

Police chief awarded Gold Medal for effort in race relations work

By WILMA BLOKUIS
Special to The Champion

Halton Regional Police Chief Ean Algar has dedicated his career to fighting crime, but last week he received a prestigious honour for fighting racism.

Chief Algar was presented the Gold Medal award from the Human Rights and Race Relations Centre in Toronto for his efforts in fighting discrimination and bridging the gap between the police and ethnic communities.

He's the fourth member of the Halton Regional Police Service to receive the award in the past five years.

Previous winners included his predecessor, Peter Campbell (1997), Inspector (now a superintendent) Keith Gregory (1998), and Constable Diane Hendry and her husband, Sergeant Ray Hendry (1999).

The Hendrys were recognized for their work with Hands Across the World, an annual multicultural celebration first held to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Halton Regional Police Service. Constable Hendry was recently named the service's new diversity officer.

As police chief, Mr. Algar initiated PEACE — Police Ethnic And Cultural Education — aimed at attracting people from various cultural backgrounds and religions into policing.



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"I personally attend a number of functions on weekends at temples and mosques. Right now I have six invitations to attend various religious functions in the ethnic community.

"And, as a service, we continue to become active in diversity issues. We're working with both boards of education, and send officers to speak in schools. We have committees in place to deal with racial issues in schools."

He's also trying to improve the diversity mix in his own service by actively encouraging police officer applications from

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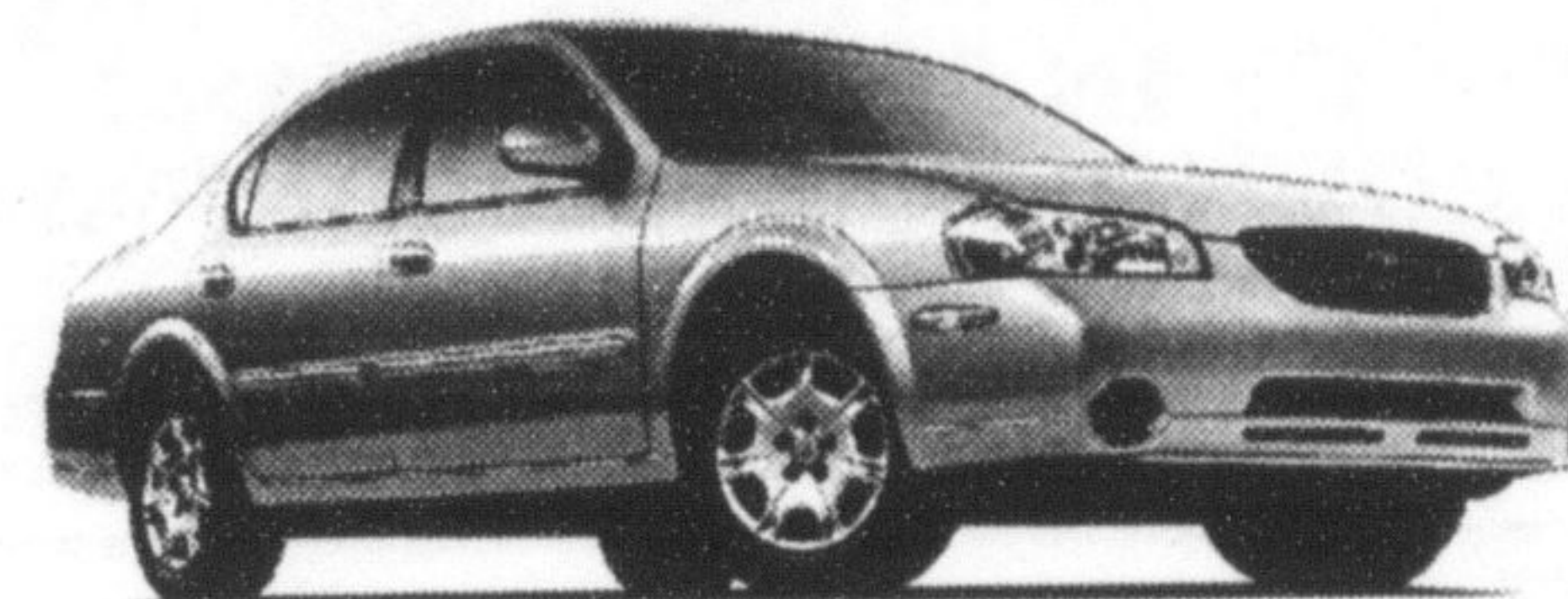
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