

# Fletcher named Halton police's new deputy chief of operations

Halton Regional Police will soon fill its vacancy for deputy chief.

Insp. Andrew Fletcher, a 23-year veteran of the Halton force, was named deputy chief of operations effective January 1.

His promotion fills the vacancy created following the promotion of Gary Crowell to Halton's chief last May.

Fletcher, who's 41, said he's proud to accept the new and challenging position. "I look forward to adding my skills to the already strong senior management team in providing the

citizens of Halton and the members of the Halton Regional Police Service with the high quality service that they have come to expect and deserve."

A Burlington resident since joining the force in 1984, Fletcher will be in charge of front-line operations.

Mike Kingston is the deputy



Andrew Fletcher

chief in charge of administrative responsibilities.

Crowell said he's pleased with Fletcher's selection and looks forward to working with the incoming deputy chief as the police service continues to provide effective and efficient community-based policing services.

Halton Regional Police Services Board Chairman Ken Musgrave said an internal/external search was made and board members were impressed with the skills, experience and commitment of all the candidates.

# Watch out for Internet fraud: police

Residents selling items on the Internet are being urged to be cautious after a Milton resident was targeted by fraudsters.

Det. Rob Lloyd of Halton Regional Police said a local woman was selling her car on a Web site for \$8,000 at the beginning of December.

A potential purchaser told her he was going to send her a cheque for \$14,000, and that she should cash the cheque right away and send the extra \$6,000 to a third party for shipping costs.

When the cheque came, the woman became suspicious and called police, Lloyd said, and the 'transaction' was stopped. Unfortunately, the fraudster couldn't be traced.

There has been a rash of these incidents, Lloyd said. The seller cashes the cheque and wires the 'extra' money to a third party. Of course, the cheque doesn't clear, and the seller loses the 'extra' money. The third-party is no doubt connected to the original purchaser.

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