Aiding victims of crime

By STEVE ARNOLD

Champion News Editor Victims of crime deserve better service than they are getting from the justice system today, but budgets and manpower problems often make that a difficult goal to achieve.

With the aid of seven summer students, employed through a federal make-work projects, Halton Regional Police are working to solve part of that problem.

Operation HAVE (Halton Aid to Victims through Education), is an effort by the force to keep the victims of minor crimes updated on the progress police are making in their efforts to solve the occurence, to cut the number of false alarms being turned in by automatic systems and to update contact files for business.

Carolyn Hall, manager of the project, said the aid to victims portion of her project is an effort to let victims know that they haven't simply been lost in the police department's files.

She explained that many minor crimes, such as residential break-ins and bicycle and car thefts, can be classed as "dead end occurences" because there are no firm leads for police to follow.

In these instances, the victims should be told there is little chance of someone being caught "but the officers get backlogged and they really don't have time for that," she said.

Now, through her student workers, the victims of such offences can be contacted and asked if they have any further information about the incident and told what progress the police have made.

"People who've been the victim of a crime are often worried because they don't know what is happening, but something like this has helped in a lot of cases," Miss Hall said.

"We've been getting a lot of positive response

from the community because of this," she said.

Miss Hall's six student workers are divided in three teams of two each. While one team works calling back the victims of minor crimes in 1982, another contacts businessess updating the files on contacts for afterhours incidents.

She explained when police are called to a business late at night they want to contact the right person for information or access to the build-

"At three in the morning you don't want to be calling the wrong person," she said.

The third aspect of the summer program, funded by the federal Ministry of the Solicitor-General, is a program to cut down the number of false alarms to which police are called.

Constable Scott Pringle, crime prevention officer for North Halton, said 98 per cent of the alarms turned in by automatic systems are false-a danger for police.

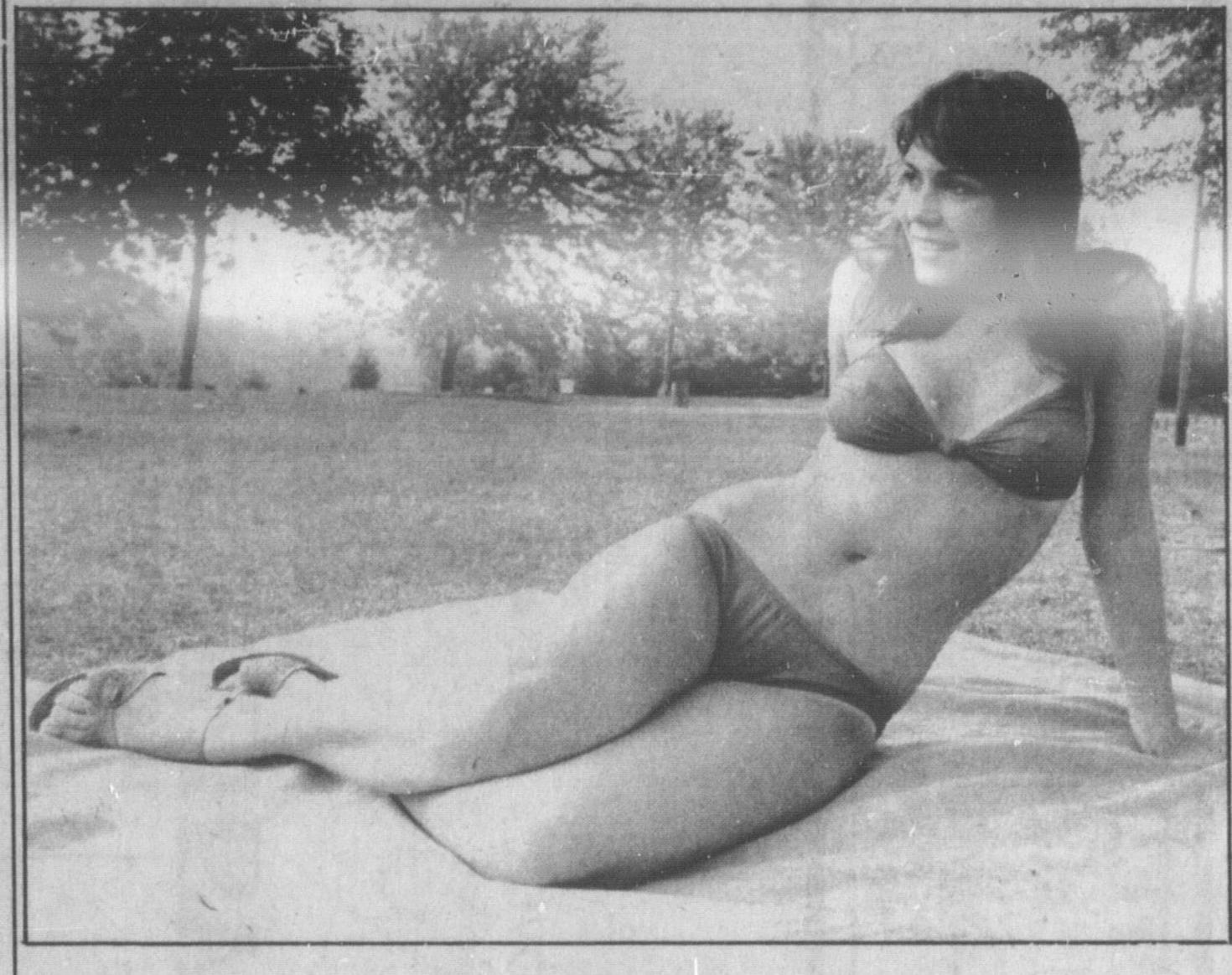
"They know that most of the calls are false alarms so they tend to get a little lazy going in to these situations," he said.

