

Beating Canada's No. 1 Killer

Heart and Stroke Foundation kicks off its campaign Feb. 1

The Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario kicks off its 31st annual fund-raising campaign on February 1. The Foundation needs to raise a record \$26 million for its research and education programs combatting the disease that claims more lives in Canada each year than all other diseases combined.

Volunteers are needed in Halton Hills to canvass. Anyone interested should contact the Halton office at (416) 634-7732.

Heart disease and stroke remain the leading causes of death in Ontario and Canada, more than all other diseases combined. Approximately 80,000 Canadians—30,000 of them from Ontario—die each year from heart disease and stroke. Every one out of two Canadians is at risk.

In the last three decades, research findings have made invaluable contributions to improvements in cardiac surgery, heart transplants and treatment for congenital heart defects. According to J. Douglas Sheppard, President of the Foundation, the public's financial support is critical to further advances in the field.

"Heart and Stroke Month isn't just a time to raise funds for vital research

and education programs," says Sheppard. "It also helps to remind people that many instances of these diseases are highly preventable."

The Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario funds more than two-thirds of all heart and stroke research in the province. "We cannot rely solely on government to underwrite research," Sheppard said. "Some of the burden must be borne by the public. It is, after all, our goal to improve the odds of the majority, not the minority."

The Foundation allocates 79.2 per cent of its money to research and 10.3 per cent to public and professional education.

"Our society is slowly learning to be more nutrition- and exercise-conscious," says Sheppard. "We must continue to educate the public until better lifestyle habits are the norm."

An estimated 65,000 volunteer fund raisers will be canvassing residents throughout the province during February. "Strong community involvement is critical to the campaign's success," he says. "Our volunteers are among the Foundation's most valuable assets." Volunteers are needed in all of Halton particularly in Halton Hills.

The Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario is a registered not-for-profit organization. Its mandate is to reduce death and disability from heart disease and stroke by raising funds for research and education. The Foundation's fund-raising and education programs are delivered by volunteers in 72 chapters across Ontario.

If no one calls on you to make a donation, contact your Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario office at (416) 634-7732.



Homemakers vote on offer

It will be service as usual for Ontario and North Halton Homemakers, it was decided at a general meeting of volunteers and Red Cross officials last Saturday.

The future of the Homemaker program was discussed at the meeting after the Ontario government offered

to pull the service out of debt for the next two years. The Red Cross had threatened to phase out the program because it could not longer carry the debt, which was about \$15,500 for the North Halton program alone.

The government recently agreed to give the program an additional \$1.1 million to wipe out the debt, but it refused a request to kick in more money to increase the homemakers' salaries.

So with the battle half won, the vote went favorably Saturday and the organizers of the program agreed to accept the offer. They will, however, continue to lobby for more.

"After careful review of recent developments the board of management decided that it will be service as usual while the government's operational review of the homemaker industry is carried out," announced Frank Copping, president of the Ontario Division of the Red Cross. "We are committed to a high standard of care for our clients and fair compensation for our homemakers."

"As a humanitarian organization we feel we must press forward and

see that these basic commitments are met."

The operational review was a stipulation of the \$1.1 million grant put on by the government to verify the debt.

That money will cover the debt for the next two years, but what happens after that is not known.

Valerie Cook, co-ordinator of the North Halton program, says she is still having problems finding and keeping caregivers because of the low rate of pay being offered. None of them make more than \$6.65 an hour.

She regularly gets calls from potential clients, but she has a problem meeting their needs, she says.

Clients are the frail, elderly with acute or chronic illness, the handicapped, mothers with MS or other chronic degenerative diseases and single parents recovering from surgery or coping with cancer. Homemakers provide personal care, do light housework, cooking, grocery shopping, and laundry. In Halton Hills there are 49 clients and 18 of the 28 caregivers in North Halton are from this municipality.

Bells toll to mourn abortion decision

St. George's Anglican Church in Georgetown has joined other Halton Hills churches that will be tolling their bells Saturday at noon to mourn the Supreme Court decision one year ago which allowed abortions with no restrictions.

Bells at St. George's, St. Alban's Anglican and St. Joseph's Catholic Churches in Acton will toll 365 times at noon Saturday, one peal for each day unborn babies have been aborted. It's estimated 100,000 have been aborted since the court decision.

North Halton Pro-Life president Grace Mediema said more churches with bells may also be joining the dirge but was not able to confirm it by press time.

