## Police say they can't do more about loitering

By KAREN SMITH

The Champion

Police say they're doing all they can to respond to complaints about large groups of youths gathering in the Woodward Avenue and Wilson Drive area

"We're pushing it to the limit now," said Sgt. Wayne Eastwood of Halton Regional Police. "We're years of age and older) off the street. doing what we can."

Monday night to voice their concerns of owner. about youths, who they say cause disturbances in their neighbourhood late at night.

"We've had vodka bottles, beer bottles and cigarette packages thrown in our backyard," said Peter Baker of Briar Crescent.

Mr. Baker said this is the first year the neighbourhood has experienced such a problem. It has come about, he said, because groups of 50 to 60 youths loiter at Woodward Avenue and Wilson Drive, near the Becker's Store.

The youths litter, use foul language and obstruct people's entrance to the store, he said.

Sergeant Eastwood said unless the youths are breaking the law and are caught in the act there is not much police can do.

"It's a difficult thing to police," he said. "They can disappear into any house when we show up."

A task force has attempted to tackle the problem and the police presence has been stepped up in the area, said Sgt. Eastwood.

He added that the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms stops police from randomly picking up youths (12

And police can only charge youths Residents came before the in the variety store parking lot with Community Consultation Committee trespassing or loitering on the request

The disturbance has died down since school started, but "they're (youths) still around and they're still a problem," Mr. Baker said.

"I think it's something that has to be watched."

Joan and Ron Phillips of Willow Avenue came to the meeting, held at Milton District Hospital, to complain about vandalism in their neighbour-

The Phillips' said youths have thrown lit firecrackers through the mail slots of area homes.

"There's danger there as well as just a nuisance," Mrs. Phillips said.

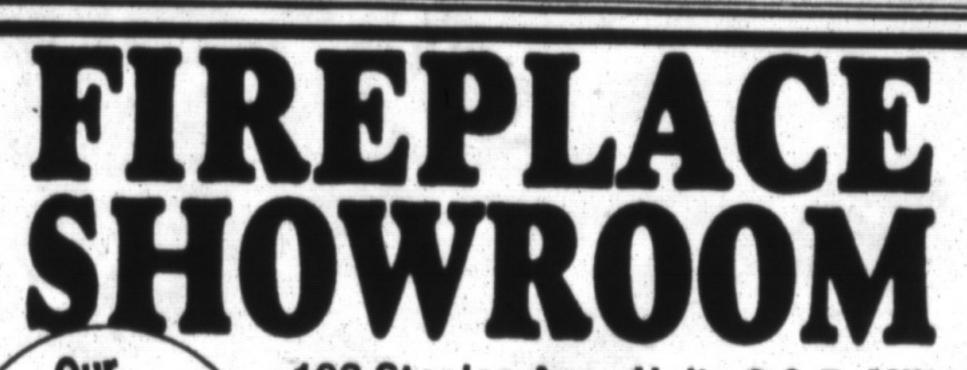
The Community Consultation Committee is a civilian-run organization made up of citizens and police, which looks into crime-related con-

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The Milton Fall Fair board is again sponsoring a food drive at the fair, September 23-25.

Organizers ask that those attending the fair bring non-perishable goods, to be dropped off at any entrance gate.

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