

Halton police set to hire a second deputy chief

By ANGELA BLACKBURN
Special to The Champion

After a nine-year absence, Halton Regional Police should once again have a second deputy police chief in command by the end of November.

Last week, the Halton Regional Police Services Board announced that at a special board meeting, it gave the thumbs up to the hiring of a second deputy chief to oversee administration of the police service.

The new deputy chief of administration will join Chief Ean Algar and Deputy Chief of Operations Gary Crowell on the police management team.

Those hired in all three of the positions are hired by the police services board — a seven-member civilian board that governs the police and, under the Police Act, is responsible for providing adequate and effective police services to Halton citizens.

It's good news for Chief Algar, who once held both deputy chiefs' positions.

According to Chief Algar, the Halton Regional Police Service had two deputy chiefs — one for administration and one for operations — right up until 1995.

"There was opportunity to look for cost savings back then and the organization responded well," said



Chief Ean Algar

the chief.

While there may have been cost savings attached to the decision to move to a chief/deputy chief structure in 1995, it's believed having the position filled again is likely to do more for the service, and policing in the region.

"That was the right structure for that time, this is the right structure for now," said Chief Algar. "It's definitely good news."

Substantial growth in the region and a corresponding significant growth in the police service mean the workload of both the chief and current deputy chief are "extended," he said.

"The second deputy will strengthen the management team and ensure the service's goals and

objectives for the community are carried out. It also allows the service to continue with fulfilling our mission to provide effective and efficient community-based policing services," said Chief Algar.

The new position will also provide for staff development and succession planning, he said.

The new deputy chief will be hired following an internal recruitment.

The successful candidate should be on board by the end of November, according to Chief Algar.

Halton Regional Police Services Board Chair Don Robinson noted the hiring of a second deputy chief will provide the police service with flexibility needed to address the changing needs of Halton.

Chief Algar had recommended the hiring in his recently completed Best Practices Study.

The chief said the structure is similar to that of other police services.

"The service has grown considerably since then and that growth in services, growth in the community and work requirements mean this is good news for the service," he said.

Details of the hiring process — and the pay — for the new deputy chief have yet to be finalized, said Chief Algar.

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