

OPINION

Chief, thanks for everything

If nothing else, Halton Police Chief Gary Crowell has an impeccable sense of timing.

The personable chief, who has 41 years of policing behind him, announced last week he will be retiring from the Halton Regional Police Service as of June 2, 2012.

His announcement came the same day Maclean's magazine named Halton Region the Safest Place to live in the Greater Toronto Area and the Safest Regional Municipality in Canada for the fourth year in a row.

Maclean's based its ranking on 2010 annual crime data from Statistics Canada for municipal police services serving the nation's 100 largest populations. The Crime Severity Index scores six personal and property crimes: homicide, sexual assault, aggravated assault, auto theft, robbery and breaking and entering.

Crowell was hired as deputy chief in February 1999 and in June 2006 was promoted to chief. Prior to coming to Halton, he served with Peel Regional Police, and began his career with the RCMP.

Under Crowell's watch in Halton the service introduced or expanded many community-based programs — such as Drive SAFE, Community Road Watch and Speedi. Community policing was a priority with Crowell, as it was with his predecessor, Ean Algar. As a testament to his persuasive skills, in recent years Crowell has had to fight for increases in the police budget, despite the downturn in the economy and the need for public spending austerity.

Deflecting praise directed by the police services board toward himself, Crowell commended "the service team and many volunteers, our community partners and Halton citizens" for having Halton top the Maclean's list, once again.

Success in any organization, however, is dependent on having good people at the top of the totem pole.

On behalf of Halton residents we offer Crowell our thanks and wishes for a happy retirement.

ReadersWrite

Velodrome would likely become white elephant

(The following letter was addressed to town council and a copy was filed with the Champion.)

DEAR MAYOR GORD KRANTZ AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL:

For the first time in a half dozen years, I'm writing my elected officials, only because I'm so incensed by wasteful spending and total lack of respect for taxpayers that I think this current

council is exhibiting.

This velodrome was the final straw. Perhaps council members should Wikipedia the words 'white elephant,' which is defined as follows:

"A white elephant is an idiom for a valuable but burdensome possession of which its owner cannot dispose of and whose cost (particularly cost of upkeep) is out of proportion with its usefulness or worth."

What a great show put on at seniors' centre

DEAR EDITOR:

My wife and I attended the Christmas concert at the Milton Seniors' Activity Centre December 2. What an entertaining evening.

The seniors' choir was in excellent voice, covering many of the Christmas favourites.

The MC kept things moving along with stories that were relevant, funny and clean (for the family audience). Two young people performed — one played trumpet and

the other played violin. Both were excellent.

The skits that the seniors performed in the second half were hilarious.

It was just over two hours of top-class entertainment for a ticket price of \$8 and there were refreshments at the interval — top value and a great night. We came away with a genuine, warm Christmas feeling.

**KEN JACKSON
MILTON**



GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

OUT WITH THE OLD: Milton District Hospital, along with GreenTech, held a recent E-Waste fundraiser at the main entrance of the hospital. Residents could drop-off their E-Waste for free and for every pound collected Halton Healthcare Services donated 10 cents to the Milton Salvation Army. Here, GreenTech's collection events specialist Brett Belcher and Halton Healthcare Services' environmental services manager Nancy White show some of the many skids loaded with dropped off e-waste.

Letters welcome

The Canadian Champion welcomes letters to the editor. We reserve the right to edit, revise and reject letters.

Letters must be signed with first and last name, and the address and the telephone number of the writer included for verification purposes.

Email your letters to editorial@miltoncanadianchampion.com or send by mail to 555 Industrial Dr., Milton, Ont., L9T 5E1, or leave them at our office. Our office hours are Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Canadian Champion

Milton's Community Newspaper Since 1860

555 Industrial Dr.,
Milton, Ont. L9T 5E1

905-878-2341

Editorial Fax: 905-878-4943

Advertising Fax: 905-876-2364

Classified: 905-875-3300

Circulation: 905-878-5947

www.miltoncanadianchampion.com

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