

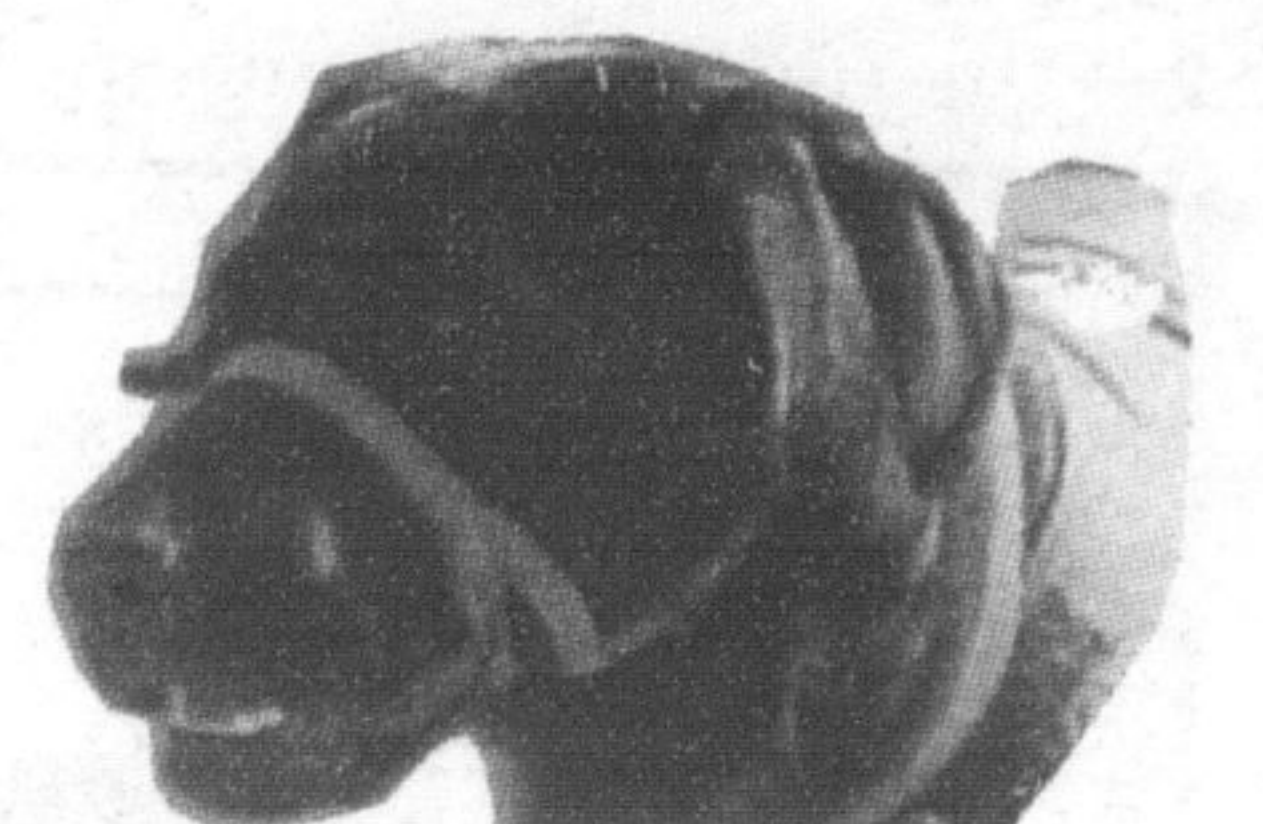
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A METROLAND COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER VOL. 145 NO. 45 TUESDAY, AUGUST 17, 2004 \$1.00 (GST included) 48 PAGES "Using Communication to Build Better Communities"



Creating quite a stir

The Red Hot Chili Peppers team of, from left, Dr. Angelika Koeth, Pam Saxby and Barb Saxby stir up some of their non-traditional vegetarian chili during Saturday's Chili Festival hosted by the Rotary Club of Milton at the fairgrounds. See story and more photos on page 7.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Chief favours photo radar, cameras

By **TIM WHITNELL**

Special to *The Champion*

Halton's police chief is in favour of red light cameras and photo radar, but can't offer a timetable for their possible return to the region.

When the subject of red light cameras came up at Thursday's Halton Regional Police Services Board meeting, top cop Ean Algar added photo radar to the wish list, while saying he thinks they both can do good.

"Red light (cameras) has been given the green light by the Ontario government and I'm in favour of both initiatives," Chief Algar said prior to heading into a private board session.

"We're waiting to see if the Province approves

it," he added, alluding to photo radar specifically, which Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty said last week may be up for future discussion and implementation.

"We are certainly inundated with public complaints about speeding and aggressive driving. Applied properly, it can change driver behaviour," Chief Algar said of both initiatives.

Halton has never had photo radar, but it did run a red light camera pilot project from 2000 to 2002 as part of a larger region-wide program. Four years ago, a \$100,000 camera was installed at intersections in Oakville and Burlington, alternating between four undisclosed intersections during a two-year pilot project — which cost \$750,000 and brought in \$100,000 through 667 violations.

Chief Algar said police will speak to regional

officials about red light cameras.

"Red light traffic enforcement is just not the money maker it seems. It wasn't a money maker (for Halton)," he said, emphasizing revenue consideration wouldn't be a reason for instituting it or photo radar. "It's not there to be a money maker, but to correct driver behaviour. We'll see a change in our communities' driver behaviour."

The fine for running a red light is \$155, plus a \$35 victim surcharge. The driver also gets three demerit points on his or her licence.

The chief said he believes that as long as such electronic traffic control measures are applied properly, the public will accept them.

The Provincial project was approved under Bill 102, the Red Light Cameras Pilot Project Act of December 1998.

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