

Greater use of schools

School board facilities should be placed at the disposal of the community to a much greater extent than they are now, says Russell Reeve Gaston Patenaude.

Speaking in his new capacity of warden of the United Counties of Prescott-Russell, Mr. Patenaude said he would work to improve communication between county council and the two area school boards.

He pointed out that the boards

operate swimming pools, playgrounds, gymnasiums, and other facilities that could benefit community members other than students.

A member of county council for 14 years, Mr. Patenaude was acclaimed to the wardenship by his fellow councillors at l'Original during the last meeting of 1979.

It's a one-year term and the Russell reeve promises to "run the ship the right way."

In addition to fostering closer ties with the school boards, Mr. Patenaude plans to resurrect the long-dormant issue of restructuring county government and to work towards establishment of a French agricultural college within the counties.

The provincial government is studying the feasibility of such a college and is eyeing the training school at Alfred as a possible location.

"I thought I was going to die."

—Bill Cicalo

By Garey Ris

Bill Cicalo, a Russell resident and Ottawa Police constable, said he was "fit to be tied" following a Boxing Day ordeal which saw him racing through city streets clinging to the side of a car at speeds up to 120 kilometres per hour.

The 28-year-old, four-year member of the force was hurled 10 metres through the air and had his foot run over during the ordeal which began about 8:10 p.m., shortly after he and partner Martin Brindle stopped a white Firebird. The car was backing up on the wrong side of Bank Street near Clarey Avenue.

Constable Cicalo approached the car, opened the door and ordered the driver to turn over the keys. The driver suddenly stepped on the accelerator and took off with the policeman holding him in a headlock.

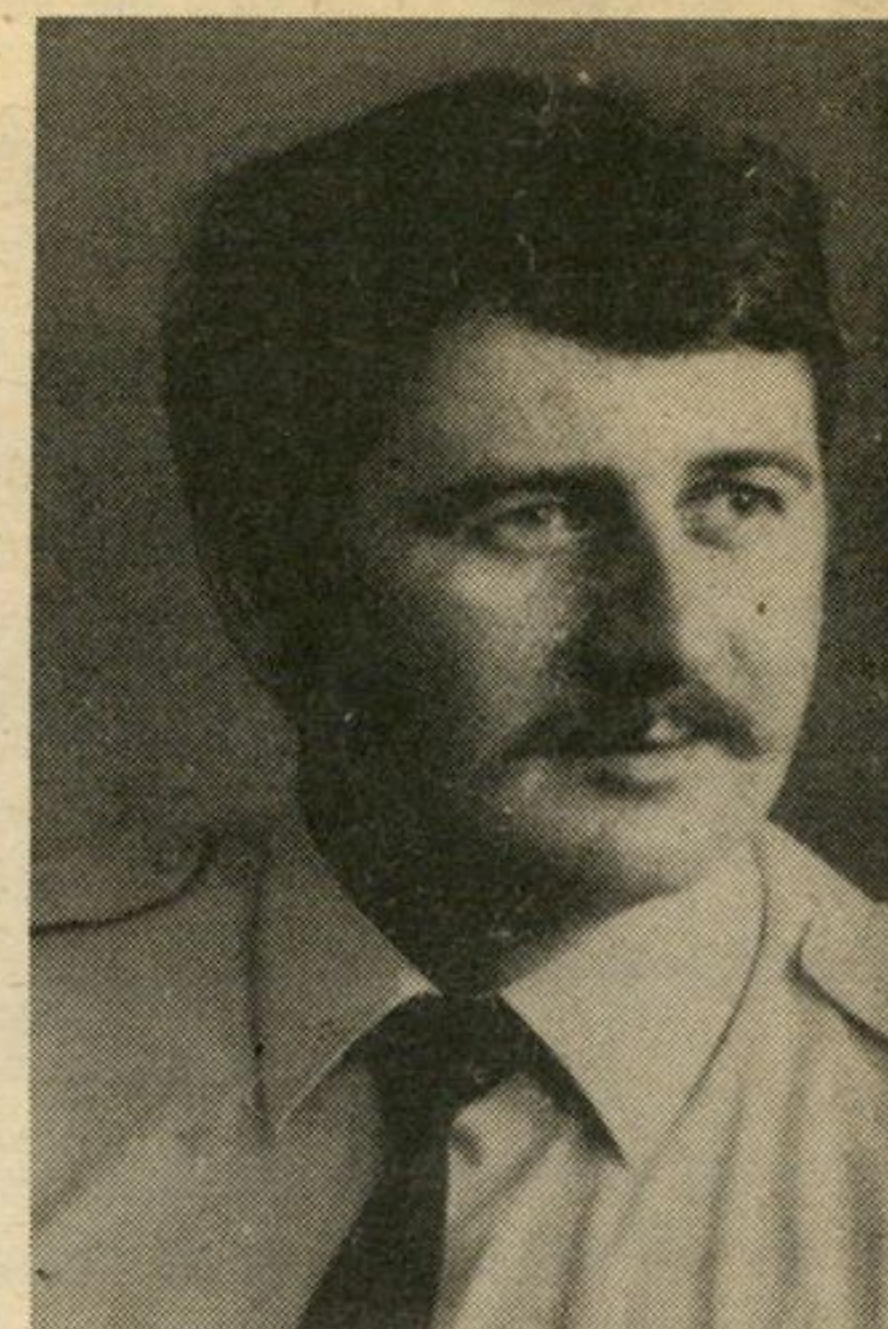
The car swerved through traffic in an apparent attempt to knock the officer loose until it finally swerved out of control at Bank and Sunnyside Avenue. Constable Cicalo was thrown 10 metres through the air on to the trunk of a parked car.

