

Police acknowledging need to get back to the basics

More and more police forces are looking for community-based solutions to the challenges of modern policing.

Those forces feel their role goes beyond simply enforcing the law. Non-enforcement tasks like public education, community development and crisis intervention are extremely important to the quality of life in a community.

There are developing and implementing programs that are designed to be more responsive not only to crime, but to the fear of crime and, more broadly, to a wide range of issues that affect community life.

In order to reduce fear of crime and deter crime, police forces are

developing new methods to demonstrate their presence in the community.

The idea is to break down the psychological barriers created by squad cars and make officers more accessible and more visible in their relationships with citizens.

To do this, officers are getting out of cruisers and doing more patrol on foot and creating more opportunities to meet with people.

They are spending more time educating people on how to avoid becoming victims of crime.

Through programs like Neighborhood Watch and Block Parents, they are enlisting the eyes and ears of citizens to report suspicious circumstances.

And they are developing operational policies that see officers permanently assigned to certain areas in an effort to develop greater familiarity with community needs and problems.

Such officers may work out of mini-stations or storefronts, they may even be encouraged to go door-to-door to get to know residents and business people better.

Limits on fiscal resources facing most segments of society are affecting police too, and they are looking at new ways of responding to the increasing number of calls for service.

The traditional doctrine of rapid response to all calls has been questioned by studies which show

not all calls require immediate attention or the dispatch of an officer to the scene.

Why? Because in most cases the victims call the police at least 45 minutes after the crime has occurred or been discovered.

As a result, police are experimenting with selective responses in non-emergency situations. In fact, some Ontario forces expect they will eventually handle 30% of their calls in alternative ways.

Some will be dealt with by telephone; some will be handled in person at the station; some by by-law enforcement officers; some by appointment.

At the same time, police and

government agencies are devoting more and more energy to non-enforcement programs to assist the victims of crime cope with their personal traumas.

The goal of all these community-based programs is to foster a partnership between the police and the public that serves their mutual interest in security and protection.

The public has a crucial role in the business of policing and community-based programs are designed to let the people play their part.

They can influence the development of policies and strategies and, when appropriate, participate actively in carrying out programs.

Don't cop out...celebrate Police Week!

Police 'building bridges' to groups

The population of Ontario is changing and the composition of the province's police forces is changing to match.

Police forces are working hard to recruit officers from under-represented groups. They are training officers to provide culturally responsive services.

And they are busy building more bridges to Ontario's many ethnic and racial groups.

All of these steps are seen as high priorities by the Ministry of the Solicitor General.

Changing with the times is nothing new to the law enforcement profession. Most of its leaders have always believed that the best police forces are those that reflect the community and its needs.

Thinking like that was behind the police community's request for a major conference on cross-cultural policing and it helped convince Solicitor General Joan Smith to fund the conference.

"It is my sincere belief that

police forces in Ontario are among the finest in the world," said Mrs. Smith.

"But it is also true that as our society grows and changes, we must ensure that our police keep pace with the times."

She said the fact that the impetus for the conference came from the police helps show how fully they realize that Ontario's changing population has profound implications for them.

The \$117,000 conference, which will be held this fall at the Ontario Police College, in Aylmer, is just one example of the changing face of law enforcement in Ontario.

People like Staff Sergeant Syd Young are also helping the law

enforcement community address the same issues.

Staff Sergeant Young is a veteran police officer who helped the Metropolitan Police build their highly-regarded employment equity recruiting program.

Because multicultural policing is one of the Solicitor General's top priorities, he has been seconded to the Ministry to help forces around Ontario develop programs that will meet similar needs in other communities.

More than 200 delegates representing ethnic and minority groups, police forces, police governing bodies and provincial and federal governments are expected to attend.

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Mr. & Mrs. Don Neilon and Mr. & Mrs. Gerry Fischer are pleased to announce the engagement of their children;

Deborah Ann to John Leonard

The wedding will take place June 11, 1988

Attention Teenaged Athletes

(it's me from page 6)

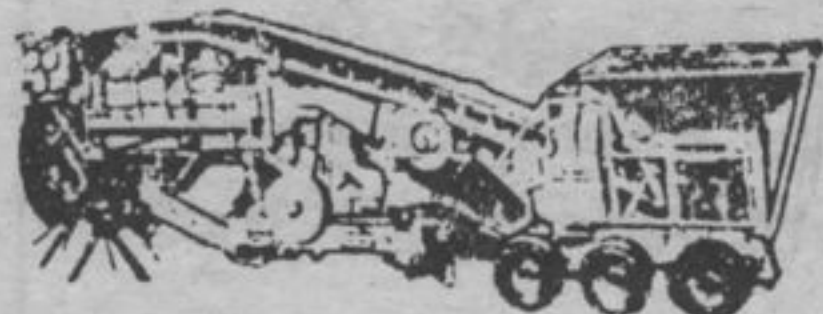
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