

Crackdown on young offenders results in numerous charges

Police laid numerous charges in north Halton during the recent three-month Strategic Targeted Offender Program (STOP) for young offenders.

Throughout Milton and Halton Hills, police arrested 36 youths and issued three arrest warrants.

They laid 23 breach of probation or recognizance charges, 89 curfew charges, 37 provincial offence charges, one weapon charge and 10 drug charges.

The project was funded by the Youth Crime and Violence Initiatives of the Ministry of the Solicitor General.

The program dedicated more than 600 hours of staff resources to follow up on youths who had been released on criminal charges with conditions and probation orders.

The special task force was made up of officers and district youth officers.

A number of curfew checks and a special focus on areas where youth typically congregate resulted in a total of 87 arrests, 51 breach of probation or recognizance charges, 112 provincial statute offence charges and 42 drug charges throughout the region.

"The Halton police are pleased with the results and believe that intelligence-led policing is an effective way to deploy resources," said Insp. Jackie Gordon, community policing officer. "The results of projects such as STOP can have a substantial impact on crime trends."

She said after four weeks of the start of the program, offenders in the north end complied with their curfew checks by 100 per cent.

The success of STOP has prompted Halton police to continue with the project on an ongoing basis.

Historic home info to become more accessible

By RICHARD VIVIAN

The Champion

Information about Milton's historic homes may soon be more accessible thanks to the cataloging efforts of a local heritage group.

With the help of volunteers and summer students, the Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee (LACAC) is working to research and catalogue all 1,400 properties on its historic structures inventory.

"The most important thing is that we've been able to collect, maintain and store Milton's complete architectural history," said John Challinor, LACAC acting chair.

"Of course, this cataloging is of extreme importance to the community for the future. We've not only catalogued the current architecture of historical significance, we've also catalogued properties that are no longer here because they've had to be demolished or were demolished by the property owner."

While efforts to photograph and catalogue the town's historic structures is nothing new, a much more advanced method is now being implemented — the Heritage Architecture Archival System.

Information for the computer system is currently being inputted and will soon be accessible from a computer terminal at Town Hall. Eventually, access to the system will be available on the Town's Web site, added Mr. Challinor.

"The reality is that it's (catalogue) a public document, but physically it was very difficult to get to — sitting in a file cabinet at Town Hall," he said of the current public access.

More research underway

Additional research is also underway to beef up the content of the catalogue — something that will take several years to complete.

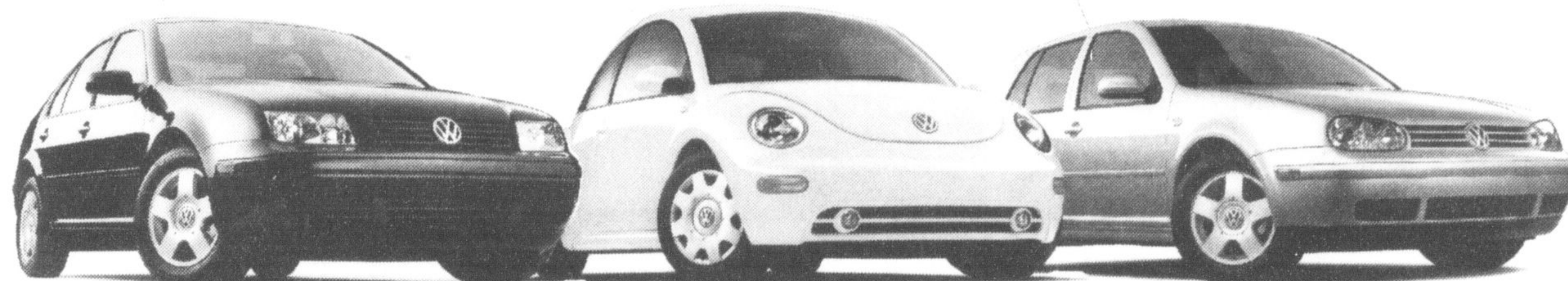
More than just a public interest catalogue, the new computer system will also be of great benefit to Town planning staff, said Mel Iovio, Milton's director of planning and development.

"We find it helpful for demolition permits and such like that. We would have some information in our system to go to and see whether or not it's (structure) of interest to us — which would put it through a different process," he said.

The catalogue will also aid in development planning, the director continued.

"There may be a building of (historic) interest, which triggers a different process in terms of assessing that property," he said.

"We've had a couple (historic) buildings out in the Mattamy subdivisions that have been moved (by developers) to other appropriate locations. There may also be an opportunity to leave it where it is and build it into a development."



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