

# Local shuttle launch witnesses left in awe

By FANNIE SUNSHINE  
The Champion

Eleanor and Roger Hadfield wished their son good luck before he boarded the shuttle Endeavour last week.

"Chris was very calm and cool looking but we knew he was excited," Ms Hadfield said.

The shuttle took off from the Kennedy Space Centre in Cape Canaveral, Florida April 19 and landed minutes later at the International Space Station.

Col. Hadfield performed two seven-hour space walks Sunday and Tuesday, making him the first Canadian in history to walk in space.

The Hadfields, who returned home from Florida Saturday, sat with other family members in the family viewing section of the centre to watch the launch.

"I wasn't nervous," Ms Hadfield said. "It was go, go go. The launch is so hard to describe — it was so exciting to watch."

Mr. Hadfield said a lot of people were waving Canadian flags.

"It's a big step for Canada," he said, referring to the installation of the Canadian-made robotic arm, Canadarm2.

Frank Phillips, a detective with Halton Regional Police and a Milton Air Cadet officer, went down for the launch with three other cadet leaders.

"When the countdown started, that's

when I really felt the excitement," he said.

He followed the shuttle after the launch until it disappeared into orbit.

"Everyone was clapping and cheering and yelling 'go Chris go,'" he said. "At that moment I felt pretty proud to be Canadian."

A group of Milton District High School students also attended the launch.

"I've always wanted to see a launch up close," said grade 12 student Jeff Vandevalk. "I thought it was neat to see the shuttle take off and 10 seconds later hear the thundering sound it made."

Col. Hadfield will most likely work as the director of operations for NASA at Russia's space centre in the fall.

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1998	Pontiac	Sunfire GT	560502	\$10,995	1994	Toyota	Camry LE	420213	\$9,995
1998	Olds	Intrigue GL	325429	\$14,995	1994	Pontiac	Grand Prix SE 4 Dr	218689	\$7,995
1998	Chevrolet	Astro Pass Van	117778	\$13,995	1994	Chevrolet	Cavalier 2 Dr	126835	\$5,995
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1997	Pontiac	Grand prix GTP	207253	\$15,995	1993	Ford	Probe GT	216053	\$6,995
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