



# Champion COMMUNITY Page

## Teen officer begins her career in Milton

*Campbell is Halton's youngest recruit in many years*

By **STEPHANIE THIESSEN**  
*The Champion*

When most little girls were playing with dolls and making plans to become teachers and doctors, Alison Campbell was picturing tracking down criminals.

"Ever since I was young, I wanted to be a police officer," said the 19-year-old.

Today, a dozen years later, not much has changed — except the fact that now she actually is a police officer.

Earlier this month, Ms Campbell went through the emotion-charged swearing-in ceremony of the Halton Regional Police Service, where she was given her badge and deemed an officer.

The Oakville resident will begin her duties in Milton come January, bearing the title of the youngest officer the Halton police force has hired in at least 15 years — and one of the youngest officers in Ontario.

Ms Campbell said she feels out of the loop when she's with other people her age. While she's a teenaged cop, they're often still figuring out what they want to do with their lives.

She said she couldn't care less. "I know I'm young, but I don't feel my age," said Ms Campbell, who will turn 20 on New Year's Eve. "I've completed the training, and I feel confident that I'm ready. I don't look at the age factor."

Ms Campbell isn't so naive to believe her age will be overlooked by everyone. She said she knows she's going to have to prove herself and she's ready.

"Many life experiences have prepared me for this," she said, explaining that she's already testified in court, made arrests as a security guard and experienced second-hand the life of a police officer through her father.

It was his influence, she said, that caused her to make her career decision so early in life.

"I saw how the community supported him," she said. "My father was always well-respected in the community. Everybody wanted to talk to him."

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**ALISON CAMPBELL**

She said she saw how he helped people and decided to do the same.

To meet police service requirements, Ms Campbell volunteered at her local police station in Sault Ste. Marie where she grew up and worked as a resource protection investigator — a security guard — at a major department store. When it came time for college, she studied police foundations and received her diploma this year.

Deciding to apply to Halton Regional Police was easy because of the good reputation it had earned with her father and his police associates, Ms Campbell said.

"They had nothing but nice things to say about Halton Regional Police."

Obviously, Ms Campbell said, her father is very proud of her and found the swearing-in ceremony quite emotional.

"It was different for him to see me in full uniform."

As for advice, Ms Campbell said her father often borrows a line from Disney's *The Lion King* — 'Hakuna Matata', which means no worries. "He tells me to just take things as they come. And I know he'll be there if I need him."

Ms Campbell said her mother has also been very supportive of her, although she does sometimes worry about the potential danger involved with the job.

Halton Regional Police superintendent Mike Kingston said the fact that Ms Campbell was hired so young speaks volumes about her maturity. "It's a tribute to the qualities she brings to the process, that she was able to get in — we have very high standards. It's a great indicator that she has a good career ahead of her," Superintendent Kingston said, adding, "She did a lot to be able to satisfy our recruiting standards."

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**Alison Campbell, who was recently sworn in to the Halton Regional Police ranks, believes she's ready for the challenges of being an officer.**

Photo by **BARRIE ERSKINE**

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**COGECO 14**

**Programming Schedule — Tuesday, Dec. 23rd - Sunday, December 28th, 2003**

Tuesday, December 23		Wednesday, December 24		Thursday, December 25		Friday, December 26		Saturday, December 27		Sunday, December 28	
5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm	Plugged In! Christmas Edition 2	5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm	Plugged In! Christmas Edition 2	5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm	Plugged In! Christmas Edition 2	5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm	Plugged In! - Year in Review 1	5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm	Plugged In! - Year in Review 1	5, 6 & 7:30pm	Plugged In! - Year in Review 1
5:30pm	Santa & the Kids	5:30pm	"A Little Christmas"	5:30pm	"A Little Christmas"			5:30pm	Be Inspired - Christmas	5:30pm	Be Inspired - Christmas
6:30pm	Santa & the Kids	6:30pm	Be Inspired - Christmas	6:30pm	Santa & the Kids			6:30pm	Seniors Showcase	6:30pm	Seniors Showcase
7:00pm	Georgetown Santa Claus Parade	7:00pm	Action Santa Claus Parade	7:00pm	Santa & the Kids			7:00pm	"A Little Christmas"	7:00pm	"A Little Christmas"
8:00pm	Milton Santa Claus Parade	8:00pm	Rockwood Parade of Lights	8:00pm	"The Christmas of Sara Belts"						
		8:30pm	"A Little Christmas"	8:30pm	"Christmas on Delancy Street"						
				9:00pm	"A Gift of Hope"						
				10:00pm	"A Gift for Catherine"						

**Enjoy Our Christmas Programming This Week!**