



# Champion COMMUNITY Page

## RCMP super says he still thrives on the work

By IRENE GENTLE  
Special to the Champion

After 32 years in the force, the new superintendent of the Milton RCMP detachment is exactly where he wants to be.

Colin Adams took over duties as superintendent of Milton in March of this year. The Milton office is in charge of policing Toronto, Etobicoke, Halton and Peel Regions.

He began his career fresh out of high school in his hometown of Edmonton. He had no family background in policing. He had three brothers and a sister in Edmonton. None of them opted to follow in his footsteps.

A life devoted to fending off the bad guys is bound to sound good to any kid not yet out of his teens. Still, Superintendent Adams recalls a more noble motivation for joining the police.

"The most appealing aspect to me was service to my country," he said.

With the decision to be a cop made, he had to choose between joining Edmonton's police force or the RCMP. He looked at the opportunities presented by both and figured it was no choice at all. The RCMP won hands down.

"It seemed like an exciting and interesting thing to do," said Superintendent Adams. "I was young and I didn't see myself in the short term staying in one spot."

His first destination was Regina, for training. He spent a short time being a part of the RCMP Musical Ride, then found himself posted to Surrey, BC.

"I did both uniform patrol work and what you would call detective work there," he said. "I investigated a wide variety of crimes, from armed robbery to homicides."

As it turned out, the young man who had joined the RCMP to see more of Canada pretty much stayed in Surrey. He married in 1972. The union soon bore twin daughters. They are now 22, attending college and in the naval reserve.

Superintendent Adams himself returned to school after a while, taking university classes at night.

It was a fairly stable life, interrupted only in 1987, when he arrived in Toronto to be in charge of the executive diplomatic protection unit. He moved on to become superintendent of the Newmarket detachment in 1992.

Today, as superintendent of the Milton RCMP branch, Colin Adams spearheads investigations into federal issues such as drug enforcement, commercial crimes, immigration and customs unit investigations.

That means whether it's smuggling contraband products or ille-



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Colin Adams finds the symbols and day-to-day realities of RCMP leadership a comfortable fit after more than three decades in the federal police force.

gal immigrants, he's on the case.

In Ontario, unlike most other provinces, the RCMP works strictly on federal cases. It is vital for Ontario RCMP to have good relationships with the surrounding police forces.

"I'd say that now more than ever we work in partnership with other police departments," said Superintendent Adams. "There was a time when everyone worked within their own sanctities. Now we can't survive or be successful unless we have those partnerships."

He also says that the days of blowout police budgets, if they ever existed at all, are over.

"We're working very hard to ensure we've aligned our enforcement to be the most effective and economical."

He repeats those thoughts often when he talks, conscious of his role as administrator and maybe even public relations man for the sometimes beleaguered image of policing in the 1990's. Asked why he has loved his job for 32 years, what one hears is of someone who loves to bust the bad guys.

"I've been in the RCMP for 32 years and I've always been in the enforcement end of what we do," he said.

"It's doing the job I joined up to do. From day one that's where I've been and that's where I would like to stay."

## Council helps rebuild play area

By BRAD REAUME  
The Champion

Squeals of laughter will again echo around the grounds of Brookville Public School.

Members of town council's community services committee will contribute \$18,000 to build a creative playground at Brookville Public School, it was decided recently. The school council has committed to repaying \$8,000 over the next four

years.

Play equipment has been previously located on the site but was removed in the spring because of safety concerns.

According to several speakers the equipment was used by many people either during school hours or in support of nearby baseball diamonds.

Doug Thompson, co-ordinator of parks and facilities development, told committee members that replacement of the play

equipment was not budgeted in the 1998 Town capital plan. He said without special consideration no equipment could be installed for at least a year.

Barry Duke, a member of the school council, said the \$8,000 provided by the council was a major commitment but worth it because of the nature of the park. He explained that the council was also furnishing basketballs, tether ball and a winter skating rink for the park.

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