Marijuana offered to local cop

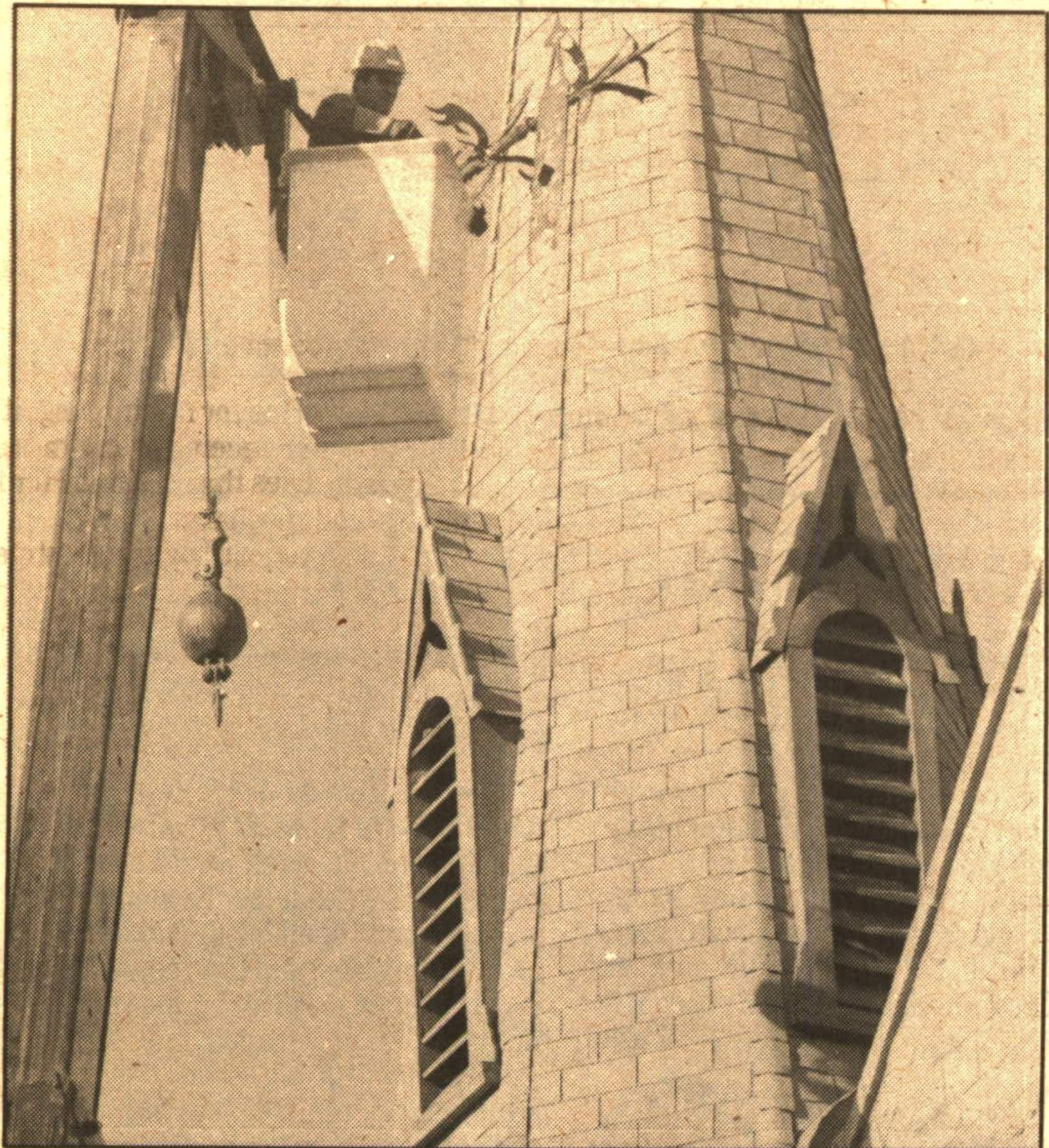
No one was more surprised than an off-duty police officer who was approached last week and asked if he would like to buy some marijuana — except maybe the person who offered the drug.

The Georgetown officer was in the Guelph St./Hall Rd. area of Georgetown when he was approached and offered 1/4 ounce of the narcotic. The officer has charged a 21-year-old Georgetown woman with trafficking in a narcotic.

The incident occurred at 4.50 p.m. Jan. 20.



The weather vein atop the steeple of the old church which now houses part of the Georgetown library was leaning more than usual after a strong wind storm last month. So Cultural Centre Manager Hank Huhtanen decided to call H. Oversby Ltd., RR4 Georgetown, to straighten things out.



The vein was brought down, but the wood that it was bolted to has rotted, and it is not known if the vein can be returned to its perch.



Huhtanen, centre, Dennis Mundon, left, who went up in the crane to retrieve the vein, and Howard Oversby look up to the spire where the vein was sitting. It is believed the vein is as old as the former church itself



Enrolment for the 4th Georgetown West Brownies took place November 29 when 12 tweenies joined. They are: back row (left to right), Kelly Forrestal, Genevieve Day, Crystal Waterkamp, Melanie Adams. Middle row: Whitney Young, Cynthia Arnold, Jennifer Ying, Megan McCracken. Front row: Erin Schultheiss, Kira Lawrence, Amaranth Day, Lindsay Talevski.