

Gentleman cop retiring as rural Milton 'sheriff'

By KAREN SMITH
The Champion

JOHN LYVER will no longer be an officer, but he will probably always be a gentleman.

Known as "a real gentleman cop," the longtime Halton Regional Police constable will patrol rural Milton for the last time August 10.

The retiring policeman has decided to call it quits after 27 years on the force.

"I figure, that's long enough," he said sipping on a coffee at the Ice House Restaurant in Campbellville, where he is well known. "I'm going to pack it in."

News of the constable's retirement plans brings sadness to citizens of the town's rural hamlets, who admire and respect the veteran cop.

For the last six years, he has worked as a rural Milton Project Visibility officer, covering an area including Brookville, Campbellville and Moffat.

Constable Lyver carries a reputation in the community for his fairness with people as well as his down-to-earth nature.

"He's a real gentleman cop," said Inspector Keith Gregory. "People love him out there."

An employee of the Brookville Trading Post on Guelph Line said the 54-year-old Hillsburgh man is just like family around the store.

"Everybody really appreciates the work he's done," said staff member Nesta Jude, who lives up the street. "It's a shame to see him leave."

On display in the variety store is a photo of Constable Lyver donning a county sheriff's badge presented to

him a few years ago as a kindly gesture by citizens of the village. The badge actually belonged to a sheriff in Florida and was donated by a local resident.

Born in Newfoundland, Constable Lyver joined the Georgetown Police Department in 1966. Living in Toronto at the time, he answered an advertisement in a local newspaper seeking policemen for the town.

"At the time I had no idea where Georgetown was," he recalled.

He had an interview with Bud Lowe, who was chief of the Georgetown Police Department, and was hired on the spot. Among the requirements were that he be at least five-foot-10 and weighed no less than 160 pounds.

Constable Lyver, who always wanted to be a policeman, was around in the days when the population of Halton Hills was 5,000 and he was the only officer on patrol at night. His cruiser had no radio, and certainly no computer.

To find out if he had a call, he would drive by the old Main Street East firehall. If a light on the roof was on, that meant somebody needed him.

He would then call into the office and talk to switchboard operator Mrs. Oliver, who worked the light. That was more than 20 years ago, but he still remembers her name.

Preferring to perform police work from the road rather than the station, Constable Lyver never worried about moving up the ranks. He enjoyed the people contact from working on patrol.

Over the years, he has faced just
• see LYVER on page 14

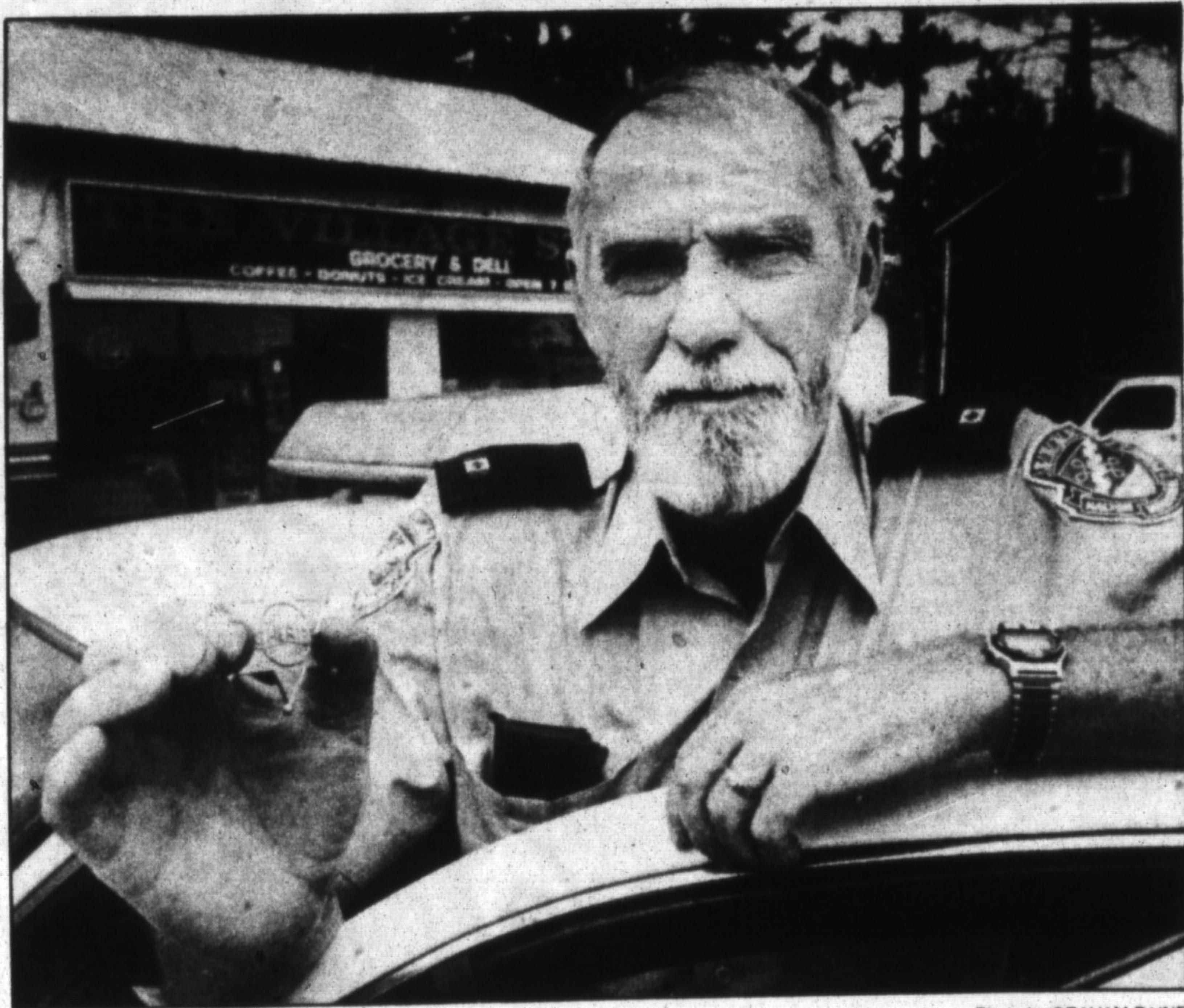


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Constable John Lyver isn't really the county sheriff, but Brookville residents gave him the title a few years ago anyway. The popular rural Milton officer will be missed when he retires from the Halton Regional Police Service August 10.

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