Police are pulling alarm protection

The Halton Regional Police are making good their promise not to answer burglar alarms at businesses responsible for continual false alarms.

Five Halton businesses, recently received seven days suspension of service from the police.

A Burlington supermarket was broken into while under a seven-day suspension and \$50 worth of goods were stolen.

During October there were eight false alarms at the store and police served notice two weeks prior to the suspension that they would not respond to alarms on the premises.

The crackdown follows from a July 26 announcement to enforce temporary suspensions on businesses who repeatedly ring false alarms.

Last year, the Halton force received 6,209 false alarms or about 20 a day.

This year, police projected 6,900 false alarms, an 11 per cent increase over 1983 at a cost of \$47,000 in staff time to answer them

The five businesses were suspended from police service after letters of caution were

sent to 42 offenders, 28 of them in Burlington. Police will still monitor the five businesses' premises, 'through regular cruiser patrols but will not respond to alarms

According to Constable Dave Eakins, who completed the preliminary studies for the False Alarm Program (FAP), the police have been sympathetic to the problems businesses have in ensuring proper functioning of their alarm systems.

"In most cases, the systems could be faulty, with mechanical failures," he said. 'While in other instances, employees' misunderstanding of how the alarm system functions is a cause for false alarms.

But Const. Eakins added there are those who take a 'nonchalant attitude' toward their alarm systems.

"All businesses are responsible to make sure their systems are functioning properly," he said.

"But we understand their dilemma. That's why we give them a warning letter first."

A letter of warning is sent to an offender

who has four or more false alarms within a 28-day period.

If the offender repeats another four offenses in a 28-day period within the same year, the police issue a seven-day suspension of answering alarms on the premises.

Halton's FAP resulted from a police study which included reports on the success of Peel Regional and Metropolitan Toronto Police False Alarm Programs.

Over a two-year period, beginning in 1976, there was a three-per-cent decrease in false alarms after Metropolitan Toronto Police initiated their FAP.

By 1980, there had been another 0.7 per cent decrease.

Const. Eakins said he was optimistic that the Halton FAP would be effective.

"Over a time period the false alarm program does seem to have an impact," he said.

Snow demand exceeds workers

The efforts of Maplehurst Correctional Centre inmates to bare the sidewalks of handicapped and senior citizens in Milton are not keeping up with the demand.

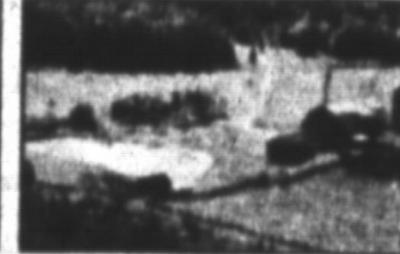
Close to 70 people are benefitting from the snow-removal program. However, this number does not reflect the need. According to Colin Best, who organizes the service for people unable to clear their own sidewalks. the inmates can do no more.

The Maplehurst snow shovelers are available only during the week and to fill the gap, Mr. Best is seeking volunteers from the community. Youth groups, service clubs or an able-bodied neighbours could fill the gap.

Prospective clients or volunteers can get involved in the service by calling Milton public works department at 878-7211 or Colin Best at 878-3623



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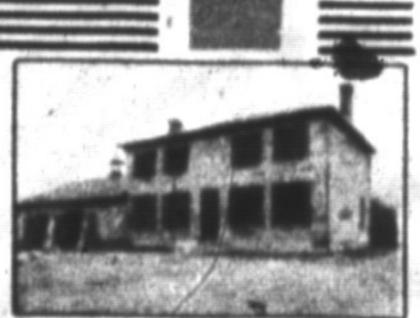


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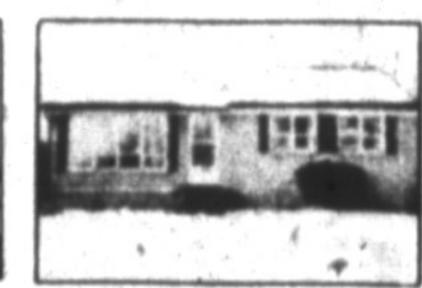
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