

DPP Constable Tom Hutton has followed his partner Max's nose to sniff out drugs and fugitives in the Golden Horseshoe area. Max is one of 18 thicking dogs employed by the OPP out of the Burlington detachment. He and his handler are on call 24 hours a day. Photo by JON BORGSTROM

Max the OPP tracker dog is not crime's best friend

BY LISA TALLYN Champion Reporter

OPP Constable Tom Hutton and his partner Max have a good working relationship. They trust each other Const. Hutton is a six-year veteran of the force while Max has been a "cop" for less than a year. He's just three years old and weighs only 87 pounds.

Max is one of 18 German Shepherd tracking dogs working out of the Burlington OPP detachment. He has followed his nose to uncover drugs and fugitives throughout the 145-mile stretch of the Golden Horseshoe. from Burlington to Niagara Falls.

"You have to build up a bond with the dog and he has to trust you," said Const. Hutton who has been a dog handler for four and a half years. "He could be saving my life or someone else's some day.."

·It's quite an honour for a dog to become a member of the tracking team, and the OPP just doesn't accept every applicant. They must be young, no more than two years old, have an even-tempered disposition, be quick studies, not run scared at the sound of gunfire and pass an x-ray for any hip and bone defects. Most importantly, candidates must have a good nose. Experience has shown that German Shepherds seem to fit the bill best

Dogs with weak paw pads are considered 4-F, so are mixed breeds and females. Since the animals aren't neutered, females would be at risk of becoming pregnant, and wouldn't work effectively.

Most recruits come from private denations. The OPP doesn't have a kennel or breed their own dogs. Once accepted they are sent to the OPP Academy in Brampton where they undergo a 14-week basic training program. The dogs are worked six eighthour days for the first nine weeks.

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learning tracking techniques, obedience and how to protect their handler. Their handler goes through the whole process with them.

Basic tracking dogs are introduced to different kinds of drugs by their handlers for three to four weeks prior to their stint at the Academy. Two dogs are given strictly bomb and explosion detection training.

'They are taught to indicate the location in different ways than the other tracking dogs because any severe movements could be dangerous."

Every six weeks, the dogs and their partners go back to the Academy for a refresher course.

Const. Hutton works his regular shift but he and Max are on call 24-hours a day. They respond to approximately 140 person-search calls a

When they are called to the scene of the crime, Max is kept on a lead and put right to work. Time and weather conditions are crucial factors in the success of a track. The dogs are trained to search for the freshest scent. which is never more than four hours old. Scent hangs onto moisture in the air, which falls onto vegetation, providing Max with a good place to start sniffing

Max doesn't always get his man but he is a successful tracker.

"We haven't had an unsuccessful track yet. We can usually provide the investigating officers with more than what they had to start." Quite often Max will trail a scent to discover that the culprit got away in a car. "When the dogs go back for their refresher training they find somebody. It keeps them interested and keen

When Max isn't on the trail of missing persons, break and enter suspects, impaired drivers or drug dealers, he likes to play catch.

Purse-snatcher foiled

A woman picking up her daughter from a Brownie meeting at Holy Rosary School last Monday night was accosted by a young male attempting to snatch her purse.

A little after 8 p.m. the woman was walking toward her car parked directly behind the school, when a youth assaulted her. He ripped the purse from her shoulder, breaking the strap and strewing all of its contents onto the ground.

He failed to get the victim's wallet and ran off towards Woodward Avenue with a pair of lady's gloves and her pay slip.

The culprit is described as young, between 12 and 15, of slim build with a fair complexion. He was wearing a grey ski jacket and a toque. Police are investigating the matter.

Seven Stihl chain saws are missing as a result of a break-in at Milton. Small Engines, 390 Ontario St. last Tuesday.

Police arrived at the scene to find the front door kicked in and seven chain saws missing from the shop's display area. The chain saws were various sizes, and are valued at more than \$3,000 in total.

Police have no suspects.

Police are investigating a break-in into two offices at 225 Main St. Concept Contracting Services and Royston Chase Developments, in the same building, were ransacked sometime overnight Sunday Jan. 26 and Monday Jan. 27.

Although nothing was taken police are certain that the culprits were looking for cash. Entrance was gained through a window on the main

Halton Regional Police are investigating a hit-and-run accident that occurred between 12:30 and 1 a.m. Sunday Jan. 26.

They were called to 561 Childs Dr. to find two_damaged Ford cars parked in the lot. Damage to both cars is estimated at \$2,000.

New from National:

Police Blotter

The culprit vehicle had already left the scene and police have no

A residence at Fourth Line, Esquesing, was broken into overnight Friday and Saturday Jan. 24 and Jan.

