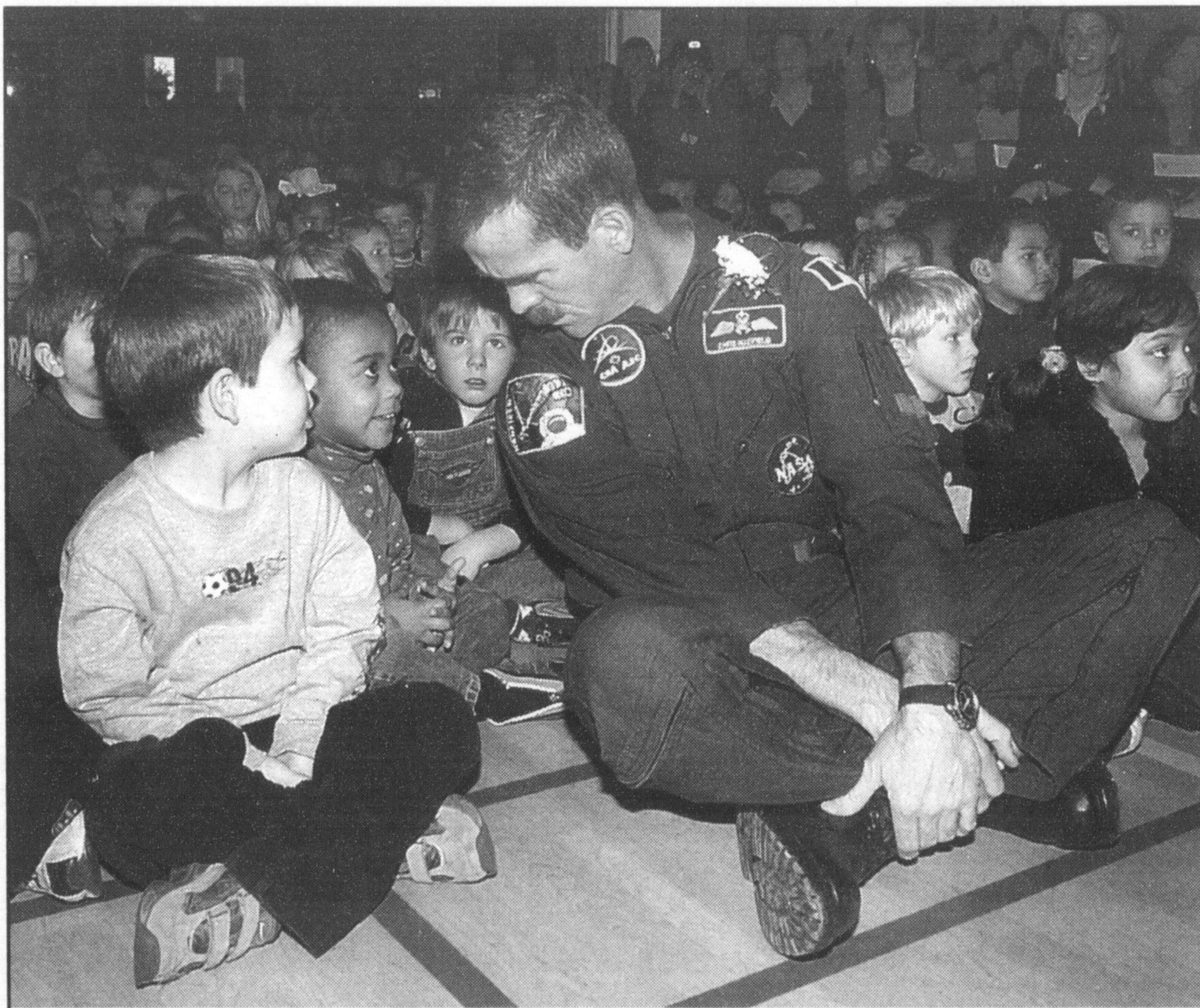




# Community Page



Left, four-year-old Justin Mayhew, a junior kindergarten (JK) student at Chris Hadfield Public School, checks out astronaut Chris Hadfield's wings while holding his very own space mission patch. Above, Col. Hadfield chats with a group of JK students during a video on his flight into space.

Photos by GRAHAM PAINE

## Hadfield tells young students to 'dream big'

*Astronaut on hand for opening of elementary school named after him*

By **STEPHANIE THIESSEN**  
*The Champion*

To four-year-old Justin Mayhew, the words Col. Chris Hadfield spoke as he bent to look him in the eyes seemed a bit puzzling. And why was everyone watching them?

