

Halton police take 500 guns to the scrap heap

By HOWARD MOZEL
Special to The Champion

A year's worth of confiscated and surrendered weapons was shredded to slivers recently and Halton Regional Police Const. George Farrow couldn't be happier.

"It's 500 guns off the street," he said. "They're made for one reason, so I have no bones about destroying them."

The weapons — largely real firearms and meticulous copies — were collected from all over Halton during 1997. Some, like several antique German Lugers, were turned in by responsible residents, while others were recovered from crime scenes. Still more are being disposed of at the end of trials where a judge has ordered their destruction.

More than 20 firearms, including military-style assault rifles and thousands of rounds of ammunition from a single home in Georgetown, are also gone.

The haul ranges from "pieces of garbage," said Const. Farrow, to shotguns, .22 calibre rifles, hunting rifles, a crossbow and bladed weapons. There were also air pistols and BB guns that are so realistic they pose a danger to officers and the public alike.

A total of 93 handguns, which must be reported to the RCMP according to stringent requirements, were also destroyed.

All were taken to a Hamilton recycling plant where each weapon was "shredded and chopped," said Const. Farrow, and the wood, plastic and various metals separated.

On rare occasions, explained Const.

Farrow, police can make application to have firearms "alternately disposed of." This is usually reserved for weapons of historical significance. If accepted, the guns are rendered useless by having a rod forced in the barrel and other components welded immobile.

These are then donated to museums, such as the three given last year to Remembrance Hall in Milton.

During a province-wide amnesty program for three months in 1994, 459 firearms and 33,499 rounds of ammunition were voluntarily turned in by Halton residents.



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Halton Region Police recently destroyed about 500 guns and replica firearms collected last year.

