

# Courts

## Cop to stand trial

A 38-year-old Halton Regional Police officer will stand trial May 6 on two charges of careless storage of firearms and ammunition.

Constable Arnold Vanclief of Burlington was charged two weeks ago following a police investigation into an incident on Feb. 15, when a juvenile pointed a rifle at two other youngsters.

The incident led to the seizure of seven rifles, one hand gun, one air pistol and a starter's pistol from Constable Vanclief's former Milton townhouse at 235 Bronte St.

## Star witness gets security

With a hefty price tag on his head, Halton Regional Police and Metro Toronto Police were taking no chances as they escorted Toronto ex-biker Cecil Kirby, 30, into a Supreme Court of Ontario jury trial in Milton this week.

The former Satan's Choice vice-president and confessed murderer turned police informant almost one year ago, and is appearing as a Crown witness in the trial of three Acton men charged in connection with a hotel fire death in August of 1980.

Howard Gibbons, 58, died in the Aug. 19 blaze.

Kirby, who has also confessed to a string of arsons, bombings and related crimes is scheduled to appear in several other trials as a key Crown witness.

The corridors of the Milton court house surrounding the third floor court room were staffed by police and Kirby was brought in by six armed members of the Halton Regional Police tactical and rescue unit.

Several sources said a price tag of \$145,000 has been put on the life of Kirby.

Police refused to confirm or deny the report, but admitted they were taking no chances with their "important" witness.

Prior to his arrival from secret lodgings, the entire building was searched and security personnel and police posted throughout.

"We are taking the necessary precautions to ensure the safety of this witness," said one officer.

Kirby testified that before becoming a police informant in November 1980, he worked five years for a well known Toronto family, the Comisso brothers.

He told the court he earned between \$500 and \$18,000 for committing bombings, arsons and assaults for the family.

## Life without parole

Life without parole for at least 12 years, was the sentence given out last week to two Hamilton men charged with the second degree murder of a third Hamilton man.

The Dec. 30, 1980 murder was committed with a tire iron in a wooded area near Britannia Rd. and Cedar Springs Rd.

The body of William Bird, 25 was found a month later by hikers.

Andrew Walker 21, and Wayne Barrick 36, were arrested shortly after that.

The two pleaded before a judge and jury to second degree murder after denying charges of first-degree murder.

Justice Edward Eberle extended the time before parole becomes optional to 12 years from the minimum of 10, due to the callousness of the crime.

Crown Attorney Paul Stunt described the murder as one of the most brutal and vicious he had ever come across.

"I doubt if anyone is able to comprehend the horror of this act," he said.

## Cop of the Month

# Officer nabs alleged killer

By LINDA KIRBY  
Champion Reporter

The Halton police officer selected for outstanding service for the month of March is hardly a stranger in this community.

Twenty-nine-year-old Carl Sapelak, of Dundas, made newspaper headlines two months ago with his arrest of a young Mississauga man in Milton wanted in connection with the shooting death of an elderly woman and the wounding of two other people January 30.

John Philip Rives, 23, of King Forest Rd., Mississauga was subsequently charged with the first degree murder of his 73-year-old grandmother Ruby Larson, of the same address and the attempted murders of his older brother Joel Rives, 26, and Patti Ilton, 22, of Martin St., Milton.

It was Constable Sapelak's cool and precise handling of the arrest of the armed man outside of McDonald's Restaurant in Milton, that earned him

considerable praise from fellow officers and commendation from high ranking Peel Regional Police Officials and Halton Region Police Chief James Harding.

The arrest of Rives came just half an hour after Mrs. Ilton, a mother of two, had flagged down a police officer at the intersection of Ontario and Main Sts.

Bleeding badly from a gunshot wound to her arm, she told police she had minutes earlier been shot by a passing motorist near the CN tracks.

Although dazed and in a state of shock, she managed to provide police with the description of a car and the man who had fired at her.

Several officers began an immediate search of nearby streets but it was Constable Sapelak who spotted a car matching the description in the parking lot of the Market Dr. restaurant.

He spotted a suspicious man leaving the restaurant and got out of his police cruiser, allegedly aware the man had identified him as a police officer.

A policeman of seven years, Constable Sapelak said he had no feelings of fear at the time of the arrest.

"He was watching me, but I didn't feel nervous. I was getting out of my cruiser as he was getting into his vehicle and I told him not to move."

