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## Mounties move headquarters to Milton

By Stephanie Henderson  
Special to HHTW

When the RCMP used to operate out of Oakville, its plainclothes officers kept such a low profile that "when we went to the malls during police week, we wore the red serge, and people thought we had flown in from Ottawa," recalls Corporal Rick Jenkins, former head of the Oakville detachment.

At the time, there were about 11 full-time staff working out of a building on Lakeshore Road West, in the Bronte area. The RCMP established an office there in 1975.

In late July, 230 officers and civilians, including some from the former Oakville and Mississauga detachments, started their first regular workday at the new \$6 million regional headquarters in Milton.

An official opening ceremony has been scheduled for Oct. 7, "once we've moved in and things have settled down a bit," explained Superintendent Clyde Kitteringham, head of the new Milton detachment.

The Milton office is the second phase of the decentralization of the Toronto-based federal police force's operations.

Another regional office opened recently in Bowmanville, and a third will open in Newmarket in about two years, Kitteringham said.

The Milton operation will house six major sections: customs and excise; federal enforcement; commercial crime; narcotics; immigration and passport; and national security/intelligence.

Jenkins will head the 25-member federal enforcement section. It will enforce all 156 federal statutes, including those dealing with such diverse subjects as aeronautics, copyright, radio and telecommunications, diseased animals and the Canada Shipping Act.

RCMP drug and immigration officers will continue to work out of Lester B. Pearson International Airport, and a "community consultant" office will be operated in Toronto.

Kitteringham said the

Mounties chose the Halton site for their base of operations to reduce the commuting time for staff and because of the more affordable price of housing in the area.

The force had outgrown its offices and could not reach a satisfactory agreement with

Toronto city council for an expansion at its Jarvis Street buildings.

The new building is owned by Dufferin Development Group Inc., and will be leased to Public Works Canada, which will lease it to the RCMP.

## Temporary ward closure

By Oksana Buhel

Ward B at Georgetown & District Memorial Hospital has been closed for almost two weeks, but Marlene Quackenbush, assistant executive director - patient and resident care - insisted patients will not be affected at all.

"It will have absolutely no effect on patient care and service," Quackenbush maintained. She added the closure will be evaluated daily and the ward will be reopened when the need arises.

Quackenbush explained the number of patients currently in Ward B, the surgical ward, is not sufficient to warrant staffing this station as well as Ward A, the medical station, where the patients have been

moved to. "Operating and emergency procedures will not be effected at all," Quackenbush insisted. She attributed the scarcity of patients to vacationing doctors, whose patients are staying home until their doctors return.

Staff from Ward B have been redistributed around the hospital, but Quackenbush admitted "some part-time hours will be saved." She insisted there will be no layoffs, but added there may be savings in housekeeping.

The closure of Ward B is not motivated solely by financial reasons, Quackenbush insisted, but moreso by effective utilization of the unit. She admitted, however, she had to be cost conscious.

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