But he wasn't about to complain, and he listened attentively to the mustached man while fingering his new space mission patch.

"Do you ever hear anyone who says the sky's the limit?" Col. Hadfield asked Justin. "Don't believe them."

To the adults within earshot, the comment

made perfect sense coming from a man who had travelled to space twice. And if anyone has earned the right to impart wisdom about the power of dreams, it's Milton's home-town hero Col. Hadfield, who's now chief of robotics at NASA's Astronaut Office in Houston, Tex.

Col. Hadfield — who grew up in Milton and attended Milton District High School — was in town Friday morning to celebrate the official opening of Chris Hadfield Public School on Woodward Avenue, which has been open since the beginning of this school year. When it was his turn to take the stage, Col. Hadfield opted for the floor and talked to the students, who ranged from junior kindergarten to grade 7, about the importance of believing in themselves and dreaming big.

"I remember my first day at school," he said. "My mom and I went to register, and I was so nervous. I never thought I'd come back to a school named Chris Hadfield School."

He spoke about how it was while he was in grade 4 that he decided he was going to become

an astronaut and fly to space.

"Amazing things have happened since I was in kindergarten. And amazing things are going to happen during your time at Chris Hadfield," he said.

Even the youngest of students listened intently as Col. Hadfield, who was the first Canadian to leave a spacecraft and float free in space, charged them with the task of never limiting themselves.

"Who's going to live on the moon? It's not going to be me, I'm too old. It's going to be one of you. But you have to go to school to learn a lot of things."

He admitted that visiting a school named after him still seemed "weird," but said it was a "huge honour."

"It's a big responsibility. I have to make sure I live my life like the type of person who has a school named after him," he said, only half joking.

Principal Rick Nodwell told students to take time to enjoy each moment of the presentation.

"Many years from now, you'll have the opportunity to look back and say, 'I got to meet Col. Hadfield. I was there when the school opened,'" Mr. Nodwell said.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, Col. Hadfield presented the school with a collage of photos that included a picture of Milton taken from space.

His mother, Eleanor Hadfield, said she always enjoys watching her son interact with kids.

"Chris is at his best with youngsters. It's such a pleasure to see. He never talks down to them, he's right with them," she said.

Grade 6 student Christine Forsythe said she'll always remember hearing Col. Hadfield speak.

"I thought it was cool when Chris walked out with the bagpipes playing," she added.

Madison Slade, also in grade 6, said she likes attending the new school.

"It's fun being part of a brand new school," she said.

Stephanie Thiessen can be reached at [sthiessen@miltoncanadianchampion.com](mailto:sthiessen@miltoncanadianchampion.com).

**TV COGECO**

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[www.cogeco.ca](http://www.cogeco.ca)

NORTH HALTON STUDIO  
Laurier Plaza  
500 Laurier Avenue  
Milton, ON L9T 4R3  
905-878-9306

**CHANNEL 14**

Programming Schedule — Tuesday, January 20th - Monday January 26th, 2004

Tuesday, January 20		Wednesday, January 21		Thursday, January 22		Friday, January 23		Saturday, January 24		Sunday, January 25		Monday, January 26	
5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm	Plugged In! Early Week Edition	5pm, 6pm	Plugged In! Early Week Edition	5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm	Plugged In! Early Week Edition	5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm	Plugged In! Late Week Edition	5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm	Plugged In! Late Week Edition	5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm	Plugged In! Late Week Edition	5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm	Plugged In! Late Week Edition
5:30pm	Seniors Showcase	5:30pm	PeopleSpeak in Halton	5:30pm	Osler Health Connection			5:30pm	Be Inspired	5:30pm	Be Inspired	5:30pm	With Good Taste
6:30pm	Optimist TV Bingo (Live)	6:30pm	Be Inspired	6:30pm	Money Week			6:30pm	Seniors Showcase	6:30pm	Seniors Showcase	6:30pm	Osler Health Connection
8:00pm	Halton Hills Council - Jan 19	7:00pm	Swap Talk (Live)	7:00pm	The Issue Is...			7:00pm	PeopleSpeak in Halton	7:00pm	PeopleSpeak in Halton	7:00pm	Be Inspired
		8:00pm	Halton Region Council - Jan 21	8:00pm	Main Street			8:00pm	Money Week	8:00pm	Money Week	8:00pm	SportsZONE Live (Live)

**New Day for Halton Region Council - Wednesday, 8pm**