The officer, who had his gun drawn, said the man made no attempt to avoid arrest.

A .44 calibre magnum rifle was seized along with an 18-inch long bayonet during the arrest.

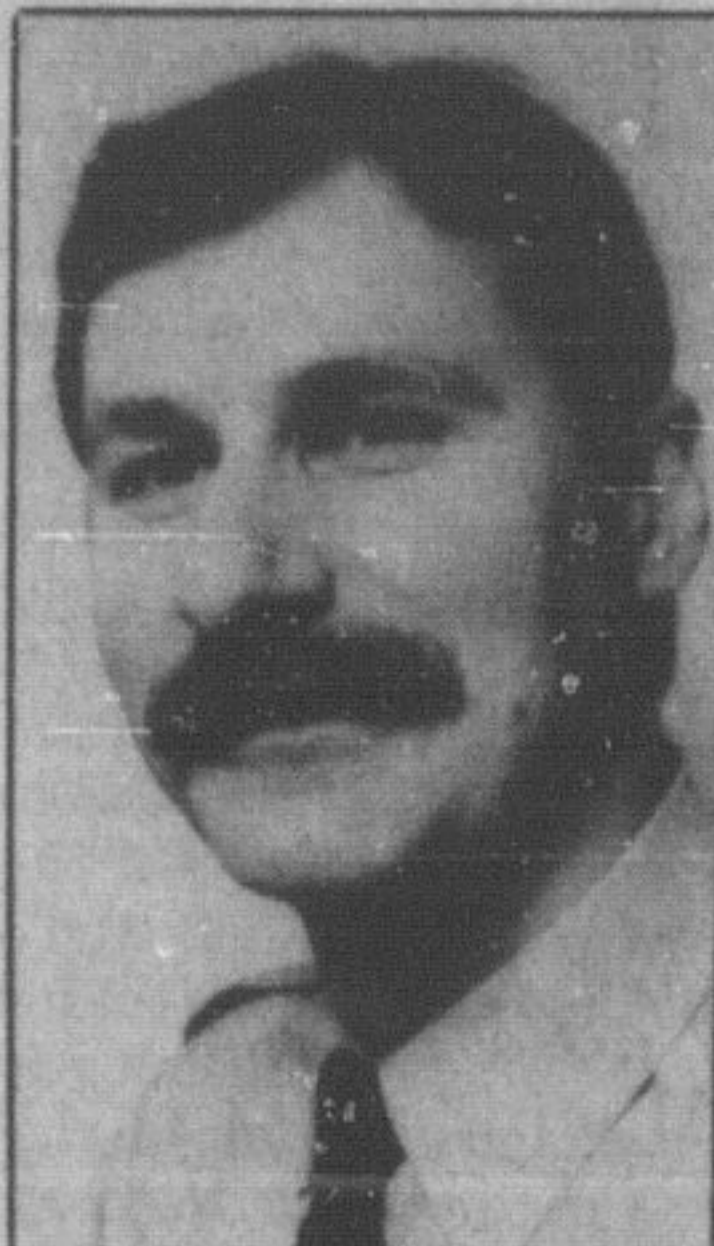
Fellow officer Ian McNally arrived within a minute of receiving the call from Constable Sapelak, who had requested a back up, and handcuffed the accused man.

"Carl had everything under control," said Constable McNally.

"I was very impressed with both officers," said Peel Regional Police inspector Jim Wingate, who headed the investigation into the shootings.

He added the successful arrest of the man had averted a potentially dangerous situation.

Approximately 40 people, including many children, were eating breakfast inside McDonald's Restaurant when Rives was apprehended.



CARL SAPELAK

## Flooding

### no ordeal

The recent early spring thaw has posed no serious threat to local farmers according to Doug Miller, associate agricultural representative with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

The slightly higher than average snowfall in the area during the winter is no cause for concern, Mr. Miller explained, because snowfall in Milton is much less than in most of the province.

Significant rainfall, which could leave some fields under water for a few days, is a threat to forages and wheat crops already in the ground and would result in some of the plants dying, suggested Mr. Miller.

An extremely wet fall last year means fields are already saturated and that condition could effect the runoff. Mr. Miller said, "A heavy runoff will probably mean more soil erosion than usual."

If the weather is agreeable, local farmers will be back in the fields planting by mid-April.

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