Peel Region, in a similar effort to deal with such problems, cuts off police service to businesses that

are habitual offenders in that way. Halton businessmen, however, have been quick to respond to student's invitation to improve, Miss

Hall said. The summer program is costing a total of \$17,000 for 14 weeks work by the students and 16 weeks by the project manager. It is separate from students employed on harbor and parks patrols by the police.

"This project is important," Constable Pringle said, "because this is supposed to be the year of the victim, and we have to let people know. . . that we just don't forget about these things."



Love that sunshine

Summer is the season for sunbathers and sunbather watchers. Linda, 18, is one of the former. Sheridan College students will get the benefit of Linda's charms next year, but for

the summer she is pursuing her hobbies of swimming and jogging at areas such as Milton's Kelso Conservation Area.

Line not expanded

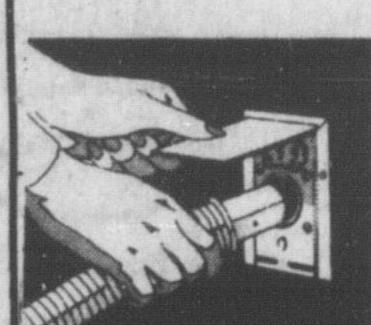
Hydro tower lines in Milton will not be expanded beyond the number the Town has been expecting, local officials were told Tuesday.

Ontario Hydro officials met with staff and politicians from Milton and Halton Region yesterday afternoon to explain the implications of a recent Joint Hearing Board decision on Hydro's plans to get electricity from the Bruce Nuclear Generating Station.

Jim Bayne, Hydro planner, said Milton would likely see only a second set of towers running through the existing corridor north of Hwy. 4011.

He explained that when the current corridor was approved, Hydro was given permission to erect two sets of towers there. Currently, only one tower, with one hydro line, is there.





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Despite the recent heat wave, students are persevering with their work on the Crawford Lake Archaeological Excavation project.

The students are uncovering large area where an Indian village once stood.

Crawford Lake Unearthing history

Working diligently under the hot sun, the students persevered, carefully scraping soil away with small hand trowels:

The task is tedious, but there are few complaints from these individuals who are involved in the fascinating uncovering of Indian history. Working on a hilltop above

Crawford Lake, they are part of a unique dig that will locate a prehistoric Indian village. A preliminary dig in 1973 resulted in

the discovery of six Iroquois longhouses which made up the village. The purpose of this dig nine years later is to locate the palisade which probably enclosed the village, then rebuild it before reconstruction of the longhouses begin. The location of the six longhouses is already known.

An Ontario Heritage Foundation grant has provided \$20,000 to pay the cost of the complete excavation of the village site over the next two months. Students will be working under the

direction of Dr. William Finlayson,

executive director of the Museum of Indian Archaeology in London, Ont.

The careful scraping reveals dark circles of earth indicating where former posts for walls once stood, explained Dr. Finlayson.

He added the village site is typical of its kind-located high on a hill to provide both a vantage point and a suitable defence location.

Unfortunately, plowing of the land for the past 100 years has resulted in the destruction of many Indian artifacts said Dr. Finlayson.

The Crawford Lake Indian Village and Conservation Centre project has been organized by the Halton Region Conservation Foundation—a Haltonwide group of volunteers now conducting a campaign to raise \$700,000 to rebuild the village and create a new nature centre at Crawford Lake.

Upwards of \$70,000 has already been raised, according to Gary Hutton, manager of the community relations division for the Foundation.



