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A METROLAND COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER VOL. 146 NO. 75 TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2005 \$1.00 (GST included) 44 PAGES "Using Communication to Build Better Communities"



# Halton police chief retiring next year

By **TIM WHITNELL**  
Special to *The Champion*

Halton's top cop is hanging up his holster.

Chief Ean Algar announced that he will retire next year. He revealed his intentions during a private session at Thursday's Halton Regional Police Services Board meeting.

The 38-year veteran of policing formally notified the seven-member board that he wouldn't be seeking a further extension of his contract when it expires at the end of 2006.



**Ean Algar**

The police services board chair and other members of the board commended Chief Algar for his dedication to the service and to the community.

"The board is proud of the chief's many accomplishments and looks forward to his continued leadership in the transition period," said board Chair Keith Bird.

Chief Algar, 61, has spent his entire career in Halton and was the first chief to be promoted through the ranks.

He's the fourth police chief of Halton, dating back to the region's formation in 1974. He replaced Peter Campbell as chief on January 1, 1999.

Mr. Campbell had replaced W.I. James Harding, who in turn had taken over from

Halton's first police chief, Ken Skerrett.

It's the second retirement announcement of a GTA police chief in the last two months. Neighbouring Peel Region is in need of a new chief as Noel Catney is leaving at the end of 2005.

Chief Algar, who lives in rural Burlington, will be involved in the hiring of Halton's new chief.

"The board will allow me to work with them in the process. We'll do a selection and transition period," which could see him leave before the end of 2006.

Chief Algar danced around the issue of whether the board should be looking internally or externally for its next leader.

"I think that's the board's choice. We have quality people inside (Halton)," he said.

As for his retirement, he said he has mixed emotions.

"There's still things I want to do in the service and I will give my full attention to the service until the day I walk out."

He said he's proud of the continuation of community policing initiatives and the strength of the region's ethnic diversity.

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## There he is

An excited five-year-old Madeleine Saliba waves to Santa Claus as he passes by during the Milton Santa Claus Parade downtown Sunday. See more photos from the event on page A12.

Photo by ASHLEY CAMARA

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