

Police officer . . .

Taking the police lab to Halton students

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.)

Detective Constable Carey Smith was approached by the Halton Board of Education two years ago to formulate a Forensic Science and Criminology program for Grade 6 enrichment classes. He visits the classrooms as a specialist, teaching students, already keen on science, about Forensic Science.

Before he comes to class, the students have the opportunity to scour around at the scene of a mock break and enter, looking for clues. They gather samples of soil, fibres and hair, then take them to the science lab for analysis. After they

have drawn some conclusions their teacher brings in the expert with all the answers.

Det. Smith shows them how the police use fingerprints and footprints to build evidence in an investigation. They examine hairs, fibres, paint and glass chips to piece together enough evidence to come up with a suspect. "The kids seem to love it," he said. "It's a very applied way of learning science. That makes it interesting."

He takes a slide projector with him when he visits the schools, and uses it to give the students a quick tour of the station and a rundown of the techniques used in the forensic science lab. "Fingerprints and footprints are our bread and butter," said the detective. "No two shoes ever make the same footprint, each shoe wears out in a different way."

He demonstrates to the pupils how they make a cast of a footprint at a crime scene by filling it with plaster.

Back at the station they have a catalogue of every type of shoe ever made. "When we use fingerprints and footprints we usually have a suspect in mind. It's just a question of proving it in court."

There are lots of things that forensic scientists look at when they are called to the scene of a crime. Thoroughness, not time, is the important factor to consider. When the police have few leads, the forensic scientist must go over the scene with a fine-toothed comb. "It's important that the crime scene hasn't had a chance to become contaminated. But fingerprints can last years."

"In the case of a hit and run if we have no suspect vehicle, we may sift through bits of broken glass and examine paint samples. Often we have to start right from scratch."

In other cases the forensic unit may need to vacuum the carpet looking for hair, threads and fibres. They must be methodical.

. . . of the Month

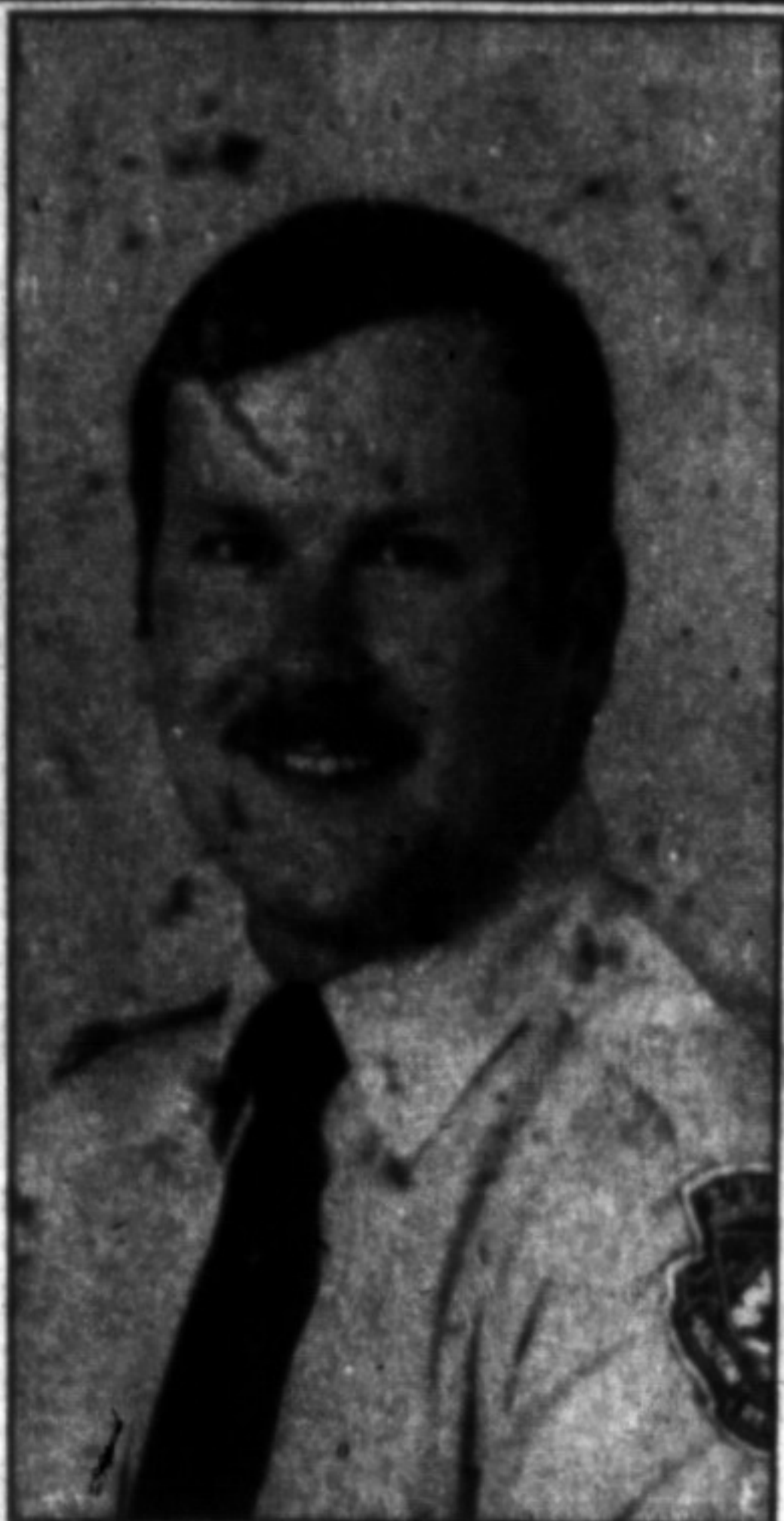
Det. Smith's program has proven to be the most popular science unit in Halton schools. He is planning to make it more accessible to more students by videotaping an entire series of lessons.

