

Money needed to hire more cops

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A total of \$403,000 has already been budgeted to hire the 24 constables further to the provincial Community Policing Program.

The force currently employs 550 personnel, with 411 uniformed officers and 144 civilian staff.

While the report deals with internal HRPS practices such as planning, goal setting and the fine-tuning of these initiatives, the majority of the document grapples with front-line policing. (The HRPS patrol function occupies approximately 60 per cent of personnel.)

Other aspects to the report include enhancing public service by deploying officers and other staff in a "direct service position."

The document also calls for a detailed review of calls for service and a needs analysis to determine the requirements of the K-9 and Tactical and Rescue Units; seeking continued outside funding for such programs as DARE and expanding the Victim Services Unit.

According to the consultants, police have traditionally relied on police-to-public ratios to determine resource levels, something which the report says is an "inadequate measure of service needs."

The report originated over Halton regional council's concern that using police-to-public ratios would lead to "prohibitive increases" in the police budget. Halton Region has a projected population growth of 2 to 3 per year to 2016. If resources increased in parallel with population, the HRPS budget could double about every 10 years.

The consultant's efforts soon expanded, however, to include an assessment of the use of current human resources, as well as the effectiveness and efficiency of HRPS programs and approaches.

The idea, say the consultants, was to determine how effectively the HRPS was using current personnel in conjunction with its review of how many other staff were required.

The consultants then interviewed civilian and uniformed HRPS members, police board members, regional councillors, other law enforcement agencies and the public.

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Catch Internet bird show

• from RAPTORS on page 8

At first, the project seemed to come up empty.

"We had birds bring nesting material back but they didn't lay eggs," said Mr. Hutton.

That all changed this year, thanks to an active nest carrying three eggs, he said.

That development caught the attention of the Canadian Peregrine Foundation, which came up with the idea of installing the 24-hour camera.

Plugging into the CPF website at <http://www.peregrine-foundation.ca> will soon allow enthusiasts to get an all-day, up close look at the osprey.

In the meantime, the footage is available at the Mountsberg visitor's centre.

"Now people can watch the birds as they come to the nest," said Mr. Hutton. "Both the male and female sit on the eggs, which is unusual."

The starring role is a new one for ospreys, which came close to facing extinction in the 1960s.

The culprit was DDT, a toxic insecticide that osprey absorbed through the fish they ate.

