

THE FREE PRESS UP FRONT

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PHONE 564-0005

Three men plead guilty for roles in house storming

By CHERYL JAHN

Free Press staff writer

Three out of four ain't bad. That's how many have pleaded guilty to scaring the daylight out of a woman in her 15 Mile Road home.

Dustin Latigo Halliday, 22, Charles Edward Stephenson, 20, and Peter Walter Smith, 28, have all pleaded guilty to breaking into a 15 Mile Road home on the afternoon of February 13, with the intent to commit an indictable offence.

The other accused, Dean Laurie Goulet, 21, is currently on trial for his alleged role in the incident. It is Mr. Goulet who faces the weapons-related charges after a man allegedly held a .357 magnum handgun inches from a woman's nose when they entered her home.

The woman had heard noises from the other end of the house, and went to investigate. She rounded a corner to stare down the barrel of the gun. Remarkably the woman had the wherewithal to call police and give a description of the getaway car. Four men were arrested in dramatic style in a take down on First Avenue.

The three who pleaded out this morning will be sentenced on Tuesday morning, while Mr. Goulet's trial will continue on June 30.

Accounting/For abortion



More than 50 activists lined 15th Avenue on Friday afternoon armed with quilts made of square panels, one for each abortion done at Prince George Regional Hospital since abortion was legalized 30 years ago.

JOHN MCKENZIE/FREE PRESS

Half of RCMP auxiliary force calls it quits

By MICHELLE LANG

Free Press staff writer

The Prince George RCMP had lost about half of its auxiliary RCMP constables by Friday's resignation deadline.

Terry Deacon, president of the local auxiliary association, says 14 of the program's 28 active members have quit.

As dismal as that seems, it is a lot better than resignations from 85 per cent of auxiliaries — the percentage of members Mr. Deacon expected would

resign after the RCMP's decision in February not to re-arm its auxiliaries.

But Mr. Deacon hinted the RCMP may still see some more resignations, depending on the nature of the yet-to-be-revised auxiliary program.

"A lot of people are waiting to see what kind of proposal the Attorney General comes up with as to what kind of duties we will have," says Mr. Deacon. "They want to see where this program goes and make an informed deci-

sion. Once you're gone you can't come back."

Auxiliaries in Prince George, who donated over 9,000 hours a year to the program, joined volunteer constables across the province in withdrawing their volunteer services indefinitely last spring because of a decision from B.C.'s Attorney General to suspend their firearms and review their role in the policing system. The Attorney General decided in

December 1998 to return the guns to auxiliaries.

However, the RCMP announced in mid-February that auxiliary constables in B.C. will not carry firearms. The RCMP says the decision not to allow firearms was made because it realigns the B.C. auxiliary constables with the National Auxiliary Constable Program. B.C. auxiliaries were the only volunteers in Canada to carry firearms.

The auxiliaries will now

focus on community-based crime prevention programs and other public safety initiatives, says the RCMP.

Auxiliaries have said they can't protect themselves or the public without a firearm.

As well, Mr. Deacon has said many auxiliaries are more interested in the general duty work they have traditionally done than the new community policing role the RCMP is proposing.

Although only half of the

auxiliaries remain, the RCMP says a new training standard will be brought in by the RCMP at which point Prince George will likely recruit new auxiliaries.

A few local members have resumed their volunteer duties since the February decision. They are on general duty, bike patrol and traffic control, says Mr. Deacon.

"Morale is not great but it's better than it was. They've had time to accept what has happened," he says.

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