

# Halton police swear in new deputy chief

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The Halton Regional Police Service has a new deputy chief.

Deputy Chief Roger Wilkie was sworn into the new role June 28 during a ceremony at the Harbour Banquet and Convention Centre in Oakville.

"It's truly humbling and an honour to serve in that capacity," said Wilkie.

"When you start policing I don't think you ever believe it is going to come to this. Through a lot of support and encouragement from coworkers and friends, and my family, things just kind of lined up this way. I'm very fortunate the (Halton Regional Police Service) board sees something in me and has the confidence in me to carry out this very important role."

Wilkie's promotion follows the departure of former deputy chief Carol Crowe, who retired from the police service at the end of April 2018.

Wilkie, who graduated from Burlington's Nelson High School, has called the Halton community home for 30 years.

He began his career with the Halton police in 1996 and has served in uniform operations in all four of Halton's municipalities.

He has also worked in the drug unit, mobile surveillance unit, homicide unit, criminal investigations bureau, domestic violence unit and as an executive officer to the deputy chief.

Additionally Wilkie has

served as the operations commander for Milton and Halton Hills, district commander for Oakville, critical incident commander for major public safety incidents and recently as the commander of emergency services, training and human resource services.

"Roger's career has been a remarkable one," said Deputy Chief Nishan Duraiappah.

"With his promotion Deputy Chief Wilkie will now be responsible for the following areas of our organization. The regional investigative services, the intelligence bureau, the drug and morality unit, human trafficking, polygraph, technological crime, domestic violence, the child abuse and sexual assault, homicide, forensic identification, frauds, corporate service, facilities, finance, fleet, purchasing, support services, communications, courts and records, human resources, training, emergency services and victim services."

Duraiappah said Wilkie believes community safety and well-being is a shared responsibility and says the new deputy chief is committed to mobilizing and engaging the community and key stakeholders to ensure that Halton Region is as safe tomorrow as it is today.

He said Wilkie also believes in the importance of collaborative and co-ordinated service delivery and said he was instrumental in the development of the Halton Region's Situation Table strategy and community safety and well-being plan.



Graham Paine/Metroland

Halton Regional Police Deputy Chief Roger Wilkie holds up his new badge, as he's joined by fellow Deputy Chief Nishan Duraiappah, left, and Chief of Police Stephen Tanner.

Wilkie is also a graduate of the police executive leadership program from the University of Toronto's Rotman School of Management.

"Roger's qualifications are just an outcome of the individual he is," said Duraiappah.

"Most of all, and I think all of us here will not deny that from the very first day Roger has always been an outstanding police officer. That is the core of who he is."

Duraiappah noted Wilkie's nickname around the office is the T-1000, a reference to the unstoppable liquid metal character in Terminator 2.

He said Wilkie earned that nickname through his work ethic, discipline and commitment to his job.

Duraiappah said this commitment to Halton police is exceeded only by Wilkie's commitment to his wife and two children.

Halton Police Chief Stephen Tanner also spoke during the ceremony, congratulating Wilkie for earning this promotion, as he has earned every other promotion and achievement throughout his career with Halton police.

"This one, as the others did, will come with not only daily challenges, but also with daily opportunities," said Tanner.

"I want to tell you, and I will remind you from time to time, deal with the challenges and spend much more of your time and energy on the opportunities."

Tanner noted that as a team he looks forward to

working with Wilkie to make the environment the safest it can be for the members of the police service and to make Halton Region even safer for its citizens.

Halton Regional Police Service Board chair and Oakville Mayor Rob Burton thanked Crowe for her service and noted that with the dedication of Halton police, Halton will continue to be among the safest communities in Canada.

After taking his oath of office those present heard from Wilkie who said his love of policing began as a young child.

He said a family friend was a highway patrol officer and would let Wilkie and other children play in his cruiser.

"It is interesting I was hooked at such an early age.

It was about lights and sirens and catching bad guys," said Wilkie.

"As I grew up that dream of being a police officer never really changed, but the idea of why did. Being involved in my community and giving back, that was critical to me in whatever my career choice was going to be. I was fortunate the Halton Regional Police Service gave me a chance back in 1996."

Wilkie said the police service is truly a brotherhood and a sisterhood and vowed to leave the Halton Regional Police Service a better place than when he started.

"There is a lot of important work to do ahead," he said.

"I look forward to the challenges."

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