

Halton cop going the distance in support of Crime Stoppers

Sgt. Bruce will cover 300 km in three days

By **TIM WHITNELL**

Special to The Champion

The wheels of justice may turn slowly for some but police officer Ray Bruce intends on spinning them at a quicker clip.

The Halton cop, the regional service's Crime Stoppers co-ordinator, is taking to a bicycle for a fundraising and awareness tour.

It's not the Tour de Halton but the Ride Against Crime Everywhere (RACE) cycling event will see the sergeant, a 19-year policing veteran of Halton and Toronto, pedal 300 km over three days around the region.

The purpose is to raise public awareness of the Halton Crime Stoppers program within Halton. A secondary purpose is to raise funds for Halton Crime Stoppers, a registered charity and non-profit corporation.

Crime Stoppers operates an anonymous phone tip line that directs information from the public about unsolved crimes to Halton police.

Its volunteer board of directors also approves cash rewards to individuals for tips leading to arrests.

Sgt. Bruce, 39, will ride 100 km per day over a three-day period (September 24 to 26) and travel a route that will encompass all the policing districts that comprise Halton.

His training consists of riding into work three to five days a week. The round trip from his Mississauga home to police headquarters in Oakville is 50 km. He also does weekend rides.

Sgt. Bruce cycled from Oshawa to Montreal in late June to tune up for the Halton RACE. He averaged 150 km per day over four days but knows traversing sometimes hilly Halton is not the same thing.

"Going to Montreal the road was nice, the terrain flat and the prevailing winds were from west to east. Halton will be a challenge with the hills (and changing winds). It'll definitely be a lot tougher," he said.

While the Halton tour was supposed to be a solo effort, Bruce said a member of the Crime Stoppers board of directors has shown an



Photo by ASHLEY CAMARA

Halton Regional Police Sergeant and Crime Stoppers co-ordinator Ray Bruce is ready for the Ride Against Crime Everywhere (RACE) tour.

interest in joining him. James Spalding, a producer with Cogeco cable TV in Burlington, may ride with him for part or all of the 300 km.

As for funding, Sgt. Bruce indicated it has been like Halton Hills' terrain at times — a slow, uphill climb.

"To this point we have no corporate sponsorship. Some pledges from smaller businesses are in the works. We gave ourselves a goal of raising \$3,000 to \$5,000."

Sgt. Bruce's tentative itinerary for the RACE event is as follows:

Day 1: Cycling begins from Ares Restaurant in Georgetown. Tickets will be available for guests to have breakfast and show support for the event. He will cycle through many areas of Halton Hills and into Milton.

Day 2: The ride will pick up somewhere in Milton and likely

move into Oakville. Sgt. Bruce will arrive at Halton Regional Police headquarters around noon. Between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., the Safety Village will be opened and, in keeping with the cycling theme, the public will be invited to bring their children to go through the bicycle safety program.

Day 3: Sgt. Bruce will ride through Burlington. A finale will be held at Paradiso Restaurant. Tickets at \$55 each will be sold for a lobster dinner to be held at the restaurant.

Halton Crime Stoppers volunteers will seek pledges from the public to support the RACE event or to purchase tickets and attend the breakfast or lobster dinner.

To make a pledge, purchase a ticket or get more details, call the Halton Crime Stoppers office at (905) 634-1831, ext. 5139.

Milton Seniors' Activity Centre set to celebrate 10th anniversary

There'll be something for the young and young at heart at the Milton Seniors' Activity Centre 10th anniversary celebration September 18.

Festivities will run from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and will feature the centre's performing groups, like the Swift Kickin' Cloggers, Fun Lovin' Line Dancers, Song Spinners Chorus, Kitchen Band, Tai Chi and the drama club.

The formal ceremony will start at 12:30 p.m. with the Super Cheer Scorpions cheerleaders, followed by the Song Spinners Chorus singing the national anthem and speeches from the centre's past and present members and local dignitaries.