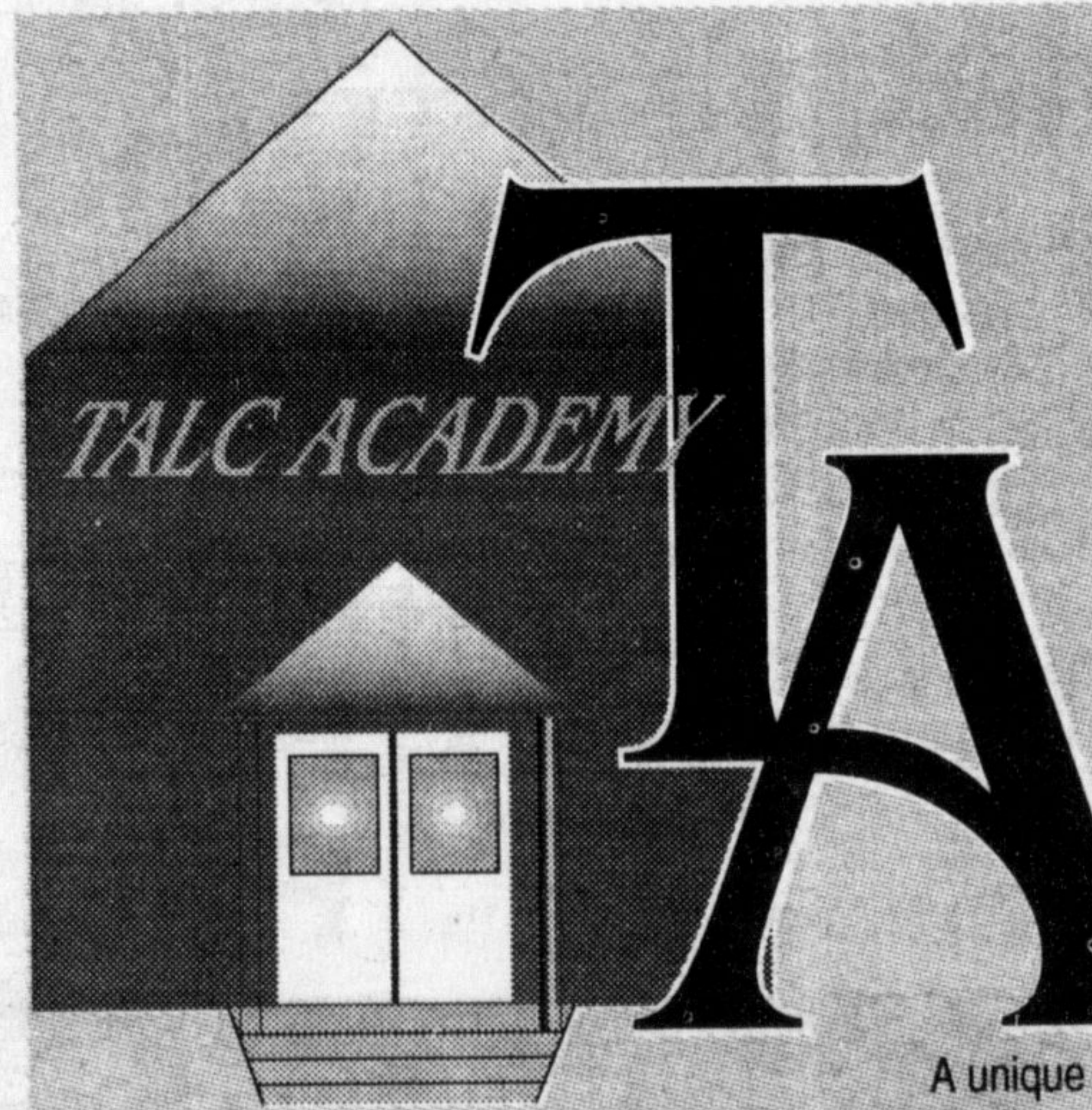
"The DDT caused the eggs to be very thin-shelled," said Mr. Hutton. "When they'd incubate them, they'd break them."

The result was a drastic decline in osprey numbers. That was reversed only when DDT was banned.

Now the raptors can be found in all parts of the globe.

Today, the Mountsberg camera will catch everything from the incubation of osprey eggs to their eventual hatching.

"In three or four weeks, the young will be born," said Mr. Hutton. That footage will eventually be used for behavioural studies.



TALC ACADEMY

THE SPEECH AND LANGUAGE PROGRAM

Opening Sept. '99

A unique private speech and language school will be opening in the Burlington and Oakville areas for September of 1999. TALC ACADEMY is for children with specific and intensive speech and language needs. Children with a history of speech and language delay, expressive and receptive vocabulary difficulties, weaknesses in the areas of grammar skills, auditory processing, sequencing, severe phonological or oral motor difficulties or hearing difficulties would all benefit from the specialized programming that this school will provide. Speech Language Pathologist Judy Nathanson will be coordinating the programming for this unique school.

TALC ACADEMY is a full year program for primary-aged children who are entering Junior Kindergarten, Senior Kindergarten or Grade One. Children who are currently experiencing difficulty in Grade One will also be considered. Speech Language Pathologist and Director Judy Nathanson explains that the school will offer children **daily individual one-to-one therapy** in the area of speech, language, auditory processing and reading. "There are many children with intensive speech and language needs who would benefit from daily one-to-one therapy," explains Nathanson. "Unfortunately, with the cut backs in the hospitals and school systems, daily one-to-one therapy or small group support is not available for most children." TALC ACADEMY's speech and language focused curriculum will integrate the individual speech and language needs of the students into The Kindergarten and Grade One programs. The individual therapy goals of each student will be monitored and enhanced within the language enriched classrooms of TALC ACADEMY, stated Nathanson. Our goal is to develop and enhance communication skills so that students will be able to successfully return to the regular school system.

