



Const. Jodhan sees the good and bad side of kids as police's new high school liason officer

By FANNIE SUNSHINE

The Champion

It took a while for Const. Denise Jodhan to blend in as a regular face in north Halton high schools.

"When I first started, I could hear the kids say, 'who's that, why is a police officer here, what happened?' It took a few weeks for them to get to know me."

Const. Jodhan became the new high school liaison officer for Halton Regional Police in September.

"I liaison between the schools and the police," said the seven-year veteran of the force. "It's important to designate an officer to the schools to deal with issues such as threats or drugs."

Const. Jodhan divides her time between the three high schools in town and the ones in Georgetown and Acton. She visits each school once a week.

"I go into the schools and explain what my role is at the school and then I do an open forum for the kids to ask me questions," she said. "We talk about the law, what to do if you get busted for drugs. The kids talk about their experiences with the law. The ones who haven't had to deal with the law don't ask a lot of questions. They realize not every officer is the same."

The questions Const. Jodhan are asked range from has she ever fired her gun to how officers get free coffee from Tim Hortons.

"They have a lot of questions about the Tobacco Act," she said. "There's no offence for smoking underage, you just can't purchase cigarettes. A lot of students think you can get a ticket if you're caught smoking underage — you can't."

Const. Jodhan will visit one class a day, usually a law or science class, and spend the rest of her day in a room in the guidance office if anyone wants to talk.

She decided to take the position as the high school liaison officer because she wanted a chance to work with youth.

"It's exactly what I thought it would be. You see the good side of the kids, not only the bad like when you're driving around in the cruiser. I'm having a good time."

Const. Jodhan will visit the schools until June and then start her rounds again in September, she said.

"It's good that parents know there is an officer in their kid's schools."

