

# Halton police creating special units to deal with major crimes

By HOWARD MOZEL

Special to The Champion

Given the financial constraints facing Halton Regional Police, its motto could very well be, 'Do More With Less'.

Further proof of this is the new Major Incident Response Team (MIRT) initiative.

On Tuesday, 25 officers completed their training as part of two MIRT teams, which can be mobilized at a moment's notice and bring to bear on major incidents a broad spectrum of training and investigative expertise — all within existing resources.

"Not a dollar was spent over and above the budget," said Major Crime Bureau Manager Det. Sgt. Ken Cormier.

The teams will each be used to quickly augment investigative personnel already in place to deal with such serious crimes as homicide — which is often labour intensive.

In short, said Det. Sgt. Cormier, MIRT provides a more organized approach to major crimes with teams created in advance that are on call day or night.

"We're doing more with less and this is another initiative using people in a multitude of ways," he said.

## Old ways time-consuming

In the past, he continued, Halton's handful of lead investigators could spend the first five or six hours after a major crime looking for the necessary resources, ranging from officers to automobiles.

Unlike this brand of ad-hoc team, MIRT allows investigators to know immediately who can be called upon to ensure that time, money and evidence are used to best advantage.

"The first 24 hours in a major investigation are the most crucial," said Det. Sgt. Cormier, who explained that MIRT was designed in response to the Campbell Commission and other inquiries — not because crime is on the rise in Halton.

In fact, Det. Sgt. Cormier said it's either "feast or famine" in the region when it comes to such occurrences. In 2000, for example, there were four crimes that required the formation of such a team, including the September murder of Gordon Humphreys in Oakville. During the previous 18 months prior to 2000, there were no homicides.

That said, Det. Sgt. Cormier made it clear MIRT could be used for incidents as diverse as a serial rapist case to a plane crash.

According to Det. Sgt. Cormier, major crimes consume huge amounts of resources.

The Humphreys murder, in which the accused was arrested at the scene, still required 3,000 hours of investigation.

## Chair guest at breakfast

Members of the community are invited to attend a Milton Chamber of Commerce-hosted breakfast with Regional Chairman Joyce Savoline March 22 at Granite Ridge Golf Club.

The topic will be 'What the GTSB Means to Milton and Halton Region'.

Registration will start at 7 a.m. and breakfast will be served at 7:30 a.m. The cost is \$15 for chamber members and \$18 for non-members. Call 878-0581.

**"We're doing more with less and this is another initiative using people in a multitude of ways."**

**DET. SGT. KEN CORMIER**

He said the hunt for, and subsequent conviction of Burlington murderer Grant Beauchage, who was caught in Las Vegas, expended a literally incalculable number of hours.

The hand-picked MIRT members have been drawn from a wide variety of backgrounds — from sex crimes and robbery to a former paramedic and uniformed officers with traffic and breathalyzer experience — who have supplemented their skills by taking additional courses.

"We will bring all these skills into this multi-disciplinary team," said Det. Sgt. Cormier.

"It's a complete mixture."

The two MIRT teams are far from entities unto themselves and Det. Sgt. Cormier fully expects members to help each other. This will come in handy, for example, when officers have obligations in court.

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

### MILTON DISTRICT HOSPITAL FOUNDATION

The Milton District Hospital Foundation will hold its Annual Meeting in the clinical classroom of the Milton District Hospital on Thursday, March 29th, 2001 at 7:00 p.m. All members of the Foundation and the general public are invited to attend.

Mary Devlin, Chair  
Board of Directors  
Milton District Hospital Foundation

## Ontario Energy Board



RP-2000-0193

HALTON HILLS HYDRO INC.  
ELECTRICITY RATE CHANGE  
NOTICE OF APPLICATION AND NOTICE OF WRITTEN HEARING

### Particulars of The Application

Halton Hills Hydro Inc. (the "Utility") must unbundle electricity rates into electricity distribution rates and rates for power and other charges in order to meet the requirements of new legislation. The Utility has filed its submissions with the Ontario Energy Board (the "Board") with respect to rates for the distribution of electricity.

The Utility will, at a future date, file its submissions for rates for the provision of regulated power supply (Standard Supply Service or "SSS") and other non-competitive electricity distribution rates related to the transmission of electricity and services provided by the Independent Electricity Market operator to the Utility ("other non-competitive electricity distribution rates").

