

Lack of funding prevents police from wearing new badge

By ANGELA BLACKBURN
Special to the Halton Hills Weekend

Amid pomp and ceremony, Governor General Ray Hnatyshyn presented Halton Regional Police with a new badge June 1, but there's no indication when it will be worn by force members.

No funding has been allocated for Halton's version of the new national municipal police badge, said Sergeant Carey Smith, the force public relations officer.

Hnatyshyn presented the newly designed badge during a ceremony marking the official opening of the \$10 million police headquarters building, part of the \$30 million enlargement of Halton Region's administration centre on Bronte Road in north Oakville.

The Governor General also handed out the first pair of new Halton police epaulettes, which bear the Canadian flag. All officers will wear them, and Milton constable Brian Kempster got the first ones. Constable Kempster, 22, is the

youngest and most junior member of the force, with six months service.

While there doesn't appear to be any money for new badges, "the epaulettes will be worn right away," Sgt. Smith said, thanks to private sector financing. The Burlington Chamber of Commerce raised \$3,500 to pay for 350 pairs.

The epaulettes drew words of praise from Halton regional chairman Peter Pomeroy.

"What better timing than during this (Canada's) 125th anniversary. This is one way the police service is raising the flag, the Canadian flag."

Police chief James Harding, who said that when the new badge is eventually worn it will be "with pride" due a symbol of respect for the Queen - the badge features a crown prominently.

"The crown is symbolic of our allegiance to Her Majesty the Queen. We feel this deeply."

Chief Harding was instrumental in obtaining the new badge.



Scott Dobbins of Georgetown was surrounded by a group of his little friends as he accepted the Halton Hills Recreation Department's Customer Service Award for this week. Working with the Junior Acton Summer Camp, Scott

has been with the Rec Department for two years, and will be enjoying a day at Canada's Wonderland, compliments of the Independent/Free Press.

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