

# Future of police station being looked at: Chief

By **CYNTHIA GAMBLE**  
Staff Writer

The first question Halton Hills Council posed to Halton Regional Police Chief Stephen Tanner at Monday night's council meeting was: Will the Halton Police station in Georgetown close down?

Tanner was a guest delegate speaking on the state of policing in Halton Hills.

Mayor Rick Bonnette questioned the police board's approval for a feasibility study on the amalgamation of the Milton and Georgetown stations. Tanner, who said he was expecting the question, called it a future decision.

"I would not say that's a direction we are going, but we have to explore all the options," he said, adding Halton Police was aware of the concern in the community.

He said the study would look at the cost of operating two buildings compared to one and to see if there is any significant level of savings.

"If there are significant economies of scale, then that would be a financial decision," he said. "If not, it will become a political decision."



**STEPHEN TANNER**

Bonnette said, "I can tell you our residents would feel upset because they would feel abandoned if the police station was taken out and put in Milton."

Councillor Bryan Lewis agreed, saying, "Taking the visible part of the police services away would be very upsetting."

But Tanner replied there would never be a situation where there's not a police presence in the community whether the facility is in one municipality or two.

Acton, for example, has a storefront sub-station on Queen St. with a callbox.

District 1 (Milton and Halton Hills) Police Superintendent Chris Perkins added, "we don't police from a building, and even the Georgetown

police station closes at a certain time at night and is frequently not staffed. (A callbox is at the front door for residents who require help after-hours). That has no bearing whatsoever on the number of officers available to respond because they're on patrol."

He added that more technology, such as mobile workstations, is being added to police cars, giving the constables less reason to return to the station.

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