As the car again sped away, it drover over the constable's foot. Undeterred, he hopped into a cruiser driven by his partner and gave chase. The fleeing car was abandoned at the corner of Hazel and Main Streets and the chase continued on foot. The two men were apprehended in a nearby alley.

Mark Harris, 22, of Old Chelsea, Que., pleaded guilty to criminal negligence and driving while his license was under suspension. Constable Cicalo was disappointed with the sentence of two years less 10 days.

"I was scared," he said. "I thought I was going to die but didn't have time to think about it because I was too involved in the chase and was determined to catch the driver."

"I enjoy my work, quitting never entered my mind," he said. "My wife was upset." He said he couldn't wait to get back to work after recuperating for several



Constable Bill Cicalo

weeks. He said he missed the excitement of the job.

Volunteers needed

More volunteers are needed to bring the Block Parent program to every part of Russell Village, organizers say.

While the program has been successful, some streets in the village are without a Block Parent. Organizers are looking for total coverage.


Since the program was introduced, harassment of children has diminished. One girl involved in an unpleasant episode was relieved that Block Parents are there to help.

"It was great," said the girl, who asked to remain unidentified. "If I didn't have a Block Parent to go to, I don't know what I would have done."

Initiated by the Russell Public School Association, the program is financially assisted by the Lions' Club. Block Parents agree to take into their homes children in distress and contact proper authorities.

There's no requirement to provide food, first aid, or even advice to children who ask for help. A sign is hung in the participant's window and removed when that individual is not on duty.

Anyone interested in participating in the program should contact Christine Edmunston or Jackie King.



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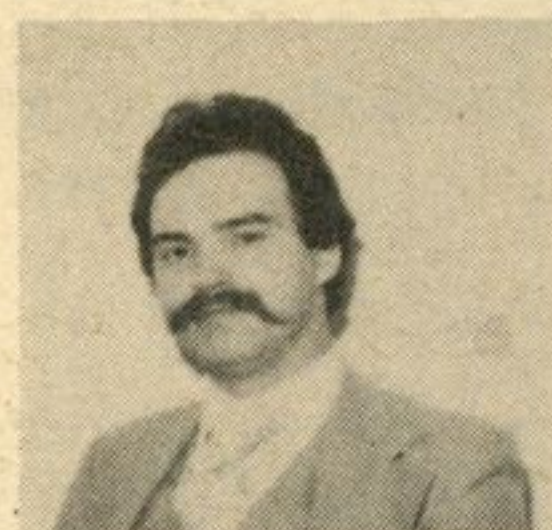


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