

# Residents are urged to 'take ownership of own community'

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years in uniform he can't wait to come to work.

Craddock explained that, with the right attitude and thirst for learning and new challenges, police officers can virtually "choose their own path" through the service's many units and assignments - a policy she said is thoroughly supported throughout the entire organization. "It's a life-long career."

Payne agrees: "Variety is the spice of life, so policing is very challenging and rewarding - plus you can really help people. You can look in the mirror and tell yourself you made a difference. If you're dedicated to helping people, this is the job for you."

With that in mind, the HRPS is actively hiring and to that end launched a new recruitment campaign this week complete with advertising in bus shelters and in movie theatres plus billboards. The ads - featuring a smiling HRPS Const. Noel Bowes - will appear in three Milton bus shelters and at various locations in neighbouring Oakville and Burlington.

One reason for the stepped-up recruitment effort is so the police service can draw from as

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large an applicant pool as possible, something that is becoming increasingly difficult, said Craddock, since applications are down 25 per cent province-wide. At the same time, more than 50 HRPS officers are currently eligible for retirement. Not all plan to leave right away, says Craddock, but the potential is there to impact the service of approximately 500 officers.

A large pool is also necessary because so few of those who apply end up making the cut and, says Craddock, HRPS can't and won't lower standards simply to fill out its ranks.

"They are all good people but not all meet the hiring criteria," said Craddock, explaining that during the January-March 2006 intake period, only six of 105 applicants made the grade after

a battery of intense testing. "This is concerning because not everyone is qualified so we need a large pool."

Payne said the HRPS is making a special appeal to Halton residents to apply and "take ownership of their own community."

"We want to keep a good thing going. Halton is a world-class place to be and Halton is a world-class place to police."

Added Craddock: "This is a safe community - there's no doubt about that - and police officers help keep it that way."

A recruitment information evening is planned for this fall. In the meantime, potential applicants are encouraged to visit [www.hrps.on.ca](http://www.hrps.on.ca) or call the recruitment information line at (905) 825-4747, ext. 5116.

# Anniversary calendar launched

The Milton Historical Society will launch its new calendar Saturday, celebrating the upcoming 150th anniversary of the Town's incorporation.

The festivities will take place at Waldie's Blacksmith Shop on James Street from 10 a.m. to noon with special guests Mayor Gord Krantz, Mike Ledwith, Jim Dills and Don South.

The calendars will be available to buy for \$12 at Waldie's. As of next Tuesday, they'll also be sold at Home Hardware, Harris Stationary, Spice O' Life Card and Gift Shop, the Milton Seniors' Activity Centre, Kymbits and Global Genealogy in Campbellville.

Milton will celebrate its 150th anniversary next year.

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