

# Police blotter

## Drugs stolen

An estimated \$500 worth of narcotics were stolen from a Laurier Ave. drugstore in the early morning hours of Thursday.

Halton Regional Police received the alarm at 03.49 a.m. to Guardian Drugs at 497 Laurier Ave. and responded to the scene within two minutes, but thieves had already made a quick exit said police.

Thieves pruned open a rear door to gain entry and went directly to a narcotics cabinet where the drugs were stored, said police.

A quantity of Novahistex and Novahisteen was stolen along with other controlled drugs.

## Break in

A collection of special edition plates, cash and cigarettes were stolen from The Harrop Restaurant sometime overnight Wednesday.

Thieves gained entry to the premises via a basement window that had been boarded up, said Halton Regional Police.

Once inside they gathered up plates, a stereo unit and the cash and cigarettes.

Total value of the stolen goods and damage to premises amounted to \$3,000.

## Truck stolen

Halton Regional Police are investigating the theft of a 1980 pick-up truck stolen from the garage of Bee Line Carriers at 600 Harrop Dr. late last Thursday night.

Police said night shift workers had left at 11.30 p.m. but when an employee came in at 4.30 a.m. he found a window smashed, and the truck gone. Police have a suspect.

# Pain and want are the souvenirs of this trip

By LINDA KIRBY  
Champion Reporter

There are few physicians who enjoy taking a working holiday, but there is a group of such people who every year embark on medical missions to third world countries.

Their stay varies anywhere from two weeks to a month.

As members of the Christian Medical Society, an international association of doctors and medical staff, they are concerned with the medical needs of such countries as British Honduras, Nicaragua, Haiti, Nepal and Zaire.

Dr. Richard Kunica, a Hornby dairy farmer and general practitioner in Oakville is one of these people.

Last January Dr. Kunica, along with his 18-year-old son Tim, were among a group of 70 who took part in an "eye mission" to Nicaragua.

It was the first trip of its kind for the general practitioner who has worked on Indian reserves and in a mission hospital in British Columbia prior to setting up his practice at Trafalgar Medical Centre.

The eye mission represents only one of many different kinds of medical expeditions to third world countries, explained Dr. Kunica.

"But the beauty of the eye mission is that you can do a lot of work in a small amount of time," he said.

A team of ophthalmologists, opticians and surgeons, along with a host of assistants, attended to more than 1,000 people a day in a small public school provided by the Nicaraguan government.

Their day would begin at 5.30 a.m. and usually finish about 6 p.m.

There were never sufficient hours in a day to see all of the patients, recalled the local doctor.

Between 2,000 and 3,000 people lined up daily waiting their turn many sleeping on the steps of the school compound with the hope they would make it in the next day.

Dr. Kunica was among the doctors who would check each person to determine if there was a medical or surgical problem.

Along with the physicians, there were nurses, business people, lawyers, mechanics—all assisting in some manner.

Dr. Kunica's son Tim drove an ambulance, driving morning to evening between the public school and the hospital, where two rooms had been provided for surgery cases.

A Catholic monastery was home for the group of 70. Native people were hired to make the meals.

All medical equipment, bandages, and drugs were brought by the individual doctors for the simple reason the country lacked the technology and many basic drugs, said Dr. Kunica.

For most of the patients, it was the first time they had their eyes examined, said the doctor.

Many were almost to the point of blindness because the eye disease had spread over the years.

"There are some definite shortages there," said Dr. Kunica, with reference to the lack of available medicine.

"One day you might have it, the next day you might not."

"I had one patient with a diseased eye who required regular treatment. I had brought a large number of samples with me as well as using some, and was able to give him a month's supply," he said.

Many fellow doctors did much the same, bringing samples and buying their own supplies of drugs.

During the two-week stay, a team of 10 surgeons performed a dozen corneal transplants, having transported eyes from the Toronto General Hospital eye bank with them to Nicaragua.

The first eye mission to that country had taken place the previous June and it was during that expedition that a group of eye transplant patients had been lined up for the operation.

"Within a few hours of getting off the plane we were operating," said Dr. Kunica.

Accompanied by a group of Spanish-speaking interpreters, many of whom were missionaries, doctors had little problem with the language barrier.

Thousands of eye glasses, donated to the eye mission, were dispensed within days of their arrival.

"We took with us 10,000 pairs—reading glasses, short vision glasses and corrective styles. Within a few days they were all gone and we had to send an SOS to Canada for more."

An emergency meeting of Christian Medical Society members was held in Barrie and a special work party organized.

A plea for more glasses went out and within two days, a total of 6,000 pairs of glasses had been gathered, catalogued and shipped to Nicaragua, said Dr. Kunica.

Despite the enormous amount of work and effort and expense that goes into each mission the Society rarely captures banner headlines.

Funding of the missions is provided out of the doctors' own pockets. Travel expenses and flight cost approximately \$2,500 per person, which does not include their investment in supplies and drugs.

