

# Crown drops gun charge against cop

The Crown has withdrawn a charge laid against a police officer who accidentally discharged his gun following a high speed chase.

A charge of careless use of a firearm against Constable Joe Gibson of Halton Regional Police was dropped in Ontario Court (provincial division) in Brampton earlier this month.

Aimee Gauthier, special prosecutor for the Ministry of the Attorney General, said the public's interest would be best served if the constable underwent further training in high risk motor vehicle stops, judgement and the use of firearms.

She added that she understands

Constable Gibson has since completed re-training and exceeded the requirements under the Police Services Act. In light of that, Ms Gauthier withdrew the charge before Judge J. D. Wake.

Defence lawyer Paul Stunt told the judge his 32-year-old client, who has been with Halton police for five years, unintentionally discharged his gun on December 12, 1995.

The incident occurred at the conclusion of a high speed chase from Burlington to Milton. Police used a spike belt to flatten the fleeing stolen car's tires and bring it to a stop.

But the two 15-year-old occupants refused to open the vehicle's doors

so the constable used his service revolver to break the windshield and the gun discharged. A Hamilton youth was taken to Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital where he was treated and released.

Constable Gibson was charged on

March 5 following a Special Investigation Unit (SIU) probe into the gun incident. SIU director Graham Reynolds concluded he had reasonable grounds that the constable did "without lawful excuse, use his firearm in a careless manner."

## Think green for HRCA

Have you done a good deed for the environment or know someone who has?

If so, the Halton Region Conservation Authority (HRCA) wants to hear about it.

The HRCA is now accepting nominations for the 15th annual conser-

vation awards presented to an individual or group who has made an outstanding contribution to conservation in the Halton watershed.

Nominations can be submitted up to January 15. For more information and/or nomination forms, call Gary Hutton at 336-1158.

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## Dateline

Dateline is a free listing of coming events only. The column is available to local community groups to assist in promoting their future events. Only charitable or non-profit community groups may use this service. We can only guarantee one issue of publicity closest to the date of the occurrence although more insertions are possible if demand is low.

Notices for Dateline should be written and handed in at the office of The Champion, 191 Main St. E., mailed to us at P.O. Box 248, Milton, Ont., L9T 4N9, or faxed to (905)878-4943. The final deadline is noon Friday for Wednesday's edition and noon Wednesday for Friday's edition. Dateline items will not be accepted by telephone.

Tuesday Dec. 31

The Milton Seniors' Activity Centre presents **A New Year's Eve of Social Activities**. The 8 p.m. event features euchre, bridge, line dancing, dancing and wide-screen TV/VCR followed by a snack. Cost is \$7.50 per person. Call 875-1681 for tickets.

The Milton Springers Gymnastic Club offers a **half-day camp** for Kindergym (ages three-and-a-half to 6 years) and girls recreational (kindergarten to grade 8) from 9 a.m. noon and/or 1 to 4 p.m. The camp includes gymnastics, crafts and games. The cost per half-day is \$18. Call the club at 878-5030 for more details.

Thursday Jan. 2

The **Living with Cancer Group** meets at St. Paul's United Church, 123 Main St. E., from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Led by nurses, group discussions provide emotional support and practical guidance to patients and their family and friends. For more information, call the Canadian Cancer Society's north Halton unit at 877-1124 or Eleanor at 878-1876.

Friday Jan. 3

The Milton Springers Gymnastic Club offers a **half-day camp** for Kindergym (ages three-and-a-half to 6 years) and girls recreational (kindergarten to grade 8) from 9 a.m. noon and/or 1 to 4 p.m. The camp includes gymnastics, crafts and games. The cost per half-day is \$18. Call the club at 878-5030 for more details.

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### The Gift of Friendship

Friendship is a priceless gift,  
That cannot be bought or sold,  
But its value is far greater,  
Than a mountain made of gold—

For gold is cold and lifeless  
It can neither see nor hear,  
And in the time of trouble,  
It is powerless to cheer—

It has no ears to listen,  
No heart to understand,  
It cannot bring you comfort,  
Or reach out a helping hand—

So when you ask God for a gift  
Be thankful if he sends,  
Not diamonds, pearls, or riches  
But the love of real true friends.

—Helen Steiner Rice

The doctors said I would lose all my friends.  
Thank you everyone for proving him wrong.  
And even though I may never walk again,  
I would like to thank everyone for teaching me to fly.

—Happy New Year  
—Love Always and Forever  
—Leslie

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