

Photo by RON KUZYK

Guelph City Police Insp. Harry Schnurr poses as a suspect during a training exercise for Halton police's Emergency Services Unit in Burlington.

Police's ESU in action several times a month

BY TIM WHITNELL

Special to The Champion

If weapons are involved or even suggested, Halton Regional Police's Emergency Services Unit (ESU) is likely to get its own call to arms.

The ESU responds to an average of three to four calls per month around the region.

"We had roughly 40 tactical calls last year where we were called out, whether it be for barricaded persons, assistance with search warrants or high-risk takedowns," said Staff Sgt. Andrew Fletcher, the man entrusted with command of the elite unit.

Individuals who hide themselves in a

building, usually a home, and who threaten themselves or someone else with harm make up the majority of all ESU calls, he said.

The full team — comprised of 12 heavily-armed Tactical Rescue Unit (TRU) members, five Explosives Disposal Unit personnel, two canine unit dog handlers and police dogs, and six trained crisis negotiators — experienced just such a real-life scenario last December in Oakville.

A man with guns registered to him had locked himself in a home and threatened his parents.

• see TRU on page 14

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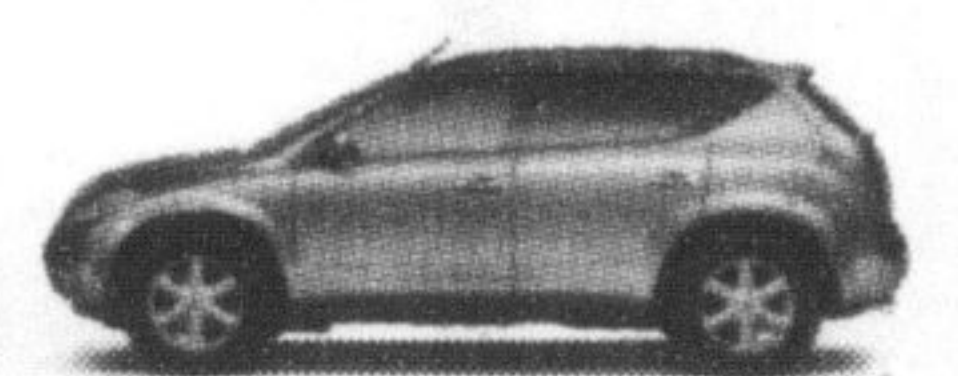
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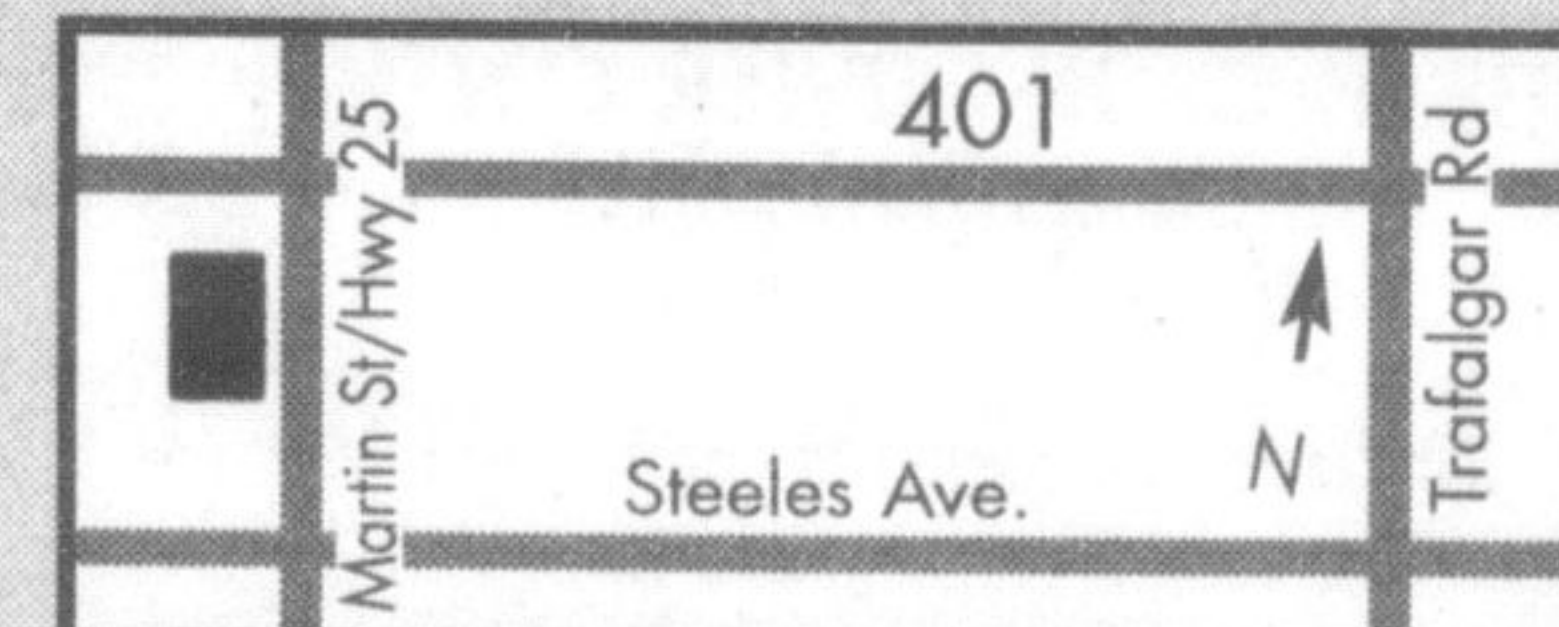
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Your United Way In Action