## A BRIDGE TO ACHIEVEMENT

By Mike Rothenberger  
Date Campaign & Assoc., Inc., New York  
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We have all heard the story of the lad who was born in Kentucky a little over a century and a half ago. He spent his youth in poverty. When he was about seven years of age his family moved to Indiana where, for the first year, they lived in a three sided shed. A buffalo skin was hung across the open side to keep out the sleet and snow. His formal education amounted to a total of about one year. He learned to write, using an old wooden shovel for a slate and a charred twig served as his chalk.

One day he bought a barrel of junk for fifty cents. As he browsed through the barrel he found a couple of old law books. Even though his education was limited, he began to read and to study law. He became intensely interested. In the evening he read by the light of the crackling flames in the fireplace, and in the early morning hours he read by the light that shone through the cracks between the logs of his modest cabin. He made a steadfast resolution. He said, "I will prepare myself and some day my time will come." It is said that he often walked as far as fifty miles to get his hands on a book that he hadn't read. He didn't have the public library downtown, on the corner, as we have today. But more and more, as he became an avid reader, his resolution dominated his mind, "I will prepare myself and some day my time will come."

When he was in his early twenties he moved to New Salem, Illinois, where he worked in the Post Office and in a general store. But he never lost sight of his goal.

He persistently kept on preparing himself and his time did come. He became the 18th President of the United States. Because of his keen insight, his profound character and his compassion for humanity, he endeared himself to the hearts of

countless thousands of people throughout the world. His remains now rest in a magnificent tomb, in a beautiful cemetery, in Springfield, Illinois. Hundreds of people from around the world go there to visit the place each year. His name will always appear high on the list of the immortals and, of course, we know that his name was Abraham Lincoln.

This story of success against great odds should be an eternal source of inspiration to each of us. Perhaps we don't aspire to be President, but most of us would really like to make more of our lives than we have. The opportunity for success is far greater now than it was in his day. But it requires something of us. Do we have the desire? Do we possess the tenacity to prepare ourselves, to search out and discover some of our hidden talents and potential abilities, to develop them to the extent that they will enable us to achieve? So many of us are inclined to sit back and wait for opportunity to knock. But we have equipped ourselves to even recognize the opportunity and then to make good use of it? It was Samuel Rayburn, Speaker of the House of Representatives for so many years, who said, "Readiness for opportunity makes for success. Opportunity often comes by accident but readiness never does." He was so right. Readiness is something that each of us must bring about for ourselves through self-preparation, through the development of at least a part of the hidden potential that lies within us.

When we fully comprehend this profound truth, when we realize that self-preparation is a prerequisite to successful accomplishment, then we too may be motivated to firmly resolve, as did the immortal Lincoln: "I will prepare myself and some day my time will come."

# Halton officials seek money - again

By STEVE ARNOLD  
Champion News Editor

Once more Halton officials will go cap in hand to the provincial government looking for more money.

This time, members of Regional Council will be asking the Ministry of Transportation and Communications for money to pay for a study into the transit needs of the handicapped.

In an effort to cover their bets, however, Regional staff have been told to investigate ways of trimming the cost of the study if the additional provincial money is not provided.

The motion approved by council directs the Regional chairman to try to get a 75 per cent subsidy for the \$40,000 study. Normally, the Province only pays for half the cost of such reviews.

Ho Wong, Regional planning staff, told members of the health and social services and administration and finance committees that the study would be done by a consultant (which would account for half the total cost) and follow-up work would be done by a student contracted for the job (which would amount to another 25 per cent of the total).

Some committee members, especially Halton Hills Coun. Dave Whiting, felt there was no need for a consultant to be hired for the project.

"I find it odd that we in Halton Hills could do a study like this with volunteers and yet when the Region does it it has

to cost \$40,000."

"When we have 12 planners sitting down there it's plain stupid to spend this kind of money," he added.

"I'm not against transit for the handicapped, I just think we can find a way to do the study for nothing," he added. "I think we'd just be wasting \$40,000 doing another study. We already know the need is there because the district health council has told us it's there."

The system to be studied would identify the need for a special transit system for the handicapped and elderly, especially those needing transportation to medical facilities in neighboring cities.

Oakville Coun. Carol Gooding said the information required to get the provincial subsidies for the operation of a system wasn't the sort "that we could get with an in house study."

Mrs. Gooding also said that available information about the handicapped in Halton is "sketchy at best and we really can't plan accurately for them until we find out what their needs are."

Dennis Perlin, chief administrative officer, said he didn't feel the planning staff could handle the study because of the workload they already carry.

"All of planning staff we have are extremely busy doing reports that this council has asked for," he said, "and you just can't pull them off something."

He also warned that the information to be gleaned from such a

study would be vital in getting provincial subsidies later for the operation of the system.

"You have to go to the Province with a report that is well documented. It's a necessary first step before you can get even a pilot project in place," he said.

Mr. Wong also warned about the danger of making decisions without the proper background information, such as would be collected in a study such as this.

"Personally, I don't think we have the right kind of expertise for a study like this," he said.

"The consequences for the Region would be very serious if we made a decision that was based on imperfect information."

"That cost would be far greater than the \$20,000 to \$30,000 you'll have to spend on this study," he added.

Committee members finally decided that while Mr. Raftis attempts to get an increased subsidy from the Province, plans would be made to do the study in phases, or to trim some items to get the cost low enough to be done by Halton staff.

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