



Retiring Halton Police Chief Peter Campbell, left, congratulates chief designate Ean Algar at a press conference last Wednesday. Algar will take command Jan. 1 1999.

Photo by Ron Kuzyk

## Will head Halton police service for next five years

# 'Chief' Algar's 30-year journey ends

**E**an Algar's varied background in his personal and professional life would seem to be one of the prime qualities that made him the choice as Halton's next chief of police.

The 54-year-old was officially unveiled as the head of the Halton Regional Police Service for the next five years at a brief press conference held last Wednesday morning at police headquarters in Oakville.

The chief designate assumes the mantle from retiring Chief Peter Campbell on Jan. 1, 1999.

Algar will be responsible for a complement of 410 sworn officers and 155 civilians. He succeeds Campbell, his predecessor James Harding, and Ken Skerrett, the first chief of police of the newly-formed Halton Region in 1974.

Algar— his unique name Ean comes from his

Welsh/Italian heritage— is a 30-year career officer who grew up in Oakville and started by working for the town's then separate police force.

"I started on this journey more than 30 years ago. Little did I imagine it would take me to the position of Halton police chief," he said with a big smile.

Campbell publicly supported the promotion of his second-in-command.

"You're the right person to win this competition but more importantly the right person to lead the region into the next century," he told Algar.

In a later interview he said of Algar, "He has energy, an incredible work ethic, high ethics and a desire to do what's right."

Though he himself was the second straight chief to be hired from outside Halton, coming from the OPP, Campbell agreed

with the services board decision to hire from within.

"I think it's important to hire from inside in order to develop confidence in the organization. Officers are proud when one of theirs is named chief. I don't think it's good to keep going outside."

A Burlington resident for the past 20 years, Algar moved up the ranks and was promoted to deputy chief in November 1994, joining Wayne Jessop in the same capacity. Jessop retired two years later and the second deputy's position was not filled due to internal restructuring.

As deputy, Algar has been responsible for overseeing operations, for Districts 1, 2 and 3, as well as regional criminal investigations. He is also director of Zone 4 of the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police.

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