In the first phase of this proceeding ("Phase One"), the Board will approve or fix just and reasonable rates for the distribution of electricity under subsection 78(3) of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*. The Board will approve rates for SSS and other non-competitive electricity distribution rates under subsection 78(3) of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* in a subsequent phase (or subsequent phases).

The Board has issued an Electricity Distribution Rate Handbook (the "Rate Handbook"), which stipulates that the distribution rate component of the electricity bill must be sub-divided into a fixed monthly charge and a variable charge. This rate restructuring, while having no overall impact on the Utility's revenues, may result in individual customer rate changes. The Rate Handbook also allows a utility to apply for a change in its distribution rates in order to earn up to a market based rate of return after tax.

The Rate Handbook was revised on November 3, 2000 incorporating the provisions of the RP-2000-0069 Decision with Reasons, concerning certain matters relating to the June 7, 2000 Directive by the Minister of Energy, Science and Technology. The RP-2000-0069 Decision indicated that Utilities would be able to earn market based returns but would have to phase-in any increase in rates over three years to lessen the rate impact on consumers.

The Utility has applied for a rate of return on common equity of 9.88%. The Utility's selection of this rate of return on common equity in an additional \$2,145,786 to be recovered in rates. In the first year of the phase-in plan the Utility will recover \$715,262 of this amount. The incremental revenue required is exclusive of Payment in Lieu of Taxes.

The rate restructuring and rate of return adjustments would increase the customer bill (based on normalized 1999 rates) for a residential customer with a monthly electricity consumption of 1,000 kWh by 1.6% for the first year of the three year phase-in plan. The first year impact for general service customers with a monthly consumption of 2,000 kWh is an electricity bill increase of 1.3%. Due to rate restructuring, individual customer bill impacts may be higher or lower depending on a customer's electricity consumption.

The Utility has applied for an increase of 2.9% to its 1999 revenue requirement in order to "normalize" rates. This normalization of rates relates to excess revenues the Utility returned to its customers through reduced rates between 1994 and 1999. The

applied for adjustment is in contravention to the Board's approved Rate Handbook.

This normalization adjustment would result in an additional increase for a residential customer with a monthly electricity consumption of 1000 kWh of 2.3% (for a total first year increase of 3.9%). The additional increase for general service customers using 2000 kWh per month would be 2.6% (for a total first year increase of 3.9%).

### How To Participate

If you wish to participate in this proceeding you **must**, within 14 calendar days of the publication of this Notice, file a letter with the Board stating whether you wish to intervene, observe, or comment on Phase One, or subsequent phases of this proceeding.

For information on how to intervene in, observe or comment on the submissions, please contact the Board's Customer Service Center at 1-877-632-2727 or by e-mail at Boardsec@oeb.gov.on.ca. Please reference Board file number RP-2000-0193. You may also visit the frequently asked questions (FAQs) section of the Board's Web site at [www.oeb.gov.on.ca](http://www.oeb.gov.on.ca)

### Hearing

If no person intervenes and requests a hearing, the Board intends to determine the application without a hearing. If any person requests a hearing, the Board intends to proceed by way of a written hearing unless the applicant or any intervenor satisfies the Board that there is good reason not to proceed by way of a written hearing. A request must be made within 14 calendar days of the publication of this Notice.

### How To See The Applicant's Pre-file Evidence

Copies of the submissions of Halton Hills Hydro Inc. are available for inspection at the Board's offices, and at the office of the Utility in the Town of Halton Hills. If you intend to intervene in the proceeding, the Utility upon request is required to give you a copy of its submissions with respect to that phase of the proceeding in which you intend to intervene.

### IMPORTANT

**IF YOU DO NOT FILE A LETTER OF INTERVENTION OR A LETTER OF COMMENT, OR IF YOU DO NOT FILE WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS OR PROVIDE REASON FOR NOT HOLDING A WRITTEN HEARING, THE BOARD MAY PROCEED WITHOUT YOUR PARTICIPATION AND YOU WILL NOT BE ENTITLED TO ANY FURTHER NOTICE OF THE PROCEEDING.**

### Addresses

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DATED at Toronto February 20, 2001  
ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Peter H. O'Dell  
Assistant Board Secretary