



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF MILTON

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE ROAD RECONSTRUCTION

Twiss Road (Derry Road to Steeles Ave.)

The Environmental Assessment for this project has been completed and the detailed design is nearing completion. It is anticipated that construction will begin in August. The reconstruction will address horizontal and vertical alignment, drainage and safety issues. Hard topping of all gravel sections is tentatively scheduled for the fall of 2004 weather permitting or the early summer of 2005.

A Public Information Centre is being held to provide the public with an opportunity to review project drawings and to discuss any potential construction disruptions from the proposed works. Staff from the Town of Milton and Philips Engineering will be in attendance to answer questions.

DATE: July 6, 2004
LOCATION: Campbellville Lions Hall
TIME: 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Interested persons are invited to drop in during the above-noted hours to review and comment on the proposed design.

This project is being designed in accordance with the Class Environmental Assessment, Schedule B, for Municipal Road Projects.

If you are unable to attend this Public Information Centre and wish to obtain additional information or provide written comments, please address them to:

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Proactive partnerships key as Halton grows into diversity: Algar

By HOWARD MOZEL
Special to The Champion

Last Tuesday's speech by Halton Regional Police Chief Ean Algar to members of the Interfaith Development Education Association (IDEA) was living proof that the principles of both parties are operating squarely on the same page.

Chief Algar's talk, 'Policing in a Multi-Dimensional Society', touched on the need for proactive partnerships and co-operation from a host of individuals and groups if Halton is to remain the safe, tolerant community it's always been.

According to IDEA spokesperson Glynis Maxwell, the region is "trying to grow into its diversity" so working hand-in-glove with police to recognize and ameliorate any misunderstandings or potential problems is clearly judicious.

IDEA is a group of people of different faiths, which promotes interfaith dialogue and strives to educate the community about peace and social justice.

This kind of thinking is welcomed by Chief Algar, who said prior to last Tuesday's talk at Oakville's Shaarei-Beth El Congregation that despite world events that cause problems to trickle down to the local level, "Halton is a community that pulls together."

Key to this, he continued, is not waiting for any simmering uncertainties to boil over by building bridges to various constituencies beyond any us-and-them stereotype. Doing so isn't always easy — and Tuesday's turnout was small — but the power of the ripple effect can never be discounted.

"These are people who aren't strangers when I leave," said Chief Algar, who began his speech alluding to the huge changes Halton has undergone in the last several decades. "Compared to what seems like just yesterday, today we live in a world of complexities beyond what I could have imagined when growing up here in Halton."

As a result, the job of law enforcement, and especially the role of police chief, has changed immeasurably, and out of necessity they must deal with everything from politics, world events and technology to immigration, economics and diversity.

One clear factor feeding into the latter issue is population growth, which sees a corresponding increase in police calls for service, made all the more complex by ever-changing legislation, fiscal restraints, workload increases and much more. Adding a variety of nuances to this is Halton's immigrant populace which, according to 2001 census data, stands at



Ean Algar

83,250 people. Halton is also home to 80,000 first generation Canadians while the region's visible minority population grows by approximately 2,000 people a year — many from countries other than traditional sources of immigrants.

As one can easily imagine, Chief Algar continued, all this has made Halton home to people of myriad faiths and today it boasts many churches, three mosques, two gurdwaras, a Hindu temple and a synagogue.

"Effectively policing a multi-dimensional society is no easy task," said Chief Algar. "It is complex and requires constant attention, effort and review."

Unfortunately barriers and challenges arise, said Chief Algar, one of which is the fear of immigrants from countries who have suffered abuse and worse at the hands of police.

"Movement towards a solution is slow and sometimes even generational," he said. "Police need to be seen in sincere, positive interactions with this segment of society."

Steps that have been taken include officers attending special events, the active recruitment of personnel with new language skills, forging partnerships with area multicultural agencies and putting a premium on effective communication of every kind.

"Meeting the needs of our diverse community has been a priority for me as chief and I am proud of the many initiatives that have been implemented," said Chief Algar, who mentioned the appointment in 2001 of the service's first diversity officer and subsequent expansion of district diversity teams.

That said, Chief Algar explained that it's not all a one-way street and that the help of community leaders is vital. "It's all about partnerships and getting the best from your community."

According to Ms Maxwell, IDEA's roots extend back 30 years to the Burlington chapter of social justice initiative '10 Days for World Development'.

The "forward-thinking" group operated for 10 years but in 1984, its members — who wanted to include more than Christians and spend more time tackling a number of issues — created IDEA.

"What we do is extremely important," said Ms Maxwell.

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