



All Fired Up!
The Ontario Fire Fighters weekend convention in Milton offered lots of chances for participants to show their skills while having fun. At left Milton's Dave Krantz led a waterball team. Above, an Alliston woman competes in the water bucket relay. At top right, the Alliston ladies' team captain heaves a hose. At bottom right, Ian Kenealy, 8, of Milton, tries out the gear his father wears as a part-time firefighter.
Photos by Graham Paine

Police sign \$3 million cutback deal over three years

By ANGELA BLACKBURN
Special to The Champion

The Halton Regional Police Service and its members have signed a contract that will reduce policing costs by \$3 million over its three-year term.
In doing so, police officials say they have not sacrificed safety or service levels in order to meet the demands of the province's social contract legislation.
Under the circumstances, "this agreement is satisfactory to all parties," said Halton Regional Police Association administrator Paul LaCourse at a press conference

Thursday. "It's satisfactory to the members, the employer, the Police Services Board, and most important, we feel it is satisfactory to the community."
Of the 500-member police association, 99 per cent voted in favour of the new three-year contract earlier last week. A majority of the members of the smaller Senior Officer's Association also agreed to the deal. The contract was signed by all parties during a press conference at regional police headquarters in Oakville Thursday.
"The cutbacks, if you can call them that, will not affect service," said Mr. LaCourse.

There will be impacts on the way operations are conducted, admitted Police Services Board bargaining team member Paul Lafleur. But everyone involved is working on a strategy to combat that, he added. Details on that strategy aren't being released.

"The people who would most benefit from that information are the criminals, so we're reluctant to tell you what we're doing," said Deputy Police Chief John Barratt.
"If there's trouble, you can bet the farm we'll be there," said Mr. Lafleur.

Under the contract, police employees will no longer be paid extra for overtime or statutory holidays. Instead, they will take time off in lieu.
"The real winners are the taxpayers," said Mr. Lafleur. If there
• see COPS on page 7

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