

Police blotter

Files are stolen

Halton Regional Police are puzzled by thieves who broke into Clement Motors at 500 Bronte St. over the weekend. Police said the thieves broke a window on the east side of the car dealership building and stole a fireproof filing cabinet. The cabinet contained no money, but only business records, said police.

Trafficking charge against students

Two students from W.I. Dick Senior Public School in Milton have been charged with possession of a narcotic for the purposes of trafficking.

The two teenagers, who cannot be named because they are 14-years-old and are classed as juveniles, were apprehended by the youth section of Halton Regional Police last week following a police investigation.

Four other fellow students were given school suspensions varying from three to six days for their involvement.

But, according to school principal Dave Young, the incident was a first and represents an isolated case of drug abuse and "does not reflect upon the entire school population."

"Our kids are good kids," said Mr. Young, adding that he does not feel the 540-pupil school has a drug "problem".

He said the school does not intend to suspend the two charged youths, because they were apprehended outside of school property during after school hours.

"If they are apprehended by police, we don't become involved in the discipline," said Ed Wiens, vice-principal.

"It is a police matter and has nothing to do with us," he added.

He said the four other students were brought to the attention of the principal by other students.

Mr. Young said the school has normal "clean up" locker checks, but does not conduct drug checks.

"We don't have a problem and so we don't find it necessary to do that," he said with reference to searches for drugs.

"To the best of my knowledge, we don't have usage in this school," he said, adding he hopes the most recent incident will act as a deterrent to other pupils.

"I am not saying there is not a drug problem out there, but it is a societal problem, and not a school problem," he emphasized.

He pointed out the board of education has, in the last year, made a major revision in the schools' health programs to include information on drug and alcohol abuse.

In a survey conducted by the Addiction Research Foundation two years ago on Halton students, it was discovered that 70 per cent of alcohol users started before Grade 8 and that 36 per cent of marijuana users started before Grade 8.

According to Mr. Young, he has yet to see a student arrive at school under the influence of a drug.

-Linda Kirby

Fraud on the increase

By ALEX MATHESON
Special to The Champion

The tide in crime in Halton has not been stemmed in the first two months of this year, but police are doing a better job rounding up the culprits.

In January and February this year, there were 2,320 major crimes reported, compared to a total of 2,292 for the same period last year, according to statistics presented to the Halton Regional Police board of commissioners last week.

However, last year police cleared (by charge and otherwise) 688 offences or 30 per cent in the two months.

This year they have put names to 40.1 per cent or 930 of the crimes.

Offences that appear down significantly over last year include robberies (from 22 to eight), break and enters (381 to 303), theft over \$200 (349 to 317) and theft under \$200 (559 to 538).

The most serious upswing was in frauds (174 to 231). Also on the rise were offensive weapon reports (11 to 20), wounding assaults (109 to 168) and possession of stolen property (five to 26).

A tight economy makes the rise in frauds predictable, said Sgt. Peter Whittaker, co-ordinator of crime prevention for Halton Regional Police.

People not normally involved in crime, in trying to maintain their accustomed standard of living, are writing NSF cheques and overbuying on credit cards.

"They are not adjusting to having less funds," he added.

Money troubles also lead to a rise in most other property-related crimes and domestic incidents, which can account for some assaults, he added.

Christmas has an effect on these crimes. People wish to buy gifts and don't have enough money, so they may try to steal. In addition, people may overuse credit cards and cheque books with results showing up in early January, said Sgt. Whittaker.

Many of the other theft crimes are committed by people selling the goods to buy other things. Young people trying to support a drug habit is an example, he added.

Although robberies weren't on the rise this year, from the small sample, Whittaker is expecting an increase.



Residents increasing

Three of Halton's four communities showed a population increase over 1976 in the 1981 census figures released Tuesday.

Halton Hills, which includes Georgetown and Acton, showed a decline from 34,477 to 33,928.

Milton, climbing from 20,756 to 27,855, showed the largest percentage increase, while Burlington, growing from 104,314 to 114,295 and Oakville jumping from 68,950 to 75,287, recorded similar increases.

Burlington's population growth, as recorded in the June 1, 1981 census, was an important factor in raising the metropolitan Hamilton total from 529,371 to 542,095.

Men are needed

The Milton Players are looking for men for their one act plays to be presented in June.

Two of the plays are by a Canadian playwright and are relatively short.

Therefore, rehearsals can be relatively reduced compared to a full length play.

Please contact Jim Steeves at 878-8553 if you are interested or wish more information.

Anyone who is willing to try is welcome. The players also need directors for these plays too.

The players are holding their semi-annual fundraising banquet on April 30 at the Thompson arena Lions Hall. If you wish tickets (\$20 per couple) contact a member.

"There is a saying that 'there is nothing more convenient than knocking off a convenience store!'", he said.

With stores opting to stay open 24 hours, there will be more robberies, particularly where there is only one attendant.

Patterns of vandalism shift with the season. During the school year, City transit buses take a beating, and when school is out, young people pick different targets, Sgt. Whittaker said.

Sex offences may increase with the better weather as girls don more suggestive clothes and the cold doesn't discourage flashing, he said.

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