The point of entry is unknown. There was no damage but small

quantity of cash is missing. Police are investigating. Early Friday morning the Laurier

Drug Mart at 497 Laurier Ave. was broken into Entrance was gained through the

front door by smashing a pane of Police are investigating a break and enter into a construction trailer

at SteepleJack Construction at 385 Steeles Ave. Missing are a quantity of power and construction tools valued in excess of \$3,000. Entrance was gained through the front door, which was pried open.

Police have no suspects. Racers Edge on Bronte St. has had five snowmobiles stolen from their lot since the new year.

Sometime Friday night or Saturday morning culprits cut the fence surrounding the lot and three machines were driven right out of the yard.

Taken was a 1983 Polaris valued at \$3,300, a 1986 Yamaha 250 worth \$2,000, and a 1985 Honda worth \$2,400. The Honda and Yamaha have since been recovered by police but both have suffered severe damage. One of the machines was found behind P.L. Robertson's.

Police are considering the investigation of the snowmobile thefts top priority because of the frequency of the occurrences.





CHURCH SERVICES



MILTON GOSPEL HALL 306 Ontario St.S. 878-2022

Christians Gathered In the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ

Sunday, Feb. 9, 1986 10:00 a.m. - Breaking Bread 11:45 a.m. Sunday School 7:00 p.m. - Gospel Service Wesnesday 7:30 p.m. Prayer and Bible Reading

What shall it profit a man, if he gain the whible world, and lose his own soul. Mark 8.36'

MILTON BAPTIST CHURCH 876-4206 Interim Pastor Dr. Hinson MacLeod

Halton Centennial Manor Auditorium

Sunday, Feb. 9, 1986 10:00 a.m. - Worship Service & Junior Church 11:00 a.m. - Sunday School for the Whole Family **Nursery Available** _ Affiliated with the Baptist

Convention of Offario & Quebec MILTON ALLIANCE CHURCH Sam Sherratt Public School Pastor: Errol Rempel

878-9584 Sunday, Feb. 9, 1986 9:45 a.m. - Sunday School for the Whole Family 1:00 a.m. - Morning Worship 6:30 p.m - Evening Service Everyone Welcome Nursery Facilities at all Services Christ Our Saviour, Sanctifier Healer and Coming King

GRACEWAY BAPTIST CHURCH Independent-Fundamental Pastor®Walter H. Isaak

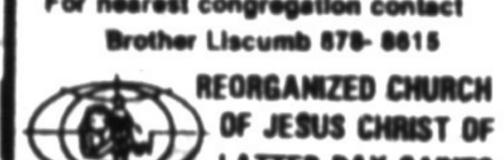
876-2298 Sunday, Feb. 9, 1986 We welcome you to meet with us at: **United Steelworkers Centre** 407 Pine Street Next to Milton Library

10:00 a,m. - Sunday School 11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship 6:30 p.m. - Evening Service Thursday 7:00 p.m. - Bible Study Nursery Provided for all services 'The End of your Search for a Bible Church."

CHURCH OF CHRIST 1412 Britannia Rd. West Sunday, Feb. 9, 1986 10:00 a.m. - Bible School class for all

11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship and the Lord's Supper 7:30 p.m. - Preaching of the Gospel For Information and Transportation call 878-2733

INVITE ALL TO COME UNTO CHRIST For nearest congregation contact



LATTER DAY SAINTS You are invited to attend the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and join in a caring fellowship where ministry for everyday needs is given and receiv-

ed. Members of the congregation

EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH **Robert Baldwin Public School** 1870 Wilson Dr.

878-3406

Sunday, Feb. 9, 1986 10:30 a.m. - Family Worship Listen to 'The Lutheran Hour' on Sundays 8:00 a.m. - CKOC 1150

Come and Grow with us! ST. PAUL'S OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA 123 Main St. at James St. Milton, Ontario

878-8895 Sunday, Feb. 9, 1986 9:00 a.m. - Lay School of Theology. Breakfast

Rev. E.T. Jack Birtch

9:30 a.m. - THE GOSPEL AND SCIENTIFIC STUDY Speaker: Barry Bowen 11:00 a.m. - Worship Service

Your Personal Call to SERMON: Discipleship Nursery Available **Sunday School**

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA KNOX: MILTON

170 Main St.E., 878-6066 The Rev. Noble Dean Director of Christian Education Mrs. Tori Smit 878-4979 Sunday, Feb. 9, 1986 9:45 a.m. - Bible Study Classes 11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship Church School Adult Supervised Nursery ALL WELCOME

TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH P.O. Box 596, Burlington 4272 Appleby Line Rev. W.E. Payne **634-4879** Sunday, Feb. 9, 1986

9:45 a.m. - Bible School with classes for all ages 11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship A continuing Exposition of the Gospel of

6:30 p.m. - Evening Service Guest Speaker Mr Vijay Chandra of Fiji *Tues. 7 p.m. - Trinity Boys & Girls Club Wed. 7:45 p.m. ≈Prayer Meeting &

Bible Study 'Declaring all the Counsel of God'