He has been with the force for the past eight years, the last three in the Forensic Identification Unit, Oakville. The 28-year old detective works his regular 12-hour shifts but is on call 24 hours a day.

Three months of intensive training at the Ontario Police College in Almer prepared Det. Smith for his work in the identification bureau. He goes back for update-training regularly.

The detective finds forensic science work interesting.

"Unlike witnesses, science is completely independent and objective," he added. "People aren't good witnesses because they have biases and prejudices."



Detective Constable Carey Smith

New owners at Indian Wells

Indian Wells Golf and Tennis Club has been taken over by a postal workers' "social club".

Located on Walkers Line, Indian Wells was purchased last November by the Employees Cafeteria and Recreational Association of the Toronto Map District. The association's members are all postal workers, employees in the York division.

Activities director for the association, Mike O'Neill, said the golf and tennis club will operate on a semi-private format. This will allow the general public, as well as association members, to join the golf club. A membership drive is currently being conducted.

Golf pro Larry Ballantyne has been hired and will be coming to the south Milton club from the Toronto Hunt. He had previous experience at Rosedale. Facilities at Indian Wells are undergoing renovations.

Lavender heads Robarts Review Committee

Emerson Lavender, former director of the Halton Board of Education has been appointed chairman of a committee which will determine the future of Robarts School for the Hearing Impaired in London.

Among the Robarts Review Committee's tasks will be to study options for secondary students, whose numbers are declining at the provincial school. One alternative which has been discussed is to transfer those students to E. C. Drury School for the Hearing Impaired in Milton. Last year it was decided by the ministry of education to allow the secondary program at London to continue for the 1985/1986 school year.

Declining enrolment is being experienced at E. C. Drury as well, however its future is not being threatened. According to Paul Bartu, acting superintendent at Drury, the school offers "a very viable program which will continue for quite some time."

There are 158 students enrolled in the secondary program at the local facility. The ministry of education specifies there must be a least 60

students enrolled to operate a viable secondary program. This year's graduating class of 43 students will be the last of its size, Mr. Bartu said.

At the height of the "rubella bulge" there were close to 600 students at Drury. Today there are 283 students in the Kindergarten to Grade 12 programs. Pregnant women who contract rubella or German measles run a high risk of producing children with hearing impairments. With the control of the disease, such occurrences are now rare, keeping the deaf population down.

A survey of school-aged hearing impaired students conducted last year in the London catchment area questioned parents about E. C. Drury School. One quarter of those surveyed said they would consider sending their children to Milton. Those who would not said it was too far away or that they were content with the education being provided locally. This reason was also given by parents who would not have their children attend Robarts School.

"Most parents reported that the E. C. Drury program in Milton was too

far and was not necessary for their children," conclusions from the survey of parents of 125 hearing-impaired children stated.

The survey did not address the fate of the Robarts secondary program but indicated that "Most parents feel quite strongly that their local boards should be meeting the needs of their handicapped children including contact with nonhandicapped peers."

According to the survey, of the 407 hearing impaired students identified in the Robarts catchment area, 14 are at the secondary level. Only two of these families would consider sending their children to Robarts and two others families would give thought to the possibility. The other families are satisfied with the local secondary programs.

The Robarts Review Committee is expected to make recommendations to the Minister of Education, the Honourable Sean Conway, in April. Verbal or written presentations can be made to this committee which will also be reviewing submissions to the 1984 study committee and further documentation of the issue.

Serving on the committee with Mr. Lavender are Dorothy Beam, past president of the Ontario Association for the Deaf and Paul Carroll, superintendent of student services with the Huron County Board of Education.

Volunteers sought

The North Halton Volunteer Bureau is seeking people who have experience working on Commodore and Pet computers. The volunteer would be working in a local Resource Centre, within the institution, assisting and teaching others how to work the computer.

The Resource Centre is open Monday to Friday from 9 to 11:30 a.m., and from 1 to 3:30 p.m., which allows for a volunteer to choose the most suitable time for them.

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CORRECTION NOTICE

Due to an error in the Beaver Lumber (Feb. 26-Mar. 15, 1986) flyer, the following was incorrect:

Pg. 5 — The BUDGETFLOOR Flooring — Sale price is \$5.99/square yard. Reg. price \$6.99/square yard. Save 14%.

Beaver Lumber sincerely regrets any inconvenience that may have been caused.

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