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NEWSLINES

Robbery report was false

Two people have been charged in connection with what police say was a false report of a robbery at McDonald's in Milton Sunday.

An assistant manager at the Highway 25 restaurant told Halton police he was robbed shortly after 6 p.m. while on his way to make a night deposit at the bank.

He said he was getting into his car with bags of cash when he felt a jolt in the back of his neck like an electric shock, possibly from a stun gun.

He blacked out and when he regained consciousness, he told police, the restaurant money was gone.

Half the cash has since been recovered, said Sgt. Joe Martin, spokesman for Halton police. The amount of money stolen has not been released.

Charged with public mischief and theft is a 28-year-old Ingersoll man. His sister-in-law, a 29-year-old Hamilton woman, has been charged with theft.

Detective Constable Kevin McCart and Detective Joe Taylor investigated the case.



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

McBook donation

It's McDonald's Restaurants' 25th birthday in Canada but it was the library that got the presents. Richmond Chandler, owner of Milton's McDonald's donated 25 books by Canadian authors to Milton Public Library. Amanda Reitsma and Jordan Gleed (right) check out the children's books included in the fiction and non-fiction selection.

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Pomeroy's home searched in corruption probe

By ROB KELLY
The Champion

Police seized documents from Halton regional chairman Peter Pomeroy's home and from the regional administration building Mr. Pomeroy works out of in Oakville as part of an investigation into alleged corruption on Wednesday.

At the same time, officers from Project 80 used search warrants to remove files from the Georgetown office and home of lawyer Bert Arnold, a friend of Mr. Pomeroy's.

Project 80 is a joint forces, police unit comprises officers from Metro Toronto, York Region and the OPP. Also known as the government affairs unit, it has been investigating allegations of municipal corruption centring around Georgetown land deals for more than a year.

There are currently six officers assigned full time to the Halton case, said inspector Vaughan O'Toole, the Project 80 supervisor directing the effort. Asked if the probe was widening, inspector O'Toole replied, "it's hard to say. It doesn't appear to be."

Inspector O'Toole said he was "not in a position to comment" about the possibility of laying charges in the near future.

Police officers were apparently in the regional building Wednesday as council began its deliberations at 1 p.m. The council chamber was packed with high profile area politicians and more than 100 citizens as officers quietly went about their business upstairs in Mr. Pomeroy's office. But rumours were trickling out of the police presence.

Asked if the timing had been deliberately

chosen so as to signal police confidence in their investigation, inspector O'Toole said that was not the case. "We were not aware" of the meeting, he stressed.

After regional council, Mr. Pomeroy confirmed the investigators "had been looking at records in my office and my secretary's office." The chairman said he had received "no notification" of their arrival and added that "they did not question me personally."

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Off-duty officer guilty of misconduct

An off-duty Metro police officer who chased a car full of real estate agents through rural Milton in a dispute over a lawn sign has been found guilty of misconduct by a civilian Board of Inquiry.

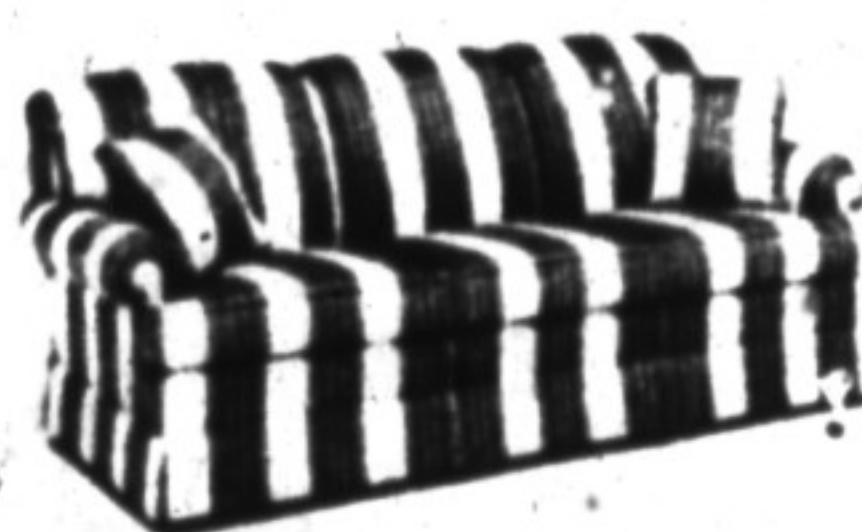
"Constable Guglielmo Catalano was found to have acted in a manner likely to bring discredit upon the reputation of the police force in relation to actions which occurred

while he was off duty in the Milton area," said a press release issued by the board.

The decision follows a Board of Inquiry hearing held at Town Hall October 13 and 14. The hearing was ordered by the Police Complaints Commissioner.

Lamont Leone, manager of Royal LePage Realty on Main Street, testified that the officer

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