In addition to the **daily one-to-one therapy**, students will receive intensive individual support within the classroom setting. TALC ACADEMY's Kindergarten classroom will have a **maximum of 7 students**. The Grade One program will also be **capped at 10 students**. Each classroom will be taught by a fully qualified teacher or Speech Language Pathologist. They will work with an Educational Assistant in order to provide individual programming for each student. Judy Nathanson states that "We anticipate having a total staff of **eight professionals** working to meet the needs of the students. This is an excellent ratio of staff to students."

The TALC ACADEMY Kindergarten program will use creative play in order to develop speech, oral language and socialization skills. The precursor skills that are necessary for reading such as rhyming, phonetic awareness, letter and sound recognition, and patterning will be an integral part of the kindergarten program. The Kindergarten program will also focus on developing memory skills, vocabulary development, grammar skills and auditory processing. "These are vital skills for children to develop," explains Nathanson. "At TALC ACADEMY, we present these skills in a way that is fun and allows the students to achieve success at their own level." The Kindergarten program runs five days a week. Half day and full day programs are available and parents have flexibility in their choice of days. "Many parents have also enrolled their children in their local school's kindergarten program as well," explains Nathanson.

Children with speech and language needs very often have a great deal of difficulty acquiring reading and written language skills. The Grade One classroom program at TALC ACADEMY is focused on developing these skills. "Children with speech and language needs require a great deal of individual programming and direct instruction in the area of phonics. There are many different types of **phonics programming** that we use for children," explains Judy Nathanson. "We have found that some children master the phonetic rules when they are presented in the form of songs. Other children need a more visual approach and, for these children, we use a **colour coded word family** approach." The Grade One curriculum will also include math and science programming that will meet individual student needs.

Judy Nathanson has an extensive background of providing innovative speech and language programming for children. She has been a Speech Language Pathologist for the past twenty six years and has worked all over Canada in both hospital and school boards. She also has a Master's of Education degree in Language Learning Disabilities. She is a Director of **CAMP TALC** which provides innovative and unique summer speech and language programming for children between the ages of three and twelve. Last year she opened the **CAMP TALC Kindergarten Speech and Language Centre** which offered individual speech and language therapy within an innovative Kindergarten environment. Judy Nathanson is a clinical supervisor for the Master's Program in Communication Sciences and Disorders (Speech Pathology) at the University of Western Ontario. For the past four summers she has supervised students from the University of Western Ontario as they completed their child language clinical placements. Judy also had a student working

under her supervision in the Kindergarten Speech and Language program and anticipates that she will have Speech Pathology students at TALC ACADEMY. "TALC ACADEMY is the extension of the type of innovative programming we have provided at the Kindergarten Speech and Language Centre," explains Judy Nathanson. "We have seen the difference that **daily one to one individual therapy** and collaborative classroom programming can make with our students."

TALC ACADEMY is opening because parents are asking for intensive and innovative speech and language services for their children," explains Judy Nathanson. "Parents of children with speech and language needs know that the resources are not available in the system to help their children reach their potential. TALC ACADEMY is for parents seeking intensive individual programming and daily therapy for their children, so that they will be ready to enter the school system with a firm foundation of speech and language skills. Our program is very specialized and very unique. The children we work with have intensive speech and language needs. We have a big job to do in order to meet their needs and we love doing it." In order to find out more about about TALC ACADEMY and how it can help meet the needs of your child, please call Judy at:

PLEASE CALL

905-628-8506