GRACE ANGLICAN CHURCH 217 Main St. 878-2411 Rector: The Rev. Robert Lennox Sunday, Feb. 9, 1986 Last After Epiphany 8:00 a.m - Holy Eucharist 10.30 a.m. - Holy Eucharist & Holy Baptism 10:30 a.m - Church School **Nursery Facilities Available**

EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH

245 Commercial Street, Milton, Ontario, L9T 2J3 Pastor: Ken Campbell Phone: 878-3542 Lord's Day Services Sunday, February 9, 1986 9:45 AM - FAMILY BIBLE HOUR

classes for all ages 11:00 AM - FAMILY WORSHIP HOUR Special Speaker - Mr. Carl Seiffert Canadian Director of TRANS-WORLD RADIO

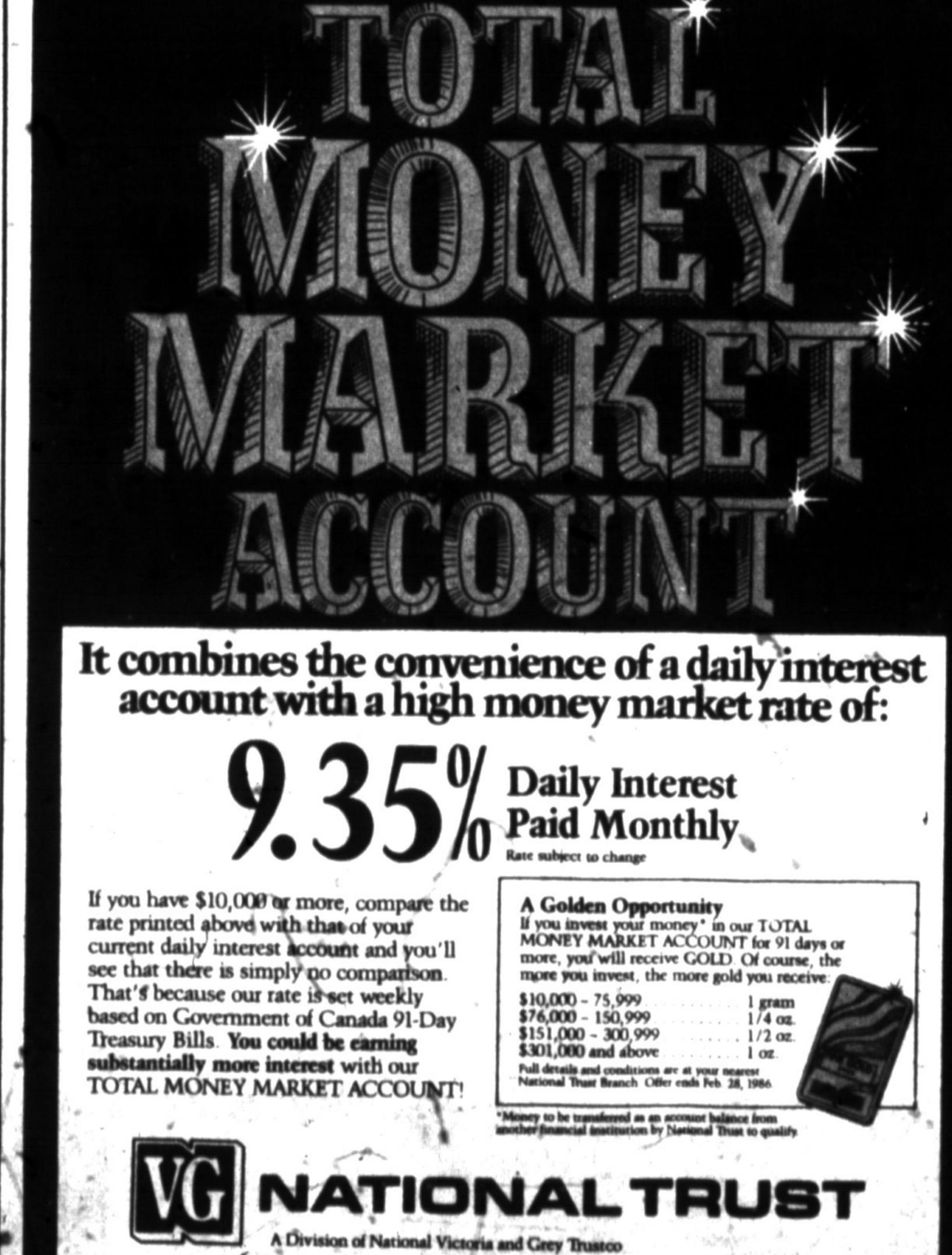
6:30 PM - LIBERATION - a service of song and salvation

- all welcome to all services -- a congregation of faithful followers of Christ serving Milton for 50 years -



40% of his skin 'fry' and drop after a phosphorous grenade exploded in his

hand. - A moving story of survival.



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