

Old cadet program is new again in Halton

■ By Tim Whitnell
METROLAND WEST MEDIA GROUP

Andrew Fletcher knows the value of getting on-the-job experience before deciding on a career.

The deputy police chief of Halton Regional Police Service (HRPS) is reviving a police cadet program that will see four young adults with a keen interest in policing get an opportunity to be paid to learn policing skills, and then decide if it's the job for them.

The pre-recruiting preparation program is designed to identify potential police officers from among Halton residents aged 19-24 who may benefit from training/development for one year, prior to applying to be an officer.

Those selected will be hired on a temporary contract at a salary of \$40,000 for no more than one year starting June 8. They will work 11-hour shifts on a four on/four off rotation at the Police Reporting Centre.

Cadets will receive two weeks of training — comparable to that given to police recruits prior to attending the Ontario Police College — including use-of-force training.

They will also receive training on

the Niche system for police reporting. They will not be issued a service firearm, but will wear a police uniform identifying them as cadets.

"This is my baby," said Fletcher. "When I took over as a deputy two years ago, I wanted to get it back on the forefront. It's a work experience program."

"We're looking for local young people, who may have taken a police foundations and law and security program, but may be short on experience," said Fletcher, who expects about 100 candidates will be selected and ultimately whittled down to the four.

Fletcher, in his 25th year with Halton police, began with the service in 1984 at age 19 in the previous cadet program, which was discontinued around 1990.

Now one of two deputy chiefs with Halton police, Fletcher says he knew early in his stint as a cadet that he wanted to make policing a career.

He said the police association, the union that represents Halton's officers, is on board with the program.

"We don't want to get into a situation where you have contract policing," Fletcher said. "We look at it as an



Deputy Chief Andrew Fletcher

enhancement to our (full-time) officers and it's also a recruiting aid. It will take some of the low-priority tasks away from the full-time officers ... (and) it gives them (recruits) some exposure to us and we get to see what they've got to offer."

Besides himself, Fletcher said current Halton officers who began with the service as cadets include Adam Hanna and Bob Waller.

Cadets must meet specific criteria — including physical, psychological and written testing — to qualify for the constable recruiting process.

Although they will not be required

to have completed an Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP) certificate when applying for the cadet program, they must attain it within their contract year.

The objective of the new program is to staff a Halton police call centre and obtain all relevant information from callers and complete appropriate occurrence reports, provide front-line information and assistance to the public, in person and by telephone, to represent the service at community events and to assist full-time officers with major incidents, including traffic control, neighbourhood canvassing and ground searches.

Criteria for applying to the program includes: being a Canadian citizen or having permanent resident status; being at least 18 years old; having a valid driver's licence (minimum Class G) with a good driving record; successfully having completed secondary school or the approved equivalent; meeting vision standards; possessing a good level of fitness; and having a current Standard First Aid certificate and a current CPR certificate (Basic Rescuer Level C).

The job will be posted at

www.hrps.on.ca. The selection process will involve an interview, psychological testing, background investigation and a medical examination.

Open houses will provide information to interested applicants on Monday, Feb. 23 at 7 p.m. at Halton police headquarters, 1151 Bronte Rd., Thursday, Feb. 26 at 6 p.m. at the No. 3 District station in Burlington, 3800 Southampton Blvd.; and at 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 28 at headquarters.

Due to limited space, people are asked to pre-register for the open houses by sending an e-mail request to policerecruiting@hrps.on.ca.

Applications will be accepted online as of Monday, Feb. 23. Applicants will be requested to attend on one of two dates — Thursday, March 5 at 6 p.m. at police headquarters or Saturday, March 7 at 10 a.m. at headquarters, with sessions running every 90 minutes — to hand in documentation and complete a background questionnaire.

Interviews will be conducted followed by psychological assessments, background checks and medical examinations. Job offers will be made the week of May 22.



OAKVILLE

Vision – To be the most livable town in Canada



Free activities for the whole family!

Make Your Move
Family Day

Monday, February 16, 2009

Monday, February 16, 2009

Glen Abbey, Iroquois Ridge and River Oaks Community Centres
Joshua's Creek, Kinoak, Oakville and Maple Grove Arenas

Come out and enjoy a day of play with family and friends. Fun activities for all ages and abilities. Badminton, Bellydance, BootCamp Boogie, Karate, Cosom Hockey, Yoga, Kidfit, Zumba Dance and more!

Special guests include:

- Jimbo's Magic and Puppet Show - Iroquois Ridge: 11 - 11:50 a.m.
- Skate with the Oakville Blades - Joshua's Creek Arena: 2 - 4 p.m.
- Sledge Hockey & Wheelchair Basketball - Glen Abbey: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- Family Mini Golf - River Oaks: 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.

All events are **FREE** except recreational swimming and skating (\$3.25/person).

Panago Pizza will be selling \$1 pizza slices from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at each community centre. Money raised from pizza sales will be donated to the Town of Oakville Recreation Fund and the Canadian Tire Jump Start Fund.

Visit www.oakville.ca/makeyourmove.htm for the complete schedule of events and times.

Please come prepared to participate with appropriate footwear and clothing.



WARD 5 RESIDENTS MEETING

February 19, 2009, 7-9 p.m.

River Oaks Community Centre, Room C

Ward 5 Councillors Jeff Knoll and Marc Grant are hosting a drop in open house to discuss the issues concerning your neighbourhood. They wish to hear directly from the residents of Ward 5. This is an opportunity for you to provide your input on the issues, challenges and opportunities facing your community.



Jeff Knoll
Regional and
Town Councillor
905-815-6000
jknoll@oakville.ca



Marc Grant
Town Councillor
905-815-6001
mgrant@oakville.ca

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Monday, February 23, 2009, 2 - 4 p.m.,

Trafalgar Room, Town Hall

Thursday, February 26, 2009, 7 - 9 p.m.,

Oakville Room, Town Hall

Sign By-law - Advertising (Billboard) Provisions

To address a recent court decision, two (2) public information meetings as noted above have been scheduled to receive input on potential amendments to the Town of Oakville Sign By-law relating to locations and criteria permitting advertising signs (billboards).

Potential amendments shall address the overall requirements of satisfying visibility issues as well as the number of signs permitted, and shall focus on:

- Restrictions regulating sign locations
- Signage on major north-south roads
- Criteria for multiple signs on larger properties

Anyone unable to attend these meetings may forward their input no later than March 2, 2009 by email to signbylaw@oakville.ca or by mail to the Town Clerk, P.O. Box 310, 1225 Trafalgar Road, Oakville, ON L6J 5A6.

All input received will be addressed in a final staff report to be presented to Council's Administrative Services Committee, for consideration at its meeting on:

March 31, 2009, at 7 p.m., Town Hall, 1225 Trafalgar Road

The Committee's recommendations will then be forwarded to Council for consideration on April 6, 2009.

Residents and stakeholders are invited to attend any of these meetings. Further information is available at www.oakville.ca, or by contacting Phil Bouillon, Assistant Clerk at 905-845-6601, ext. 3093.