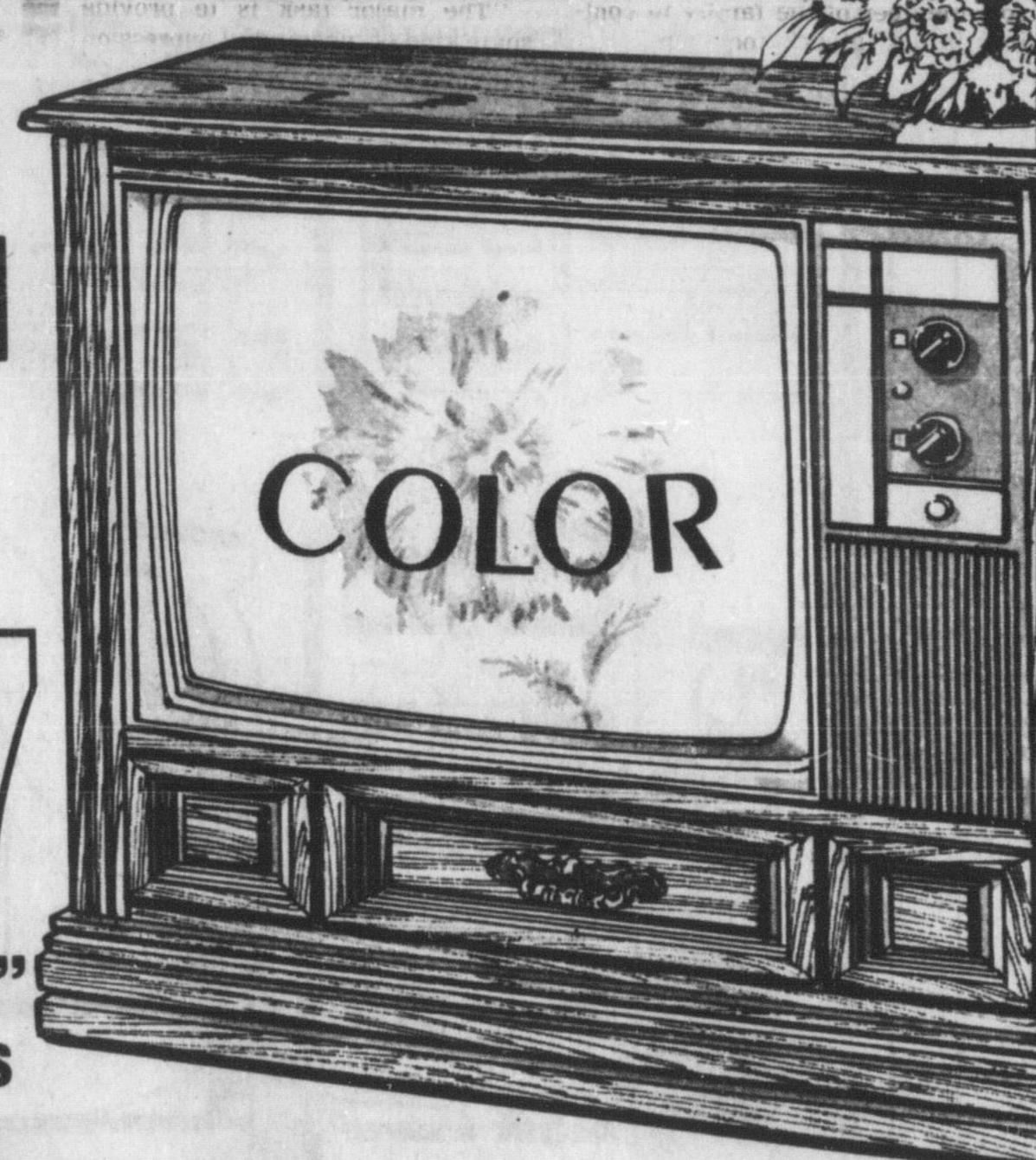
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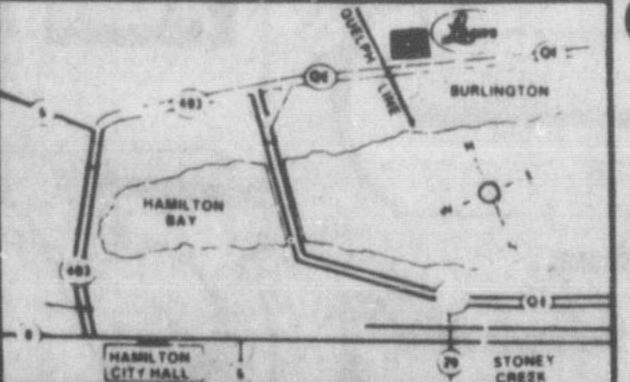


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