The United Way of Milton

Announcement

The United Way of Milton is proud to announce that it has officially reached its goal of \$425,000. In January it was announced that though goal had not been reached, a record setting \$395,000 was raised, for its 2003 campaign. The United Way of Milton was recently informed about donations from donors who work outside the Town of Milton and who have designated their donations back to our community, these donations have far exceeded expectations. Congratulations to all of the volunteers who worked so very hard on the campaign!

A special thanks goes out to the payroll, corporate and individual donors, and those donors who remembered to **Give to where you live!**

Through the generosity of Residents and Corporations in Milton the United Way of Milton is proud to announce that it is allocating over \$300,000 to social service agencies supporting your community. The 2004-2005 funded agencies are:

- Big Brothers of Halton • Canadian Hearing Society • Canadian Mental Health Association - Halton Branch • Canadian National Institute for the Blind. Halton/Peel • Canadian Red Cross - North Halton Branch • Community Living North Halton • Distress Centre North Halton • Distress Centre Oakville • Girls Inc. of Halton • Grace House • Halton Child & Youth Services • Halton Family Services • Halton Healthy Community Fund • Halton Helping Hands • Halton Recovery House • Halton Trauma Centre • Literacy North Halton • Milton Community Resource Centre • Multiple Sclerosis Society • St. John Ambulance - Halton Hills Branch • STRIDE • Teletouch • Transitions for Youth • Victorian Order of Nurses •

The United Way of Milton is on its way to another successful campaign, but to get there, we need your help. If you would like to volunteer with The United Way of Milton, please contact Anne Eadie, Executive Director.

Upcoming Important dates:

Wednesday, May 19th, 2004 - Mayor's Breakfast for The United Way
Thursday, June 24th, 2004 - United Way of Milton Annual General Meeting

The United Way of Milton - Neighbours Helping Neighbours

How can you help?

- If you work outside of Milton and donate by payroll deduction - please designate your donation "home" to The United Way of Milton.
- Make a direct donation • Attend a United Way of Milton Special Event

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URL: www.milton.unitedway.ca E-mail: office@milton.unitedway.ca