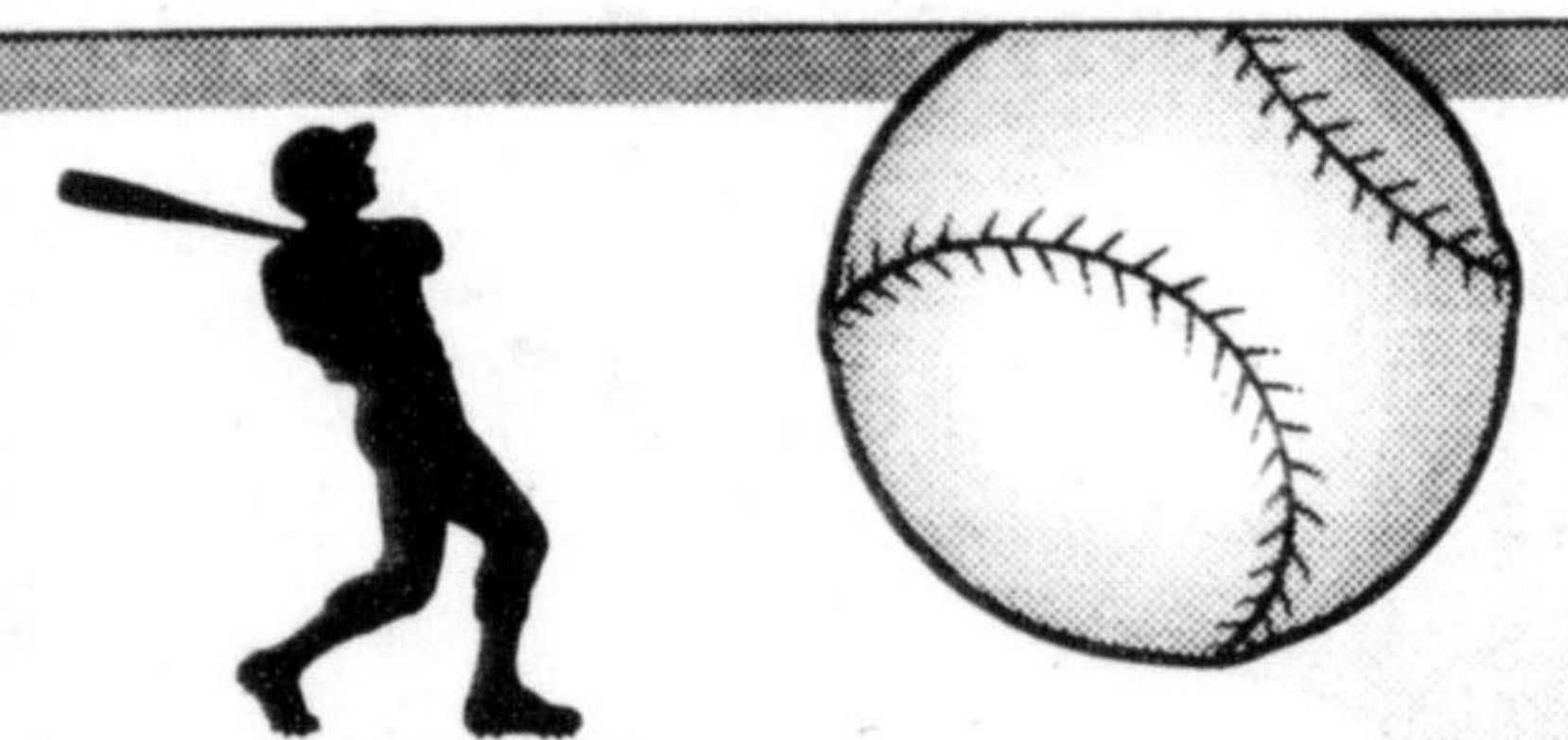
Volunteer help wanted

Allendale is looking for volunteers to assist seniors at mealtimes.

A special training session will be held at the local home for the aged Wednesday, Mar. 18 from 3:30 to 5 p.m.

A minimum one-to-two hour a week commitment is required, preferably around the 5 to 6 p.m. dinner hour.

Those interested in volunteering can register for the training session by calling Diane Dawe at 878-4141, ext. 8025.



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Sat. Feb. 28 - 2-4 p.m.

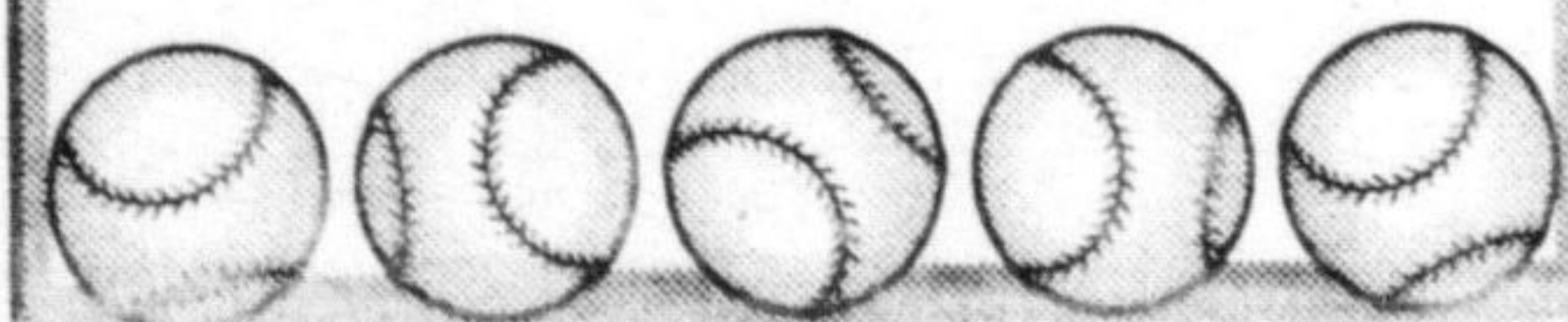
Location:

Halton Golf and Country Club (6th Line)

For more information call:

Chris Haug (905) 878-1728

Rich Matchett (519) 856-4536



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