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NEWSLINES

Second escapee captured

A second convict who escaped from Maplehurst Correctional Centre November 20 is back behind bars.

Peter White, 24, was captured by Metropolitan Toronto Police in the food court area of the Eaton's Centre shortly before 8 p.m. Sunday.

He was serving time for mischief and break and enter when he escaped from the medium-security jail through a vent in the roof with two other prisoners.

Andrew Barlett, 19, was picked up by police two days after the escape along a Highway near London.

Police believe the prisoners made their way to a nearby industrial park, discarded their prison clothes, and stole a green 1990 Ford pick-up truck bearing licence plate VC3 307.

Still at large is Donald Francoere, 33, previously of Montreal. He was serving time for robbery, possession of stolen property, and attempt to obstruct justice.

The convict is described as white, 5'8", 184 pounds, with short, light brown hair and blue eyes.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Stoppers of Halton at 1-800-668-5151 or 825-TIPS.



Photo by GRAHAM BAIN

On the spot

The Milton OPP kicked off its annual R.I.D.E. campaign last night to combat drinking and driving over the holiday season. Constable Ryan Carothers is one of the many officers who will be out in full force during the spot check blitz which continues until January 2.

INSIDE



Bishop Reding captured the Halton senior girls basketball title last Tuesday beating M. M. Robinson.

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Meeting to take another stab at MVA

By ROB KELLY
The Champion

Halton regional chairman Peter Pomeroy has agreed to re-open the question of market value assessment (MVA) at what is expected to be a marathon regional council meeting tonight.

Mr. Pomeroy just beat the Friday deadline for authorizing a motion to reconsider the controversial

MVA plan passed by regional council in September.

Under regional rules, someone who initially supported MVA must propose the motion to reconsider it.

In September Mr. Pomeroy broke a 12-12 deadlock at council to usher in MVA after prolonged debate that saw Oakville and Halton Hills councillors opposing the new property tax method while

Burlington and Milton councillors supported it.

There will be a tax shift of more than \$4 million from Burlington to Oakville under MVA. Milton drops roughly \$400,000 in reg-

ional taxes. Halton Hills's assessment diminishes by approximately \$340,000. But regional councillor Rick Bonnette is leading the fight against MVA there because, he

• see MVA FIGHT on page 3

Death threat charges laid

A local woman was arrested outside a Milton courtroom Monday for allegedly threatening to kill a key witness in a robbery case.

Her boyfriend, Mark Hostrawser, 25, of Miles Street, who is charged in the robbery, also allegedly threatened the witness with bodily harm if he testified in court.

Halton police arrested Melanie Livingstone, 18, of Bronte Street as she was walking out of Milton provincial division court where Mr. Hostrawser had just appeared on robbery and theft charges.

The witness, who had to be arrested last week after failing to show up in court, is expected to testify in the robbery case involving a 91-year-old Milton woman.

Her purse was snatched by a

cyclist while she was walking behind a downtown plaza Sept. 23.

Police said the witness received a phone call after 8 p.m. November 9 from a man who threatened him with bodily harm if he testified. Three weeks later, a woman came to his place of employment threatening to have him beaten and killed.

Ms Livingstone has been charged with uttering a death threat, obstructing police, and breach of probation. She was held for a bail hearing yesterday.

Mr. Hostrawser, who is in custody, faces charges of uttering a death threat, and obstructing police in addition to robbery and two theft charges. He is scheduled to appear in court tomorrow.

Demand great for Christmas fund

The Salvation Army Christmas Bureau Fund is being launched today and the need for donations has never been greater.

The demand for food from the Army food bank has doubled since last year. In 1991, 1,733 bags of food were supplied to needy families. So far in 1992, 3,396 bags of food have been given out. The number of food vouchers provided rose 67 per cent over last year.

It is hoped the Christmas bureau fund will again raise \$18,000 to ensure there is a gift for every child and a festive meal on every table. Donations are accepted at The Champion office, 191 Main St. or mail cheques to The Salvation Army Christmas Bureau Fund c/o The Champion, Box 248 Milton, L9T 4N9.