

Officer starts program in schools

By LISA TALLYN
Champion Reporter
Police Officer of the Month is a regular feature of the five Metroland Printing, Publishing and Distribution community newspapers in Halton. It is presented to give readers a better understanding of those of the Halton Regional Police force who are there to serve and protect.



Const. Kim Duncan

Constable Kim Duncan is trying to stop crime before it happens. She is working on the principle that an informed public is law-abiding.

Her target is youth. She has spent several of her off hours, vacation and working time developing a school-visitation program. She approached the force with the idea and it was decided that the Maple Grove section of east Oakville should be the test area.

By visiting the schools, showing films and talking to the students about the Young Offenders Act, laws that pertain to them, drugs, and drinking and driving, Constable Duncan is attempting to reduce crime in that area by 10 per cent by September 1986. The program is young, so few statistics have been compiled but she concludes there will be a decline in specific crime in the pilot area.

The 28-year-old officer and two other officers spearheaded the program that was approved by the Board of Education. They have been visiting

the Grade 6, 7 and 8 classrooms once a month.

"We introduce the police force and its history to all of the students," she said. "We focus our discussion on childproofing with the Grade 6 kids, and explain briefly about the Young Offenders Act."

"With the Grade 7 students, we talk a lot about alcohol and drugs." She says she makes it a point to never lecture to the youths. "I want the program to be informative, to educate the young people about the laws. I get a lot of questions, so many that I don't

always have enough time to answer them all."

The youths are most concerned with the penalties of certain crimes and they want to know about the duties of a police officer, she said. Const. Duncan and the other officers involved explain the offences to the students in a language they can understand.

Drinking and driving is the topic aimed at the high-school students. Education is always followed by an intriguing discussion. Const. Duncan even conducted a mock trial for the teenagers.

"We set up a court in the classroom, and had a police officer act as a judge. The offence was theft and the kids said that they gained insights into the court system and what is expected of them."

"This program is basically designed to get the student to think about values and to respect others." She said that by the school year's end the students will have developed an understanding of how conduct is important to peaceful existence, and the need for "tolerance, compassion, justice and honesty."

She has been with the force for five years, working on uniform patrol and in crime prevention. She has a B.A. from MacMaster University in Sociology. After spending the past two years developing and putting her program to the test, she has been transferred to the force's Traffic Bureau. Her program will continue, and can be picked up by any school that is interested. However, Const. Duncan began her new assignment last week in Milton.



Halton Agricultural Society president Jim McPhail (left) presents Robert and Joan Marshall with an award in recognition of their years of service to the organization.

Marshalls given agricultural award

Robert and Joan Marshall of Milton received an Agricultural Service Diploma during the annual directors' banquet recently. It was sponsored by Halton Agricultural Society, the organizers of Milton Fall Fair.

President Jim McPhail presented the award, in recognition of the couple's many years of service not only to the fair board, but also to other agricultural organizations in the Region.

Robert Marshall joined the agricultural society in 1970 and was president of the fair in 1978 and 1979. This year he was elected a Zone Director to the Region 5 of Ontario Agricultural Societies.

He has also served the Halton Holstein Club and Halton Milk Committee.

Joan has also been active with the fair board for many years and has been both president and secretary of the homecrafts division.

They live on a Century farm on Lower Base Line Road.

The annual dinner was held at Boston Presbyterian Church. Slides of the 1985 fair taken by Roy Downs, Ron Bousfield, Debbie Drijber and Cecil Patterson were shown following the dinner. Among the special guests were Mayor Gordon Krantz, Fair Queen Julie Austin of Hornby and 4-H Princess Cheri Coulter of Lowville.

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