

Four new village constables are slated for Milton

By ROB KELLY

The Halton Regional Police Force brass wants its officers to start hanging around with a better crowd.

Monday evening at municipal council's general committee meeting police Staff Inspector Richard Kivell emphasized the Halton force's push to meet "the 97 per cent" of people who support police efforts. "We were

'Get out of the car, get with the people.'

only meeting the two to three per cent of the population (criminals) that really didn't want to have too much to do with us."

To that end the force plans a beefed-up version of their already popular 'village constable' programs,

which have seen constables on foot patrol in downtown urban areas and setting up offices in rural Milton.

The constables become familiar with the outlying communities through long postings.

Staff Inspector Kivell said four new

officers are being hired for the Milton area, three in July and one in October.

Urban Milton will be divided into two sectors, east and west, with village constable type officers on duty continuously.

The force also plans to form "consultation committees" involving possibly youth representatives, boards of education personnel, merchants, politicians and citizens.

Such committees will be geared toward information sharing among police and civilians, staff inspector Kivell said.

The object of the programs is to "get out of the car, get with the people," he continued.

The force is also attempting to keep officers in one location longer than previously was the case, he said, for at least a year.

As well, personnel living in each of Halton's communities will be encouraged to work as patrol officers in that community.

Ward 3 councillor Barry Lee singled out the village constable concept as it operates in his Nasagaweya ward for praise.

"I'd like to complement the force for the job it has done in the rural area. It's much improved."

Mr. Lee said the force has made "great strides forward."

Property owner wants more rent from town

It is rare for a taxpayer to turn the tables on the town, but perhaps that is just what John Soden did.

Mr. Soden owns property on Fourth Line which the town uses to turn its vehicles around when the steep hill at Glenorchy Bridge is not passable, particularly in winter. The town rents the turning circle for this purpose. Mr. Soden was paid \$904 for each of the last three years under the agreement's terms.

Since the road allowance is too small to permit construction of a town turning lane, the municipality has little choice but to renew the agreement, according to a staff report.

Mr. Soden wants \$1093 for 1990-91

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and \$1,203 for 1991-92. He is charging \$944 for the winter now in its final stages.

Mr. Soden has rationalized his increases, which general committee accepted, by citing the fact that his taxes have gone up an average eight per cent per annum and factoring in an added two per cent for increased land values over the term of the agreement.

"I thought he was quite clever," ad-

mitted a smiling councillor Rick Day in reference to Mr. Soden tying in the tax issue.

Councillor Colin Best did not find the issue so funny, however. He was opposed to the agreement, and said the town should attempt to strike a deal based on a user-pay system.

The town will take steps to cut its tree loss this year after losing 50 to drought and vandalism last year.

At general committee Monday night councillor Bill Johnson suggested a municipal "adopt a tree" program to urge residents to water town trees near their homes.

Instead, however, councillors just opted to keep a closer eye on the

situation and increase municipal watering schedules if necessary. Town staff will also act on vandalism reports in an attempt to at least recover the cost of destroyed trees.

Councillor Colin Best said the drought problem, at least, is not aggravated because homeowners don't water the town trees near their homes.

The problem is in areas where no one lives by the trees, such as in the Optimist Centre vicinity on Commercial Street, he said.

Quick changer slowed down

Cashier foils flim flam scam

Thanks to recent publicity, police say 'quick change' artists are coming up empty handed in Milton.

Village Constable Larry Masson had issued a 'business alert' throughout Milton and a recent Crime Stoppers article explained how the sham works.

The trick is perpetrated by a thief handing over a large bill and asking for change, which the cashier usually accommodates. The thief then produces another bill and asks for more change. This continues at a quick pace thus confusing the cashier.

"You've got to slow it right down," said Sgt. Frank Phillips.

Last Saturday, about 5:20 p.m., a female customer entered a Main Street store seeking change for a \$20 bill so she could allegedly use the telephone. The clerk's first clue that something was amiss was the customer declining to use the store's own phone.

The clerk provided change for \$20, but then refused additional requests. The suspect left the store, walking right by the pay telephone, and the clerk phoned the police.

The female suspect is described as five feet, five inches, heavy build, red shoulder-length hair, and about 35 years of age.



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