People a priority of job

from NEW on page 1

here," he said from his new post Wednesday. "It's visible, which is what I want to be."

The village constable's residence was previously located in an upstairs office at Main and Martin streets.

Constable Ashley began his career in policing 18 years ago. He worked in uniformed patrol for two years in Burlington and 10 months in Acton before being transferred to Milton.

In 1986, he moved into the area's criminal investigation bureau, where he worked primarily on frauds until last year when he on patrol.

The village constable's position has his name on it, he said, because he's a people person. "It's the type of job I enjoy — dealing with the public."

Interested in hearing any concerns, Constable Ashley invites area residents to come by and visit. During lunch-time hours Monday to Friday is a good time to drop in, he said.

His remaining time for now will be spent on foot introducing himself to mall and downtown merchants as well as to E.C. Drury High School students, Allendale residents, and occupants of other seniors'dwellings.

Constable Ashley's current project is updating a program called Business Watch, a system similar to Neighbourhood Watch except it involves merchants.

Business owners inform other merchants about crimes such as fraud through a telephone system. The program has been ongoing for several years, but because some businesses have closed and new ones have opened, "holes" have developed, he

The new village constable said he also plans to tackle liquor offences — drinking in public and underage drinking — which have become a problem in the downtown core.

His presence downtown at night will be a deterrent, he said. The downtown core will also likely see him on two wheels (bicycle patrol) in the near future.

As well, the village constable has traditionally worked closely with groups such as the Milton Downtown Business Improvement Area and Milton Community and Information Services.

A resident of Milton since 1977. he is married and has five children. He started his new position July 2.

Keep residents off non-profit housing boards: Scholtens

By ROB KELLY

The Champion

Burlington regional councillor Ralph Scholtens says the provincial government is trying to ram a socialist agenda through Halton's subsidized housing agency by insisting residents get a major voice in policy decisions.

Mr. Scholtens, who is also a director of the Halton Non-Profit Housing Corporation, made the comments after Wednesday's board meeting in which the latest provincial direction regarding subsidized housing came into clearer focus.

A new initiative from the Ministry of Housing links changes in the board of directors' composition to provincial jobsOntario Homes funding. Halton expects to tap that money for planned geared-to-income housing projects in Bur- going to back down from this

lington, Oakville, and probably later on in Milton.

The provincial outline stipulates that a minimum one-third of the board should comprise subsidized housing residents. Presently, decision making rests primarily with appointed regional council-

Mr. Scholtens said the rule amounts to an ultimatum. "In order to receive funding, you've to to comply with the Ministry of Housing requirements on this. I don't like the old pistol to the head trick. I don't go for that."

The councillor fears resident involvement will drive up the cost of subsidized housing. "There's no doubt about it. What do you think their wish list is going to look like?

"I'd like to think the ministry is

foolishness," he added. "They're sticking a socialistic philosophy down our throats. Forget that

If the province holds to its position, Mr. Scholtens would push to abandon Halton's planned subsidized housing initiatives, including the high- profile downtown Burlington complex at Brant and Pine Streets, an innovative seniors' residence with commeercial space on the lower levels.

Construction is not underway yet, and should there be no compromise, "I'm prepared to leave a hole in the ground as a legacy to this (provincial) government," Mr. Scholtens said. "I won't compromise my principles."

Just as subsidized housing was beginning to acquire a more ac-

see CONFLICT on page 7

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