Visitors can take part in a game of shuffleboard, billiards or cards. Centre tours and program demonstrations will be held throughout the day, and there'll also be live entertainment by members of the Memory Lane Orchestra.

For kids, there'll be a variety of activities, like crafts and games, and Barney the Magician will be showcasing his tricks.

Coffee, tea and muffins will be served in the morning, followed by a free barbecue in the afternoon. There'll also be a 50/50 draw and a special anniversary draw. The centre is located at 500 Childs Dr. For more information, call (905) 875-1681, ext. 2753.

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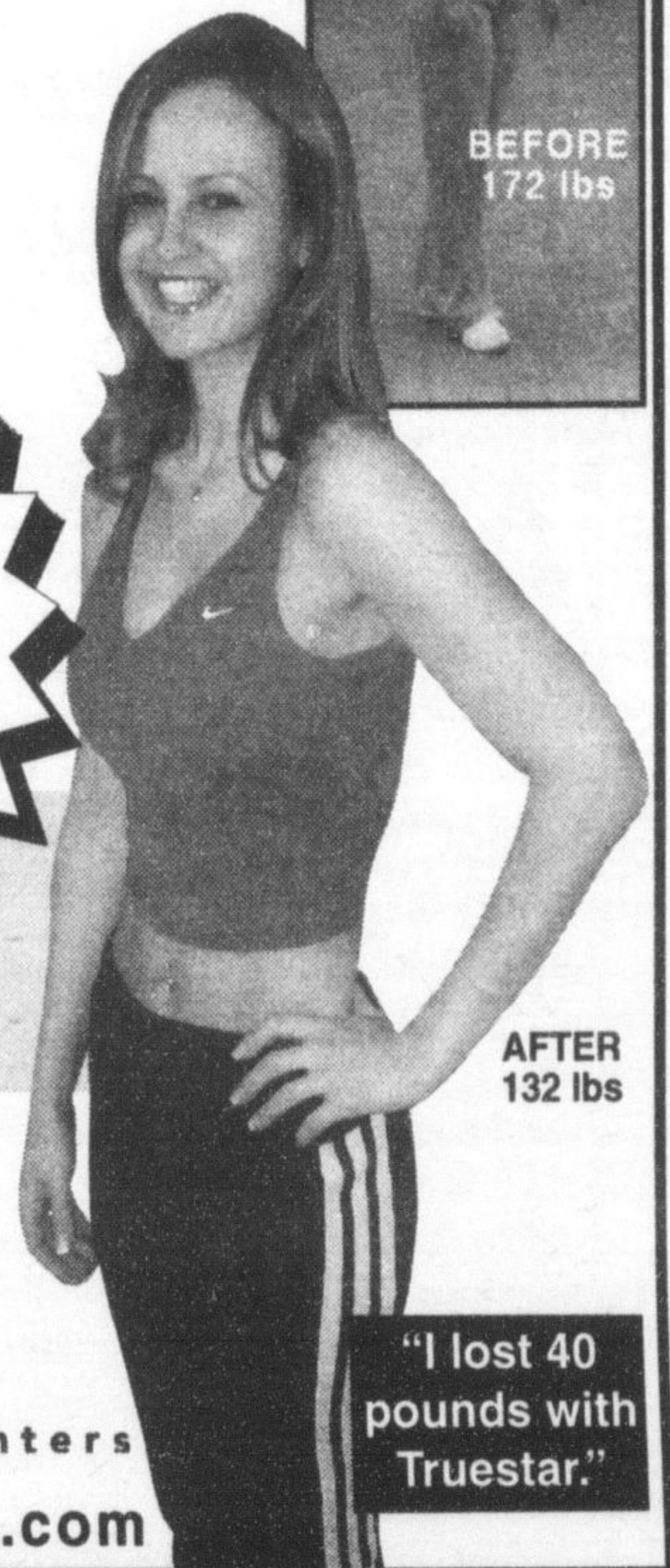
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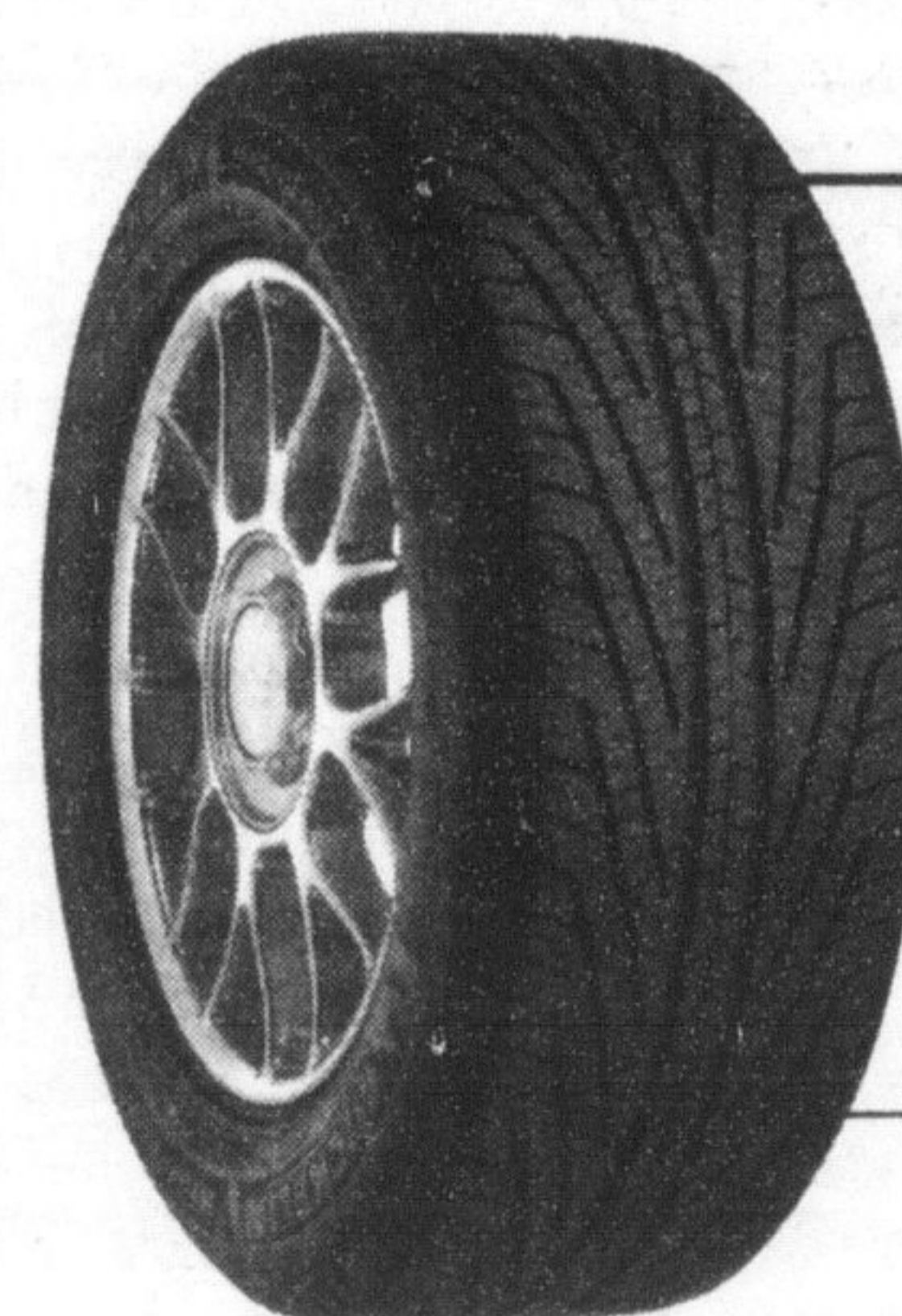
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