

Incoming fire chief is no stranger to Milton area

By **STEPHANIE THIESSEN**
The Champion

Milton will ring in 2005 with a new fire chief, and for the task the Town has chosen someone who's no stranger to the community.

The Town of Milton announced Monday that effective January 3, Larry Brassard will replace Harold Penson as fire chief of the Milton Fire Department. Chief Penson will retire effective December 31 after almost 30 years with Milton Fire Department and 11 years as chief.

Mr. Brassard has a wide range of experience with both fire and police services in Halton.

Since 2001 he's been deputy

chief/chief of operations at Halton Hills Fire Department. Before that, he served 20 years with Halton Regional Police Service after working as a volunteer firefighter and then a fire prevention officer.

"Larry's considerable experience in fire and police service is complemented by his skills in leadership, human resource management and communication," said Ward 1 Councillor Brian Penman, chair of the interview committee. "These skills will be an asset to our growing community."

Mr. Brassard brings with him experience as both a full and part-time (or volunteer) firefighter — a plus, since Milton Fire Department is a composite fire service with both types of firefight-

ers operating out of three stations.

"That's something that takes a great deal of skill," Mr. Penman said of running a composite station. "You have two groups converging with a single purpose."

He added the fact Mr. Brassard's a "Halton boy" can't be minimized, since it means he already knows Halton's value system.

"You can bring someone from outside, and the fit might not be right," Mr. Penman said.

Mr. Brassard is no stranger to Milton, either. For numerous years while with Halton police he worked in town, including as a uniform patrol officer and in the criminal investigations unit.

"I'm quite familiar with the Milton community," he said.

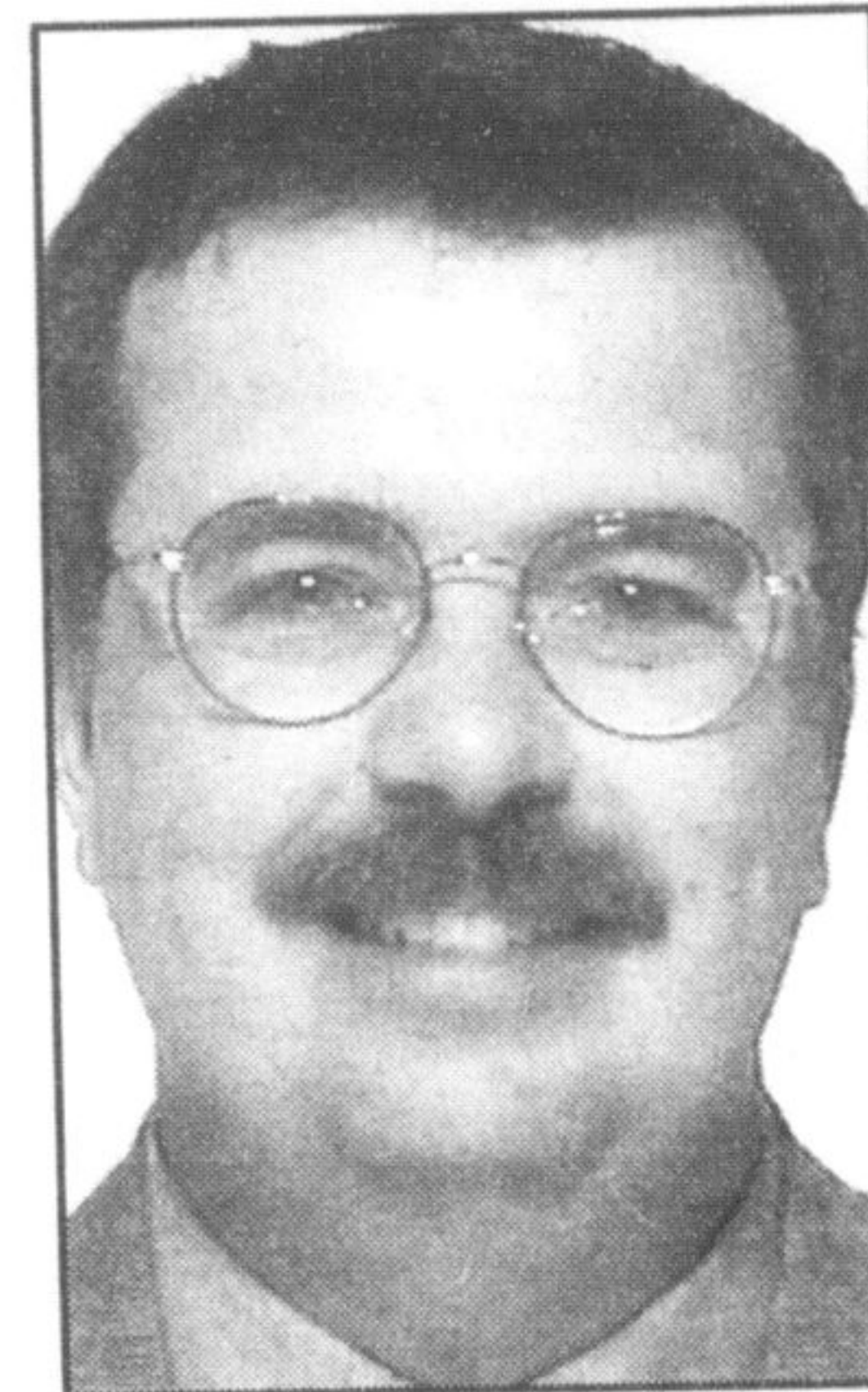
Mr. Brassard, who lives in Georgetown, said he's excited about this new chapter in his life.

"The Milton Fire Department has a solid reputation, and that's what attracted me," he said. "Milton is a great place and I look forward to coming down there."

Mario Belvedere, the Town's chief administrative officer, said Mr. Brassard simply has what Milton needs.

"He has a wide-ranging background and we felt he was the best-suited candidate for the job," Mr. Belvedere said.

Stephanie Thiessen can be reached at sthiessen@miltoncanadianchampion.com.



Larry Brassard

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