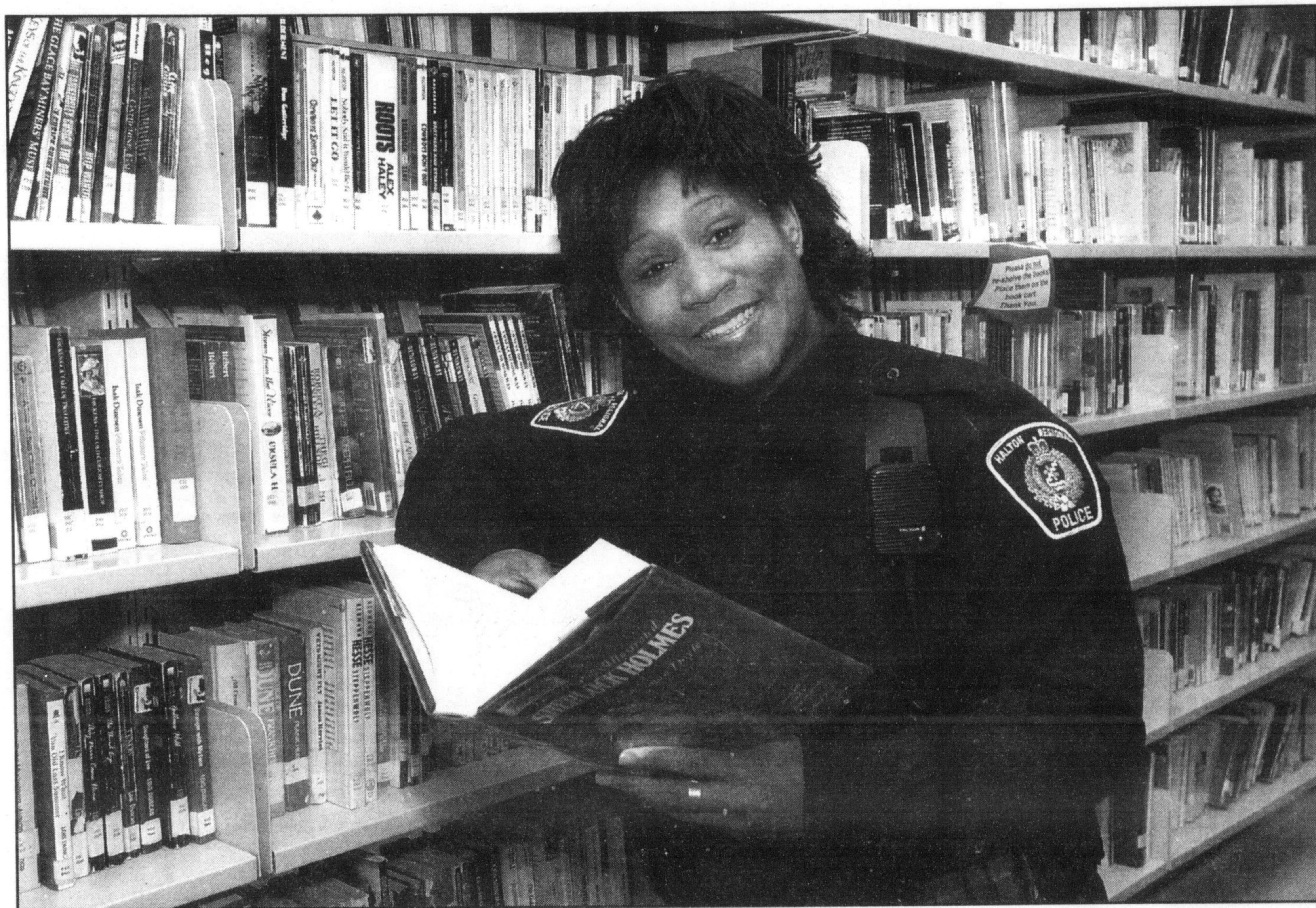


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Halton Regional Police Const. Denise Jodhan divides her time between Milton's three high schools dealing with issues such as threats and drugs.

Blacksmith shop restoration coming along

The restoration of Waldie's Blacksmith Shop is moving toward its \$225,000 fundraising goal.

But \$65,000 still needs to be raised, said Marsha Waldie, owner of the historic building and great-granddaughter of the original founder James Alfred Waldie.

"We've been getting donations from individuals and corporate sponsors in the community," she said. "I was a bit surprised (at the amount raised). Everything came through nicely."

So far, one wall in the barn has been restored

with stone and the roof is partially complete.

"The final metal roof still has to be put on," Ms Waldie said.

"We're hoping everything will be done by next fall."

And when the blacksmith shop is fully restored, she hopes the barn will serve as a place for school children to learn hands-on about the blacksmith business.

"People can come in here and do research. We're also going to rent it out to community

groups to hold their meetings."

And if people want to drop by the shop to see how the restoration is coming along, they're more than welcome, she said.

For more than 100 years, local residents brought their horses to the James Street shop to get fitted for new shoes. It closed in 1969.

The Milton Historical Society, which donated \$15,000 to the restoration of Waldie's Blacksmith Shop, put together a restoration committee that has helped collect donations.



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COGECO 14 Programming Schedule – January 1st - January 7th 2002.

| Tuesday, January 1st | Wednesday, January 2nd | Thursday, January 3rd | Friday, January 4th | Saturday, January 5th | Sunday, January 6th | Monday, December 31st |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9am, 10am, 11am & Noon Plugged In! - Year in Review #2 | 9am, 10am, 11am & Noon Plugged In! - Year in Review #3 | 9am, 10am, 11am & Noon Plugged In! - Year in Review #4 | 9am, 10am, 11am & Noon Plugged In! - Year in Review #1 | 9am, 10am, 11am & Noon Plugged In! - Year in Review #2 | 9am, 10am, 11am & Noon Plugged In! - Year in Review #3 | 9am, 10am, 11am & Noon Plugged In! - Year in Review #4 |
| 5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm Plugged In! - Year in Review #3 | 5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm Plugged In! - Year in Review #4 | 5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm Plugged In! - Year in Review #1 | 5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm Plugged In! - Year in Review #2 | 5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm Plugged In! - Year in Review #3 | 5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm Plugged In! - Year in Review #4 | 5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm Plugged In! - Monday Edition |
| | | | | | | To Be Announced |
| | | | | | | Money Week |
| | | | | | | PeopleSpeak |
| | | | | | | SportZONE Live |

Feature this Week: Enjoy our Year In Review Editions of "Plugged In!"