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HALTON POLICE BOARD PASSES \$155.4 MILLION POLICE BUDGET

BUDGET INCLUDES \$20.5 MILLION FOR CONSOLIDATED MILTON/HALTON HILLS STATION

DAVID LEA dlea@metroland.com

The Halton Regional Police Services Board voted Thursday, Oct. 25, to approve a 2019 budget of \$155.4 million for the police service.

The budget, which must still be approved by Regional Council, is \$5.3 million larger than the 2018 police operating budget and within the Halton Region's guideline of an increase restricted to 3.5 per cent.

Halton Police Chief Stephen Tanner noted the priorities of this budget are to:

·Maximize deployment of new officers to front-line duties

front-line •Upgrade/replace technology tools

·Research/implement efficient digital storage

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·Deploy the separate LTE wireless network for first responders

·Finish normalizing operations at the new police headquar-

·Plan for the consolidation of Milton/Halton Hills facilities in a new station

To achieve these goals the budget calls for the hiring of 14 new police officers including 12 frontline patrol officers and two supervisors for the Forensic Identification Unit.

"We are feeling some pressures because of growth at the front line," said Tanner.

Some of the other budget drivers include \$1.2 million for the LTE Project, which will include

See FUNDS, page 10



Graham Paine / Metroland

Korean war veteran and founder of Veterans Helping Veterans Fred Smith, an advocate for PTSD survivors, observes a moment of silence with his service dog Eyelet at his side during the Remembrance Day Service at the Victoria Park cenotaph on Saturday afternoon, following a parade along Main Street. See more photos on page 13.

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"Rupert" Hawkins

It is nearly Christmas! The slogan "a Pet is for Life not just for Christmas" was created 35 years ago! It is as relevant now as it was in the late 1970's. As a result, post-Christmas pet abandonment slightly declined. This strong message is with us 365 days a year. Fittingly, I would like to send out a huge "Thank you" to all the wonderful humans, who rescue unwanted, neglected or abused cats and dogs, giving them care and love, security and a second chance in life. I was rescued, so I know! Thank You. Signed 'Rupert'

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