete revelation of the current state of the art. There must be no withholding of information.

"We have never accepted and never will accept a premise that we should all behave as sheep and trust Big Brother," he said.

The Liberal Party of Ontario has expressed concerns about nuclear power in the past while at the same time trying to maintain a constructive rational and balanced approach to a developing technology which has taken on such a high level of economic importance.

Mr. Reed said, "Our main concerns have been with the storage of nuclear wastes and the discharge of massive quantities of warm water into our environment. And evidence thus far has indicated that the CANDU engines have been superior and therefore of relatively minor concern. Now is the opportunity for every fact to be laid on the line."

**Police to cost near \$10 million**

Halton Regional Police will spend close to \$10 million this year.

The 1979 budget of \$9,862,724 was approved by regional finance and administration committee Wednesday.

The budget represents an increase over the 1978 budget of 8.7 per cent.

Stan Raikie who will be in charge of reorganizing the police force as recommended in an Ontario Police Commission report, said the budget looked good in comparison with neighboring regions.

He said the reorganization would probably cut down on the amount of overtime being paid.

The 1978 overtime expenditures amounted to

\$396,646. Only 324,000 is budgeted for overtime in 1979.

Also provided in the budget is the hiring of another deputy-chief. The hiring was recommended in the OPC report, and brings the total to three at an average salary of \$31,000.

Police Chief Ken Skerrett's budgeted salary is \$43,036.

Close to \$200,000 is budgeted for the purchase of new police cars for the force.

No provisions were made for building renovations, and no mention was made of the Milton division's proposed move to more spacious quarters in the health unit building.

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Food specialists at the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food say it's a good idea to prepare now for the new season of fresh Ontario fruits and vegetables. Clean the freezer, use up last year's frozen produce, and check supplies of packaging materials for the coming season.

**Farmers given voice**

The creation of an agricultural advisory committee was approved last Tuesday (Mar. 27) at a meeting of the regional planning committee.

The final form of the committee has yet to be approved by council but the planning committee is recommending the farmers decide what is best for them.

If the recommendation is approved, Halton's agricultural-farm organizations would establish a representative committee.

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